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Current Affairs Today, August 23, 2026

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SCIENCE & TECH

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

ICMR CLARIFIES: NO NEW H1N1 STRAIN BEHIND RISING SWINE FLU CASES

*Amid a rise in Influenza A (H1N1) cases in Delhi and other states, **ICMR** clarified that the circulating strain is not new, it is the **A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus**, background: circulating since 2025, matching WHO's Northern Hemisphere vaccine recommendation.*

Key Data

- Strain classification: clade **6B.1A.5a2a**, subclade **D.3.1.1**
- Higher-risk groups: children, elderly, persons with underlying conditions

UPSC Angle

GS2: role of ICMR and the National Centre for Disease Control in genomic surveillance; GS3: clade/subclade nomenclature and the vaccine-strain matching process, underscoring the importance of real-time surveillance to distinguish seasonal strain circulation from a genuinely novel pathogen.

IRAN ANNOUNCES MAJOR NATURAL GAS DISCOVERY IN FARS PROVINCE

*Iran's Oil Minister **Mohsen Paknejad** announced discovery of a "sweet gas" field in **Fars Province** with over **7.5 trillion cubic feet** of gas-in-place, roughly 5,700 billion cubic feet recoverable, background: announced amid Iran's energy-sector strain following months of regional conflict.*

Key Data

- Recoverable volume enough to supply one phase of the South Pars field for about **15 years**
- South Pars is the world's largest gas field, shared with Qatar (called North Dome there)

UPSC Angle

GS2: relevance to India's [energy security](#) and crude/LNG import diversification, and the India-Iran-Chabahar connectivity calculus relative to Pakistan-China's Gwadar Port.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**TODAY'S CONSOLIDATED FACTS:**

ICMR: circulating H1N1 strain is A/Missouri/11/2025-like, not a new strain

Iran's Fars Province gas discovery: >7.5 Tcf gas-in-place, ~5,700 Bcf recoverable

Sources: PIB, ICMR, Bloomberg, Press TV

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