



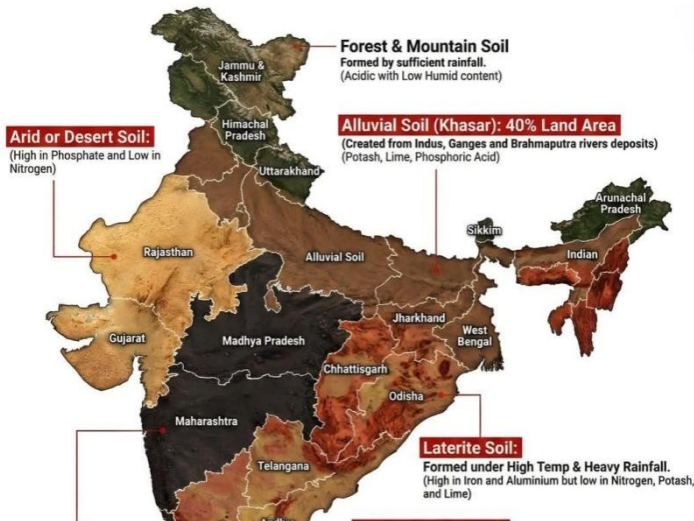
# *Weekly* **Current Affairs**

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

# NATIONAL NEWS



## NBSS & LUP Develops India's First Digital Soil Texture Map



- It is an institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Its headquarters is in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- NBSS&LUP stands for National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning.

## Pradeep Rai Elected Supreme Court Bar Association President



- Senior Advocate Pradeep Rai has been elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for the 2026–27 term.
- He succeeds Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, who served as SCBA President for the 2025–26 term.
- Meenesh Dubey was elected Joint Secretary, while Reepak Kansal was elected Treasurer.

## PhonePe–MeitY MoU to Strengthen PM GatiShakti



- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed an MoU with PhonePe on 20 August 2026.
- The MoU aims to strengthen PM GatiShakti through granular and hyperlocal data intelligence.
- PhonePePulsePro will provide data insights for the PM GatiShakti mission.

## India Launches 1st Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid



- The new hybrids are named Krisna459 and Godari234.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the new hybrids.
- The launch ceremony was held at Musunuru in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.



## West Bengal to Launch 'Arjun Bahini' Disaster Response Force



- The force will focus on providing rapid assistance during natural disasters and emergencies.
- Arjun Bahini will primarily consist of Agniveers.
- Arjun Bahini will be modelled on the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

## SEBI Introduces IT Resilience Index for MIIs



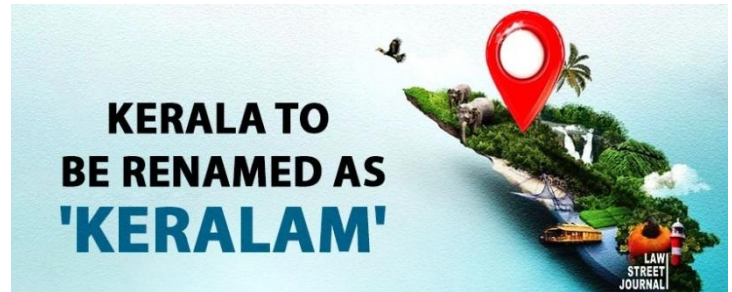
- The framework is designed for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).
- The main objective is to assess the robustness and resilience of critical IT systems used by MIIs.
- MIIs include stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories.

## AIIA Launches 'Garbhini Mitra' Course



- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi has launched the 'Garbhini Mitra' Course for the 2026–27 academic session.
- AIIA is an autonomous premier institute under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India.
- The course is designed as a healthcare skill-development programme.

## Kerala Officially Renamed "Keralam"



- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued the notification bringing the name-change law into force.
- The name change is legally implemented through the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026.
- The proposed name "Keralam" is the Malayalam name traditionally used for the state.

## Mumbai Enters IWG Work From Anywhere Index



- Mumbai has entered the 2026 Work From Anywhere (WFA) Index published by the International Workplace Group (IWG).
- Mumbai is the only Indian city included in the 2026 index.
- The index assesses cities according to their suitability for remote working while travelling.



## e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years



- It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- e-Shram was created primarily for India's unorganised workforce.
- The portal created India's first Aadhaar-seeded National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW).

## ICAR-CCARI Launches “Carbon Pathshala” for Goa Farmers



- ICAR-CCARI, Goa organised a one-day workshop titled “Carbon Pathshala: Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) for Farmers.”
- ICAR-CCARI functions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). ICAR-CCARI stands for ICAR–Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute.
- ICAR is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

## Himachal Pradesh Signs MoU with ISB to Unlock ₹22,600 Crore Forest Economy Potential

- The Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP), Indian School of Business (ISB).

- The MoU was signed in August 2026 to unlock the state's estimated ₹22,600 crore untapped forest and pastoral economy potential.
- The agreement aims to promote science- and technology-enabled forest governance.

## DMRC Becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Metro Org. in India to Receive ISO Certification



- DMRC Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has become the first metro organisation in India to receive ISO 55001:2024 certification.
- The certification recognises DMRC's systematic approach to managing its infrastructure and other physical assets.
- The certification is specifically associated with Mumbai Metro Line-3 (Aqua Line).

## JNPA becomes world's fastest-growing container port



- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) is located at Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, and is one of India's major container ports.
- JNPA recorded 13.6% growth in container throughput during H1 2026, making it the fastest-growing among the world's top 30 container ports.
- It improved its global position to 21st among the world's top container ports.

## Meghalaya Launches Read & Rise Programme



- Meghalaya launched the CM-IMPACT Read & Rise Meghalaya programme.
- The programme was launched by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma in Shillong.
- Its primary objective is to strengthen foundational reading skills among schoolchildren. CM-IMPACT (Chief Minister's Initiative for Promoting Academic and Cognitive Transformation).

## Tribal Languages & Museums Conclave Begins in Mysuru



- The National Conclave on Tribal Languages & Museums began in Mysuru, Karnataka.
- The three-day conclave was organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It brings together policymakers, linguists, researchers, technologists and tribal representatives.

## SCO summit 2026 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



- SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) was established on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China.
- The SCO currently has 10 member states: China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
- The SCO's headquarters/Secretariat is located in Beijing, China.

## DRDO Tests Indigenous Combat Parachute System in Ladakh



- The trial was conducted at the Nyoma-Mudh Drop Zone in Leh district, one of the world's highest-altitude drop zones.
- The test jump was carried out from 22,000 feet above mean sea level. The temperature during the trial was around  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- The MCPS was designed and developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, a DRDO laboratory.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



### Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir Elected Bangladesh's President



- Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir succeeded Mohammed Shahabuddin as the President of Bangladesh.
- He was elected the 23rd President of Bangladesh.
- He is a senior leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

### US Launches 'Operation Economic Outcast' Against Iran

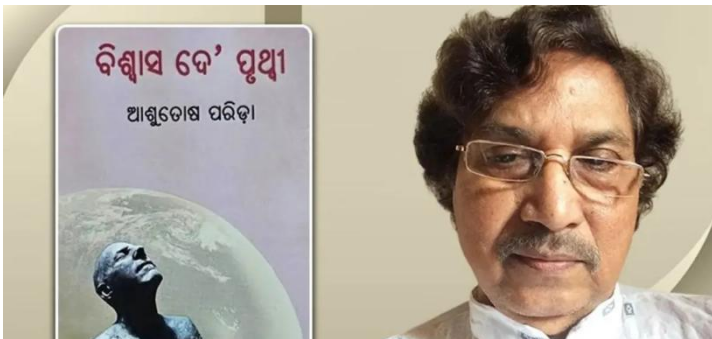


- The operation is a comprehensive economic sanctions campaign against Iran
- The campaign aims to financially isolate Iran from the global economy.
- The U.S. described it as an "economic D-Day" against Iran.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



### Ashutosh Parida to Receive Sarala Puraskar 2026



- Dr. Ashutosh Parida, a noted Odia poet and essayist, has been selected for the 47th Sarala Puraskar.
- He will receive the award for his poetry collection 'Bishwas De Pruthwi'.
- The award is instituted by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).

### Kaziah Liz Mejo Crowned Miss Universe India 2026



- Kaziah Liz Mejo, a 19-year-old from Kerala, was crowned Miss Universe India 2026.
- The grand finale was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- She becomes the first woman from Kerala to win the Miss Universe India title.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



### Govt Appoints Akbaruddin, 2 Others to RBI Central Board

- The Central Government appointed three new Part-time, Non-official Directors to the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The three appointees are Syed Akbaruddin, Annie George Mathew, and Janmejaya Kumar Sinha.
- Each has been appointed for a four-year term, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

### LIC Housing Finance Appoints Sandeep Kumar as New MD & CEO



- He succeeds Tribhuwan Adhikari, who retired upon superannuation.
- His tenure can extend up to five years, subject to applicable conditions and shareholder approval.

- Sandeep Kumar has been appointed as an Additional Director in the capacity of MD & CEO and as a Key Managerial Personnel (KMP).

### Finance Ministry Extends Rajendra Kumar Saboo's MD & CEO Charge



- The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, extended the additional charge of MD & CEO of UCO Bank assigned to Rajendra Kumar Saboo.
- Saboo is the Executive Director of UCO Bank.
- The vacancy arose after Ashwani Kumar completed his tenure as UCO Bank's MD & CEO.

## BANKING NEWS



### PNB & Indian Army Sign MoU for PNB LUXURA & Parakram



- Punjab National Bank (PNB) entered into an exclusive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army to offer specially designed credit cards to Army personnel.
- Under the partnership, PNB will offer two exclusive credit-card variants. PNB LUXURA Metal Credit Card is designed for Army Officers.
- PNB Parakram Credit Card is designed for Junior Commissioned Officers & Other Ranks.



## Bank of Baroda Launches UPI Global QR Payments for Visitors



- The facility allows international tourists, overseas Indians and eligible foreign payment-app users to make QR payments in India.
- Visitors can use their home-country banking or payment applications for payments.
- Payments can be made across Bank of Baroda's UPI QR merchant network in India.

## SPORTS



## Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand Create History at BWF Worlds 2026



- Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand secured a medal at the BWF World Championships 2026.
- The BWF World Championships 2026 are being held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, India.
- They defeated China's Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian in the quarterfinal.

## India's GM Pranesh M Wins Kanizsa Open 2026



- The tournament was held in Nagykanizsa, Hungary.
- Pranesh defeated Germany's Vadim Petrovskiy in the 9th and final round.
- He was ranked 44th in the FIDE World Rankings 2026.

## India Open 2028 Super 750 to be held in Guwahati



- The India Open 2028 will be held in Guwahati, Assam, instead of its traditional venue in New Delhi.
- The event will be hosted at the National Centre of Excellence (NCE) for Badminton, Guwahati.
- The decision was confirmed by Badminton Association of India (BAI) Secretary General Sanjay Mishra. BAI is the national governing body for badminton in India.



# DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



## Sophie Adenot Becomes First French Woman to Walk in Space

- Adenot was accompanied by NASA astronaut Anil Menon.
- She became the second European woman to perform a spacewalk, after Italy's Samantha Cristoforetti, who conducted her first spacewalk in 2022.
- She travelled to the ISS as part of SpaceX Crew-12.

## Flying Wedge Defence Unveils FWD Supreme Lite



- Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) is a Bengaluru-based Indian defence technology company.
- It has been promoted as India's first AI-piloted fighter jet demonstrator.
- The aircraft incorporates Rocket Assisted Take-Off (RATO) capability.

## NSG Launches First All-Women Commando Course in Haryana



- The course is officially known as the Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC).

- The course was launched at the NSG Training Centre, Manesar, located in Gurugram district, Haryana.
- The course has been introduced specifically for women personnel from State Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

## Indian Navy to Commission Second Indigenous Diving Support Vessel



- The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Nipun, India's second indigenously built Diving Support Vessel (DSV) of the Nistar class.
- The commissioning ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- INS Nipun is the second vessel of the Nistar-class Diving Support Vessels. The first vessel of this class is INS Nistar.

## Banas Bio-CNG Plant Inaugurated in Banaskantha



- The Banas Suzuki Biogas Plant was inaugurated at Vinchhivadi, Banaskantha district, Gujarat.
- The project is a collaboration between Suzuki Motor Corporation, Banas Dairy and NDDB (National Dairy Development Board).
- It is Suzuki's third biogas plant in India, following plants at Agthala and Bhukhala.