

Highlights of 25 August 2026 Current Affairs

- Kerala's 19-year-old **Kaziah Liz Mejo** has been crowned **Miss Universe India 2026** at a grand finale held in Jaipur, besting 52 finalists. She will officially represent India at the upcoming 75th Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) officially marked its **10th anniversary on August 25, 2026**, having transformed from a nascent digital payments experiment into the backbone of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and the world's leading real-time payment system.
- India's first non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed was officially launched on August 24, 2026, by Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan at Musunuru in the Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Maharashtra is widely known as the **Sugar Bowl of India** due to its massive sugarcane cultivation, high sugar recovery rates, and extensive network of cooperative sugar mills.
- India successfully restored **21.76 million hectares** of degraded and deforested land between **2011 and 2020**, generating **1.22 billion person-days** of rural employment. The milestone was highlighted by Union Minister of State for Environment Bhupender Yadav at the IUCN side event during **UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.
- Mumbai has officially made its debut in the **International Workplace Group (IWG) 2026 Work From Anywhere Index**, earning a total score of **77** and standing out as the **only Indian city** featured in the global ranking.
- The Tamil Nadu government announced the **Annapoorani Super Six LPG Scheme** in the State Assembly, aimed at easing household kitchen expenses by subsidizing domestic cooking gas.
- NITI Aayog's report titled **"Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047"** highlights that approximately **8.7 crore Indians aged 15–29** fall into the **NEET** category (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).
- The National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums in Mysuru launched key technology initiatives, including the revamped **Adi Vaani platform** with an iOS app, five new languages, and the **Jago AI bot** by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The event also featured an MoU between MoTA and the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) for corpus building and the release of tribal language educational primers.
- The National Security Guard (NSG) has launched its first-ever 12-week **Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC)** at Manesar, Haryana, to train women personnel from State Police Forces and CAPFs. The rigorous program equips female officers with elite combat, tactical intervention, and hostage-rescue skills to serve as specialized counter-terror force multipliers.
- The United States has launched **Operation Economic Outcast**, a global sanctions campaign led by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to severely restrict Iran's revenue streams. The initiative targets five core sectors—digital assets, technology, gold, aviation, and shipping—while enforcing secondary sanctions on international entities dealing with Iran.
- The bipedal autonomous humanoid robot **Tiangong Ultra**, developed by the *Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Center*, made headlines at the **2026 World Humanoid Robot Games** in Beijing by running the 100-meter dash in **9.39 seconds** (and later clocking an even faster **8.86 seconds** in the semifinals).

- **Onam 2026** is being celebrated across Kerala from Atham to Thiruvonam, with the main day, **Thiruvonam, falling on August 26, 2026**. This vibrant 10-day harvest festival commemorates the mythological annual return of the benevolent King Mahabali and is marked by traditional floral carpets (Pookalam), the snake boat race (Vallamkali), and the grand vegetarian feast, **Onam Sadhya**.
- **Eid Milad-un-Nabi 2026** is observed on **August 26, 2026**, marking the sacred birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (the 12th day of Rabi al-Awwal in the Islamic calendar). Also known as Mawlid, this day of spiritual reflection and commemoration is celebrated worldwide through prayers, reading religious texts, attending lectures on the Prophet's teachings, and holding community processions.

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