

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · [UJIYARI.COM](https://ujiyari.com)**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Current Affairs Today, August 5, 2026

5 August 2026

POLITY

ECONOMY

ENVIRONMENT

SOCIAL ISSUES

SCIENCE & TECH

IR

GS1

GS2

GS3

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Current Affairs Today, August 5, 2026

5 August 2026 · 17 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 5, 2026. The Monetary Policy Committee and a 53-month low in services activity landed on the same morning, which is the day's most instructive pairing. Items carrying a dedicated deep-dive article in today's edition are summarised here in brief; the remaining items are covered in full.

RBI HOLDS REPO RATE AT 5.25 PER CENT

The Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously on August 5, 2026 to hold the repo rate at 5.25 per cent and retain the neutral stance, a fourth consecutive hold.

Key Data

- **SDF 5.00 per cent, MSF 5.50, Bank Rate 5.50.** MPC met 3 to 5 August; next meeting **5 to 7 October 2026.**
- FY27 CPI projection **cut to 5.0 per cent** from 5.1; FY27 real GDP **raised to 6.7 per cent** from 6.6. Core inflation **4.3 per cent** for FY27, and **2.3 to 2.5 per cent excluding precious metals** in May and June 2026.
- Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** described the Committee as neither dovish nor hawkish, wanting greater clarity before acting.
- Alongside: proposals to **harmonise interest-rate-on-advances rules** across regulated entities and to **resume “on tap” licensing of Urban Co-operative Banks**, with draft directions in both cases still to be issued for consultation. Separately, a **seven-day VRRR auction of Rs 1.5 lakh crore** on 6 August, the first since April.

A full deep-dive on the framework and the real-rate constraint follows later in today's edition.

UPSC Angle

GS3, monetary policy and flexible inflation targeting. See the full article for detail.

SERVICES PMI FALLS TO A 53-MONTH LOW

The HSBC India Services PMI fell to 53.3 in July 2026 from 57.4 in June, released on August 5, the weakest since February 2022.

Key Data

- **Composite PMI Output Index 54.3**, from 57.1, an over four-year low. Manufacturing PMI 53.5.
- New business grew at its slowest since February 2022; **export orders stayed positive**, credited to the UAE, UK and US.
- Only about **6 per cent** of firms reported higher payrolls, against **92 per cent** reporting no change.

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

UPSC Angle

GS3, activity indicators and the composition of growth. See the full article for detail.

VIKRAM SARABHAI MEDAL TO ANNAPURNI SUBRAMANIAM

Professor Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, has been awarded the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal for 2026, presented at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence on August 3 and reported in India on August 4 and 5.

Key Data

- **First Indian woman** and **fourth Indian** recipient, after **U.R. Rao (1996)**, **Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014)** and **Anil Bhardwaj (2024)**.
- Conferred **jointly by COSPAR and ISRO, biennially**, instituted **1990**, for contributions to space research in developing countries.
- Recognised work includes **AstroSat** and **ultraviolet astronomy**.

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

UPSC Angle

GS3, achievements of Indians in science and technology. See the full article for detail.

SEVEN YEARS SINCE THE ARTICLE 370 DECISION

August 5, 2026 marked seven years since the decision of August 5, 2019. The statehood assurance remains unfulfilled, the Amarnath Yatra was suspended from Jammu for the day, and the MEA rejected Pakistan's observance of the date as propaganda.

Key Data

- **The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of India**, and the 2019 changes are entirely an internal matter.
- Chief Minister **Omar Abdullah** said the statehood promise remains unfulfilled. The Supreme Court, in **In Re: Article 370** (December 2023), upheld the changes and directed restoration of statehood at the earliest.
- MEA spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** said Pakistan has no *locus standi*, and drew attention to the violent suppression of protests in **Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir**.

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

UPSC Angle

GS2, federalism, Union Territories and India's neighbourhood. See the full article for detail.

LOK SABHA PASSES THE BILL REPLACING THE BANKERS' BOOKS EVIDENCE ACT, 1891

The Lok Sabha passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 on August 5, moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, replacing a statute of 1891.

Key Data

- Expands "bankers' books" to cover **physical, electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based** records.
- Introduced **4 August**, passed by the **Lok Sabha** on **5 August**, without *substantive* discussion. **Rajya Sabha approval was still pending** as of this edition, so the 1891 Act remained in force.
- Companion measure: the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, introduced 4 August, replacing the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.

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

UPSC Angle

GS2 and GS3, evidence law and colonial-statute repeal. See the full article for detail.

TRAI CONSULTS ON QUALITY OF SERVICE FOR 5G NETWORK SLICING

TRAI released a consultation paper on August 5 proposing that a new 5G network slice be filed with the regulator at least 21 days in advance, each slice treated as a separate tariff offering.

Key Data

- Amends the consolidated QoS framework notified **2 August 2024**, in force **1 October 2024**.
- Proposed disincentives: **Rs 2 lakh per benchmark** for false reporting, **Rs 5 lakh** for non-compliance.
- Comments by **26 August 2026**; counter-comments by **7 September 2026**.

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

UPSC Angle

GS3, telecommunications, net neutrality and the specialised-services carve-out. See the full article for detail.

NATIONAL TEAM DEPLOYED OVER CHANDIPURA VIRUS

The Union Health Ministry deployed a National Joint Outbreak Response Team to Gujarat and Rajasthan on August 5 over the Chandipura Virus Disease outbreak.

Key Data

- Gujarat: **184 suspected, 35 confirmed, 22 child deaths**, seven under treatment.
- Vector is the **Phlebotomus sandfly**, not a mosquito; no vaccine and no specific antiviral exist.
- ICAR-NIVEDI Bengaluru** joins five ICMR institutes, which is the One Health element.

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

UPSC Angle

GS2, health governance and One Health. See the full article for detail.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026 ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The World Bank released the World Development Report 2026 on August 4, themed on artificial intelligence and its implications for developing countries.

Key Data

- 4.5 per cent** of jobs in low- and middle-income countries at risk of generative-AI automation, against **14.2 per cent** in high-income countries; **16.2 per cent** could see productivity gains.

- **Indermit Gill**, Chief Economist, said AI has thrown developing economies a lifeline; **Gaurav Nayyar** directed the report.

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

UPSC Angle

GS3, technology and development; GS2, international institutions. See the full article for detail.

SUPREME COURT EXTENDS THE 10-KM MINING BUFFER

On August 4, a Bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana clarified that the 10-km mining restriction around the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve applies to wetland conservation reserves and community reserves nationwide.

Key Data

- In **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India**, W.P. (C) No. 202 of 1995.
- SC-NBWL and MoEFCC to determine **within one month** whether any exist in Himachal Pradesh.
- Conservation and Community Reserves were introduced by the **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002**.

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

UPSC Angle

GS3, protected areas and eco-sensitive zones; GS2, continuing mandamus. See the full article for detail.

PARLIAMENT COMPLETES THE RISE IN SUPREME COURT STRENGTH TO 38

The Rajya Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 on August 5, 2026, completing Parliament's approval. The Lok Sabha had passed it on August 3.

Key Data

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Effect	Judges other than the CJI from 33 to 37 ; total including the CJI from 34 to 38
Parent statute	Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 , Section 2
Ordinance replaced	Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026 , promulgated 16 May 2026 under Article 123
Introduced	Lok Sabha, 20 July 2026
Background	CJI Surya Kant wrote to the Prime Minister on 11 May 2026 citing an annual gap of roughly 10,000 cases between institution and disposal
Previous increase	2019 , from 31 to 34

The Analytical Point

The completion of the legislative process is the news; the substantive change happened in May, by ordinance. That sequence is the examinable feature. A composition change to the highest constitutional court took effect first through an **executive instrument** under Article 123, with Parliament ratifying nearly three months later, and the Lok Sabha stage passing without discussion.

The standing counter-argument to the increase itself is that the binding constraint on **pendency** is **High Court and subordinate-judiciary vacancy** rather than **apex-court** strength, and that a larger Supreme Court sitting in more two- and three-judge combinations risks deepening doctrinal inconsistency in a court that already speaks with many voices. The structural alternative long debated is a **National Court of Appeal**, which would leave the Supreme Court to constitutional questions.

UPSC Angle

GS2, judiciary and Parliament. Fix Article 124(1), the Article 123 ordinance power, and the revision chronology: 1950 (8), 1956 (11), 1960 (14), 1977 (18), 1986 (26), 2009 (31), 2019 (34), 2026 (38).

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE BACKS AI, DRONES AND GIS AGAINST HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav chaired the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the MoEFCC on human-wildlife conflict in New Delhi on August 5, 2026.

Key Data

- The Committee endorsed **Geographic Information Systems, artificial intelligence, drones, radio telemetry and predictive analytics** for prevention, **mitigation** and long-term coexistence.

- **Kerala** has notified human-wildlife conflict as a **state-specific disaster**, which permits use of the **State Disaster Response Fund**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** presented a “**Prevention First**” model combining AI surveillance, drones, GPS tracking and community participation.
- Follows the **Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict** inaugurated at **Coimbatore** in **July 2026**.

The Analytical Point

A **Parliamentary Consultative Committee** is attached to a ministry, chaired by the Union Minister concerned and constituted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. It is **not** a Departmentally Related Standing Committee, does not take evidence formally and does not produce reports laid before the House. Confusing the two is a standard error.

On substance, the arguable question is whether surveillance technology substitutes for or merely complements the harder fixes: corridor restoration, ex-gratia reform and habitat carrying capacity. Notifying conflict as a state-specific disaster unlocks SDRF money, which is a real gain, but it also reframes an ecological problem as a relief problem, and relief spending does not reduce encounters.

UPSC Angle

GS3, conservation and disaster management. Note that **Chief Wildlife Warden** is a **statutory** post under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

GI AND BEYOND 2.0 SUMMIT; DIGITAL HANDLOOM ATLAS LAUNCHED

The Ministry of Textiles held the “GI and Beyond 2.0” Summit at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, on August 5, 2026, inaugurated by Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles.

Key Data

- Centrepiece was the launch of the **Digital Handloom Atlas**, branded “One Platform. Endless Markets,” connecting artisans to domestic and global markets.
- Over **100 GI-registered handloom and handicraft products** displayed, with buyers from about 10 countries.
- Organised by the Office of the **Development Commissioner (Handlooms)** with the **Handloom Export Promotion Council**, whose Diamond Jubilee logo was launched.
- **Authorised GI users have risen from 365 in 2015 to over 29,000 as of January 2025.**

The Analytical Point

The gap between registration and value capture is the argument worth making. A GI is owned by a **registered proprietor**, typically an association or a state body, while the individual artisan is only an **authorised user** with little bargaining power. Registration therefore confers legal recognition without automatically improving the producer's terms of trade. **Darjeeling Tea** is the standard illustration of successful overseas enforcement, and it is notable precisely because most Indian GIs have no comparable protection abroad. The productive policy direction is post-registration infrastructure, branding and enforcement, not a race to register more tags.

UPSC Angle

GS3 intellectual property and **GS1** art and culture. Fix the framework: **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, in force **15 September 2003**; **GI Registry at Chennai** with all-India jurisdiction; administered by **DPIIT**; registration valid **10 years and renewable**; first Indian GI **Darjeeling Tea**; international basis in the **Paris Convention** and **Articles 22 to 24 of TRIPS**. **National Handloom Day is 7 August**, marking the **Swadeshi** Movement launched on 7 August 1905.

PM SURYA GHAR CROSSES 50 LAKH ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

Announced on August 4, 2026: the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana crossed 50.06 lakh beneficiary households.

Key Data

MEASURE	FIGURE
Households	50.06 lakh , against 7.94 lakh rooftop installations in the preceding decade combined
Outlay	Rs 75,021 crore ; launched 13 February 2024 ; original target 1 crore households
Capacity commissioned	14.8 GW
July 2026	Highest month since launch, 5.06 lakh households
Daily installations	From 5,038 in October 2025 to about 16,328 in July 2026
Zero-bill households	Nearly 19 lakh

The Analytical Point

The distributional argument is the one worth writing. Rooftop solar with net metering moves the **most creditworthy, highest-consumption** customers off the distribution company's books. Those are precisely the consumers whose tariffs cross-subsidise agricultural and low-slab domestic users. Success at scale therefore deepens DISCOM financial stress unless tariff design changes alongside.

The counter is substantial: generation at the point of consumption avoids transmission and distribution losses, reduces peak procurement cost, and uses no land, which is rooftop's decisive advantage over utility-scale solar in a land-constrained country. There is also an equity question the scheme does not resolve, since tenants and residents of multi-storey buildings cannot readily access a rooftop subsidy.

UPSC Angle

GS3, energy, infrastructure and environment. Nodal ministry is **New and Renewable Energy**.

ANNIVERSARY AND DAY NOTES FOR AUGUST 5

ITEM	DETAIL
Neil Armstrong	Born 5 August 1930 ; commander of Apollo 11 and the first person to walk on the Moon
Burkina Faso	Independence Day, 1960 , then named Upper Volta
First electric traffic signal	Installed at Cleveland, United States, 5 August 1914

No major Indian national day falls on 5 August.

A SPENT ROCKET STAGE STRIKES THE MOON

A spent SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage, catalogued as 2025-010D and massing roughly 4 tonnes, impacted the lunar surface near Einstein Crater at about 06:35 UT on August 5, 2026.

Key Data

- The stage had launched **Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost Mission 1** lander and **ispace's Hakuto-R "Resilience"** lander in January 2025, and was then abandoned in a Moon-crossing high-Earth orbit.
- Impact near **88 degrees West, 16.6 degrees North**, on the near side's **western** limb, within the libration zone; impact speed about **2.42 km per second**; the resulting crater is put at about **27 metres** across and 5 metres deep.
- The **trajectory** was computed and tracked by **independent orbital analyst Bill Gray**, not by a state agency.
- This is the **second known uncontrolled rocket-body lunar impact**, after a booster struck the far side in **March 2022**.

The Analytical Point

The governance gap is the examinable part. The **Outer Space Treaty, 1967** bars national appropriation of celestial bodies under Article II, and the **Liability Convention, 1972** governs damage caused by space objects. Neither creates any obligation to dispose of a spent upper stage responsibly beyond Earth orbit, and there is no binding regime for **cislunar traffic management** or a shared cislunar catalogue.

That matters now rather than in the abstract, because Chandrayaan follow-ons, the Artemis programme and a growing set of commercial landers are converging on the same small region of the lunar south pole. The fact that this object was tracked by a private individual rather than by any space agency is itself an argument for institutional capacity.

UPSC Angle

GS3 space technology, **GS2** international institutions and space law. Note **LCROSS (2009)** as the contrasting case of a **deliberate** lunar impact, which confirmed water ice near the south pole.

SEBI PROPOSES DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS AGAINST REIT AND LISTED INVIT UNITS

SEBI issued a consultation paper on August 4, 2026 proposing that REITs and publicly listed InvITs be permitted to issue foreign-currency-denominated Depository Receipts in permissible overseas jurisdictions.

Key Data

- A DR would be issued by a **foreign depository** against underlying units deposited with a **domestic custodian in India**, mirroring the existing equity DR framework.
- Enabling provisions proposed in the **REIT Regulations, 2014** and **InvIT Regulations, 2014**, with operational detail to follow by circular.
- Available to **REITs and publicly listed InvITs only; privately placed InvITs are excluded** because of transfer and holding restrictions on their units.
- Comments sought by **25 August 2026**.

UPSC Angle

GS3, capital markets and infrastructure financing. The arguable angle is whether DRs deepen the pool of long-term foreign capital for Indian infrastructure or relocate price discovery offshore at a time when policy is trying to bring listings onshore to GIFT City. REITs and InvITs matter as an alternative to bank-led infrastructure lending, which is the legacy of the **twin balance sheet problem**.

STANDING COMMITTEE: ONLY 17.5 PER CENT OF AMRUT SEWERAGE PROJECTS COMPLETE

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs, chaired by Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, tabled its report Review of Sewerage and Septage Coverage in cities with special reference to interventions under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 in the Lok Sabha on August 4, 2026 criticising the pace of sewerage and septage work under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0.

Key Data

MEASURE	FIGURE
Approved projects	594 , worth Rs 68,309 crore
Completed	104 , or 17.51 per cent ; 398 still under implementation
Central Assistance committed	Rs 66,059.53 crore ; released Rs 22,762.99 crore , or 34.46 per cent
Households with a sewerage connection	About 3.44 crore of 11.32 crore , roughly 30 per cent; 2.84 crore rely on septage
Sewage generated against treated	About 52,644 MLD generated against 31,885 MLD installed capacity
Sewage treatment plants meeting norms	Of 1,044 STPs , 50 per cent meet the 2015 CPCB standards and just 15 per cent meet the stricter 2019 NGT standards

The Committee recommended rapid capacity expansion, reuse and recycle models, and a **National Urban Wastewater Reuse Policy**.

The Analytical Point

The constraint is not central allocation, since barely a third of committed assistance has been released against a slow project pipeline. It is **urban local body capacity**: ULBs lack the technical staff, own-source revenue and tariff-setting autonomy to operate treatment plants after they are built, which is why the 15 per cent compliance figure with 2019 norms matters more than the construction count. Plants get commissioned and then under-operated.

The measures that follow are treated-wastewater reuse mandates for industry and construction, volumetric sewerage tariffs, and **devolution** of **Twelfth Schedule** functions with matching finances, as the Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended.

UPSC Angle

GS2 parliamentary committees and urban governance; **GS3** pollution. **AMRUT** launched **June 2015**; **AMRUT 2.0** launched **1 October 2021**, extended to **31 March 2027**; nodal ministry Housing and Urban Affairs. Connects to **SDG 6** and **SDG 11**.

CLOSING AUCTION SESSION GOES LIVE FOR F&O STOCKS

From Monday, August 3, 2026, continuous trading in eligible F&O stocks ends at 3:15 pm, with a Closing Auction Session from 3:15 to 3:35 pm determining the closing price.

Key Data

PHASE	TIMING
Transition and reference price calculation	3:15 to 3:20
Order Entry I, limit and market orders	3:20 to 3:25
Order Entry II, limit orders only , with a random close between 3:28 and 3:30	3:25 to 3:30
Matching and closing-price determination	3:30 to 3:35

- Scope: all securities with F&O contracts on **NSE or BSE**. Nifty futures and options extended to **3:40 pm**.
- Replaces the earlier convention, under which the closing price was the **volume-weighted average price of the last 30 minutes**.
- Related pre-open auction changes are slated for **7 September 2026**.

The Analytical Point

The random close between 3:28 and 3:30 is the anti-manipulation device: if the exact moment order entry stops is unknown, a participant cannot time a last-second order to move the uncrossing price. The reform replaces a 30-minute averaging window with a single uncrossing price that maximises matched volume, which is standard practice at the NYSE and the London Stock Exchange.

The question worth raising is whether concentrating price formation into a single five-minute window reduces manipulation or creates a new focal point that large participants can contest, given that index funds, derivatives settlement and mutual fund net asset values all reference the close. Its success depends on order-book depth in mid-cap F&O names, which is thinner than in large caps.

UPSC Angle

GS3, capital markets and financial regulation.

Sources: Reserve Bank of India, Press Information Bureau, PRS Legislative Research, The Hindu, Business Standard

Source: Current Affairs Today, August 5, 2026 — Ujjyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

RELATED EDITORIALS

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Rich Ground, Poor People: The Mineral States' Paradox](#)

5 Aug

ECONOMIC TIMES

[Leverage, Not Sympathy: Protecting Indian Workers in the Gulf](#)

5 Aug

THE STATESMAN

[Averages and Hotspots: Pesticide Intensity, Residue Limits and Trade](#)

5 Aug

THE HINDU

[Signed and Unused: The Gap in India's Trade Agreement Strategy](#)

5 Aug

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[16th Finance Commission](#)

The constitutional body chaired by Arvind Panagariya that recommends...

KEY TERM

[3D Glass Solutions](#)

US semiconductor packaging firm founded 2010, originating...

KEY TERM

[3I-ATLAS Comet](#)

The third confirmed interstellar object to enter our solar system,...

KEY TERM

[42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[in linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/08/05/current-affairs-today/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](#)

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com