

03/08/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Pingali Venkayya:*

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid tributes to freedom fighter, Shri Pingali Venkayya on his 150th birth anniversary.

About Pingali Venkayya:

- ❖ Pingali Venkayya was born on 2 August 1876 at Bhatlapenumarru, near Machilipatnam, in present-day Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ He pursued geology studies in Colombo and was proficient in Japanese, Urdu, and Sanskrit, reflecting his passion for languages.
- ❖ He worked briefly as a railway guard before dedicating himself to agricultural research, especially cotton cultivation, earning the title "Patti (Cotton) Venkayya."
- ❖ He served in the British Indian Army during the Second Boer War, where his nationalist ideas were strengthened.
- ❖ He became known as "Japan Venkayya" after delivering a speech in Japanese at Bapatla in 1913.
- ❖ A devoted follower of Mahatma Gandhi, he first met Gandhi in South Africa, beginning a lifelong association.
- ❖ Between 1918 and 1921, he campaigned for a national flag at Indian National Congress sessions while serving as a lecturer at Andhra National College.
- ❖ At the 1921 Indian National Congress session in Vijayawada (Bezawada), he presented the Swaraj Flag, initially consisting of saffron and green colours.
- ❖ On Gandhi's suggestion, the flag was modified by adding a white band and a charkha (spinning wheel), symbolizing peace, self-reliance, and progress.
- ❖ The Swaraj Flag was adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1931, becoming the precursor to India's present National Flag (Tiranga).
- ❖ He actively participated in the Vande Mataram Movement and the Home Rule Movement, and was also known as "Diamond Venkayya" for his work in diamond mining. After Independence, he served as an advisor to the Government's Mineral Research Department and authored *The Mother of Diamonds* (1955).
- ❖ Pingali Venkayya passed away on 4 July 1963 and is remembered as the "Father of the Tiranga" for his pioneering role in designing India's National Flag.

2. *Ujh Multipurpose Project:*

Context: Dr Jitendra Singh reviews status of Ujh Multipurpose Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

About Ujh Multipurpose Project:

- ❖ The Ujh Multipurpose Project is being developed to maximize India's utilization of water rights under the Indus Waters Treaty.
- ❖ It is located in Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir, on the Ujh River, a tributary of the Ravi River.
- ❖ The project will store about 781 million cubic metres (MCM) of water from the Ujh River.
- ❖ It aims to provide assured irrigation to farmers in Kathua district and generate hydroelectric power.

- ❖ The project will increase the utilization of waters from the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej) allocated to India under the treaty.
- ❖ It will help reduce the flow of unused water into Pakistan, enabling more effective use of India's allocated share for irrigation and development.

3. *Leptospirosis:*

Context: Kerala reported a high leptospirosis burden. Kerala's unique environment, with heavy monsoons, frequent floods and year-round moisture and humidity, creates ideal survival conditions for *Leptospira* bacteria in soil and water bodies such as lakes and canals.

About Leptospirosis:

- ❖ Leptospirosis is a fatal bacterial zoonotic disease affecting both animals and humans.
- ❖ It is caused by the bacterium *Leptospira interrogans*.
- ❖ Humans become infected when the bacteria enter the body through cuts, abrasions, or cracks in the skin, especially on the feet.
- ❖ The disease is more common in warm, humid tropical and subtropical regions and occurs in both urban and rural areas.
- ❖ It is primarily an animal disease, with humans becoming infected under favourable environmental conditions.
- ❖ Major animal reservoirs include rodents, cattle, pigs, dogs, and other wild and domestic animals.
- ❖ The bacteria are shed in the urine of infected animals, contaminating soil and water, which become the main sources of human infection.
- ❖ Infected animals may continue to excrete the bacteria for months or even years, sustaining transmission.
- ❖ The first phase of illness presents with fever, chills, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, and diarrhoea.
- ❖ The second phase (if it occurs) is more severe and can cause kidney failure, liver failure (Weil's disease), or meningitis.
- ❖ Leptospirosis is treatable with antibiotics, and early diagnosis and treatment significantly reduce complications and mortality.

4. *Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today launched 'Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan'.

About Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan:

- ❖ Launch: The Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2 August 2026 from Varanasi as a nationwide anti-drug campaign.
- ❖ Implementing Ministry: The campaign is implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat).
- ❖ Objective: Its primary objective is to eliminate substance abuse among youth, promote a drug-free India (Nasha Mukh Bharat), and support the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

- ❖ **Target Group:** The campaign focuses on young people (15–29 years), encouraging them to become ambassadors against drug abuse.
- ❖ **Key Activities:** It includes awareness drives, anti-drug pledges, youth connect programmes, creative competitions, nukkad nataks, music, dance, short films, and slam poetry to spread awareness.
- ❖ **Three-Tier Competition:** The campaign follows a district → state → national competition format, culminating in the National Youth Summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Mass Participation:** More than one crore youth participated by taking the Nasha Mukti Pledge, making it a large-scale public movement.
- ❖ **Whole-of-Society Approach:** The campaign emphasizes participation by parents, teachers, educational institutions, youth organisations, and communities, transforming the fight against drugs into a Jan Andolan (people's movement).
- ❖ **Link with NMBA:** The initiative complements the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan, under which the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal ministry for drug demand reduction, while MY Bharat leads youth mobilisation.

5. *Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs):*

Context: After four straight months of selling, foreign investors turned net buyers of Indian equities in July, pumping in ₹20,200 crore, aided by attractive valuations, improving corporate earnings, and easing global headwinds. The latest inflow marks a sharp reversal from the preceding months when Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew ₹49,340 crore in June, ₹32,963 crore in May, ₹60,847 crore in April, and a massive ₹1.17 lakh crore in March.

About Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs):

- ❖ **Definition:** Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) refers to investments made by foreign investors in a country's financial assets, such as shares, bonds, and other securities.
- ❖ **Nature:** FPI is a passive investment, where investors do not seek management control over the company.
- ❖ **Investment Horizon:** It is generally short-term and aims at capital appreciation and portfolio diversification.
- ❖ **FPI vs FDI:** Unlike Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), FPI does not involve acquiring a controlling stake or significant management influence.
- ❖ **Importance:** FPI enhances market liquidity, capital availability, and efficiency in financial markets.
- ❖ **Economic Indicator:** FPI inflows are considered an indicator of foreign investor confidence in a country's economic stability and growth prospects.
- ❖ **FPI Limit in India:** Under India's FPI policy, a foreign portfolio investor can hold up to 10% of the paid-up equity capital of an Indian company; holdings above this are generally treated as FDI.
- ❖ **Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs):** FIIs are a subset of FPIs, comprising institutional investors such as mutual funds, pension funds, insurance companies, and hedge funds.
- ❖ **FPI vs FII:** All FIIs are FPIs, but not all FPIs are FIIs, as FPIs include both institutional and individual foreign investors.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Unnati Sharma on winning the Bronze medal in the Women's 63 kg Judo category at the Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Gulveer Singh on winning the Bronze medal in the Men's 5000m event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Narender Berwal on winning the Silver medal in the Men's 90+ kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Ankush Panghal on winning the Gold medal in the Men's 80 kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Sachin Siwach on winning the Gold medal in the Men's 60 kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Lovlina Borgohain on winning the Silver medal in the Women's 75 kg Boxing event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Arundhati Choudhary on winning the Gold medal in the Women's 70 kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Priya Ghangas on winning the Gold medal in the Women's 60 kg Boxing event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Sakshi on winning the Gold medal in the Women's 51 kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Soman Rana on winning the Gold medal in the Men's Shot Put F57 event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Jasmine Lamboria on winning the Gold medal in the Women's 57 kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Preeti on winning the Gold medal in the Women's 54 kg Boxing event at the Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSO) of BRICS Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)) is scheduled to be held under the Chairship of India from 03 to 04 August 2026, at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.
- ☐ India is home to 13,703 species of lepidoptera — butterflies and moths — which is about 8.25% of the total lepidoptera found across the globe. Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have come out with a detailed “Catalogue of Lepidoptera (Butterflies & Moths) of India”, which has been published in the peer-reviewed journal Zootaxa.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Consider the following species

1. Butterflies
2. Moths
3. Dragonflies

How many of the above category of species is/are belongs to lepidoptera?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

With reference to the Swaraj Flag, consider the following statements:

1. It was first adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1947.
2. It originally contained saffron, white and blue colours.
3. It was first presented by Pingali Venkayya at the 1921 INC session in Vijayawada.
4. It carried the Ashoka Chakra from the beginning of its design.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI):

1. FPIs can hold upto 26% equity in an Indian company without being treated as FDI.
2. FPIs are intended primarily for establishing long-term management control over companies.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

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