

04/08/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Glaw Lake:*

Context: Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, today announced the designation of Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh as India's 101st Ramsar Site, marking a significant milestone as the State gets its first Ramsar Site.

About Glaw Lake:

- ❖ Located within the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, Glaw Lake is a pristine freshwater lake in the Eastern Himalayas and a biodiversity hotspot.
- ❖ The lake is fed by perennial mountain streams and is surrounded by lush vegetation, supporting rich floral diversity. The wetland has over 150 tree species and 49 orchid species recorded within the site and its catchment, underscoring the ecological significance of Glaw Lake.
- ❖ Glaw Lake lies at an elevation of about 1,168 meters above sea level, making it a high-altitude natural lake.
- ❖ The lake spreads over an estimated area of around 8 square kilometers, making it relatively large and significant in the region.

About Ramsar sites:

- ❖ The Ramsar Convention provides guidelines for the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide.
- ❖ It is the only international environmental treaty focused on a specific habitat (wetlands).
- ❖ The Convention was adopted at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and came into force in 1975. ❖ Cobourg Peninsula (Australia) became the world's first Ramsar Site in 1974.
- ❖ India's first Ramsar sites were designated on October 1, 1981. There were two sites recognized simultaneously: Chilika Lake in Odisha and Keoladeo Ghana National Park in Rajasthan.
- ❖ India joined the Ramsar Convention on February 1, 1982.
- ❖ The Montreux Record identifies Ramsar sites requiring priority conservation attention. The Montreux Record was adopted in Brisbane in 1996.
- ❖ Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur) were added to the Montreux Record in 1990 and 1993, respectively.

2. *Kisan Credit Card scheme:*

Context: Every ₹1 invested under Kisan Credit Card– Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (KCC-MISS) contributes ₹2.30 to net value addition in the agriculture & allied sector, Third-party Assessment says

About Kisan Credit Card scheme:

- ❖ Kisan Credit Card Scheme was launched in 1998 based on the recommendations of R.V. Gupta Committee.
- ❖ It aims to simplify and speed up farmers' access to short-term institutional credit for crop production.
- ❖ The scheme provides working capital and investment credit for farming activities.
- ❖ It also covers post-harvest expenses and marketing costs, supporting overall farm income.

- ❖ The government introduced the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) in 2006–07 as a Central Sector Scheme to make KCC credit more affordable.
- ❖ MISS ensures low-interest institutional loans for farmers through KCC.
- ❖ The scheme helps farmers recover from natural calamities and encourages timely loan repayment.
- ❖ Over time, the scheme expanded to include allied agricultural and non-farm activities.
- ❖ The Revised Kisan Credit Card Scheme 2020 introduced integrated single-window credit support.
- ❖ The revised KCC provides a RuPay-enabled card for flexible withdrawals and digital payments.
- ❖ The credit covers cultivation, post-harvest needs, allied activities, and non-farm activities.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented through commercial banks, regional rural banks, and cooperative banks for wider outreach.
- ❖ Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), term loans and composite credit limits are structured differently for marginal and non-marginal farmers, taking into account their landholding size, investment capacity, and livelihood requirements.
- ❖ While non-marginal farmers are provided asset-linked term loans for long-term agricultural and allied investments, marginal farmers are provided with flexible, need-based credit limits.

3. *Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM):*

Context: Over 54 Lakh Beneficiaries Enrolled Under PM-SYM Across the Country.

About Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM):

- ❖ Launched by: Ministry of Labour & Employment as a Central Sector Scheme to provide old-age social security to unorganised sector workers.
- ❖ Target Beneficiaries: Unorganised workers (e.g., street vendors, construction workers, agricultural labourers, domestic workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, rag pickers, etc.) with monthly income up to ₹15,000.
- ❖ Eligibility: Entry age 18–40 years; not covered under NPS, EPFO, or ESIC; should not be an income tax payer.
- ❖ Nature of Scheme: A voluntary and contributory pension scheme with 50:50 contribution by the subscriber and the Central Government.
- ❖ Contribution: Monthly contributions are auto-debited from the subscriber's savings bank or Jan-Dhan account until the age of 60 years.
- ❖ Pension Benefit: Provides a minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 per month after the subscriber attains 60 years of age.
- ❖ Family Pension: On the death of the pensioner, the spouse receives 50% of the pension as a family pension.
- ❖ Death/Disability Before 60 Years: The spouse may continue the scheme by paying contributions or exit and withdraw the accumulated contributions with applicable interest.
- ❖ Default in Contribution: Subscribers can regularise missed contributions by paying outstanding dues along with applicable penalty.
- ❖ Implementation: Implemented through LIC (Pension Fund Manager & Pension Payout Authority) and CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (enrolment and operations partner).
- ❖ Fund Management: Contributions are invested as per the Government of India's approved investment pattern; after the death of both the subscriber and spouse, the accumulated corpus is credited back to the PM-SYM Fund.

4. Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor:

Context: Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) Grants In-Principle Approval to Railway Line Project through Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor.

About Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor:

- ❖ **Location:** The Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor connects the Satpura Tiger Reserve with the Melghat Tiger Reserve across the Satpura–Maikal landscape.
- ❖ **States Covered:** The corridor spans Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, facilitating wildlife movement across state boundaries.
- ❖ **Landscape:** It is part of the Central Indian Highlands and Satpura landscape, one of India's most important tiger conservation regions.
- ❖ **Habitat Type:** The corridor consists mainly of tropical dry deciduous and moist deciduous forests, dominated by teak (*Tectona grandis*), bamboo, and mixed hardwood species.
- ❖ **Purpose:** It enables the movement, dispersal, and genetic exchange of tigers and other wildlife, reducing the risk of inbreeding.
- ❖ **Key Wildlife:** Besides tigers, the corridor supports leopards, sloth bears, Indian gaur, wild dogs (dholes), sambar, chital, and numerous bird species.
- ❖ **Ecological Importance:** It maintains landscape connectivity, ensures recolonization of habitats, and improves the long-term viability of tiger populations.

SATPURA TIGER RESERVE (MADHYA PRADESH) & MELGHAT TIGER RESERVE (MAHARASHTRA)

Two Important Tiger Reserves in the Satpura Landscape

SATPURA TIGER RESERVE (MADHYA PRADESH)	LOCATION MAP	MELGHAT TIGER RESERVE (MAHARASHTRA)
Significance: Part of one of the largest contiguous tiger habitats in the world. Location: Located south of Narmada River in Narmadapuram district. Core Area: Core comprises Satpura National Park, Bori and Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary. Major Flora: Southern tropical moist & dry deciduous forests. Major Fauna: Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Dhole, Gaur.		Location: Located in Gavilgarh Hills, a southern offshoot of Satpura Range, in Amravati district. Establishment: Established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1967, and declared a TR in 1974. It was among first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973-74 under Project Tiger. Drainage: Drained by Khandu, Khapra, Sipna, Gadga, and Dolar rivers (tributaries of Tapi River). Major Flora: Teak, Haldu, Saja, Dhawda. Major Fauna: Tiger, Leopard, Dhole, Sloth Bear, Gaur.
 Bengal Tiger Sloth Bear Gaur		 Leopard Dhole Sloth Bear Gaur

SATPURA LANDSCAPE – A UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL CONTINUUM

❖ The Satpura and Melghat Tiger Reserves together form a critical part of the Satpura Landscape, ensuring genetic diversity, wildlife movement and long-term conservation of tigers and other species.

❖ These reserves support rich biodiversity, tribal communities and eco-tourism.

KEY FACTS

- Both reserves are vital for tiger conservation, wildlife corridors and maintaining ecological balance in central India.
- They represent the rich natural heritage of the Satpura region.

5. Pamba River:

Context: Heavy rainfall (up to 339 mm) in the Sabarimala forest catchment triggered severe flooding and Pamba River overflowed its banks.

About Pamba River:

- ❖ Pamba (Pampa) River is the third longest river in Kerala, after the Periyar and Bharathappuzha rivers.
- ❖ It is popularly known as the "Dakshina Bhageerathi" (Ganga of Kerala) due to its deep religious significance, especially its association with the Sabarimala Temple.
- ❖ Origin: It originates at an elevation of about 1,650 m from Pulachimalai Hill on the Peerumedu Plateau in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The entire river basin lies within Kerala, bounded by the Western Ghats in the east and the Arabian Sea in the west.
- ❖ The river flows westward and empties into the Arabian Sea through a network of distributary channels.
- ❖ Major tributaries include Kakki Ar, Azhuta Ar, Kakkad Ar, Kallar, Manimala, and Achenkovil.
- ❖ The Pamba River is ecologically and culturally important, supporting agriculture, biodiversity, drinking water needs, and pilgrimage activities in Kerala.

6. *Pygmy Hog*:

Context: The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) recommended adding the pygmy hog to the list of critically endangered species under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

About Pygmy Hog:



- ❖ The Pygmy Hog is the smallest and rarest wild pig species in the world and is endemic to India.
- ❖ It is one of the few mammals that builds its own roofed nest using grasses for shelter and breeding.
- ❖ It is an indicator species, as its presence signifies healthy, undisturbed tall grassland ecosystems.
- ❖ Habitat: Prefers early successional riverine tall grasslands with dense grasses, herbs, shrubs, and young trees.
- ❖ Distribution: Currently found only in the Manas National Park and Orang National Park grasslands of Assam.
- ❖ Diet: Feeds on roots, tubers, shoots, grasses, worms, termites, and other small invertebrates.
- ❖ Ecological Role: Improves soil aeration and fertility through digging and aids seed dispersal, contributing to grassland regeneration.

- ❖ Conservation Status: Listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (now Schedule I under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022).

7. *Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR):*

Context: Three tiger deaths reported within less than three weeks in July have raised fresh concerns over wildlife protection in Andhra Pradesh, prompting the State government to order a high-level inquiry into the incidents in the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR).

About Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR):

- ❖ Location: Situated in the Nallamala Hills across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, covering five districts; it is the largest tiger reserve in India.
- ❖ Formation: Established in 1978 and brought under Project Tiger in 1983. It comprises the Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ Rivers & Reservoirs: The Krishna River flows through the reserve, and the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar reservoirs are located within it.
- ❖ Topography: Characterized by plateaus, ridges, deep valleys, gorges, and rugged hill terrain of the Nallamala ranges.
- ❖ Vegetation: Dominated by Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests, along with Southern Thorn Forests, bamboo thickets, and grasslands.
- ❖ Flora: Rich in endemic plant species such as *Andrographis nallamalayana*, *Eriolaena lushingtonii*, *Dicliptera beddomei*, *Premna hamiltonii*, and other rare taxa.
- ❖ Fauna: Supports Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Indian Wolf, Dhole (Wild Dog), Jackal, Rusty-spotted Cat, Pangolin, Mugger Crocodile, Indian Rock Python, Sambar, Chital, Chowsingha, Chinkara, Mouse Deer, Wild Boar, Porcupine, and diverse birdlife.
- ❖ Cultural Importance: Houses the famous Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple and important Buddhist archaeological remains at Nagarjunakonda, making it significant for both biodiversity and heritage.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Jagadguru Kripalu University at Cuttack, Odisha.
- ☐ India secured an impressive fourth position in the Commonwealth Games medal tally, winning 39 medals overall, comprising 13 Gold, 17 Silver and 9 Bronze medals. Our para-athletes scripted history by registering their best-ever performance at the Commonwealth Para Games with 7 medals, including 3 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.
- ☐ The country has achieved near-universal banking coverage, with 99.92% of inhabited villages (6,00,868 out of 6,01,328) now served by a banking outlet (Bank branch / Business Correspondent / India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)) within a radius of 5 km, as per the data uploaded by banks on Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App.
- ☐ The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, will host the Second Meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the Second Meeting of the

BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery in Hyderabad, Telangana, on 4–5 August 2026, under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.

- ☐ Agrivoltaics is the simultaneous use of the same land for agriculture and solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation, enabling clean energy production without compromising food cultivation. The concept was coined in 1981 by German scientists Adolf Goetzberger and Armin Zastrow. In this system, solar panels are installed on elevated structures, allowing crops to grow and farm machinery to operate beneath them, while the partial shade can improve water-use efficiency and benefit certain crops. It is increasingly viewed as a sustainable solution to meet rising energy demands while ensuring food security.
- ☐ Dhimsa is a traditional tribal folk dance of the Araku Valley hill tribes in North Andhra Pradesh, usually performed by 15–20 tribal women dressed in traditional attire and ornaments. It is a circular group dance featuring graceful, synchronized movements to the rhythm of indigenous instruments such as the Mori (wind instrument), Thudum (drum), and Dappu (percussion). Dhimsa is commonly performed during weddings, harvest festivals, and community celebrations, symbolizing unity, joy, and the rich cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh. Recently, over 13,000 tribal women and girl students set a Guinness World Record by performing the largest Dhimsa dance at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram (Visakhapatnam).

MAJOR PASSES ON THE INDIA–CHINA BORDER			
Pass	Shipki La Pass	Lipulekh Pass	Nathu La Pass
			
Location	• Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh.	• Close to tri-junction of India, China (Tibet) and Nepal. • Situated in Uttarakhand (Pithoragarh district).	• Dongkya Range of Himalayas (East Sikkim). • Connects Sikkim with Tibet Autonomous Region.
	• It is a mountain pass and a border post.	• It is a major pass of Kumaun region situated in Kali River Valley. • It is an important route for the Kailash–Mansarovar Yatra.	• High altitude mountain pass on the Indo–China border.
	• Sutlej River enters India through Shipki La gorge, making it an important Himalayan river pass.	• Important trade route historically and culturally significant. • Connects India with Tibet (via China).	• An important historical trade pass between India and Tibet (China). • Strategically significant for India.
	• Approx. 3,930 m (12,890 ft)	• Approx. 5,334 m (17,500 ft)	• 4,310 m (14,140 ft)
			

- ☐
- ☐ The Indian Air Force concluded Exercise ROTOR CLAP III at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan, on 1–2 August 2026. The rotary-wing exercise was themed Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems and involved multiple helicopter units of the Indian Air Force.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Which of the following best describes the concept of Agrivoltaics, which is increasingly being promoted as a sustainable approach?

- (a) Hydroponic farming methods
- (b) Solar-powered irrigation
- (c) Agricultural waste electricity
- (d) Crop cultivation with solar panels

Dhimsa is a traditional tribal dance associated with:

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Chhattisgarh

Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under “Critical Tiger Habitat”? (CSP 2020)

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem
- (d) Sunderbans

Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? (CSP 2020)

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets
2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks.
3. Consumption requirements of farm households
4. Post-harvest expense
5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 4 and 5

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