

# RADIUS EDUCATION

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DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **President approves 78 Gallantry Awards ahead of 80th Independence Day 2026**
- **Hungary elects Andras Backa as new president – a sign of political change after the Orban era**
- **CBDC based Digital Food Currency in PDS – Digital Transformation in Food Subsidy Distribution**
- **National Agenda on AI, Semiconductors, Nuclear Energy and Women Empowerment for 'Developed India 2047' on 80th Independence Day**
- **Lebanon becomes the first country in the Arab world to abolish the death penalty – a historic step towards human rights and the right to life**
- **ISMA–ICAR–ISRI Partnership for Quality Sugarcane Seed Production, an Initiative to Enhance Agricultural Productivity and Farmer Income**
- **Lucknow–Delhi Tejas Express becomes India's first corporate-branded train – a new initiative in the commercialization of railways**
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death anniversary – contribution to the Azad Hind Fauj and India's freedom struggle**

## 1. President Approves 78 Gallantry Awards Ahead of 80th Independence Day (2026)

The President approved a total of 78 gallantry awards for 2026, comprising 9 Kirti Chakras, 19 Shaurya Chakras, 36 Sena Medals (Gallantry), and other military honors; 13 of these are posthumous awards. Nine personnel were honored with the Kirti Chakra (7 posthumously), while the 19 Shaurya Chakras included one posthumous award. Personnel from the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces were conferred these various gallantry awards. Additionally, 89 'Mention-in-Despatches' were approved, covering 75 Army, 4 Navy, and 10 Air Force personnel.



## 2. András Baka Elected New President of Hungary — Signals Political Shift After the Orbán Era

The Hungarian Parliament elected former Supreme Court Chief András Baka as the new President in a secret ballot, with a vote of 140 to 6; he was the candidate nominated by the ruling Tisza Party. Baka, a former Supreme Court Chief and judge at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), is regarded as a proponent of judicial independence and the rule of law. His election, following the Tisza Party's victory in the 2026 elections, is seen as symbolizing the end of Viktor Orbán's long-standing political dominance and a transfer of power in Hungary.



## 3. CBDC-based Digital Food Currency in PDS — Digital Transformation in Food Subsidy Distribution

The Central Government has initiated a CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for food subsidy distribution under PMGKAY, wherein beneficiaries receive programmable digital tokens via the RBI-issued Digital Rupee (₹). This 'Purpose-Bound Subsidy' can be used solely to purchase eligible food grains from authorized shops or Fair Price Shops (FPS), helping to minimize leakage, diversion, and misuse. This initiative seeks to enhance the traceability and transparency of food subsidies by integrating with PDS digitization efforts—such as Aadhaar, e-POS, ONORC, and the JAM Trinity.



## 4. National Agenda for 'Viksit Bharat 2047' (Developed India 2047): AI, Semiconductors, Nuclear Energy, and Women Empowerment on the 80th Independence Day

The Prime Minister announced plans to provide AI training to 10 million (1 crore) youths over the next year and to offer free online coaching for competitive examinations via Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Emphasis was placed on a national sports talent search campaign for children aged 5–15 and the development of a robust Civil Defence Network to tackle modern warfare, cyber threats, and protect critical infrastructure. India has set a target of establishing 5–8 new semiconductor plants over the next 7–8 years and achieving 100 GW of nuclear energy capacity by 2047, initiatives linked to technological and energy self-reliance.



## 5. Lebanon Abolishes Death Penalty, Becomes First Arab Nation to Do So — A Historic Step for Human Rights and the Right to Life

On August 11, 2026, the Lebanese Parliament passed a law abolishing the death penalty, replacing it with life imprisonment and hard labor, thereby making it the first abolitionist country in the Arab world. Lebanon had maintained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 2004—as no executions had taken place since then—even though courts continued to hand down death sentences. This decision aligns with human rights principles such as the Right to Life, Human Dignity, the UDHR, and the ICCPR, and reinforces the global debate regarding the death penalty—weighing its deterrent effect against the risk of judicial error.



## 6. ISMA-ICAR-ISRI Partnership for Quality Sugarcane Seed Production: An Initiative to Boost Agricultural Productivity and Farmers' Income

On August 13, 2026, ISMA and ICAR-ISRI signed an MoU for the production of quality sugarcane planting material, aiming to provide farmers with disease-free and genetically pure seeds. The project entails an investment of ₹80 crore, with both institutions contributing ₹40 crore each; the center will be established at the ICAR-ISRI campus in Lucknow. The center will help enhance productivity, sugar recovery, and the competitiveness of the sugarcane industry through the rapid multiplication of new sugarcane varieties and variety replacement.



## 7. Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express Becomes India's First Corporate-Branded Train — A New Initiative in Railway Commercialization

Following the acquisition of advertising rights, the Lucknow-New Delhi IRCTC Tejas Express is being branded as the "Sprite Tejas Express," marking a significant example of commercial branding and non-fare revenue generation within the railway sector. This is India's first corporate-branded train; select coaches will feature Sprite vinyl branding, and the brand name will be utilized for a period of six months. Launched in 2019, this IRCTC-operated train covers a distance of approximately 512 km in 6 hours and 35 minutes, offering premium passenger amenities.



## 8. Death Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose — Contribution to the Azad Hind Fauj and India's Freedom Struggle

Subhas Chandra Bose was born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Odisha. He resigned from the ICS to play an active role in the freedom movement, advocating for militant nationalism and complete independence. He served as the Congress President in 1938 and 1939 and later founded the Forward Bloc, which strengthened an alternative political ideology within the national movement. In 1943, he assumed leadership of the Azad Hind Fauj (INA) and established the Azad Hind Government; he renamed the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as 'Shaheed' (Martyr) and 'Swaraj' (Self-rule).



## 1. How many gallantry awards were approved in 2026?

- A - 68  
B - 78  
C - 89  
D - 98

The President approved 78 gallantry awards in 2026, comprising 9 Kirti Chakras, 19 Shaurya Chakras, and 36 Sena Medals (Gallantry); these include 13 posthumous awards. Additionally, 89 'Mention-in-Despatches' were awarded, covering 75 Army, 4 Navy, and 10 Air Force personnel.



## 2. Who was elected as the new President of Hungary?

- A - Viktor Orbán  
B - András Baka  
C - Péter Magyar  
D - József Kovács

The Hungarian Parliament elected former Supreme Court chief András Baka as the new President in a secret ballot with a 140-6 vote; he was nominated by the ruling Tisza Party. Baka is a former judge of the ECHR, and his election is considered significant in the context of the Rule of Law, judicial independence, and the end of Viktor Orbán's long political dominance.



## 3. Which digital currency is used in the CBDC-based DBT system of PMGKAY?

- A - UPI  
B - Digital Rupee (₹)  
C - Bitcoin  
D - Digital Dollar

The Central Government has initiated a CBDC-based DBT scheme under PMGKAY, wherein food grains can be purchased only at authorized shops/FPS using programmable tokens of the RBI's Digital Rupee (₹). This could foster transparency, traceability, and leakage control within the PDS; however, challenges such as the digital divide, cybersecurity, privacy, and connectivity persist.



## 4. What is the target for providing AI training to youth over the next year?

- A - 50 lakh  
B - 75 lakh  
C - 1 crore  
D - 2 crore

The Prime Minister announced AI training for 1 crore youth, DPI-based free online coaching, a sports talent search for children aged 5–15, and a Civil Defence Network to address modern security challenges. India set targets for 5–8 new semiconductor plants, 100 GW of nuclear energy capacity by 2047, and 6 crore 'Lakhpatri Didis,' which will promote technological self-reliance, energy security, and women-led development.



**5. Which country became the first in the Arab world to abolish the death penalty?**

A - Jordan

**B - Lebanon**

C - Egypt

D - Iraq

On August 11, 2026, the Lebanese Parliament abolished the death penalty, replacing it with provisions for life imprisonment with hard labor, making it the first abolitionist country in the Arab world; a \*de facto\* moratorium on the death penalty had been in place there since 2004. This decision is linked to the Right to Life, Human Dignity, the UDHR, and the ICCPR, and is considered a significant step towards human rights and criminal justice reform in West Asia.



**6. Where will the proposed sugarcane planting material center be established?**

A - Kanpur

**B - Lucknow**

C - Meerut

D - Varanasi

On August 13, 2026, ISMA and ICAR-ISRI signed an MoU for quality, disease-free, and genetically pure sugarcane planting material; the center for this ₹80 crore project will be established at the ICAR-ISRI campus in Lucknow. The center will help enhance sugarcane productivity, sugar recovery, farmers' income, and industry competitiveness through rapid multiplication, variety replacement, digital tagging, and traceability.



**7. Under what new name is the Lucknow–New Delhi Tejas Express being branded?**

A - Coca-Cola Tejas Express

**B - Sprite Tejas Express**

C - IRCTC Sprite Express

D - Bharat Tejas Express

Following the acquisition of advertising rights, the Lucknow–New Delhi IRCTC Tejas Express is being branded as the "Sprite Tejas Express"; it is India's first corporate-branded train and exemplifies the railways' non-fare revenue model. Launched in 2019, this train covers a distance of approximately 512 km in 6 hours and 35 minutes; its branding offers the potential to generate additional revenue for the Railways through advertising and commercialization.



**8. Whose leadership did Subhash Chandra Bose assume in 1943?**

A - Ghadar Party

**B - Hindustan Socialist Republican Association**

**C - Azad Hind Fauj (INA)**

D - Swaraj Party

Subhash Chandra Bose resigned from the ICS and played an active role in the freedom movement; he served as the Congress President in 1938–39 and founded the Forward Bloc. In 1943, he took command of the INA and formed the Azad Hind Government. According to the prevailing view, he died following a plane crash in Taiwan in August 1945, although historical debate persists regarding the circumstances of his death.



## One Liner

1. Under which new brand name is the Lucknow–New Delhi Tejas Express being rebranded? - **Sprite Tejas Express**
2. How many 'Mention-in-Despatches' were approved in 2026? - **89**
3. Which country in the Arab world did Lebanon become to abolish the death penalty? - **The first country**
4. How many gallantry awards were approved in 2026? - **78 gallantry awards**
5. What is the target for providing AI training to youth over the next year? - **1 crore youth**
6. What nuclear energy capacity target has India set for 2047? - **100 GW**
7. What is the total investment for the sugarcane planting material project by ISMA and ICAR-ISRI? - **₹80 crore**
8. At which session did Subhash Chandra Bose assume the role of Congress President in 1938? - **Haripura Session**
9. Which digital currency is being used for food subsidy distribution under PMGKAY? - **Digital Rupee (e₹)**
10. How many votes did Hungary's new President, András Baka, receive in Parliament? - **140 votes in favor and 6 votes against**