



Weekly **Current Affairs**

2nd to 8th August 2026

NATIONAL - INTERNATIONAL - DEFENCE - BANKING - SPORTS
AWARD NEWS - MOU - APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS - OBITUARY

NATIONAL NEWS



India Ranked 176th in Environmental Performance Index



- India ranked 176th out of 177 countries, making it the second-lowest ranked country in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026.
- Laos ranked 177th (last), while Estonia secured 1st rank globally.
- India was the lowest-ranked country in South Asia, behind Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana



- The scheme aims to promote Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects across India.
- The scheme supports India's target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will implement the scheme.

Cabinet Extends PM-KISAN Scheme for Five Years

- The Union Cabinet approved a five-year extension of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.



- Under PM-KISAN, eligible farmer families receive ₹6,000 per year.
- Financial assistance is provided in three equal installments of ₹2,000 each.

Gujarat's Pithora Painting Receives GI Tag



- It is mainly practised by the Rathwa, Bhilala and Nayaka tribal communities.
- They are dedicated to Baba Pithora, the tribal deity of prosperity and protection.
- Major districts associated with this art include Chhota Udepur, Dahod and Panchmahal.

Indian Railways Approves Danapur–Fatuha Multitracking

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Danapur–Fatuha Multitracking Project located in the state of Bihar.
- It connects Danapur and Fatuha near Patna.
- The route falls under the East Central Railway (ECR). Headquarters of East Central Railway is Hajipur, Bihar.

Nauru Officially Changes Name to Republic of Naoero



- The Pacific island nation Nauru officially adopted the name Republic of Naoero.
- "Naoero" is the indigenous name used by the local people.
- The country is located in Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean.

Glaw Lake Becomes Arunachal Pradesh's First Ramsar Site

- The recognition was granted under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
- The lake situated in Lower Dibang Valley district.
- The Ramsar Convention was adopted in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran. World Wetlands Day: 2 February.

BEL Signs MoU with Esri India for Defence GIS Projects



- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Esri India Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- Objective is to develop Geographic Information System (GIS) solutions for defence applications.

- BEL is a Navratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. BEL Headquarters: Bengaluru.

President Approves Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026



- The Act aims to prevent religious conversion through force, fraud, coercion, undue influence or allurement.
- Illegal religious conversion can attract up to 7 years' imprisonment and a fine up to ₹1 lakh.
- The President grants assent under Article 201 of the Constitution.

18-Year-Old Nathan Thomas Enters Guinness World Records



- Nathan Thomas, an 18-year-old American, entered the Guinness World Records as the World's Youngest Male Professor.
- Appointed as an Engineering Instructor at Miami Dade College (MDC), Florida, USA.
- Broke a 306-year-old record for the youngest male professor.

Meghalaya Launches 'Mission Clouded Leopard'



- Meghalaya Government launched Mission Clouded Leopard to protect the Clouded Leopard, the official State Animal of Meghalaya.
- Objective is to conserve the species through scientific monitoring, habitat protection and anti-poaching measures.
- Clouded Leopard, IUCN Red List Status: Vulnerable.

BRICS WAVES Bazaar Hosted in Mumbai



- BRICS WAVES Bazaar was organised in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Promoted India's AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality) industry.
- BRICS Members (2026): Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and Indonesia.

Telangana Launches AI-Powered Emergency Response System 112

- The Telangana Government has launched an AI-powered Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112 to improve public safety and emergency services.

- The Emergency Response Support System is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs as a single emergency number across India.
- Telangana's capital is Hyderabad, the Chief Minister is A. Revanth Reddy, and the Governor is Jishnu Dev Varma.

C-DAC, GSI Sign MoU for Mineral Exploration and Disaster Mgmt.



- The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and the Geological Survey of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding
- The partnership will utilize AI, High Performance Computing (HPC), Big Data Analytics, and Geospatial Technologies.
- C-DAC is an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

IIT Hyderabad Launches 1st Nuclear Training Prog. 'ANUGYAN'



- IIT Hyderabad has launched ANUGYAN, India's first dedicated nuclear training programme for students, researchers, and professionals.
- ANUGYAN provides training in nuclear science, reactor technology, radiation safety, nuclear engineering, and advanced research.
- India's nuclear energy programme is administered by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Ladakh to Launch India's First High-Altitude Wildlife Safari



- The High-Altitude Wildlife Safari will be developed in the upper reaches of Ladakh, primarily covering the snow leopard and bird-watching trails in the Changthang region.
- Major wildlife includes Snow Leopard, Tibetan Wolf, Blue Sheep (Bharal), Himalayan Ibex, Kiang, Black-necked Crane and Himalayan Marmot.
- The safari area falls within the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary.

Assam Launches Nijut Moina and Nijut Babu Schemes



- The Assam Government launched the Nijut Moina Scheme to support higher education for girl students and Nijut Babu Scheme for male students.
- It covers students pursuing Higher Secondary, Undergraduate and Postgraduate education
- Both schemes aim to improve the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education.

Tamil Nadu Government to Launch 'Vetri Vaanmagal' Scheme

- The scheme aims to empower women farmers through modern agricultural technology.
- It focuses on providing training in agricultural drone operations.



- Training will be conducted through the Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU).

Microsoft Launches Fourth India Cloud Region in Hyderabad



- Microsoft has launched its fourth cloud region in India at Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Hyderabad joins Mumbai, Pune and Chennai as Microsoft's cloud regions in India.
- The new facility provides Microsoft Azure, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cloud computing services.

Cabinet Approves GOBARdhan Scheme



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the revamped GOBARdhan Scheme, Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan.
- It converts organic waste into Compressed Biogas (CBG), Bio-CNG, biogas and organic manure.
- The nodal ministry is the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Maldives Launches Favara-UPI Payment Service with India



- The service links the Maldives' instant payment system (Favara) with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- It enables real-time cross-border money transfers between the Maldives and India.
- UPI was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

China Develops Xianglong Tunnel Boring Machine



- China unveiled its latest indigenous Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) named Xianglong.
- It has been developed by China Railway Construction Heavy Industry Corporation (CRCHI), one of the world's leading manufacturers of tunnel boring equipment.
- It is equipped with AI-enabled intelligent control systems, real-time geological prediction and automated fault diagnosis.

Italy Suspends EU Schengen Free-Travel Pact with Spain



- Italy temporarily suspended free movement with Spain.
- Temporary border checks were introduced under the Schengen Border Code.
- The Schengen Agreement was signed in 1985. The Schengen Area currently has 29 member countries.

China Harvests First Rice Crop Grown in Space



- The experiment is being conducted aboard China's Tiangong Space Station, which orbits approximately 400 km above Earth.
- The research is carried out under the Shenzhou-23 mission, with astronauts cultivating rice in orbit.
- The experiment was conducted aboard China's Tiangong Space Station under controlled microgravity conditions. India's planned space station is called the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



NSA Ajit Doval Receives Lokmanya Tilak National Award



- The award is presented annually by the Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust, Pune.
- It recognises outstanding contribution towards national service and nation-building.
- The award ceremony is held in Pune, Maharashtra. Ajit Doval is a former IPS officer of the Kerala cadre.

- Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod, AVSM, YSM assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS) on 1 August 2026. He succeeded Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti.
- As DGNO, Vice Admiral Pramod played a key role in the planning, preparedness, and operational readiness of the Indian Navy during Operation Sindoor.
- Indian Navy Headquarters: New Delhi. Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

Annapurni Subramaniam Wins COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal

- Awarded by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR).
- Her research focuses on stellar evolution, star clusters, Magellanic Clouds and nearby galaxies.
- Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Known as the Father of the Indian Space Programme.

Tamil Nadu Gets 'Best State' Award for Organ Donations



- The award was presented based on the state's highest performance in deceased organ donation and transplantation.
- The recognition is based on data maintained under the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO).
- The state operates a transparent organ allocation system through TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu).

A.N. Pramod Becomes Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

Prof. Karthikeyan Lanka Selected for NASI Young Scientist Award



- Prof. Karthikeyan Lanka has been selected for the prestigious NASI Young Scientist Award 2026 in the Earth Sciences category.
- He is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Studies in Resources Engineering (CSRE), IIT Bombay.
- The award is presented by the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI).

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Varsha Ashok Aglawe Becomes First Woman Director General of GSI



- Varsha Ashok Aglawe became the first woman Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Geological Survey of India was established in 1851.
- GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines. Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal.

Willie Walsh Takes Charge as IndiGo's New CEO



- Willie Walsh officially became the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo in August 2026.
- He succeeded Pieter Elbers as CEO of IndiGo. He is an Irish aviation executive.
- IndiGo is India's largest airline by market share. Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana.
Founded: 2006.

A.S. Rajeev Takes Charge as Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner



- A.S. Rajeev took charge as the Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) after the completion of the tenure of Praveen Kumar Srivastava.
- Central Vigilance Commission: Established: 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
- CVC became a statutory body through the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003. Headquarters: New Delhi.

Air India Appoints Tewolde Gebremariam as CEO



- Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam, former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD).
- He succeeds Campbell Wilson, who stepped down after leading Air India's initial transformation under the Tata Group.
- Air India is jointly owned by Tata Group (75%) and Singapore Airlines (25%).

BANKING NEWS



RBI Appoints Monisha Chakraborty as Executive Director



- She has over 30 years of experience in banking supervision, financial regulation and risk management.
- As Executive Director, she will oversee the Department of Supervision, responsible for regulating commercial banks, small finance banks, payment banks and NBFCs.
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai. Established: 1 April 1935. Nationalised: 1 January 1949.

RBI Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.25%



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%.
- Decision announced after the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- Monetary Policy Committee, Total Members: 6, Three members from RBI and three appointed by the Government of India.

Prasanta Mahapatra Assumes Charge as SEBI Executive Director



- Prasanta Mahapatra has assumed charge as an Executive Director (ED) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- He has extensive experience in market regulation, corporate finance, enforcement, investigations, and investor protection.
- SEBI is the statutory regulator of India's capital and securities market and works to ensure transparent and fair trading.

SPORTS



Indian Teams Win Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships



- India won both the Men's Team and Women's Team titles at the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026, held in New Delhi, India.
- The Indian Men's Team defeated Malaysia 3–2 in a thrilling final to win the championship.
- The Indian Women's Team defeated England 3–0 in the final to clinch the title.

Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh Win India's First Commonwealth Judo Gold Medals



- Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh created history by winning India's first-ever gold medals in judo at the Commonwealth Games during the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Asmita Dey won the Women's 48 kg category. She defeated Heidi Quach (Canada).
- Harsh Singh won the Men's 60 kg category. He defeated Joshua Katz (Australia).

Harsh Singh Becomes First Indian to Win Men's Judo Gold



- Harsh Singh became the first Indian male judoka to win the reported international gold medal.
- Judo originated in Japan.
- Judo became an Olympic sport in 1964 (Tokyo Olympics).

India Secures 4th Place with 39 Medals at Commonwealth Games



- India won 39 medals (14 Gold, 12 Silver and 13 Bronze).
- Australia finished at the top of the medal table. The 2026 Commonwealth Games were held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Next Commonwealth Games: Ahmedabad, India (2030).

Arunachal's Boleng to Host Asian Rafting Championships 2026



- Boleng, located in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, will host the Asian Rafting Championships 2026.
- The event will take place on the Simang River, a major tributary of the Siang River, known for its world-class white-water rapids.
- The Siang River is the Indian name of the Yarlung Tsangpo River after it enters India from Tibet.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Indian Navy Inducts Indigenous Diving Support Vessel

- The Indian Navy inducted the indigenous Diving Support Vessel (DSV) 'Nipun'.
- 'Nipun' was built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, a Government of India
- It is the second vessel of the Nistar-class Diving Support Vessels, following INS Nistar.

Tata's Agratas Develops Indigenous Lithium Cell Technology



- Agratas, the battery manufacturing company of the Tata Group, developed indigenous lithium cell technology.
- It also supports the PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) manufacturing.
- Lithium-ion cells are used in EVs, mobile phones, laptops and energy storage systems.

India Launches Indigenous African Swine Fever Vaccine 'MA-104'



- Developed to protect pigs against the deadly African Swine Fever virus.

- Aims to reduce mortality in domestic pigs and protect the livestock industry.
- African Swine Fever, Mortality can reach up to 100% in severe outbreaks. Does not infect humans.

100% Railway Electrification & 1st Electric Train in Kashmir Valley

- The 1st electric train in the Kashmir Valley started operating on the Banihal–Baramulla section, replacing diesel locomotives on route.
- The electrification covers the Banihal–Baramulla railway section, an important part of the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- The USBRL project includes the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, and the Anji Khad Cable-Stayed Railway Bridge.

TRAI Revamps MyCall App to Improve Voice Call Quality



- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has launched a revamped version of the MyCall App to improve voice call quality assessment.
- TRAI was established on 20 February 1997 under the TRAI Act, 1997, and its headquarters are in New Delhi.
- The current Chairperson of TRAI is Anil Kumar Lahoti, and TRAI functions under the Ministry of Communications.