



Weekly **Current Affairs**

9th to 14th August 2026

NATIONAL NEWS



Punjab Tops NITI Aayog School Education Rankings



- Punjab has secured the top position in the latest national assessment of school education, overtaking Kerala.
- Punjab recorded 82% proficiency in language in Class 3, compared with 75% for Kerala.
- Punjab recorded 78% proficiency in mathematics in Class 3, compared with 70% for Kerala.

Karnataka Launches AI-Powered Digital Crop Survey



- Karnataka launched the Composite Digital Crop Survey (CDCS) on 6 August 2026 as a state-level initiative for agricultural mapping and crop-data collection.
- The initiative uses Artificial Intelligence, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), high-resolution

satellite imagery, drone surveys, GIS data and machine learning for plot-level crop assessment.

- Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data is also part of the technological framework.

Ladakh to Lead Independent India's First Caste Census

- Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, namely Houselisting & Housing Census and Population Enumeration.
- Census 2027 will be India's first digital Census, with data collection being carried out through digital/mobile-based systems.
- Census mascots: Pragati – Female and Vikas – Male. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs.

Odisha's DALKHAI Initiative to Tackle Distress Migration



- The Government of Odisha has identified distress migration as an issue requiring intervention through livelihood and development measures.
- The DALKHAI initiative focuses on addressing the underlying/root causes of distress migration rather than dealing only with migration after it occurs.
- Odisha is also implementing livelihood-focused programmes for tribal communities and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

2nd National Port Security Conference



- The 2nd National Port Security Conference 2026 was held in New Delhi.
- The conference focused on strengthening the security and resilience of India's ports.
- Maritime Domain Awareness is an important component of identifying and responding to activities that may threaten port and maritime security.



- The recognition was provided by Bureau Veritas. The port received a Renewable Energy Verification Statement.
- VOC Port is named after V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, a freedom fighter and pioneer of India's indigenous shipping movement.

Gujarat Launches Plastic Waste Management Project at Nalsarovar



- Nalsarovar is an important wetland ecosystem of Gujarat.
- It aims to improve collection, segregation and scientific disposal of plastic waste.
- Nalsarovar is particularly important for migratory and resident birds.

Amit Shah – 'Bank in a Box' and Security Operations Centre



- Amit Shah, Union Minister of Cooperation, launched initiatives aimed at strengthening the technology and cybersecurity capabilities of Urban Cooperative Banks.
- Bank in a Box is designed to help Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) adopt modern digital banking infrastructure.
- UCB stands for Urban Cooperative Bank, which is an important part of India's cooperative banking ecosystem.

Jitendra Singh Dedicates First-of-Its-Kind 'Eco-Educational Hub'



- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh dedicated the country's first-of-its-kind eco-educational hub to Nation in Lucknow, UP
- The hub is named Prakriti Gyan Dham.
- It has been established at the Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre (MPBC).

V.O.C. Port Becomes India's First Scope-2 Emission-Free Major Port

- V.O. Chidambaram Port Authority is located at Thoothukudi (Tuticorin), Tamil Nadu.

India Gifts Five Peacocks to UN Geneva



- India gifted five Indian peacocks to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG).
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Arindam Bagchi, presented the birds.
- Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of UNOG, received them. The Indian peacock is the national bird of India.

Ladakh Hosts First-Ever Black-Necked Crane Festival



- Ladakh is hosting the first-ever Black-Necked Crane Festival to promote the conservation of the species and its fragile high-altitude habitat.
- The festival is centred on the Changthang region, which is an important breeding and wintering habitat for the Black-necked Crane.
- Important habitats include Tso Kar, Hanle and other high-altitude wetlands.

Uttar Pradesh Becomes India's Largest Milk-Producing State

- Uttar Pradesh has retained its position as India's largest milk-producing state approximately 388.15 lakh metric tonnes of milk during 2024-25.



- The state accounts for around 16% of India's total milk production. India continues to be the world's largest milk-producing country.
- Uttar Pradesh is followed among the major milk-producing states by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

PM Modi Releases Ram Nath Kovind's Autobiography



- PM Narendra Modi released the autobiography of former P. Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi.
- The autobiography covers Kovind's personal life, struggles, public service and political journey.
- Ram Nath Kovind served as the 14th President of India. He succeeded Pranab Mukherjee as President of India. Ram Nath Kovind was succeeded by Droupadi Murmu.

HM Amit Shah Launches Gramin Gyan Setu App

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Gramin Gyan Setu App in Gujarat.
- The app aims to integrate and interconnect libraries across the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.
- The initiative aims to establish a library in every village and promote reading habits among children.

Gujarat to Get Asia's First Desert-Themed Night Safari



- Deesa in Banaskantha district of Gujarat will get Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park.
- The project has received approval from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).
- The safari will showcase the desert ecosystem and wildlife.

CBDC-Based DBT Launches in Chd. and Dadra & Nagar Haveli



- The government is launching CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for food subsidy delivery. CBDC is known as the Digital Rupee (e₹).
- The initiative is linked with the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).
- The Digital Rupee is issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Ministry of Textiles Org. 'Srijan'



- The Ministry of Textiles organised 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom'.
- The programme was held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- The programme celebrates the contribution of women handloom weavers.

IIT Delhi Leads 52 Indian Institutions in QS Rankings



- IIT Delhi is India's highest-ranked institution in the QS World University Rankings published annually by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- IIT Delhi secured 118th position globally 2027 from 123rd position in QS Rankings 2026.
- IIT Bombay secured 134th position globally.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Pakistan's First Lunar Rover Named Jinnah-1



- Pakistan's first-ever lunar rover has been officially named Jinnah-1 by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO).
- It will travel to the Moon as part of China's Chang'e-8 mission. The mission will target the Moon's South Polar Region.

Andras Baka Elected as Hungary's New President



- Andras Baka was elected as the new President of Hungary by Hungary's Parliament on 11 August 2026.
- He is a former head of Hungary's Supreme Court.
- Baka succeeds Tamás Sulyok as Hungary's president.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

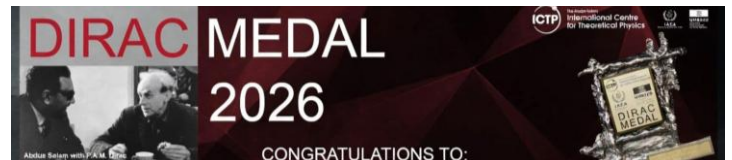


President Presents Sant Kabir Handloom Awards 2025



- Sant Kabir Handloom Awards recognise outstanding handloom weavers who have made significant contributions to India's weaving heritage.
- The Sant Kabir Handloom Award carries a ₹3.5 lakh cash prize, along with a mounted gold coin, Tamrapatra, shawl and certificate of recognition.

Padma Bhushan Awardee Physicist Deepak Dhar Wins Dirac Medal



- Indian physicist Professor Deepak Dhar has been awarded the prestigious Dirac Medal 2026 in theoretical and statistical physics.
- His research on the Abelian sandpile model is internationally recognised. He received the Padma Bhushan in 2023 for his contribution to science and technology & Boltzmann Medal in 2022, first Indian recipient of the Boltzmann Medal.

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Cap. Shivani Appointed 1st Woman Aide-de-Camp to Army Chief



- Captain Shivani Sehrawat became the first woman officer appointed as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Indian Army Chief, according to reports on the appointment.
- ADC stands for Aide-de-Camp, an officer who assists a senior military or state dignitary in official and ceremonial responsibilities.
- The appointment is considered an important milestone in the increasing participation of women officers in the Indian Army.

N. Chandrasekaran Resigns as Tata Sons Chairman



- Natarajan Chandrasekaran, popularly known as N. Chandrasekaran, has decided not to seek another term as Chairman of Tata Sons.
- He succeeded Cyrus Mistry as Chairman.
- Before becoming Chairman of Tata Sons, Chandrasekaran served as the CEO and Managing Director of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Russia Appoints D.Y. Chandrachud in Ukraine Arbitration



- Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has been appointed as an arbitrator by Russia.
- The appointment relates to an arbitration case involving Ukraine's state-owned bank Oschadbank.
- The dispute concerns Oschadbank's assets affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

BANKING NEWS



NABARD Announces Climate Stack Innovation Challenge Winners



- NABARD is working with the Gates Foundation and Dalberg Advisors.
- The objective is to create a climate-intelligence architecture for India's rural economy.
- The initiative is anchored in NABARD's DiCRA platform.

SPORTS



Praggnanandhaa Wins Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz Title 2026



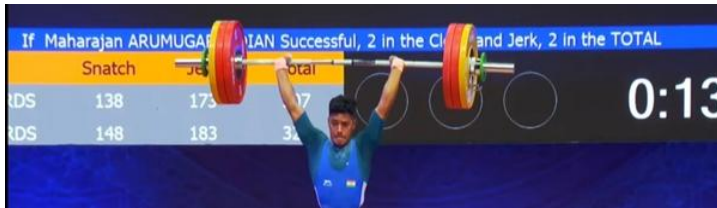
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won his maiden Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz title in 2026.
- The tournament was held in Saint Louis, Missouri, USA as part of the Grand Chess Tour 2026.
- Praggnanandhaa finished the combined event with 23.5 points.

Suraj Kumar Chand Wins FISU World University Squash Title



- Suraj Kumar Chand won the men's singles title at the 2026 FISU World University Squash Championship.
- The championship was held in Mumbai, India, making it an important event for Indian university sport.
- He defeated Hungary's Benedek Takacs in the final.

Maharajan Wins Silver in Asian Junior Weightlifting



- Arumugapandian Maharajan represented India at the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships 2026.
- He competed in the men's 65 kg category. He won the silver medal in the 65 kg category.
- The championship was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

India Wins Four Medals at 23rd International Linguistics Olympiad



- The 2026 edition was held in Bucharest, Romania.
- India's medal tally consisted of 1 Gold Medal and 3 Bronze Medals.
- India won four medals at the International Linguistics Olympiad 2026: Shrilakshmi Venkatraman won Gold, while Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan and Advay Misra won Bronze medals.

Jammu and Kashmir to Host Irani Cup in Srinagar



- Jammu & Kashmir will host the Irani Cup 2026–27 in Srinagar. The scheduled venue is Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium, Srinagar.
- Jammu & Kashmir earned the hosting opportunity after winning the 2025–26 Ranji Trophy.
- The Irani Cup is organised under the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY

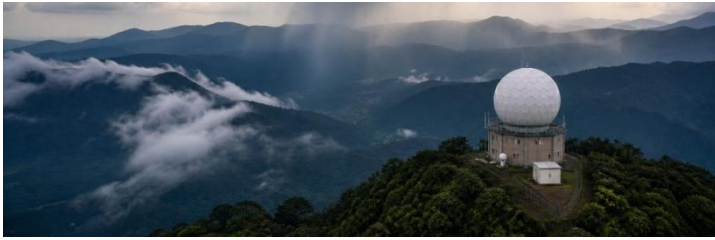


India Develops Beam Catcher for FAIR Project



- India has developed a Beam Catcher for the international Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) project in Germany.
- The first of three Beam Catcher units has reached the FAIR site in Darmstadt, Germany and is awaiting installation.
- The equipment was designed by CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, under the supervision of the Bose Institute, Kolkata.

Wayanad to Get X-Band Doppler Weather Radar



- Wayanad in Kerala is getting an X-Band Doppler Weather Radar to strengthen local weather monitoring and disaster preparedness.
- The radar is being installed at Pulpally, on the campus of Pazhassiraja College.
- The project is being implemented by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in cooperation with the Kerala authorities.

India Successfully Test-Fires Agni-4 Ballistic Missile



- India successfully conducted a test launch of the Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile.
- Agni-4 is part of India's Agni series of ballistic missiles.
- Agni-4 has a reported range of approximately 4,000 km.

Gaganyaan Achieves Human-Rating Milestones

- India's first human spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, has achieved major milestones in the development and validation of its human-rating systems.

- The Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM3) has completed development and ground testing of its propulsion stages and structures.
- The propulsion systems of the Crew Module and Service Module have been developed, tested and qualified.

India Achieves 300 GW Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity



- Solar power was the largest component of India's non-fossil installed capacity, with 164.59 GW.
- India's installed wind power capacity stood at 58.14 GW. India's installed hydropower capacity stood at 57.24 GW.
- India's major medium-term target is to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity by 2030.

e-Samudra – Digital Transformation of Maritime Governance



- e-Samudra is India's unified digital platform for providing maritime services through a single online system. The official e-Samudra portal describes it as India's Unified Maritime Services Portal.
- The initiative is associated with the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS).
- The DGS functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

India–US Navy EOD Exercise Begins in Kochi



- India and the United States conduct joint naval training involving Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and salvage operations.
- The exercise is known as SALVEX.
- Kochi is associated with the India–US naval salvage exercise.

- The Indian Navy's Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) 'Shruti' was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- The first GRSE NGOPV, Sanghamitra, was launched in May 2026.
- The programme is being executed by GRSE, Kolkata, and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa.

India and Malaysia Commence Exercise Udara Shakti 2026



- Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 is a bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF).
- The exercise is being conducted at Subang Air Base, Malaysia.
- India has deployed four Rafale fighter aircraft for the exercise.

Vietnam's VinSpace Signs SpaceX Launch Deal for 2027



- Vietnamese aerospace company VinSpace has signed an agreement with SpaceX for a satellite launch.
- The satellites will be carried through a SpaceX Transporter rideshare mission.
- SpaceX is an American aerospace company founded by Elon Musk.

Indian Navy's 'Shruti' NGOPV Launched at GRSE, Kolkata



8th BRICS Oceanic-Polar Science and Technology



- The 8th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (OPST) is being held in Goa.
- The meeting is hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).
- NCPOR functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).