

Highlights of 14 August 2026 Current Affairs

- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** marks a significant shift in India's mining sector governance. By amending the core framework of the MMDR Act, 1957, the law aims to establish a unified, predictable fiscal regime to boost domestic mining investments while attempting to navigate complex constitutional boundaries.
- The inauguration of the new premises for the **National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC)** marks a critical milestone in modernizing India's **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**. Functioning as an umbrella organization recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NUCFDC is designed to provide shared technology, compliance support, and capacity-building to roughly 1,400 UCBs across the country.
- The **IIHT SUTRA 2026** conclave and the parallel '**Srijan: Voices from the Loom**' event focus on modernizing India's handloom sector by strengthening technical education, building industry partnerships, and celebrating female artisans. Organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Textiles, these key initiatives combine academic MoUs (with Grasim Industries, NITRA, and IIM Sambalpur) with institutional reforms to enhance research, capacity building, and women's economic empowerment across the weaving ecosystem.
- Union Minister Amit Shah launched the **Gramin Gyan Setu App** on National Library Day in Gandhinagar, digitally interconnecting 752 rural libraries across the constituency—supported by MPLADS-funded mobile vans for fortnightly book collection and delivery.
- The **DIBD (Digital India Corporation)** and **NITI Aayog** agreement will implement voice-first, multilingual AI tools (*BHASHINI*) across state-level administrative platforms, while the **AYUSH–Health Ministry MoU** unifies herbal medicine quality standards ('*One Herb, One Standard*') to streamline state healthcare regulatory frameworks and botanical exports.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) negotiations between India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) were formally signed at Vanijya Bhawan in **New Delhi**, marking the venue where the framework for regional trade, pharma supply, and IT collaboration was established.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) commenced the 3rd edition of the bilateral exercise **Udara Shakti 2026** at Subang Air Base in Selangor, Malaysia. The opening ceremony involved delegations led by IAF Exercise Director Group Captain Parijat Jha and Indian Defence Adviser Colonel Praveen Sukumaran, with four Rafale fighters (101 Squadron) and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft deployed for the drills.
- At the Global Commodity Conclave 2026 held in **Mumbai**, the Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX, headquarter in Mumbai) signed an MoU with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM, campus located in Patalganga, Navi Mumbai) to set up a dedicated Commodity Markets Research Centre focused on applied research, risk management, regulatory compliance, and capacity building for India's commodity derivatives market.

- **Bank of America Corporation (BoFA)** signed a Joint Venture agreement with **Jio Financial Services Limited** (JFSL, headquarter in Mumbai) to acquire up to a 49.9% stake in Jio Credit Limited (JCL, registered office in Mumbai) for ₹18,268 crore. The partnership provides JCL with capital and global expertise to scale its digital lending platform, starting with an initial 26.5% equity stake.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited** (CSL, headquarter in Kochi) delivered *MS Maria*, the second of eight 7,000 DWT ice-class multi-purpose vessels (MPVs) in the HS EcoFreighter series, to Germany-based HS Schiffahrts in Kochi. Built under Det Norske Veritas (DNV) classification rules with a fuel-efficient "Groot Cross-Bow" design, the delivery highlights CSL's commercial shipbuilding export footprint from Kerala to global maritime markets.
- **Tripura, Nagaland, and West Bengal (Northeast / East India):** A 15-year study led by Prof. S. D. Biju of Delhi University discovered three new cascade frog species in the fast-flowing stream ecosystems of Eastern and Northeastern India:
 - **Tripura:** *Amolops ammachi* (Ammachi's Cascade Frog) was discovered in the Jampui Hills. It is named in honour of the late Kerala social worker Padmini Varkey ("Ammachi").
 - **Nagaland:** *Amolops sendenyu* (Sendenyu Cascade Frog) was identified in and named after Sendenyu Village.
 - **West Bengal:** *Amolops bella* (Beautiful Cascade Frog) was documented for its striking green and mosaic-patterned body.
- Former Chinese Premier **Zhu Rongji**, a key architect of China's economic reforms who served under President Jiang Zemin from 1998 to 2003, passed away in Beijing at the age of 97. Known as the "economic czar," he spearheaded major structural overhauls of state-owned enterprises, managed inflation control, reformatted China's tax system, and successfully led negotiations for China's landmark accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001.

Static GK – 14 August 2026

Entity	Details
Gujarat Chief Minister	Bhupender Patel
Gujarat Governor	Acharya Devvrat
Gujarat Capital	Gandhinagar
Malaysia Capital	Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia Currency	Ringgit
Malaysia Prime Minister	Anwar Ibrahim
Tripura Chief Minister	Dr. Manik Saha
Tripura Governor	Indrasena Reddy Nallu
Tripura Capital	Agartala
Nagaland Chief Minister	Neiphiu Rio
Nagaland Capital	Kohima

Entity	Details
Nagaland Governor	Nand Kishore Yadav
West Bengal Chief Minister	Suwendu Adhikari
West Bengal Governor	R. N. Ravi
West Bengal Capital	Kolkata