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Current Affairs Today, August 2, 2026

2 August 2026

ENVIRONMENT

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SOCIAL ISSUES

GS1

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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Current Affairs Today, August 2, 2026

2 August 2026 · 9 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A consolidated roundup of the news that matters for UPSC and State PCS preparation on August 2, 2026, a Sunday. The day was led by a serious weather emergency in Kerala, a fuel-price revision worth reading carefully, and the closing of the Commonwealth Games. Items carrying a dedicated deep-dive article in today's edition are summarised here in brief; the remaining items are covered in full.

EXTREMELY HEAVY RAIN KILLS EIGHT IN KERALA

Landslides and flash floods across Kerala on August 1 and 2, 2026 left eight dead, eight missing and thirteen injured, with an orange alert issued for twelve districts.

Key Data

- Rainfall: **361 mm in 24 hours** at Vadasserikkara (Pathanamthitta); **340 mm over about 35 hours** at Anakkampoyil on the Kozhikode-Wayanad border.
- **209 relief camps** sheltering **5,792 people**; **27 houses destroyed**, **196 partially damaged**.
- Worst affected: **Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Kottayam**. Figures were provisional and rose over subsequent days, reaching 11 by 3 August.

A full deep-dive on Western Ghats slope stability and the unimplemented Ecologically Sensitive Area framework follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS3, orographic rainfall and disaster management. See the full article for detail.

COMMERCIAL LPG CUT BY RS 192, JET FUEL RAISED BY RS 5

Oil marketing companies cut commercial LPG cylinder prices by Rs 192, from Rs 2,930 to Rs 2,738 in Delhi, while raising aviation turbine fuel by Rs 5 a litre from Rs 110 to Rs 115, with effect from August 1, 2026.

Key Data

- The **second straight monthly** commercial LPG cut, after Rs 183.50 on 1 July; domestic LPG unchanged at Rs 942.

- Commercial LPG tracks the **Saudi Contract Price**, revised monthly; **ATF** tracks jet fuel benchmarks, revised on the **1st and 16th**.

A full deep-dive on how India prices its different fuels, and the GST exclusion, follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, energy pricing and taxation. See the full article for detail.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES CLOSE; INDIA FOURTH, AHMEDABAD NEXT

The 23rd Commonwealth Games closed at Glasgow on August 2, 2026, with India fourth on 39 medals, and the Commonwealth Flag handed to Ahmedabad for the 2030 centenary edition.

Key Data

- **13 gold, 17 silver, 9 bronze** from **122 athletes** across **10 sports**.
- **Boxing delivered 10 medals including 7 golds**, a record gold haul for any nation in boxing at a single Games; India won its **first-ever Commonwealth Games judo golds**.
- Shooting, wrestling, hockey, squash and table tennis were **not on the Glasgow programme**, which is essential context for the lower medal count.

A full deep-dive on the Games, the Ahmedabad 2030 handover and the Commonwealth as an institution follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, international groupings and sports diplomacy. See the full article for detail.

ASSAM OPENS CENSUS 2027 SELF-ENUMERATION

Assam residents can self-enumerate online for Phase 1 of Census 2027 from August 2 to 16, 2026, ahead of field houselisting from August 17.

Key Data

- Portal **se.census.gov.in**, open **6 am to midnight**, in **Assamese, English and 14 other languages**.
- Each household receives an **11-digit Self-Enumeration ID**.
- Census 2027 is India's **first digital census, first since 2011**, and **first to enumerate caste since 1931**.

A full deep-dive on the census structure, reference dates and downstream dependencies follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS1/GS2, population data and e-governance. See the full article for detail.

PINGALI VENKAYYA'S 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Tributes were paid on August 2, 2026 to Pingali Venkayya, born 2 August 1876, whose design became the basis of the Indian National Flag.

Key Data

- Presented his design to Gandhi at **Vijayawada on 1 April 1921**; adopted by the Indian National Congress in **1931**.
- The Constituent Assembly adopted the National Flag on **22 July 1947**, replacing the charkha with the **Ashoka Chakra**.
- Also a **linguist, geologist and agricultural researcher**, known as “Jhanda Venkayya.”

A full deep-dive on the flag's evolution and its legal architecture follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS1, the national movement and its symbols. See the full article for detail.

PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES 100-WEEK ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN

The Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan was launched on August 2, 2026, a 100-week campaign with weekly Sunday activities run through MY Bharat.

Key Data

- Run by **MY Bharat** under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, distinct from the **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan** of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Reported over **one crore** young citizens from more than **28,000 locations**; over **125 spiritual organisations** participated.

A full deep-dive on demand-side drug policy and the Jan Bhagidari model follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, welfare schemes and behavioural governance. See the full article for detail.

FIRST WOMAN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Varsha Ashok Aglawe took charge as Director General of the Geological Survey of India on 1 August 2026, the first woman to head the organisation in its 176-year history.

Key Data

- The **54th** Director General; succeeds **Asit Saha**. GSI was founded in **1851** and is an attached office of the **Ministry of Mines**, headquartered in **Kolkata**.
- A **palaeontologist and palynologist** who joined GSI in **1992**; worked on Late Cretaceous-Palaeocene sediments, the K-T boundary and Satpura-Gondwana basins, and located the **Salbardi-Ghorpend dinosaur nesting site**.
- Has reaffirmed a commitment to **critical mineral exploration and mineral security** as a priority.

UPSC Angle

GS3, **critical minerals** and the National Critical Mineral Mission; GS1, women in scientific leadership.

JUSTICE M.S. LIBERHAN, WHO HEADED THE BABRI INQUIRY, DIES AT 87

Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan, who headed the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry into the Babri Masjid demolition, died on August 2, 2026, aged 87.

Key Data

- The Commission was constituted on **16 December 1992**, ten days after the demolition, and submitted its **1,029-page report on 30 June 2009**, after more than forty extensions, the **longest-running commission of inquiry in Indian history**.
- Liberhan served as Chief Justice of both the **Madras** and **Andhra Pradesh** High Courts.
- Commissions of inquiry operate under the **Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952**; their recommendations are **not binding**, and the report must be laid before the legislature with an Action Taken Report within six months.

UPSC Angle

GS2, commissions of inquiry, accountability mechanisms and their structural limitations.

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST SOVEREIGN-BACKED MARINE P&I INSURANCE

The Department of Financial Services launched India's first sovereign-backed Protection and Indemnity insurance product on July 30, 2026, under the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool.

Key Data

- Designed by **The New India Assurance Company Limited**, with an indemnity limit of up to **USD 1.5 billion** through the pool's combined capacity.
- **Protection and Indemnity (P&I)** cover addresses third-party liability for **crew, cargo, pollution and wreck removal**.
- The **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool** became operational on **12 May 2026** under a **Rs 12,980 crore sovereign guarantee**.

UPSC Angle

GS3, financial infrastructure **sovereignty**; reduces dependence on the London-centred International Group of P&I Clubs, a sanctions-resilience measure.

AYUSH AND INDIAAI MISSION SIGN MOU ON AI IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

The Ministry of AYUSH and the IndiaAI Mission signed a two-year renewable MoU on July 31, 2026, covering AI research, digital health and medicinal plants.

Key Data

- AYUSH will onboard the **AIKosh** platform to share datasets, models and toolkits; IndiaAI provides **subsidised GPU-based high-performance computing**.
- An **IndiaAI Innovation Challenge 2026** will solicit market-ready AI solutions for AYUSH public-health problems.
- **AYUSH** = Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy.

UPSC Angle

GS3, AI applied to traditional knowledge; the evidence-generation opportunity against the risk of legitimising unvalidated therapies, and IPR over digitised traditional knowledge.

SBSTTA-28 CONCLUDES IN NAIROBI AHEAD OF CBD COP17

The 28th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's scientific advisory body concluded in Nairobi on August 1, 2026, with only partial consensus on synthetic biology.

Key Data

- Countries agreed the **draft Action Plan on synthetic biology** is a sound basis but split on how to proceed; disagreements persisted on progress review and support for developing nations.
- **SBSTTA** is the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the **CBD (1992)**; the other subsidiary body is the SBI.
- Outcomes feed into **CBD COP17 at Yerevan, Armenia**, on implementing the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and its **23 targets including 30x30**.

UPSC Angle

GS3, biodiversity governance; the Cartagena Protocol (biosafety, 2000) and Nagoya Protocol (access and benefit sharing, 2010).

INDIA AND RWANDA HOLD FIRST JOINT TRADE COMMITTEE SESSION

India and Rwanda held the inaugural session of their Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi on July 30 and 31, 2026.

Key Data

- Priority sectors identified include **critical minerals**, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, digital technologies, agriculture and agro-processing, textiles, green mobility, digital public infrastructure, fintech and renewable energy.
- **Invest India** and the **Rwanda Development Board** were designated investment focal points; the next session will be held in Rwanda.
- Rwanda is a landlocked Great Lakes state, capital **Kigali**, significant in **tin, tungsten and tantalum**, the “3Ts.”

UPSC Angle

GS2, India-Africa engagement; GS3, securing upstream critical-mineral supply in a China-dominated midstream.

NAVY LAUNCHES FIFTH AND FINAL DIVING SUPPORT CRAFT

DSC A24, the fifth and final Diving Support Craft of its project, was launched at Titagarh, Kolkata on August 1, 2026.

Key Data

- Built by **Titagarh Rail Systems Limited**, a private yard; **catamaran (twin) hull**; roughly **70 per cent indigenous content**.

- Distinct from the **Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel INS Nipun**, delivered by Hindustan Shipyard in July.

UPSC Angle

GS3, private-sector participation in warship construction and underwater domain awareness in the Indian Ocean Region.

INDIAN AIR FORCE CONCLUDES EXERCISE ROTOR CLAP III

The Indian Air Force concluded the third edition of Exercise ROTOR CLAP, a rotary-wing counter-drone exercise, at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in early August 2026.

Key Data

- Theme: **Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS)**, testing helicopters as low-cost drone interceptors.
- Platforms included **AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35, the indigenous LCH Prachand, Chinook, Mi-17 and Dhruv**.
- Addresses the **cost-exchange problem**: using an expensive missile against a cheap drone is unsustainable at scale.

UPSC Angle

GS3, asymmetric aerial threats, drone warfare and indigenous counter-drone capability.

ROMA HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

August 2 is observed as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, commemorating the murder of Roma prisoners at Auschwitz-Birkenau on the night of 2-3 August 1944.

Key Data

- Roughly **2,900 Roma**, mostly women, children and the elderly, were killed that night in the liquidation of the “Gypsy family camp,” with some accounts putting the figure closer to 4,300.
- Up to **500,000 Roma and Sinti** were killed across Nazi-occupied Europe, an event known as the **Porajmos**.
- The Roma have documented **linguistic and genetic origins in north-west India**, making this a rare world-history and Indian-diaspora crossover.

UPSC Angle

GS1, world history and genocide recognition; parallels with the marginalisation of nomadic and denotified communities in India.

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