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Current Affairs Today, August 11, 2026

11 August 2026 ·

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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Current Affairs Today, August 11, 2026

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

August 11, 2026 marks Khudiram Bose Martyrdom Day, while China's Long March 7A rocket broke up shortly after a launch from Wenchang, Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala took charge as the new Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra was flagged off in Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir approved funds to restore Bhaderwah's Rattan Garh Fort, and India won four medals at the International Linguistics Olympiad.

KHUDIRAM BOSE MARTYRDOM DAY

August 11 is observed every year as the martyrdom anniversary of **Khudiram Bose**, executed on this date in **1908** at Muzaffarpur Central Jail, Bihar, making him the youngest martyr of India's freedom struggle.

Background

Khudiram Bose, born **December 3, 1889**, in Midnapore district, Bengal, joined the revolutionary group **Jugantar** as a teenager and was involved in a series of actions against British colonial officials. On **April 30, 1908**, he and fellow revolutionary **Prafulla Chaki** attempted to assassinate Douglas Kingsford, the unpopular District Judge of Muzaffarpur, by bombing a carriage they believed was his; the carriage instead carried two British women, Mrs Kennedy and her daughter, wife and daughter of barrister Pringle Kennedy. The daughter died of her injuries within hours, while Mrs Kennedy succumbed to her injuries on May 2, 1908. Chaki shot himself to avoid capture, while Bose was arrested, tried in what came to be known as the **Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case**, and hanged on **August 11, 1908**, aged **18 years, 7 months and 11 days**, the youngest person executed in India's independence movement.

Legacy

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KHUDIRAM BOSE (1889-1908):

Executed August 11, 1908, Muzaffarpur Central Jail, Bihar; youngest martyr of India's freedom struggle at age 18

Member of Jugantar, a Bengal revolutionary group

Muzaffarpur bombing attempt (with Prafulla Chaki): April 30, 1908, targeting District Judge Douglas Kingsford

Tried in the Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case, linked to the wider Alipore Bomb Case

CHINA'S LONG MARCH 7A ROCKET BREAKS UP AFTER LAUNCH, LOSES CHINASAT-4B

*A Chinese **Long March 7A** rocket carrying the geostationary communications satellite **ChinaSat-4B** broke up roughly 85 seconds after liftoff from the **Wenchang Space Launch Site**, Hainan Island, on **August 10, 2026**, destroying the vehicle and payload.*

Background

The failure occurred during first-stage ascent over the South China Sea and marks the second loss among 18 Long March 7A missions flown since its March 2020 maiden flight. The rocket uses **YF-100** liquid-fuel engines, a family also powering the Long March 5, 6 and 8 vehicles, raising questions about whether the investigation could affect the launch schedule for China's Chang'e-7 lunar mission, which uses a related booster configuration.

UPSC Angle

Launch-vehicle reliability is a recurring GS3 theme; the failure offers a comparative reference point against India's own PSLV, GSLV Mk-III/LVM3 and the emerging private-launch sector (see Skyroot item below), useful when discussing risk management in an aggressive launch-cadence strategy.

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LONG MARCH 7A FAILURE:

Failed August 10, 2026, ~85 seconds after liftoff, Wenchang, Hainan Island

Payload lost: ChinaSat-4B (geostationary communications satellite)

Engine family: YF-100 (liquid-fuel), also used on Long March 5/6/8

Second failure in 18 Long March 7A missions since its March 2020 debut

VIETNAM'S VINSPACE SIGNS SPACEX LAUNCH DEAL FOR 2027

Vietnamese aerospace firm **VinSpace**, a subsidiary of conglomerate **Vingroup**, contracted **SpaceX** for a **Transporter** rideshare launch of its first microsatellite in **2027**.

Background

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VINSPACE-SPACEX DEAL:

VinSpace: Vingroup subsidiary, established November 2025

Contracted a SpaceX Transporter rideshare launch for its first microsatellite, targeted 2027

Vietnam's national strategy targets mid-level space-power status by 2030

INDIA WINS FOUR MEDALS AT INTERNATIONAL LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD 2026

India's eight-member team won **one gold, three bronze, and one Honourable Mention** at the **23rd International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL)**, held in **Bucharest, Romania**, competing against 255 contestants from over 40 nations.

Background

The gold medal went to **Shrilakshmi Venkatraman**. India's team was selected through the **Panini Linguistics Olympiad (PLO)**, the national qualifying round, with a training camp hosted at **IIIT Hyderabad's Language Technologies Research Centre**. India's cumulative IOL tally since its 2009 debut now stands at 37 medals (6 gold, 9 silver, 22 bronze).

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INDIA AT IOL 2026:

23rd IOL held in Bucharest, Romania; India won 1 gold, 3 bronze, 1 Honourable Mention

Gold medallist: Shrilakshmi Venkatraman

National qualifier: Panini Linguistics Olympiad (PLO); training camp at IIIT Hyderabad

India's cumulative IOL medal tally since 2009: 37 (6 gold, 9 silver, 22 bronze)

HAR GHAR TIRANGA YATRA FLAGGED OFF IN PUDUCHERRY

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** flagged off the **Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra** at Murugaa Theatre Signal, Puducherry, on **August 9, 2026**, ahead of this year's Independence Day observance.

Background

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HAR GHAR TIRANGA YATRA, PUDUCHERRY:

Flagged off by HM Amit Shah, August 9, 2026, Murugaa Theatre Signal

President's Police Colour presented to Puducherry Police on the same visit

Campaign originated 2022 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

JAMMU AND KASHMIR APPROVES RS 10 CRORE FOR RATTAN GARH FORT RESTORATION

The **Omar Abdullah**-led Jammu and Kashmir government approved **Rs 10 crore** on **August 9, 2026**, for the restoration of **Rattan Garh Fort** in Bhaderwah, Doda district.

Background

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RATTAN GARH FORT RESTORATION:

Approved August 9, 2026; outlay Rs 10 crore

Location: Bhaderwah, Doda district, J&K; fort built 1733

Approved by the Omar Abdullah-led J&K government

PERSONS IN NEWS: DR SRINIVASA KUMAR TUMMALA TAKES CHARGE AS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala *assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), on August 10, 2026, succeeding Dr N. Kalaiselvi, who had been holding the post as additional charge.*

Background

An oceanographer with more than 30 years of experience in remote sensing, satellite oceanography and tsunami early-warning systems, Tummala previously headed the Secretariat of the **Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS)** under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in Perth, Australia. He won the **National Geoscience Award** (2010, Ministry of Mines) for his contributions to tsunami early-warning work, and has been appointed for a two-year tenure.

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DR SRINIVASA KUMAR TUMMALA:

Assumed charge as Secretary, MoES, August 10, 2026; succeeds Dr N. Kalaiselvi

Previously headed the IOTWMS Secretariat, UNESCO-IOC, Perth

National Geoscience Award, 2010 (Ministry of Mines), for tsunami early-warning systems work

Appointed for a 2-year tenure

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 1: Revolutionary strand of India's freedom movement and the Alipore Bomb Case (Khudiram Bose).

GS Paper 2: India's national-integration campaigns ahead of Independence Day (Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra); heritage-tourism and Centre-UT/state cooperation (Rattan Garh Fort); appointments to key scientific ministries (MoES Secretary).

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Khudiram Bose executed: August 11, 1908 (martyrdom anniversary observed today)

Long March 7A launch failure: August 10, 2026, Wenchang

Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala assumes charge as MoES Secretary: August 10, 2026

Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra flagged off, Puducherry: August 9, 2026

Rattan Garh Fort restoration approved: August 9, 2026

IOL 2026 concluded, Bucharest: India's tally, 1 gold, 3 bronze, 1 Honourable Mention

INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONS:

MoES Secretary: Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (succeeds Dr N. Kalaiselvi)

J&K Chief Minister: Omar Abdullah

Union Home Minister: Amit Shah

IOL 2026 gold medallist: Shrilakshmi Venkatraman

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, GKToday

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