

Highlights of 23 August 2026 Current Affairs

- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, delivered **Mangrol**, the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) of the Mahe-class, to the Indian Navy. Designed to replace the aging Abhay-class corvettes, the vessel features **over 80% indigenous content**, marking another step forward for the *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiative in defense manufacturing.
- National Space Day is celebrated across India on **August 23** to mark the anniversary of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 soft-landing near the lunar south pole in 2023.
 - **Official Theme:** *"Towards Viksit Bharat – Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring Global Space Leadership"*.
 - **National Event Host:** Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO, Ahmedabad hosted the primary national celebrations, featuring exhibitions, panels, and startup showcases.
- Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated seven major infrastructure projects valued at **₹427.80 crore** at Paradip Port Authority (PPA) in Odisha. Simultaneously, concession agreements were signed for three berth-mechanization projects worth **₹1,580.36 crore**. These initiatives advance the Ministry's strategic objective of achieving **100% berth mechanization by 2030** (up from ~80%) and positioning Paradip as a global maritime hub for eastern India.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry amended Paragraphs 2.52 and 2.53 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP 2023) via Notification No. 30/2026-27. This amendment aligns FTP guidelines with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, placing rupee-realized export proceeds on par with freely convertible foreign currency.
- Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated **MALHAR 2026** in New Delhi on August 21, 2026. Organized by **Antar Hriday Connect**, it is a youth-centric, monsoon-themed cultural festival designed to celebrate and connect young audiences with Indian classical music.
- During the **63rd Governing Body Meeting of the Sports Authority of India (SAI)** chaired by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) approved the establishment of the **National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)**. The board aims to eliminate fragmentation, standardize coaching credentials, and integrate modern sports science into athlete development ahead of India's target for the **2036 Olympic Games**.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched the **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II** under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). The 3-month drive runs from **21 August to 21 November 2026**, coinciding with World Entrepreneurs Day. The campaign expands support across both farm and non-farm sectors to transition women from baseline livelihood activities to structured, sustainable enterprises, advancing the national target of creating **6 crore Lakhpati Didis**.
- The **4th India–Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)** held in Singapore on August 20, 2026, marked a significant step in operationalizing the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** established between the two nations. The forum focused on six core

strategic pillars: Advanced Manufacturing, Connectivity, Digitalization, Healthcare and Medicine, Skills Development, and Sustainability.

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri's visit to Mauritius (August 20–21, 2026) resulted in the signing of two key energy sector agreements in Port Louis. The agreements deepen India's energy diplomacy in the Indian Ocean region under its **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- The Government of India (GoI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed two significant agreements aimed at strengthening urban water security in Tamil Nadu and modernizing school education infrastructure in Karnataka.
- Bengaluru-based fintech platform Razorpay introduced a **Multi-Currency Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) Settlement Facility** in partnership with **RBL Bank**. The feature allows Indian exporters, software-as-a-service (SaaS) firms, e-commerce brands, and service providers to collect international payments and settle them directly into their EEFC accounts in original foreign currencies—bypassing immediate, mandatory conversion into Indian Rupees (INR).
- D-Propulse Aerospace Pvt. Ltd., an IIT Madras-incubated defense startup, achieved a significant milestone in Indian defense propulsion by successfully hot-firing India's first indigenously developed **5 kilo-Newton (kN) air-breathing Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE)**. Integrated with an **aerospoke nozzle**, the engine achieved **Technology Readiness Level-5 (TRL-5)** validation at a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) facility in Hyderabad.