

Highlights of 02 August 2026 Current Affairs

- Former Chief of the Army Staff **General Vishwa Nath (V. N.) Sharma** passed away at the age of 96 in New Delhi due to natural causes. He served as India's 14th Army Chief (1988–1990) and was widely recognized for taking a resolute stand during the 1987 Sumborong Chu standoff with China. General Sharma was the first post-Independence commissioned officer to become COAS and was the younger brother of Major Som Nath Sharma, recipient of India's first Param Vir Chakra.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially inaugurated the **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport** (popularly known as **Bhogapuram Airport**) in the Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh.
- The European Union rolled out a dedicated **AI enforcement team** under the **EU AI Office** in Brussels to tackle AI-generated deepfakes, sexually explicit non-consensual imagery, cyber threats, and hacking. This launch aligns directly with the enforcement of key provisions under the **EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act**.
- Microsoft made stock market history by adding nearly **\$450 billion in market value in a single day**—the largest single-day gain ever achieved by a public company, breaking Nvidia's previous record. Driven by a **15%+ surge in its stock price** following **43% growth in Azure cloud revenue**, the record rally pushed Microsoft's overall valuation to **\$3.35 trillion**.
- **Friendship Day 2026** is observed in India and several other nations on **Sunday, August 2, 2026**.
- The traditional **Pithora painting** of Gujarat, an ancient ritualistic art form practiced predominantly by the **Rathwa, Bhilala, and Nayak tribes**, has officially been granted a **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**. This recognition safeguards the cultural heritage of the indigenous community against counterfeits while opening up broader economic avenues for tribal artisans.
- **Air Marshal A. K. Bharti**, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (DCAS) and one of the defining military leadership figures during **Operation Sindoor**, superannuated from the Indian Air Force, concluding a distinguished multi-decade career in service to the nation. Before laying down his office, Air Marshal Bharti paid homage to fallen heroes by offering a floral wreath at the **National War Memorial** in New Delhi.
- **Tejaswin Shankar** created history at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** by becoming the **first Indian athlete ever to win a medal in the decathlon** at the CWG, claiming the **bronze medal**. Despite battling chronic patellar tendinitis ("jumper's knee"), the 27-year-old national record holder accumulated **7,976 points** across the 10-event discipline to secure third place.
- **Asmita Dey** scripted history at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games** by becoming the **first Indian judoka ever to win a CWG gold medal**. The 23-year-old athlete clinched top honors in the **women's -48kg category** after defeating Canada's **Heidi Quach** in a thrilling **Golden Score** final. Her triumph opened India's gold tally in judo, paving the way for a double-gold day alongside teammate Harsh Singh (men's -60kg).
- **Harsh Singh** created history at the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**, by becoming the **first Indian male judoka to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal**. The 23-year-old clinched the title in the **men's -60kg category** after a disciplined victory over Australian Olympian **Joshua Katz** in the final.

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the restructured **Khelo India Scheme** along with enhanced **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs)** for the five-year period from **FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**. With a total financial outlay of **₹36,441 crore**—nearly eight times higher than the previous allocation—this represents India's largest-ever government investment in sports development since Independence.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)** on **July 31, 2026**. With an outlay of **₹5,070 crore**, the scheme aims to install **5,000 MW** of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) capacity integrated with **Energy Storage Systems (ESS)** across India's reservoirs, lakes, and dams.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **‘Samudra Manthan’ National Offshore Exploration Scheme** on **July 31, 2026**. With an approved outlay of **₹84,084 crore** up to **FY 2030–31**, this Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas represents India's largest-ever public investment in offshore oil and gas exploration.

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Entity	Details
First Chief of Army	Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa
Current Chief of Army	General Dhiraj Seth (31 st COAS)
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister	N. Chandrababu Naidu
Andhra Pradesh Governor	Syed Abdul Nazeer
Andhra Pradesh Capital	Amaravati
Microsoft Chairman & CEO	Satya Nadella (<i>Correction: spelling</i>)
Gujarat Chief Minister	Bhupendrabhai Patel
Gujarat Governor	Acharya Devvrat
Gujarat Capital	Gandhinagar
Chief of the Air Staff	Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh
Khelo India Games Started	2018