

1. National News & Polity

Key Update: Parliament Approves Renaming of Kerala to 'Keralam'

- **Context:** The Parliament passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**, officially renaming the state of Kerala to '**Keralam**'.
- **Constitutional Provision:** Under **Article 3** of the Indian Constitution, Parliament possesses the power to form new states, alter areas, boundaries, or names of existing states. The bill requires a simple majority in Parliament after obtaining views from the state legislature.
- **Background:** The Kerala Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous resolution requesting the Union government to align the constitutional name with its Malayalam pronunciation ("Keralam").

Key Update: NITI Aayog Report on India's Professional Services Sector

- **Context:** NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled "India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services" under its Services Thematic Series.
- **Key Findings:** Professional services account for nearly **25% (one-fourth)** of India's total services exports.
- **Strategic Pillars:** The report suggested a 4-pronged strategy: harnessing emerging technology, elevating professional services across the value chain, adopting global best practices, and continuous professional development.

Practice Question (Polity & National News)

Q1. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution does Parliament have the authority

to alter the name of a state, as seen in the 'Kerala to Keralam' name change bill?

- A) Article 1
- B) Article 2
- C) Article 3
- D) Article 4

• **Correct Answer: C) Article 3**

- **Detailed Explanation:** Article 3 empowers Parliament to form new states, alter areas, boundaries, or change names of existing states. The proposal undergoes presidential reference to the affected state legislature before parliamentary vote.

2. Economics & Banking

Key Update: First CBDC-Based DBT Launched for PMGKAY Beneficiaries

- **Context:** Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi, inaugurated a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for food subsidies under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**.
- **Locations Implemented:** Launched on a pilot basis in **Chandigarh** and **Dadra & Nagar Haveli**.
- **Working Mechanism:** Food subsidies are directly transferred into the beneficiary's Digital Rupee (e-Rupee) wallet issued by the RBI. This money is purpose-bound, ensuring it can only be redeemed at empanelled Fair Price Shops (FPS).

Practice Question (Economics & Banking)

Q2. Where was the CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for food subsidies under PMGKAY launched on a pilot basis?



- A) New Delhi and Puducherry
- B) Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli
- C) Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar
- D) Goa and Daman & Diu

- **Correct Answer: B) Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli**
- **Detailed Explanation:** The initiative uses RBI's e-Rupee digital wallets to transfer food subsidies directly to targeted beneficiaries, making disbursements leak-proof and purpose-bound.

3. Defense News

Key Update: Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,577 Crore Contracts for Loiter Munitions

- **Context:** The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed contracts valued at **₹1,577 crore** with domestic defense manufacturers for supplying Loiter Munition Systems to the Indian Army.
- **Contract Allocation:**
 - **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) [L1 Vendor]:** 64% order share (54 munition systems and 540 loitering munitions).
 - **NIBE Private Limited [L2 Vendor]:** 36% order share (30 munition systems and 300 loitering munitions).
- **Significance:** Boosts indigenous precision attack capability under the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

Key Update: MIDHANI Secures GE Aerospace S400 Approval

- **Context:** State-owned Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (**MIDHANI**) became the **first Indian enterprise** to receive the S400 (Independent and International Metallic Material Laboratory) approval from US-based GE Aerospace.

- **Impact:** Enables MIDHANI to supply certified superalloys and titanium alloys globally for commercial and military aircraft engines.

Practice Question (Defense)

Q3. Which Indian defense PSU became the first company in India to secure the S400 metallic material testing approval from GE Aerospace?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)
- C) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- D) Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)

- **Correct Answer: B) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)**

- **Detailed Explanation:** MIDHANI achieved GE Aerospace's S400 laboratory qualification, validating its high-precision testing capabilities for aerospace-grade titanium and superalloys.

4. Govt Schemes & MoUs

Key Update: Jal Jeevan Mission Completes 7 Years

- **Context:** The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched on August 15, 2019, by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, completed 7 years of operational implementation.
- **Achievements:**
 - Rural tap-water connection coverage grew from **16.7% (3.23 crore)** in 2019 to over **82% (15.91+ crore)** households.
 - Over 2 lakh villages officially certified as 'Har Ghar Jal'.
- **Funding Pattern:**
 - **Himalayan & NE States:** 90: 10
 - **Union Territories:** 100% Central funding
 - **Other States:** 50: 50

Key Update: MoU Signed Between NIIMH and Sevadhi Museum

- **Context:** The National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad, under CCRAS (Ministry of AYUSH), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sevadhi Museum & Indological Research.
- **Objective:** Preservation, digitization, and publication of ancient Indological manuscripts and traditional Ayurvedic medical texts.

Practice Question (Govt Schemes)

Q4. What is the fund-sharing ratio between the Central Government and State Governments for non-Himalayan/non-NE states under the Jal Jeevan Mission?

- A) 90:10
- B) 75:25
- C) 50:50
- D) 60:40

- **Correct Answer:** C) 50:50
- **Detailed Explanation:** JJM funding pattern is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States, 100% for UTs without legislature, and 50:50 for all other Indian states.

5. Sports News

Key Update: Sports Ministry Announces National Sports Awards

- **Context:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the National Sports Awards list.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - High-jumper **Tejaswin Shankar** was among 17 prominent athletes selected for the prestigious **Arjuna Award**.

- Rishabh Pant became the fastest wicketkeeper-batsman in cricket history to reach **100 Test sixes**.

Practice Question (Sports)

Q5. Indian athlete Tejaswin Shankar, recently announced as an Arjuna Award recipient, represents India in which sporting event?

- A) Javelin Throw
- B) High Jump
- C) Steeplechase
- D) Badminton

- **Correct Answer:** B) High Jump
- **Detailed Explanation:** Commonwealth Games medalist Tejaswin Shankar is an elite Indian high-jumper and decathlete who was named among the recipients of the Arjuna Award.

6. Important Days, Festivals & Anniversaries

Date	Day	Theme / Significance
August 18	World Never Give Up Day	Focuses on resilience, persistence, and mental fortitude. Founded by Alain Horoit.
August 18	Death Anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose (Observed)	Remembering Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, legendary leader of the Indian National Army (INA/Azad Hind Fauj).



7. Summary Matrix for Revision

Category	High-Yield Topic	Key Takeaway
Polity	Kerala Renaming	Name changed to <i>Keralam</i> under Article 3.
Banking	e-Rupee DBT	PMGKAY food subsidy distributed via CBDC in UTs.
Defense	Loiter Munitions	₹1,577 Cr contracts awarded to TASL and NIBE.
Schemes	Jal Jeevan Mission	Reached 82%+ coverage after 7 years.
Defense Testing	MIDHANI Approval	1st Indian firm with GE Aerospace S400 accreditation.
Important Days	August 18	World Never Give Up Day.

International News

Q1. Where was the G20 Leaders' Summit 2026 held under South Africa's Presidency on 18-19 August 2026, marking the first time the summit was hosted on African soil?

- (A) Cape Town, South Africa
- (B) Johannesburg, South Africa
- (C) Durban, South Africa

(D) Pretoria, South Africa

- Answer: (B) Johannesburg, South Africa
- Explanation:
 - Event: The G20 Leaders' Summit 2026 took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 18-19 August 2026.
 - Significance: This was the first-ever G20 Summit held on the African continent.
 - Theme: The presidency theme was "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability".
 - Key Highlights: The summit concluded with the adoption of the 122-paragraph Johannesburg Leaders' Declaration. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in three thematic sessions and held key bilateral meetings with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Canadian PM Mark Carney, Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, and Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi. On the sidelines, the 6th IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) Leaders' Summit was also convened.

Q2. Who was formally confirmed as South Korea's 2nd female Prime Minister by the National Assembly in August 2026?

- (A) Park Geun-hye
- (B) Han Seong-sook
- (C) Han Myeong-sook
- (D) Kim Keon-hee

- Answer: (B) Han Seong-sook
- Explanation: Context: Han Seong-sook was confirmed as the 2nd female Prime Minister of South Korea.
 - Background: Before entering government service, Han Seong-sook served as the first female Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Naver Corporation, South Korea's leading internet giant.



- Historical Note: South Korea's first female Prime Minister was Han Myeong-sook, who served from 2006 to 2007.

National News & Environment

Q3. India launched its first-ever "Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONES) of India" during UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. What is the main objective of this guide?

- (A) Converting grasslands into agricultural zones
- (B) Classifying non-forest biomes to prevent land degradation and protect biodiversity
- (C) Expanding urban afforestation projects
- (D) Promoting commercial timber cultivation in arid regions

- **Answer:** (B) Classifying non-forest biomes to prevent land degradation and protect biodiversity
- **Explanation:** Launch Event: Unveiled at the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Theme: The theme of COP17 was "Restoring Land, Restoring Hope".
- Importance: Historically, grasslands, savannas, and rocky outcrops were officially designated as "wastelands". This guide provides scientific frameworks to recognize their ecological value, safeguard pastoral livelihoods, and achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). This launch aligns with 2026 being observed globally as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Q4. India's first technology-driven "Virtual Zoo" featuring a 14-D cinema and virtual jungle safari was launched at which zoo in August 2026?

- (A) Mysore Zoo, Karnataka
- (B) Kamla Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
- (C) Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai
- (D) Sanjay Gandhi Jaivik Udyan, Patna

- **Answer:** (B) Kamla Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Explanation:** Project: Developed at an investment of ₹4.5 crore under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- Features: Includes a 14-D immersive theater, virtual reality wildlife safari, and dynamic 3D visual environments.
- Objective: Offers interactive wildlife conservation education to students and visitors without causing stress to live animals housed in captivity.

Q5. The Central Information Commission (CIC) launched which upgraded digital portal on 18 August 2026 to accelerate the disposal of Right to Information (RTI) appeals and complaints?

- (A) AppCoMS 2.0 Portal
- (B) RTI Online 3.0
- (C) Jan-Soochna 2.0
- (D) CPGRAMS Express

- **Answer:** (A) AppCoMS 2.0 Portal
- **Explanation:** Portal Launch: Central Information Commission upgraded its Appellate Complaints Monitoring System to AppCoMS 2.0.
- Purpose: Introduces AI-assisted case indexing, automated notice generation, paperless hearing management, and real-time SMS/WhatsApp case status tracking for RTI appellants across India.



Economics & Banking

Q6. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of food subsidies using Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) under PMGKAY for beneficiaries in which Union Territories?

- (A) Puducherry and Lakshadweep
- (B) Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
- (C) Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
- (D) Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Delhi

• **Answer:** (B) Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu

• **Explanation:** Initiative: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution introduced purpose-bound Digital Rupee (CBDC) wallets for Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) beneficiaries.

○ Mechanism: Subsidies are transferred directly into the recipient's Digital Rupee e-wallet. Beneficiaries can redeem these digital tokens exclusively at empanelled Fair Price Shops (FPS) to purchase targeted foodgrains.

Q7. Why did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announce the early closure of its special forex swap facility under FCNR(B) deposits on August 31, 2026?

- (A) Severe shortage of foreign exchange reserves
- (B) Achieving target foreign currency inflows exceeding \$56.8 billion
- (C) Steep fall in international trade volume
- (D) Directives issued by the World Bank

• **Answer:** (B) Achieving target foreign currency inflows exceeding \$56.8 billion

• **Explanation:** Background: Introduced on June 8, 2026, the facility allowed authorized dealer banks to swap Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits with RBI to stabilize the Indian Rupee.

○ Outcome: Attracted \$56.846 billion in foreign currency inflows up to mid-August 2026. Because liquidity targets were met ahead of schedule, RBI decided to close the FCNR(B) window early on August 31, 2026.

Q8. According to the NITI Aayog report titled "India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services" (August 2026), professional services account for what share of India's total services exports?

- (A) 10%
- (B) 15%
- (C) 25% (one-fourth)
- (D) 45%

• **Answer:** (C) 25% (one-fourth)

• **Explanation:** Report: 3rd publication under NITI Aayog's Services Thematic Series.

○ Key Finding: Professional services (legal, accounting, management consultancy, engineering, and architectural services) generate nearly 25% (1/4th) of India's total services export revenues.

○ Recommendations: Recommends regulatory reforms, mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with partner nations, and domestic skill alignment to unlock higher market potential.

Q9. As per data released by the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) for the April-June 2026 quarter, India achieved which global rank in electronics manufacturing by value?

(A) 1st Position

(B) 2nd Position (surpassing USA)

(C) 3rd Position

(D) 4th Position

- **Answer:** (B) 2nd Position (surpassing USA)
- **Explanation:** Achievement: Driven by expanding Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and mobile handset assembly, India surged past the United States to become the 2nd largest producer of electronic goods by value globally.
- Market Position: China retains the top rank globally.

Defense News

Q10. The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth ₹1,577 crore with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and NIBE Ltd for the procurement of which equipment for the Indian Army?

(A) Anti-Drone Air Defense Systems

(B) Loiter Munition Systems

(C) Tactical Battle Tanks

(D) All-Terrain Armored Vehicles

- **Answer:** (B) Loiter Munition Systems
- **Explanation:** Contract Value: ₹1,577 Crore signed in August 2026 under the Buy (Indian-IDDm) category.
- Distribution: TASL (L1 vendor) received 64% of the order (54 munition systems and 540 loitering munitions). NIBE Pvt Ltd (L2 vendor) secured 36% (30 systems and 300 loitering munitions).
- Role: Loiter munitions act as "suicide drones" capable of searching, tracking, and precision-striking high-value targets.

Q11. 'Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026' is a bilateral joint military exercise conducted between the

Indian Army and the army of which country?

(A) Vietnam

Chronicle Magazine

(B) Thailand

(C) Sri Lanka

(D) Indonesia

- **Answer:** (B) Thailand
- **Explanation:** Partnership: Annual joint military training event held between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army.
- Focus: Joint counter-terrorism tactical drills in urban and jungle environments, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

Q12. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) partnered with which defense manufacturer to co-develop an indigenous combat engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)?

(A) Dassault Aviation (France)

(B) Rolls-Royce (United Kingdom)

(C) General Electric (United States)

(D) Safran Aerospace (France)

- **Answer:** (B) Rolls-Royce (United Kingdom)
- **Explanation:** Strategic Deal: RIL and British engineering firm Rolls-Royce announced a strategic partnership for design, development, and sovereign manufacturing in India.
- Application: Provides high-thrust engines for the 5th-generation stealth Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program managed by ADA/DRDO.

Q13. In August 2026, the Indian Navy held a specialized Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise with which country's navy?



- (A) French Navy
- (B) United States Navy
- (C) Royal Australian Navy
- (D) Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force
- **Answer:** (B) United States Navy
- **Explanation:** Exercise: India-US Navy EOD Exercise 2026.
- Objective: Shares tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) for underwater explosive disposal, handling improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and sea-mine neutralization.

Sports

Q14. Who won the Esports World Cup Chess Title in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for the second consecutive year in August 2026?

- (A) Hikaru Nakamura
- (B) Magnus Carlsen
- (C) Alireza Firouzja
- (D) Arjun Erigaisi
- **Answer:** (B) Magnus Carlsen
- **Explanation:** Tournament: Esports World Cup (EWC) 2026 held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Winner: 5-time Classical World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen (Norway) defended his title in the online blitz/rapid chess category.

Q15. Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi won Gold medals for India in which international championship in August 2026?

- (A) Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship
- (B) World Junior Table Tennis Championship
- (C) Commonwealth Youth Athletics Championship

(D) Asian Junior Badminton Championship

- **Answer:** (A) Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship
- **Explanation:** Event: Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026.
- Winners: Vignesh Vermula clinched gold in the Open Junior category, while Saranya Devi secured gold in the Girls' Junior division.

Q16. Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won which chess tournament in August 2026?

- (A) Tata Steel Masters
- (B) Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026
- (C) Prague Chess Festival
- (D) FIDE Candidates Tournament

- **Answer:** (B) Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026
- **Explanation:** Event: Part of the Grand Chess Tour held in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA.
- Achievement: Praggnanandhaa finished at the top of the leaderboard ahead of top international Grandmasters.

Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q17. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which completed 7 years of implementation in August 2026, what is the central-to-state funding ratio for Himalayan and North-Eastern States?

- (A) 50:50
- (B) 60:40
- (C) 75:25
- (D) 90:10

- **Answer:** (D) 90:10
- **Explanation:** Milestone: Launched on August 15, 2019, JJM completed 7 years in August 2026. Tap water coverage grew from 16.7% (3.23 crore) to over 82% (15.91+ crore) rural households.

- Funding Pattern: 90:10 for Himalayan and NE States; 100% Central funding for UTs; 50:50 for remaining States.

Q18. What monthly stipend is provided to candidates selected under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)?

- (A) ₹3,000
- (B) ₹5,000
- (C) ₹8,000
- (D) ₹10,000

• **Answer: (B) ₹5,000**

- **Explanation:** Structure: Interns receive a ₹5,000 monthly stipend (₹4,500 disbursed by Government of India + ₹500 contributed by host company through CSR funds).
- Incidental Grant: Beneficiaries also receive a one-time grant of ₹6,000 for incidental expenses upon onboarding.
- Target: Aims to provide internship opportunities to 1 crore youth across top 500 companies over 5 years.

Appointments, Chairships & Awards

Q19. Which country holds the BRICS Chairship for 2026 and will host the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi?

- (A) Brazil
- (B) Russia
- (C) India
- (D) South Africa

• **Answer: (C) India**

- **Explanation:** Chairship: India assumed the BRICS Chairship for 2026.
- Summit Theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability (BRICS)".

- Event: The 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit is scheduled to take place in New Delhi.

Q20. The annual 'National Anubhav Awards' are presented by which Union Ministry/Department to recognize retired civil servants for their contributions to governance?

- (A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (B) Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions)
- (C) Ministry of Finance
- (D) NITI Aayog

• **Answer: (B) Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions)**

- **Explanation:** Award Purpose: Instituted on the 'Anubhav Portal' to encourage retiring Central Government employees to submit write-ups detailing key administrative experiences, innovations, and policy insights.

MoUs, Art & Culture, and Science/Tech

Q21. The National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) signed an MoU with Sevadhi Museum & Indological Research in August 2026 for preserving manuscripts of which traditional system?

- (A) Siddha Medicine
- (B) Ayurveda
- (C) Unani Medicine
- (D) Sowa-Rigpa

• **Answer: (B) Ayurveda**

- **Explanation:** Signatories: NIIMH (Hyderabad), an institute under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH.



- Objective: Collaborative cataloging, digitizing, restoring, and publishing rare ancient palm-leaf and paper manuscripts related to Ayurvedic medicine.

Q22. 'Cyber Kushti 2026', a national AI and cybersecurity hackathon, was launched by which institution under MeitY?

- (A) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
- (B) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)
- (C) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- (D) CERT-In

• **Answer: (B)** National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)

• **Explanation:** Organizer: NIELIT under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- Focus: Tests ethical hacking skillsets, human judgment, and AI capabilities in identifying software vulnerabilities, securing critical infrastructure, and mitigating zero-day cyber threats.

Q23. Which district in Odisha was identified as the most vulnerable to coastal erosion, with over 47% of its coastline retreating?

- (A) Puri
- (B) Kendrapara
- (C) Ganjam
- (D) Jagatsinghpur

• **Answer: (D)** Jagatsinghpur

• **Explanation:** Survey Data: Overall, 28.3% of Odisha's 550-km coastline experiences severe to moderate erosion.

- District Breakdown: Jagatsinghpur is most vulnerable (47.6% erosion), followed by Ganjam (45.7%) and Kendrapara (45.0%).

Primary Causes: Cyclonic storm surges, sea-level rise, sand dune destruction, and littoral drift obstruction by hard port structures.

Q24. The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Kaziranga National Park is bounded by which major geographical features to its North and South?

- (A) Manas River (North) and Garo Hills (South)
- (B) Brahmaputra River (North) and Karbi Anglong Hills (South)
- (C) Barak River (North) and Cachar Hills (South)
- (D) Subansiri River (North) and Jaintia Hills (South)

• **Answer: (B)** Brahmaputra River (North) and Karbi Anglong Hills (South)

• **Explanation:** Location: Kaziranga National Park spans across Golaghat, Nagaon, Sonitpur, and Biswanath districts in Assam.

- Boundaries: The northern boundary is formed by the main channel of the Brahmaputra River, while its southern boundary borders the Karbi Anglong hill ecosystem.

Q25. What key milestone report regarding school infrastructure and digital connectivity was discussed in educational policy updates in August 2026?

- (A) AISHE 2025-26 Report
- (B) UDISE+ 2025-26 Report
- (C) ASER 2026 Assessment
- (D) NIPUN Bharat Index 2026

• **Answer: (B)** UDISE+ 2025-26 Report

• **Explanation:** Full Form: Unified District Information System for Education Plus.

Findings: Showed improvements across Indian primary and secondary schools in pupil-teacher ratio (PTR), electricity access, functional toilet



coverage for girls, and school internet connectivity.

Important Days & Anniversaries

Q26. World Humanitarian Day is observed globally on 19 August. What event led to the United Nations designating this date?

- (A) The signing of the first Geneva Convention in 1864
- (B) The 2003 bombing of the UN Headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad
- (C) The establishment of the International Red Cross
- (D) The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- **Answer: (B)** The 2003 bombing of the UN Headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad
- **Explanation:** Origin: Designated by the UN General Assembly in 2008 to commemorate the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq.
- Tribute: The attack killed 22 humanitarian workers, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq.

Q27. Why is World Photography Day celebrated internationally on August 19 every year?

- (A) It marks the birth anniversary of George Eastman, founder of Kodak
- (B) It marks the day the French government bought the patent for the Daguerreotype process and released it as a gift "free to the world" in 1839
- (C) It honors the invention of the first digital camera sensor in 1975
- (D) It marks the publication of the world's first colored photograph

- **Answer: (B)** It marks the day the French government bought the patent for the Daguerreotype process and released it as a gift "free to the world" in 1839
- **Explanation:** History: On August 19, 1839, the French government acquired the patent for the Daguerreotype process—a practical photographic system invented by Louis Daguerre—and declared it an invention "Free to the World."

Q28. 'Sadbhavana Diwas' (Harmony Day) is celebrated annually in India on August 20 to commemorate the birth anniversary of which former Prime Minister?

- (A) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (B) Rajiv Gandhi
- (C) Indira Gandhi
- (D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- **Answer: (B)** Rajiv Gandhi
- **Explanation:** Observance: August 20 marks the birth anniversary of India's 6th Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi (born August 20, 1944).
- Objective: Promotes national integration, communal harmony, peace, and goodwill among citizens of all religions and regions in India.

Q29. What is the target year set by the Government of India for achieving nationwide E20 (20% Ethanol blended with Petrol) implementation?

- (A) 2024–25
- (B) 2025–26
- (C) 2028–29
- (D) 2030–31

- **Answer: (B)** 2025–26

- **Explanation:**Target: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas targeted achieving a 20% ethanol blend in petrol across India by Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025–26.
- Benefits: Helps lower crude oil import bills, reduces carbon emissions, and provides income support to sugarcane farmers.

Q30. Bio-inspired surface coatings for 3D-printed bone implants, highlighted in current research, primarily utilize which mechanism to accelerate bone recovery?

- (A) Polymer plastic degradation
- (B) Mimicking natural hydroxyapatite mineral structures to promote osteointegration
- (C) Releasing synthetic steroid compounds directly into tissues
- (D) Blocking blood circulation to fractured zones

- **Answer:** (B) Mimicking natural hydroxyapatite mineral structures to promote osteointegration

- **Explanation:** Scientific Advance: Bio-inspired coatings mimic the chemical and porous composition of natural human bone minerals (hydroxyapatite).
- Application: When applied to 3D-printed titanium or ceramic orthopedic implants, these coatings improve biocompatibility, accelerate bone cell attachment (osteointegration), and reduce body rejection risks.

