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Current Affairs Today, August 4, 2026

4 August 2026 · 14 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 4, 2026. Parliament and the Supreme Court between them accounted for most of the day, with four Bills moving through the Houses and two significant constitutional holdings. Items carrying a dedicated deep-dive article in today's edition are summarised here in brief; the remaining items are covered in full.

SUPREME COURT JUDGE STRENGTH RAISED TO 38

The Lok Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 on August 3, 2026, raising the sanctioned strength from 34 judges including the Chief Justice to 38.

Key Data

- Amends **Section 2** of the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**; judges other than the CJI go from **33 to 37**.
- Effective **retrospectively from 16 May 2026**, the date of the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026** that the Bill replaces, promulgated under **Article 123**. Moved by **Arjun Ram Meghwal**. Introduced in the Lok Sabha on **20 July 2026**, after CJI **Surya Kant** wrote to the Prime Minister on 11 May 2026 seeking the increase.
- Passed **without debate, in under ten minutes**, amid Opposition disruptions.
- Justification cited: **75,410** fresh matters instituted last year against disposal of over **65,000**.

*A full deep-dive on the constitutional mechanism and the **pendency** argument follows later in today's edition.*

UPSC Angle

GS2, judiciary and Article 124(1). See the full article for detail.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill by voice vote on August 4, 2026, completing Parliament's approval. The Lok Sabha had passed it on July 31.

Key Data

- Registrations delayed **beyond two years** will require an order of a **Judicial Magistrate of the First Class**, moving the decision from the executive to the judiciary.
- Delays of **one to two years** continue to require an order of a **District Magistrate, SDM or authorised Executive Magistrate**.
- Moved by **Nityanand Rai**, Minister of State for Home Affairs.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, civil registration, documentation and access. See the full article for detail.

SUPREME COURT EXTENDS SECTION 498A TO LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

On August 3, 2026, the Supreme Court held that a man in a live-in relationship in the nature of marriage can be prosecuted for cruelty under Section 498A IPC.

Key Data

- Dr. Lokesh B.H. and Others v. State of Karnataka and Another, 2026 INSC 784**; authored by **Justice Sanjay Karol**, sitting with **Justice N. Kotiswar Singh**; grounded in **Article 14**, on the reasoning that the distinction has no rational **nexus** with the object of preventing domestic cruelty.
- The woman must establish that the relationship was **akin to marriage** and that **both parties intended to marry**.
- Section 498A IPC corresponds to **Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2 and GS1, Article 14, **penal** statutes and the status of live-in relationships. See the full article for detail.

SUPREME COURT ENFORCES THE RIGHT TO WALK ON SAFE FOOTPATHS

*A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe issued directions on August 3, 2026 requiring encroachment-free pedestrian space along roadways. The right itself was declared earlier, on **19 June 2026**, in Maniyar Iliyaz v. P. Ayyappan.*

Key Data

- The declaring judgment, by Justices **P.S. Narasimha and A.S. Chandurkar**, located the right in **Article 19(1)(d) read with Article 21**, not in Article 21 alone, and the matter continues as the suo motu proceeding **Re: Fundamental Right to Walk and Footpath**.
- Duty placed on **urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats**.
- Remedies indicated include **compensation**; compliance steps sought within two weeks.
- Justice Narasimha observed that demarcation needs no big investment or construction, and could be done with a rope so long as the space is kept unencroached.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, Article 19(1)(d) read with Article 21, and the 74th Amendment. See the full article for detail.

CLOUDED LEOPARD CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

The Ministry of Environment marked International Clouded Leopard Day on August 4 by publicising India's first action plan for the species.

Key Data

- **14 priority conservation landscapes** across Northeast India; prepared under the **Government of India, GEF and UNDP** framework.
- Released at the **91st SC-NBWL meeting**, Coimbatore, July 2026.
- *Neofelis nebulosa*: IUCN **Vulnerable**, CITES **Appendix I**, **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **State animal of Meghalaya**.
- **Meghalaya launched Mission Clouded Leopard** the same day, announced by Chief Minister **Conrad Sangma**.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, species conservation and landscape connectivity. See the full article for detail.

GLAW LAKE BECOMES INDIA'S 101ST RAMSAR SITE

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced on August 3, 2026 that Glaw Lake in Lohit district, Arunachal Pradesh, is India's 101st Ramsar site and the state's first.

Key Data

- Inside **Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary**; about **1,168 m** elevation and **8 sq km**; headwater of the **Kamlang** river.
- Over **150 tree species** and **49 wild orchid species**; the landscape supports **four big cat species**, tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and **snow leopard**, and the site holds the **Critically Endangered white-bellied heron**.
- India's Ramsar network has grown from **26 sites in 2014 to 101 in 2026**.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, wetlands and the Ramsar framework. See the full article for detail.

MSME DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED BY THE RAJYA SABHA

The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill on August 3, 2026, targeting the sector's chronic delayed-payments problem.

Key Data

- Courts may order payment of **at least 50 per cent** of an award where a set-aside application has been pending **over six months**.
- **90 days** each for mediated settlement and arbitral award; **mandatory TReDS onboarding for Central Public Sector Enterprises**.
- Moved by **Jitan Ram Manjhi**.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, MSME finance and working capital. See the full article for detail.

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE BILL DRAWS AUTONOMY OBJECTIONS

The Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 3, 2026, was opposed by the institute's own faculty and staff over a centrally constituted Board of Governors.

Key Data

- ISI was founded in **1931** by **P.C. Mahalanobis** and declared an Institution of National Importance by the **ISI Act, 1959**.

- Opposition sought referral to a **Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committee**.
- The government cites parity with other Institutions of National Importance; the precedent is the **IIM (Amendment) Act, 2023**.

A full deep-dive follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS2, institutional autonomy and the credibility of official statistics. See the full article for detail.

C-DAC AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA SIGN UMBRELLA MOU

On August 4, 2026, at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing and the Geological Survey of India signed an Umbrella Memorandum of Understanding to apply high performance computing and artificial intelligence to geoscience, mineral exploration and disaster management.

Key Data

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Signatories	E. Magesh , Director General, C-DAC; Pradeep Singh , Additional Director General, GSI
Present	S. Krishnan , Secretary, MeitY
C-DAC	Under MeitY ; established 1988 ; headquarters Pune ; builds the PARAM supercomputer series and systems under the National Supercomputing Mission
GSI	Founded 1851 ; under the Ministry of Mines ; headquarters Kolkata

Scope on the mineral side: AI and HPC processing of large geophysical datasets, **high-resolution 3D subsurface mapping**, predictive modelling for mineral targeting, and conversion of decades of unstructured geological records into a **domain-specific Large Language Model**. A stated objective is accelerating discovery of **critical minerals and rare earth elements**.

Scope on the disaster side: slope-scale landslide monitoring using **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)**, early-warning systems, and **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** studies.

The Analytical Point

Computational capacity improves the **odds of discovery**; it does not create **processing capacity**. India's critical-minerals difficulty is widely described as a reserve-to-refining gap, in which the shortfall is midstream rather than upstream. Better targeting locates deposits faster, but a located deposit still requires extraction,

beneficiation and refining infrastructure that does not currently exist at scale. The MoU is therefore best assessed as one input into the **National Critical Mineral Mission** rather than as a solution to the dependency itself.

UPSC Angle

GS3, science and technology in governance, mineral resources, disaster management. Note the institutional pairing: C-DAC under MeitY, GSI under the Ministry of Mines, and the technologies named, HPC, domain LLM, SAR and GLOF studies.

E-PRATYAROPAN PORTAL AND NOTTO APP LAUNCHED

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation launched the e-Pratyaropan portal and a NOTTO mobile application on the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day, observed on August 3, 2026.

Key Data

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Platform	e-Pratyaropan , with a companion NOTTO mobile application
Core function	A single national waiting list , with waiting lists automatically generated at hospital, State, regional and national levels
Verification	Aadhaar -integrated recipient identity verification
Priority route	“Super urgent” requests from hospitals, State authorities and ROTTOS
Governing statute	Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (THOTA) , amended 2011, with Rules of 2014
Institutional structure	NOTTO at national level, under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare , with ROTTOS regionally and SOTTOs at State level

The platform records every stage of allocation and organ movement, replacing coordination that previously ran on telephone calls and messages between transplant coordinators. Reported alongside the launch: India crossed **20,000 transplants in a year** and **five lakh donation pledges**, and ranks third globally by absolute transplant numbers.

The Analytical Point

India’s transplant deficit is principally a **supply** problem, and the absolute figures do not contradict this. India ranks third globally by transplant volume largely because of population size; the **deceased-donation rate per million population** remains among the lowest internationally, and the bottlenecks lie in **brain-death certification** by hospitals and in **family consent** at the point of loss. A real-time allocation portal

improves the transparency and efficiency with which an inadequate supply is distributed, which is a genuine gain, but it does not by itself increase the number of organs available. A complete answer distinguishes allocation reform from donation reform.

UPSC Angle

GS2, health governance and digital public infrastructure. Fix the NOTTO-ROTTTO-SOTTO structure and THOTA as the governing statute.

YUVA SANGAM PHASE VII REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Registrations for Phase VII of Yuva Sangam opened on August 4, 2026.

Key Data

- Conducted under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**; open to those aged **18 to 30**; last date **18 August 2026**.
- **20 nodal higher education institutions**; exposure tours of five to seven days.
- Five themes, the **5 Ps**: **Paryatan** (tourism), **Parampara** (tradition), **Pragati** (development), **Paraspar Sampark** (people-to-people connect) and **Prodyogiki** (technology).

UPSC Angle

GS1, national integration and cultural exchange; **GS2**, youth-focused government interventions. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat was announced in 2015 on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary and pairs states and union territories for reciprocal cultural engagement.

CAQM EXTENDS PROSECUTION POWERS OVER CONSTRUCTION DUST

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas amended Statutory Direction No. 86 on August 3, 2026, extending prosecution powers over gross violators at construction and demolition sites below 500 square metres to a wider set of local bodies.

Key Data

- Powers extended to more **Municipal Corporations, Development Authorities, Municipal Councils and Boards, and urban local bodies** across the NCR.
- Inspections between **April and June 2026**: **16,195** in Delhi, **909** in Haryana-NCR, **230** in Uttar Pradesh-NCR, **160** in Rajasthan-NCR.
- **CAQM** is a statutory body under the **Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**, replacing the earlier Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority.

UPSC Angle

GS3, air pollution and environmental governance. The examinable point is that small construction sites, below the **threshold** at which environmental clearance and larger-project dust norms apply, collectively contribute substantially to particulate loading, and enforcement against them requires devolution to municipal-level authorities because a single central commission cannot inspect at that scale.

BACKGROUND NOTE: EXTREME HEAT IN PREGNANCY AND ADVERSE BIRTH OUTCOMES

*This is carried as reference material rather than as news of the day. The study, by Vincent, Darssan, Osborne and Sagnik Dey, was published in Environmental Research Communications on **24 April 2026**, with Indian media coverage around **25 July 2026**. It is included here because it is directly examinable and because heat-health questions recur, not because anything happened on August 4.*

Key Data

FINDING	FIGURE
Sample	209,266 births across 707 districts , 2015 to 2020
Effect	Each additional consecutive extreme-heat day raised the odds of low birth weight by roughly 1 per cent
Low birth weight prevalence	12.8 per cent of births in the sample
Preterm birth	1 per cent
Stillbirth	0.74 per cent

The Analytical Point

This is a useful crossover item because it converts climate change from an environmental subject into a **public health and equity** one. Exposure is not evenly distributed: outdoor and informal workers, women in housing without cooling, and agricultural labourers carry the heat burden, and those categories overlap heavily with the populations already at highest risk of adverse birth outcomes. The policy implication runs to heat action plans that address **occupational exposure and maternal health specifically**, rather than treating heat as a general-population advisory problem.

UPSC Angle

GS1 climate and its effects on populations; **GS3** climate change and disaster management; **GS2** health.

ODISHA SEEKS UNESCO INTANGIBLE HERITAGE TAG FOR PURI RATH YATRA

Reported on August 3 and 4, 2026: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi wrote to Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on August 1 seeking central backing for inscription of the Puri Rath Yatra on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The proposal was submitted by the Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration.

Key Data

- The governing instrument is the **UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2003**. India ratified it in **2005**.
- Odisha's existing inscription is **Chhau dance**, shared with Jharkhand and West Bengal, inscribed in **2010**.
- India's inscriptions include Vedic chanting, Kutiyattam, Ramlila, Novruz, Kumbh Mela, Yoga, Durga Puja in Kolkata and Garba of Gujarat.
- Nominations are routed through the **Ministry of Culture** and the **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, which is the nodal agency for ICH in India.

UPSC Angle

GS1, Indian culture, art forms and festivals. Distinguish clearly between the **World Heritage List** under the 1972 Convention, which covers sites, and the **Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage** under the 2003 Convention, which covers practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills. Conflating the two is a standard error.

FORMER WFI CHIEF ACQUITTED IN SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE

On August 3, 2026, a Rouse Avenue court acquitted former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and former WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar in the sexual harassment case brought by six women wrestlers.

Key Data

- Order by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate **Ashwini Panwar**, Rouse Avenue Courts, Delhi.
- Charges had been framed in **May 2024** under **Sections 354, 354A, 354D and 506(1)** of the Indian Penal Code against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh; Vinod Tomar faced only the criminal-intimidation charge rather than the full set.
- **Vinesh Phogat** stated that the complainants would appeal.

UPSC Angle

GS2, sports governance and the functioning of National Sports Federations; **GS1**, women in sport. The examinable dimension is institutional rather than criminal: the case drove the debate on **safe-sport mechanisms**, internal complaints committees within National Sports Federations under the **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**, and the athlete-grievance provisions in the **National Sports Governance framework**. Report the legal outcome as it stands; an acquittal is a finding on the evidence in a criminal trial and an appeal has been announced.

13TH BRICS EDUCATION MINISTERS' MEETING ANNOUNCED

On August 4, 2026, it was announced that Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi would participate in the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting, to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Key Data

- India holds the **BRICS chairship in 2026**, under the theme “**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**”.
- Agenda items announced: **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**, **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**, the BRICS TVET Cooperation Alliance, and mutual recognition of qualifications.
- BRICS currently has **11 members**.

Only the announcement and agenda are reported here; the meeting itself falls after this edition date.

UPSC Angle

GS2, **bilateral**, regional and global groupings involving India. Note the acronym expansions, which are directly testable, and India's chairship theme.

ANNIVERSARY NOTE: KISHORE KUMAR

*August 4 is the birth anniversary of Kishore Kumar, born **August 4, 1929**, at **Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh**.*

Key Data

- Born **Abhas Kumar Ganguly**; singer, actor, composer, lyricist, producer and director.
- Won **eight Filmfare Awards for Best Male Playback Singer**, the most by any male playback singer at the time.

- Sang in Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Assamese, Gujarati, Kannada, Bhojpuri, Malayalam, Odia and Urdu.
- The Government of Madhya Pradesh instituted the **Kishore Kumar Samman** in his memory, awarded for contributions to Hindi cinema.

UPSC Angle

GS1, Indian culture and the modern performing arts. Anniversary items of this kind are more useful for essay and interview material than for Prelims, but the Kishore Kumar Samman as a state award is a legitimate factual hook.

Sources: Press Information Bureau, PRS Legislative Research, LiveLaw, The Hindu, The Indian Express

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