

Highlights of 08 August 2026 Current Affairs

- Indian sprinter **Mohammed Ashfaq** set a new U20 national record in the men's 400m at the **World Athletics U20 Championships 2026** in Eugene, Oregon.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is working on a standalone incentive policy—including a dedicated Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme—specifically tailored for **domestic polysilicon manufacturing**. This targeted intervention addresses a critical gap in India's solar PV manufacturing value chain, where domestic capacity remains near zero and heavily reliant on imports.
- Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed a historic trilateral collective-defense pact named the **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)** in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The pact was signed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at Al-Safa Palace.
- Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the 5th edition of the **Har Ghar Tiranga (2026)** campaign in New Delhi. Scheduled to run from **August 9 to August 17**, this year's nationwide celebration holds special significance as it coincides with the **150th anniversary of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's *Vande Mataram***, India's National Song.
- Organised by the **Indian Rice Exporters' Federation (IREF)**, the second edition of the **Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2026** will take place from **October 23 to 25, 2026**, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026** to strengthen digital platform accountability and address risks posed by generative AI and deepfakes.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, chaired the **27th Governing Body meeting** of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) in New Delhi on August 6, 2026. The meeting unveiled several digital, research, and infrastructure initiatives aimed at transitioning Ayurveda into a globally recognized, technology-driven, and evidence-based healthcare discipline.
- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on August 6, 2026, cleared 33 agenda items aimed at accelerating industrial development, strengthening public infrastructure, and streamlining state governance.
- Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge met a senior delegation from Anthropic (led by Head of International Policy Michael Sellitto and India MD Irina Ghose) at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on August 6, 2026, to explore a strategic, long-term AI partnership.
- The Union Territory administration of Ladakh, led by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena during the inaugural governing body meeting of the **Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature Conservation Society (SHAN Conservation Society)**, approved India's first guided high-altitude wildlife safari.
- The Tamil Nadu government launched the **Vetri Vaanmagal** scheme in its 2026–27 Agriculture Budget to accelerate precision farming and build modern, technology-driven livelihoods for women in agriculture. The launch also coincides with the United Nations' declaration of 2026 as the **International Year of Women Farmers**.

- The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has unveiled an investment roadmap for the **Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER)**. The plan targets **₹9.3 lakh crore to ₹9.5 lakh crore** in combined public and private capital to transform North Coastal Andhra into an industrial, technological, and maritime powerhouse.
- Microsoft announced the general availability of its **"India South Central"** cloud region in Hyderabad, Telangana, marking its fourth hyperscale cloud region in India alongside Pune, Chennai, and Mumbai.
- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari presented the **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** to 12 rat-hole miners in New Delhi, honoring their role in the historic **Silkyara Tunnel Rescue Operation** in Uttarakhand.
- The **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**, in coordination with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable **Agni-4** Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha,. The training launch validated all operational and technical parameters, reaffirming the system's reliability and combat readiness as a pillar of India's strategic deterrence.
- **Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth** created history by becoming the first female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF) to clear the **Fighter Combat Leader (FCL)** course at the **Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE)** in Gwalior. Often referred to as the IAF's "Top Gun" school, TACDE trains elite aircrew to master advanced air-combat tactics, complex mission planning, weapons employment, and operational leadership.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the application process for the **Nijut Moina** and **Nijut Babu** schemes in Guwahati. The drive expands financial assistance to students across Higher Secondary, Polytechnic, Undergraduate (UG), and Postgraduate (PG) programs.
- The Union Cabinet approved **GOBARdhan: National Circular Bioenergy Scheme** with a total financial outlay of **₹23,731 crore** for a 10-year implementation period (**FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36**). Administered by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, the unified scheme consolidates earlier fragmented initiatives (such as SATAT and the National Bioenergy Programme) into a single platform to scale India's Compressed Biogas (CBG) ecosystem.

Static GK – 08 August 2026

Entity	Details
Union Minister of New & Renewable Energy	Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi
Saudi Arabia Capital	Riyadh
Saudi Arabia Currency	Saudi Riyal
Saudi Arabia Head of State	King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
Türkiye Capital	Ankara
Türkiye Currency	Turkish Lira
Türkiye President	Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Pakistan Prime Minister	Shehbaz Sharif
Pakistan Capital	Islamabad
Pakistan Currency	Pakistani Rupee
Union Minister of Culture & Tourism	Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Entity	Details
Union Minister of Electronics & IT	Ashwini Vaishnaw
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister	N. Chandrababu Naidu
Andhra Pradesh Capital	Amaravati
Andhra Pradesh Governor	Syed Abdul Nazeer
Karnataka Chief Minister	D. K. Shivakumar
Karnataka Governor	Thawar Chand Gehlot
Karnataka Capital	Bengaluru
Ladakh Lieutenant Governor	Vinai Kumar Saxena
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister	C. Joseph Vijay
Tamil Nadu Governor	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Tamil Nadu Capital	Chennai
Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways	Nitin Gadkari

