



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs Today — August 25, 2026

25 August 2026 ·

POLITY

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 25, 2026

25 August 2026 · 16 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A consolidated roundup of all current affairs for August 25, 2026, covering diplomacy, defence, economy, environment, society and sport, with Prelims-ready facts for each item.

NSG LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST MAHILA COMMANDO CONVERSION COURSE

*The National Security Guard Training Academy at Manesar, Haryana, began India's first **Mahila Commando Conversion Course (MCCC)** on August 24, 2026.*

Key Data

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Duration	12 weeks, August 24 to November 12, 2026
Venue	NSG Training Academy, Manesar, Haryana
First batch	25 women constables
Drawn from	5th Battalion, Rajasthan Armed Constabulary, Ghatgate
Tagline	"She Who Dares, Leads"

Training covers physical conditioning, weapons handling and marksmanship, tactical intervention, hostage rescue and counter-terrorism operations.

Background

The **National Security Guard** was raised in **1984** following Operation Blue Star and given **statutory** form by the **National Security Guard Act, 1986**. It functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, is headquartered in New Delhi, and its motto is "**Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha**". Its personnel are popularly called **Black Cats**. Its two components are the **Special Action Group (SAG)**, drawn from the Army and forming the offensive element, and the **Special Ranger Groups (SRG)**, drawn from the Central Armed Police Forces for support and VIP protection. Regional hubs at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Gandhinagar were created after the 26/11 attacks.

UPSC Angle

The design detail that matters is that trainees **return to their parent forces** after the course. This makes it a **capability-diffusion model** rather than a recruitment model, seeding counter-terrorism competence back into State police organisations and addressing the first-responder gap that 26/11 exposed. It sits within a longer trajectory: permanent commission for women Army officers in **Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya (2020)**, women’s entry to the **National Defence Academy from 2021**, and women fighter pilots from 2016.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

NSG:

Raised 1984; statutory basis National Security Guard Act, 1986; under the Ministry of Home Affairs

Motto: “Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha”; personnel known as Black Cats

Components: Special Action Group (Army) and Special Ranger Groups (CAPFs)

Training Academy: Manesar, Haryana

MCCC: FIRST BATCH OF 25 WOMEN CONSTABLES FROM THE 5TH BATTALION, RAJASTHAN ARMED CONSTABULARY; 12 WEEKS FROM AUGUST 24, 2026.

VICE-PRESIDENT LAUNCHES INDIA’S FIRST NON-GMO HIGH-EXPANSION POPCORN MAIZE HYBRID

Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched India’s first non-GMO high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seeds, **Krisna459** and **Godari234**, at Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh, on **August 24, 2026**. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was present.

Key Data

The hybrids came out of a long-running private breeding programme at the Gourmet Popcornica facility, which screened American and Indian maize lines through field trials in 2023-24 in partnership with Indian maize research institutions. The aim is to cut India’s dependence on imported high-expansion popcorn maize genetics.

Background

“High expansion” refers to the **expansion ratio**, the ratio of popped volume to unpopped kernel volume, which is the single commercial quality metric for popcorn maize. Popcorn maize is **Zea mays var. everta**, whose hard vitreous pericarp traps moisture and produces the pressure burst on heating. Maize is India’s **third most important cereal after rice and wheat**, with demand increasingly driven by poultry feed, starch and the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme.

UPSC Angle

The “non-GMO” framing carries legal weight. India permits **only Bt cotton** as a commercially cultivated genetically modified crop. **GM mustard (DMH-11)**, whose environmental release the GEAC approved in October 2022, remains sub judice after a **Supreme Court split verdict in July 2024**. The regulator is the **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, operating under the **1989 Rules framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. This launch demonstrates that conventional hybrid breeding retains substantial headroom, sidestepping India’s unresolved GM policy deadlock.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

Varieties: Krisna459 and Godari234; launched August 24, 2026 at Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh

Launched by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, with AP Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and CM N. Chandrababu Naidu

Popcorn maize: Zea mays var. everta; quality metric is the expansion ratio

India’s only commercially cultivated GM crop: Bt cotton

GM regulator: GEAC under MoEFCC, under the 1989 Rules of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES THE 9TH NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES CONFERENCE

*Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day **9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026** in New Delhi on **August 24, 2026**, in hybrid format with over **850 participants**.*

Key Data

He first laid a wreath at the **Martyrs’ Column** in memory of Intelligence Bureau personnel killed in the line of duty. He directed agencies to intensify anti-infiltration measures and to deploy **AI-based analysis of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) data** to build standard operating procedures against emerging threats. Day-one themes covered counter-terrorism response, intelligence fusion through MAC, a vision document on narcotics control, detection and deportation of illegal migrants, cybercrime policy frameworks, and Pakistan-sponsored **proxy warfare**.

Background

The NSS Conference series began in **2018** and is organised by the **Intelligence Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs**. Attendance spans the Minister of State for Home, the Union Home Secretary, Deputy National Security Advisers, heads of Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations, Directors General of Police of States and Union Territories, and cutting-edge-level young police officers. The

Multi Agency Centre was conceived after the **Kargil Review Committee (1999)** and the **Group of Ministers report (2001)** and is run by the **Intelligence Bureau**, founded in **1887** and India's oldest intelligence agency.

UPSC Angle

The conference marks a shift from intelligence *collection* to intelligence *fusion and operationalisation*. Two structural gaps deserve mention in any answer: MAC still lacks a **statutory data-sharing mandate**, relying on executive convention; and applying AI to MAC repositories raises an unresolved rights question, since India has no dedicated surveillance-oversight statute, and the **Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (2017)** proportionality test sits alongside DPDP Act exemptions for State agencies. Note also that **police and public order are State subjects** under List II, Entries 2 and 1 respectively, so Centre-led SOPs depend on State buy-in.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

- 9th NSS Conference-2026: August 24, 2026, New Delhi; hybrid; 850+ participants
- Organised by the Intelligence Bureau under the MHA; series began 2018
- Intelligence Bureau founded 1887, India's oldest intelligence organisation
- MAC traceable to the Kargil Review Committee (1999) and Group of Ministers report (2001)
- India's seven CAPFs: CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, Assam Rifles
- Police (List II, Entry 2) and public order (List II, Entry 1) are State subjects

INDIA AND VIETNAM COAST GUARDS HOLD 7TH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN CHENNAI

*The 7th High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard and the Vietnam Coast Guard was held at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters (East), Chennai, on **August 25, 2026**.*

Key Data

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Framework	2015 MoU on Coast Guard Cooperation
India co-chair	Director General Paramesh Sivamani, Indian Coast Guard
Vietnam co-chair	Major General Luong Dinh Hung, Vice Commandant, Vietnam Coast Guard
Agreed follow-up	Joint exercise SAHYOG-HOPTAC at sea on August 27, 2026

Discussion covered maritime search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine pollution response and capacity building.

Background

The **Indian Coast Guard** was formally constituted on **August 18, 1978** under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978**, functions under the **Ministry of Defence**, is headquartered in New Delhi, and carries the motto “**Vayam Rakshamah**”, meaning “We Protect”. India-Vietnam ties were elevated to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016**. India has extended Lines of Credit to Vietnam for high-speed patrol boats and gifted the missile corvette **INS Kirpan** in 2023.

UPSC Angle

Coast guard diplomacy sits deliberately **below the threshold of military signalling**, building interoperability and presence in contested waters without inviting escalation. India’s position on the South China Sea is that it supports freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, and peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with **UNCLOS 1982**, and holds that Code of Conduct negotiations must not prejudice the legitimate rights of third parties.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEdia

Indian Coast Guard raised August 18, 1978, under the Coast Guard Act, 1978; Ministry of Defence; motto “Vayam Rakshamah”

7th ICG-VCG High-Level Meeting: Chennai, August 25, 2026, under the 2015 MoU

Joint exercise: SAHYOG-HOPTAC, August 27, 2026

India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: 2016; INS Kirpan gifted 2023

India’s maritime frameworks: SAGAR (2015), IPOI (2019), IFC-IOR at Gurugram (2018)

INDIA AND SEYCHELLES HOLD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON FISHERIES AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

*The **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** hosted a high-level bilateral meeting in New Delhi on **August 25, 2026** with a Seychelles delegation. Seychelles sought an accelerated bilateral MoU dedicated to fisheries and aquaculture.*

Key Data

The Seychelles delegation was led by **Wallace Cosgrow, Minister of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy**; the Indian side was led by Fisheries Secretary **Abhilaksh Likhi**. India cited national fish production of **19.7 million tonnes** and seafood exports of **USD 8.46 billion**. Discussions covered tuna fisheries, marine aquaculture, hatchery development, stock assessment, post-harvest technology, marine conservation, AI-based harvest management, and monitoring, control and surveillance infrastructure.

Background

India is the world's **second-largest fish producer and second-largest aquaculture producer after China**, and the **largest producer of shrimp**. The scheme architecture includes the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, launched in **2020** with an outlay of **₹20,050 crore**, the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund** and the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana**.

Seychelles is a **115-island archipelagic state** in the Western Indian Ocean, capital **Victoria** on **Mahé**, with one of the world's largest exclusive economic zones relative to land area. It pioneered the world's first **sovereign blue bond in 2018** and a debt-for-nature swap.

UPSC Angle

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Meeting: August 25, 2026, New Delhi; Seychelles Minister Wallace Cosgrow; India's Fisheries Secretary Abhilaksh Likhi

India's fish production: 19.7 million tonnes; seafood exports USD 8.46 billion

PMMSY launched 2020, outlay ₹20,050 crore

India: second-largest fish and aquaculture producer after China; largest shrimp producer

Seychelles: 115 islands; capital Victoria on Mahé; first sovereign blue bond, 2018

IORA founded 1997, secretariat in Mauritius

INDIA CONDEMNS AMBUSH ON UN PEACEKEEPERS IN SOUTH SUDAN

*Unidentified armed individuals ambushed a **UNMISS** patrol in **Jonglei State, South Sudan**, on **August 24, 2026**, killing **two Ethiopian peacekeepers** and injuring seven. India condemned the attack and called for an immediate and thorough investigation.*

Key Data

Two South Sudan National Police Service personnel and two UNMISS civilian staff were also injured. India invoked **UN Security Council Resolution 2589** on accountability for crimes against peacekeepers. The UN Secretary-General issued his own condemnation on August 25.

Background

UNMISS, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, was established on **July 9, 2011** by **UN Security Council Resolution 1996**, the day South Sudan became independent. Its headquarters is in **Juba**. South Sudan is the **world's youngest country** and the **193rd UN member**. Its civil war of 2013 to 2018 ended

with the **Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS, 2018)**.

UPSC Angle

India's standing here is **substantive**, not ceremonial. India is among the largest troop contributors to UNMISS and among the largest cumulative contributors to UN peacekeeping since 1950, and has lost more peacekeepers than any other country. Critically, **Resolution 2589 was adopted in August 2021 during India's presidency of the UN Security Council**. The strongest Mains argument is the **triangular cooperation gap**: troop-contributing countries bear the casualties while having no permanent voice in mandate design, which feeds directly into India's case for UNSC reform.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEdia

UNMISS established July 9, 2011 by UNSC Resolution 1996; headquarters Juba

South Sudan: independent July 9, 2011; world's youngest country; 193rd UN member

India is among the largest troop-contributing countries to UNMISS

UNSC Resolution 2589 (2021) adopted during India's UNSC presidency, August 2021

2018 peace agreement: R-ARCSS; the Sudd wetland on the White Nile lies in South Sudan

India also launched the UNITE Aware platform and deploys Female Engagement Teams

BWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN NEW DELHI; TREESA AND GAYATRI TAKE BRONZE

*The **30th BWF World Championships** were held at the Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi, from **August 17 to 23, 2026**, the first time India hosted the event since Hyderabad in 2009. **Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand** won the women's doubles **bronze** on August 22.*

Key Data

RESULT	DETAIL
Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand	Women's doubles bronze, August 22
Semi-final loss	To Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning (China), 18-21, 21-13, 21-8
Men's singles champion	Alex Lanier (France), beating Kodai Naraoka 21-11, 21-11
Women's singles champion	An Se-young (South Korea), beating Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-14

Alex Lanier became **France's first world singles champion**.

Background

The **Badminton World Federation** was founded in **1934** as the International Badminton Federation, renamed BWF in 2006, and is headquartered in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**. The World Championships began in **1977**. Treasa and Gayatri became only the **second Indian women's doubles pair to win a World Championships medal**, after Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's bronze at London 2011.

India's World Championships lineage includes **Prakash Padukone** (bronze, 1983), **Saina Nehwal** (silver 2015, bronze 2017), **P. V. Sindhu** (gold 2019, India's only World Championships gold, plus two silvers and two bronzes), **B. Sai Praneeth** (bronze 2019), **Lakshya Sen** (bronze 2021), **Kidambi Srikanth** (silver 2021) and **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy with Chirag Shetty** (bronze 2022).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

BWF founded 1934 as IBF; headquarters Kuala Lumpur; World Championships began 1977

2026 edition was the 30th, held August 17-23 at Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi

India's previous hosting: Hyderabad, 2009

P. V. Sindhu (2019, Basel) is India's only BWF World Championships gold medallist

National Sports Day: August 29, birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand

IN BRIEF: TODAY'S DEEP-DIVE TOPICS

- **25th round of India-China Special Representatives talks** held in Beijing, NSA Ajit Doval with Foreign Minister Wang Yi.
- **UPI completed ten years** of public operation, growing to over 24,162 crore transactions in FY 2025-26.
- **Rajnath Singh approved transfer** of DRDO technologies for all conventional missile systems to Indian industry.
- **53rd PRAGATI meeting** reviewed six projects worth over ₹30,000 crore across nine States.
- **Centre constituted a committee** for a permanent political solution for the Gorkhas, headed by Pankaj Kumar Singh.
- **CSIR-NAL unveiled the NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100** indigenous gas turbine engines.
- **The National Conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums** upgraded the Adi Vaani platform, with the Mysuru Declaration scheduled for adoption on August 25.
- **216 rescued Indian Star Tortoises** were released into Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Reserve Bank of India Central Board appointments. The Government appointed **Annie George Mathew, Janmejaya Kumar Sinha** and **Syed Akbaruddin** as **part-time non-official directors on the RBI Central Board for four years with effect from August 24, 2026**, per the Reserve Bank press release of that date. Separately, former ISRO Chairman **S. Somanath** was appointed and **Anand Mahindra** re-appointed to the Board with effect from August 20, 2026. Mathew is a former Special Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance; Akbaruddin is a former Indian Foreign Service officer and India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Sinha is Chairman of BCG India.

The RBI Central Board is constituted under **Section 8 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, with a maximum of **21 members**: the Governor, up to four Deputy Governors, four directors nominated from the local boards, ten directors nominated by the Central Government, and two government officials.

Pankaj Kumar Singh, former Director General of the Border Security Force and former Deputy National Security Adviser, was named to head the Gorkha permanent political solution committee on August 22, 2026.

Edmund Lalrindika scored a first-half hat-trick as **East Bengal FC beat Mohun Bagan Super Giant 4-1** in the Durand Cup final at Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata, on **August 23, 2026**, giving East Bengal a record-equalling **17th** Durand Cup title and their first since 2004. The **Durand Cup**, first held in **1888** at Shimla, is Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 1: Indian society and diversity (tribal languages); role of women in the security architecture.

GS Paper 2: India-China bilateral relations; India-Vietnam and India-Seychelles partnerships; UN peacekeeping and Security Council reform; federal structure and the Gorkha question; e-governance through PRAGATI.

GS Paper 3: Digital public infrastructure and UPI; defence **indigenisation** and technology transfer; aerospace propulsion; internal security and intelligence fusion; wildlife protection legislation; agriculture and seed technology.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

DEFENCE AND SECURITY:

NSG raised 1984, NSG Act 1986, motto “Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha”, Training Academy at Manesar

First Mahila Commando Conversion Course began August 24, 2026, 25 women constables, 12 weeks

9th NSS Conference-2026: August 24, New Delhi, 850+ participants, organised by the Intelligence Bureau

Intelligence Bureau founded 1887; MAC traces to the Kargil Review Committee (1999)

India’s seven CAPFs: CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG, Assam Rifles

DIPLOMACY:

25th India-China SR talks: Beijing, August 25, 2026; SR mechanism instituted 2003

7th India-Vietnam Coast Guard High-Level Meeting: Chennai, August 25, 2026; exercise SAHYOG-HOPTAC

Indian Coast Guard raised August 18, 1978; motto “Vayam Rakshamah”; under Ministry of Defence

UNMISS established July 9, 2011 by UNSC Resolution 1996 (adopted July 8, 2011); headquarters Juba

UNSC Resolution 2589 adopted during India’s UNSC presidency, August 2021

ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE:

UPI public rollout August 25, 2016; pilot April 11, 2016; operated by NPCI (2008, Mumbai)

FY 2025-26 UPI: over 24,162 crore transactions, approximately ₹314 lakh crore

PMMSY launched 2020, outlay ₹20,050 crore; India is the second-largest fish producer

Popcorn maize hybrids Krisna459 and Godari234 launched August 24, 2026 at Musunuru, Eluru district

India’s only commercially cultivated GM crop: Bt cotton; regulator GEAC under MoEFCC

GOVERNANCE:

PRAGATI launched March 25, 2015; 53rd meeting August 25, 2026; six projects, nine States, over ₹30,000 crore

AgriStack registries: Farmers’ Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps, Crop Sown Registry

RBI Central Board: Section 8, RBI Act, 1934; maximum 21 members

Gorkha committee constituted August 22, 2026; DGHC created 1988; GTA created 2011

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY:

Indian Star Tortoise: *Geochelone elegans*; IUCN Vulnerable; CITES Appendix I since CoP18 (2019); WIPA Schedule I

Tadoba-Andhari: Chandrapur, Maharashtra; the State's oldest national park, notified 1955; tiger reserve 1993-94

Project Tiger launched April 1, 1973; NTCA statutory 2006; WCCB established 2007

Mysuru Declaration scheduled for adoption August 25, 2026; CIIL Mysuru established 1969 under the Ministry of Education

705 notified Scheduled Tribes; ST population 10.43 crore, 8.6 per cent (Census 2011)

SPORT:

30th BWF World Championships: New Delhi, August 17-23, 2026; BWF founded 1934, HQ Kuala Lumpur

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand: women's doubles bronze, only India's second in the category

Durand Cup: East Bengal beat Mohun Bagan 4-1, August 23, 2026; 17th title; tournament first held 1888

Sources: PIB, PMIndia, Business Standard, The Hindu

Source: Current Affairs Today — August 25, 2026 — Ujjayari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

RELATED EDITORIALS

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Will the Caste Census Inflate OBC Numbers? The Evidence Says No](#)

25 Aug

THE HINDU

[Invisible Actors: Anonymous Objections and the Right to Vote](#)

25 Aug

THE HINDU

[Labour Rights Beyond the Shadow of BWSSB](#)

25 Aug

THE HINDU

[Smart Glasses and the Bystander the Privacy Law Forgot](#)

25 Aug

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[16th Finance Commission](#)

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

KEY TERM

[42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

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

KEY TERM

[74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992](#)

The amendment that gave urban local bodies constitutional status,...

KEY TERM

[ACP/MACP \(Assured Career Progression\)](#)

A government HR scheme granting time-bound pay-scale upgrades to...



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/2026/08/25/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