

Highlights of 26 August 2026 Current Affairs

- NASA's planned **2028 SR-1 Freedom mission** will combine a nuclear fission-powered electric propulsion system with **SkyFall**, a payload of three advanced helicopters. Designed to operate in Mars' thin atmosphere, the fleet will use ground-penetrating radar and sensors to map subsurface geology and search for buried water ice to support future crewed missions.
- A record-breaking **300-kg giant freshwater stingray** (*Urogymnus polylepis*), measuring nearly 4 meters in length, was documented in Cambodia's Mekong River. This catch surpassed a 2005 record to become the **world's largest officially recorded freshwater fish**, highlighting the incredible biodiversity and conservation significance of the Mekong River basin.
- Legendary country music icon, singer-songwriter, and philanthropist **Dolly Parton** passed away on August 25, 2026, at the age of 80. Over her nearly six-decade career, she sold over 100 million albums, penned timeless hits like "Jolene" and "I Will Always Love You," won 11 Grammy Awards, and left a massive humanitarian legacy through her **Imagination Library** and educational philanthropy.
- The **e-Shram portal** marked its fifth anniversary on August 26, 2026, with over **31.89 crore unorganised workers** registered—a majority of whom are female workers. Launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the platform provides workers with a unique 12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN) and has evolved into a one-stop solution integrating social security, skilling, and welfare schemes like PM-SYM, PMSBY, and PMJJBY.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (**CSIR-NAL**) unveiled three indigenous gas turbine engines—**NJ-05, NJ-50, and NJ-100** (generating 5kg, 50kg, and 100kg thrust respectively) on August 25, 2026. Designed for tactical UAVs, drone interceptors, and compact missile systems, these miniature powerplants mark a major strategic milestone toward achieving self-reliance (**Atmanirbhar Bharat**) in defense aerospace propulsion.
- U.S. President Donald Trump floated the idea of renaming **Lake Ontario** as "**Lake America**" amid a sharp escalation in trade tensions and a tariff war between the United States and Canada.
- Google has expanded its artificial intelligence infrastructure into the legal sector with the official introduction of **Gemini Enterprise for Legal**. Designed to serve law firms and corporate legal departments, the platform integrates agentic AI tools directly into existing professional workflows to handle research, drafting, and administrative tasks.
- Anaya Bangar has received official clearance from **Cricket Australia** to participate in women's community cricket, marking a major milestone in her return to the sport. Under Cricket Australia's policy framework, she is also cleared to pursue elite pathways, with full eligibility for the **Women's Big Bash League (WBBL)** slated to begin in March 2027.
- During the 25th round of Special Representatives' talks in Beijing, Indian National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** and Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a fair and mutually acceptable political settlement to the boundary dispute. Both nations emphasized maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and agreed to host the next dialogue round in India in 2027.

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Entity	Details
NASA Full Form	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASA Establishment	October 1, 1958
NASA Headquarters	Washington, D.C., United States
Cambodia Capital	Phnom Penh
Cambodia Currency	Cambodian riel
Cambodia Prime Minister	Hun Manet
USA President	Donald Trump
USA Currency	U.S. Dollar
USA Capital	Washington, D.C.
Canada Prime Minister	Mark Carney
Canada Currency	Canadian Dollar
Canada Capital	Ottawa

Entity	Details
China President	Xi Jinping
China Capital	Beijing
China Currency	Yuan (Renminbi)