

Highlights of 12 August 2026 Current Affairs

- The Forest Survey of India (FSI) cataloged **45 major Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS)** in a dedicated album to help monitor and control invasive flora spreading across Reserved Forest Areas. The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) submitted a state-wise inventory covering forest and non-forest areas to the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** to aid in formulating a comprehensive National Management Plan for Invasive Species.
- To mitigate supply chain bottlenecks linked to West Asia war disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz, India shifted procurement to alternative, non-traditional producers in North Africa, West Africa, and Eastern Europe (Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria, and Georgia). Between April and June 2026, India imported **2.5 million tonnes** of urea from 17 nations, with **52% (1.1 million tonnes)** coming from these alternative suppliers. June shipments alone delivered 3.95 lakh tonnes from Egypt, 1.65 lakh tonnes from Algeria, 1.38 lakh tonnes from Nigeria, and 1.22 lakh tonnes from Georgia.
- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The agreement bridges DPIIT's role as the nodal authority for intellectual property under the *Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999* with the MSME Ministry's enterprise development framework.
- India celebrated **World Elephant Day 2026** by highlighting key milestones in safeguarding wild and captive elephant populations. Home to nearly 60% of the world's wild Asian elephants, the country continues to expand protected habitats, deploy advanced technology, and promote human-elephant coexistence.
- The **Ministry of Jal Shakti** notified the **River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities (Second Amendment) Order, 2026** under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, replacing the earlier 2016 blanket "construction-free" rule with a Central Water Commission (CWC)-aligned, stratified zoning framework. The new system categorizes riverbank areas into three risk-based zones:
 - The **Active Floodplain** (1-in-5-year flood frequency; strict construction bans with temporary event exceptions), the
 - **Regulatory Zone** (5-to-25-year flood frequency; development allowed with prior clearances)
 - The **Warning Zone** (25-to-100-year flood frequency; outer-bank development allowed under regulatory oversight).
- **Tathyakosh.in** is an open, non-commercial Digital Public Good (DPG) developed by the ACSEL Technology Forum (Karnataka's AI Centre of Excellence) and the IIT Alumni Centre Bengaluru to serve as India's unified public data discovery platform. Operating as a search and quality-assessment layer rather than a storage repository, it indexes **over 1.5 million datasets** across 458 sources—evaluated on 7 quality parameters—to support AI research and startups in healthcare, agriculture, climate, legal research, and financial inclusion.
- Colombia declared a national state of emergency after a **magnitude 7.4 earthquake**—its strongest of the 21st century—struck near San José del Palmar in the Chocó Department at an intermediate depth of ~107 km, leaving over 100 dead and widespread damage

across 14 departments. Geologically, the high seismic vulnerability of major urban centers like Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali stems from Colombia's position on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, where the complex subduction and interaction of the **Nazca, South American, and Caribbean tectonic plates** drive frequent faulting and seismic activity.

- New York Governor **Kathy Hochul** and New Jersey Governor **Mikie Sherrill** issued official executive proclamations designating August 15, 2026, as "**India Independence Day**" and "Indian Independence Day" respectively, commemorating India's 80th Independence Day. The regional proclamations formally acknowledge the contributions of the Indian-American diaspora in education, healthcare, technology, and governance while reinforcing bilateral economic and cultural ties; however, these state-level recognitions carry no federal holiday status in the United States.
- The Lebanese Parliament voted to formally abolish the **death penalty**—replacing it with life imprisonment with aggravated hard labour—making Lebanon the first Middle Eastern nation and the second Arab League member (after Djibouti) to legally end capital punishment. Passed despite Hezbollah's opposition, the law codifies a 22-year *de facto* moratorium observed since 2004 and commutes the sentences of approximately 85 remaining death-row prisoners.
- Russia imported its first-ever cargo of **Indian gasoline** (~42,000–68,000 tonnes) to alleviate acute domestic fuel shortages caused by repeated drone strikes on Russian oil-refining facilities. Originating from **Nayara Energy's** Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, the shipment underwent trans-shipment at Egypt's Damietta port before delivery to Russia, highlighting a notable shift where India serves as a key refining hub for Russian crude while helping stabilize Russia's domestic fuel supply.
- N. Chandrasekaran announced he will step down as Tata Sons Chairman and not seek reappointment after his current term ends in **February 2027**, following a lack of unanimous board support for a proposed five-year extension recommended by the Tata Trusts. The decision comes amid reported governance and strategic differences between Tata Sons and the principal shareholding Tata Trusts, prompting the board to initiate formal succession planning ahead of the August 2026 AGM.
- India won four medals—one gold by Shrilakshmi Venkatraman and three bronze by Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan, and Advay Misra (with an honorable mention for Soham Amit Pednekar)—at the 2026 International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) held in Brasov, Romania. Led by Prof. Parameswari Krishnamurthy and selected through the Panini Linguistics Olympiad (PLO) via training at IIIT Hyderabad, the Indian delegation brought the country's cumulative IOL tally to 37 medals (6 gold, 9 silver, 22 bronze).

Static GK – 12 August 2026

Entity	Details
Karnataka Chief Minister	D. K. Shivakumar
Karnataka Governor	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Karnataka Capital	Bengaluru
Colombia Capital	Bogotá
Colombia Currency	Peso
Colombia President	Gustavo Petro
Lebanon Capital	Beirut
Lebanon Currency	Lebanese Pound
Lebanon Head of State	President Joseph Aoun
Russia President	Vladimir Putin
Russia Capital	Moscow
Russia Currency	Ruble

