

Highlights of 09 August 2026 Current Affairs

- Himachali folk artist Dr. Joginder Habbi was conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award by President Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. He was recognized for over three decades of work in preserving and performing the endangered folk dances and cultural traditions of the Haati community in Sirmaur district.
- Typhoon Dolphin hit Japan's Okinawa prefecture with 162 km/h winds (gusts to 216 km/h), causing power outages across 50,000+ buildings, injuring several people, and forcing hundreds of flight cancellations.
- Colombia's new President Alberado De la Espriella, leader of the *Defenders of the Homeland* party, took office succeeding Gustavo Petro. His platform emphasizes strong counter-narcotics enforcement, law and order, closer alignment with Washington, and expanding private sector trade.
- The United States and Colombia have recently re-engaged on expanding security plan with \$ 1 billion, defense, and economic cooperation following the inauguration of President Abelardo de la Espriella.
- The Ministry of Culture launched the 5th edition of the nationwide *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign, running from August 9 to August 17, 2026, to encourage citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes.
- The Union Ministry of Finance issued a clarification reassuring citizens that Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions will remain completely free for consumers. The statement directly addresses public debate surrounding the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which amends Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Bank in a Box' platform, a dedicated Security Operations Centre (SOC), and the new premises of the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Mumbai at the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' programme.
- Digital Maritime Window: Launched by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, *E-Samudra* is a single-window digital platform designed by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) to offer paperless, faceless governance for seafarers, ports, and shipping companies.
- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under MeitY partnered with the Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI) to launch *AAERI Verify* integrated directly with DigiLocker, the platform provides source-verified, consent-based digital sharing of academic, identity, and financial documents for Indian students applying to Australian universities. The system features a pre-application *Student Check* for credentials and a post-admission *Sponsor Check* for financial verification, eliminating paper reliance, mitigating fraud, and expanding India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) globally.
- India surpassed 300 GW in non-fossil fuel electricity generation capacity (reaching 300.50 GW as of July 31, 2026), fulfilling over 60% of its 500 GW target set for 2030.
- Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), managed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), serves as India's single-window digital portal linking citizens directly to Central ministries, state governments, and Union Territories. Operating on a "One Nation–One Portal" model, the

24×7 platform provides dynamic tracking via a unique registration ID, AI-assisted routing, voice-to-text input, and multilingual support across 22 scheduled Indian languages. CPGRAMS mandates a strict 21-day resolution timeframe for citizen complaints, supported by a two-tier appeal system and automated feedback calls to ensure transparent administrative redressal.

- The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution, mandating that *Tamil Thai Vazhthu* be sung as the opening song at all official state functions.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colours (*Nishaan*) to the Puducherry Police, making it the 18th State or UT police force in India to earn the highest ceremonial distinction. The award recognizes the force's service across four enclave regions (Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam), its frontline COVID-19 pandemic response, and its modern execution of the three new criminal laws based on technology, timelines, and trust. The Centre highlighted ₹13,762 crore provided for UT development between 2014 and 2026, alongside key projects such as the ₹2,200 crore NH-332A four-laning and an extended airport runway.

Static GK – 09 August 2026

Entity	Details
Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
Himachal Pradesh Governor	Kavinder Gupta
Himachal Pradesh Capital	Shimla (Summer & Main Capital), Dharamshala (Winter Capital)
Japan Prime Minister	Sanae Takaichi
Japan Currency	Yen

Entity	Details
Japan Capital	Tokyo
Japan Emperor	Naruhito
Colombia Capital	Bogotá
Colombia Currency	Peso
Colombia President	Alberado De La Espriella
Union Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister	C. Joseph Vijay
Tamil Nadu Governor	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Tamil Nadu Capital	Chennai