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Current Affairs Today — August 27, 2026

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POLITY

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Current Affairs Today — August 27, 2026

27 August 2026 · 14 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

A consolidated roundup of current affairs for August 27, 2026, covering observances, banking, defence, industry, environment and state politics, with Prelims-ready facts for each item.

WORLD LAKE DAY: ONLY THE SECOND OBSERVANCE

August 27 is World Lake Day, and 2026 is only the second annual observance.

Key Data

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Designated by	UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/142 , adopted December 12, 2024
Why August 27	It marks the first World Lake Conference, first held in 1984
First observed	2025

UPSC Angle

This is the strongest anniversary hook of the edition, and it pairs directly with the day's editorial argument on lake restoration. India's relevant framework:

- The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971, Ramsar, Iran)**, under which India has the **largest network of Ramsar sites in Asia**
- The **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**
- The **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)**
- The **Amrit Sarovar Mission**, for development and rejuvenation of village water bodies

The recurring failure mode in Indian urban lake management is that interventions treat the **symptom** (algal bloom, foam, **encroachment** at the visible edge) while leaving the **cause** untouched, namely untreated sewage inflow and **catchment** encroachment. **Bellandur** in Bengaluru, **Hussain Sagar** in Hyderabad and **Dal** in Srinagar are the standard case studies. **Eutrophication**, the nutrient enrichment that drives algal blooms and oxygen depletion, is the process term to know.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

World Lake Day: August 27; designated by UNGA resolution A/RES/79/142 of December 12, 2024; marks the World Lake Conference first held in 1984; first observed 2025

Ramsar Convention signed 1971 at Ramsar, Iran; India has Asia's largest network of Ramsar sites

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017; National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems; Amrit Sarovar Mission

Eutrophication: nutrient enrichment causing algal blooms and oxygen depletion

World Water Week is organised annually by the Stockholm International Water Institute

REGIONAL RURAL BANKS POST RECORD NET PROFIT OF ₹10,176 CRORE

At an annual review meeting on **August 25, 2026**, chaired by the **Secretary, Department of Financial Services**, it was reported that consolidated **Regional Rural Bank** net profit reached an all-time high of **₹10,176 crore in FY 2025-26**.

Key Data

METRIC	FY 2025-26	PREVIOUS
Consolidated net profit	₹10,176 crore	₹6,820 crore in FY 2024-25
Total business	Over ₹13.5 lakh crore	—
Gross NPA	5.3 per cent	All-time low
Net NPA	2.1 per cent	All-time low

RRBs added about **54.98 lakh new PMJDY accounts**. The meeting was attended by the NABARD Chairman, chairpersons of all **28 RRBs**, and representatives of the RBI, SIDBI and sponsor banks.

Background

RRBs were established under the **Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976**, following the **Narasimham Working Group (1975)**. The first RRB, **Prathama Bank**, opened on **October 2, 1975**, which is before the Act, a detail that catches candidates out. Shareholding is fixed at **Centre 50 per cent, sponsor bank 35 per cent, State Government 15 per cent**. They are **regulated by the RBI and supervised by NABARD**. The **“One State, One RRB”** consolidation, introduced in 2025, reduced their number to **28**, effective May 1, 2025.

UPSC Angle

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, following the Narasimham Working Group (1975)

First RRB: Prathama Bank, October 2, 1975

Shareholding: Centre 50 per cent, sponsor bank 35 per cent, State Government 15 per cent

Regulated by the RBI, supervised by NABARD

“One State, One RRB”, introduced in 2025, reduced the number to 28, effective May 1, 2025

FY 2025-26: net profit ₹10,176 crore (from ₹6,820 crore); business over ₹13.5 lakh crore; GNPA 5.3 per cent, NNPA 2.1 per cent

PM ADDRESSES THE KHELO INDIA DIALOGUE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the “**Khelo India Dialogue**” by video conferencing on **August 27, 2026**, reaching more than **1,500 locations** nationwide, organised by **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** at two colleges in every district, ahead of National Sports Day.

Key Data

The address was structured around **five themes: Sport; Olympic Aspirations**, with an eye on the **2036 Olympics; Youth Leadership; Viksit Bharat**; and **Nasha Mukta Yuva**, the last tied to the Prime Minister’s **100-week nationwide anti-drug campaign**, launched in 2026, on **August 2, 2026**.

Sportspersons engaging with young people included Dipa Karmakar, Saina Nehwal, Gagan Narang, P. R. Sreejesh, Mary Kom, Baichung Bhutia, Pullela Gopichand, Anju Bobby George, Karnam Malleswari, Mirabai Chanu and P. T. Usha.

Background

National Sports Day is August 29, the birth anniversary of **Major Dhyan Chand**, born **1905**, who won Olympic hockey gold in **1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin**. **Khelo India** was launched in **2018** under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, with verticals including the Youth Games, University Games, Winter Games and Para Games. Talent pipelines run through **KIRTI** (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) and **TOPS** (Target Olympic Podium Scheme).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

National Sports Day: August 29, birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand (b. 1905)

Dhyan Chand's Olympic hockey golds: 1928, 1932, 1936

Khelo India launched 2018; TOPS = Target Olympic Podium Scheme; KIRTI = Khelo India Rising Talent Identification

India's Olympic hosting target year: 2036

Highest sporting honour: the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, renamed in 2021

Fit India Movement launched August 29, 2019

DEFENCE MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION FOR A ₹472 CRORE TANK OVERHAUL FACILITY AT JABALPUR

*Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** laid the foundation stone on **August 27, 2026** for a **₹472 crore** facility to overhaul **T-72** and **T-90** battle tanks at **Vehicle Factory Jabalpur**, *Madhya Pradesh*.*

Key Data

The plant will overhaul **80 tanks a year**, reducing the time and logistics cost of moving tanks for maintenance. Vehicle Factory Jabalpur operates under **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)**, one of the **seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings** created from the corporatisation of the **Ordnance Factory Board in 2021**. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav was present.

The **T-72** is designated **Ajeya** in Indian service and the **T-90** is **Bhishma**.

UPSC Angle

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

₹472 crore facility at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur; 80 tanks overhauled annually

Operates under Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)

AVNL is one of the seven DPSUs formed from the Ordnance Factory Board corporatisation in 2021

T-72 = Ajeya; T-90 = Bhishma

GOA SHIPYARD HANDS OVER ICGS AJIT TO THE INDIAN COAST GUARD

Goa Shipyard Limited formally handed over the indigenously designed and built Fast Patrol Vessel **ICGS Ajit** to the Indian Coast Guard on **August 25, 2026**.

Key Data

SPECIFICATION	DETAIL
Length	51.43 m
Beam	8 m
Displacement	330 tonnes at 2.5 m draught
Indigenous content	Over 65 per cent
Top speed	Over 27 knots
Endurance	1,500 nautical miles
Propulsion	Twin marine diesel engines driving controllable pitch propellers with an integrated machinery control system

It is part of the **Adamyia-class series of eight Fast Patrol Vessels** designed and built in-house by GSL. Note the two-stage distinction: ICGS Ajit was **launched** in October 2025 and **delivered** in August 2026. Launch and delivery are different events.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

Indian Coast Guard raised February 1, 1977, formally constituted under the Coast Guard Act, 1978; under the Ministry of Defence; motto “Vayam Rakshamah”

Goa Shipyard Limited is a Ministry of Defence DPSU

ICGS Ajit: 51.43 m, 330 tonnes, over 27 knots, 1,500 nm endurance, over 65 per cent indigenous

Adamyia-class: eight FPVs, GSL in-house design; CPP = controllable pitch propeller

HINDALCO COMMISSIONS INDIA'S FIRST SUPERFINE PPT ATH PLANT

Hindalco Industries commissioned a *greenfield* **Superfine Precipitated Alumina Trihydrate (PPT ATH)** plant at **Belagavi, Karnataka**, announced on **August 27, 2026**, bringing domestic production of this specialty alumina to India for the first time.

Key Data

Capacity is **30,000 tonnes per annum**, expandable to **60,000 tonnes** in phases. Hindalco describes it as the world's only specialty alumina plant running entirely on renewable energy; that claim is the company's and is reported as such.

UPSC Angle

ATH, aluminium trihydroxide, is a **halogen-free flame retardant** used in fire-safe cables, polymer insulators, thermal insulation, composites and paints. It works by **endothermic decomposition**, absorbing heat and releasing water vapour, which suppresses flame and smoke without the toxicity of halogenated retardants. India has historically imported this grade, so this is import substitution in a niche industrial chemical, which matters more for industrial security than for the trade balance.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

ATH = aluminium trihydroxide, $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$, a halogen-free flame retardant acting by endothermic decomposition

Plant at Belagavi, Karnataka; 30,000 tpa, expandable to 60,000 tpa

Hindalco is the metals flagship of the Aditya Birla Group

India is the world's second-largest aluminium producer; Odisha is the largest bauxite-producing state

Bayer process yields alumina from bauxite; Hall-Heroult process yields aluminium

UNDP AND HUL SCALE PLASTICS CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO 50 CITIES

UNDP India and **Hindustan Unilever Limited** announced on **August 24, 2026** a new phase of their partnership to support **50,000 Safai Mitras** and strengthen waste-management systems across **50 cities** by 2028.

Key Data

Four focus areas: social inclusion by formalising the livelihoods of 50,000 Safai Mitras with a focus on women; strengthening urban waste-management systems; improving recycling efficiency; and knowledge transfer. Over the previous seven years the partnership supported **24,000 Safai Mitras** and enabled

segregation across **1,20,000 households**. Note that **Project Utthaan**, the umbrella under which this sits, was launched in **2020** and is not a new launch.

UPSC Angle

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016; EPR Guidelines notified 2022, with recycling targets and certificates on the CPCB portal

Ban on identified single-use plastics in force since 2022, effective July 1, 2022

Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandate source segregation

NAMASTE = National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem, jointly MoSJE and MoHUA

SBM-Urban 2.0 launched 2021; UNEA resolution 5/14 (2022) mandated the global plastics treaty negotiation

Project Utthaan was launched in 2020

TAMIL NADU SCRAPS THE PARANDUR AIRPORT AND ANNOUNCES TWO WELFARE SCHEMES

*Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced in the Assembly on **August 24, 2026** the cancellation of the **Parandur greenfield airport** project, and two welfare schemes.*

A Standing Correction

Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister is C. Joseph Vijay (TVK), in office since 2026, sworn in on **May 10, 2026**, after TVK won **108 of 234 seats** and formed a coalition. Any reference to M. K. Stalin as the incumbent Chief Minister is out of date.

Key Data

ITEM	DETAIL
Parandur airport	Selected 2022; about ₹27,000 crore ; roughly 5,369 acres ; scrapped citing public opposition and protection of farmland
Annapoorani Super 6	Three free LPG cylinders a year to women heads of households with annual income under ₹2.5 lakh , from Pongal 2027; about 1.30 crore families ; about ₹4,000 crore a year
Vetri Payanam	Free bus travel for women and transgender persons expanded from October 2, 2026 to Express, Deluxe and hill-area services, with no income ceiling and no trip limit ; about ₹6,000 crore a year

UPSC Angle

Land acquisition for such a project falls under the **RFCTLARR Act, 2013**, whose consent thresholds are **70 per cent for PPP projects and 80 per cent for private projects**, with Social Impact Assessment under Sections 4 to 6 and special safeguards on multi-cropped irrigated land. Greenfield airports additionally require site clearance from the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** under the **Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008**.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Tamil Nadu CM: C. Joseph Vijay (TVK), in office since 2026, sworn in May 10, 2026; TVK won 108 of 234 seats

Parandur: proposed 2022, about ₹27,000 crore, about 5,369 acres, scrapped August 24, 2026

Annapoorani Super 6: 3 free LPG cylinders a year, income cap ₹2.5 lakh, from Pongal 2027, about 1.30 crore families

Vetri Payanam expansion from October 2, 2026, no income ceiling, about ₹6,000 crore a year

RFCTLARR Act, 2013 consent thresholds: 70 per cent PPP, 80 per cent private

Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008 governs new airport site approval

SCHEDULED, NOT YET DONE

Two items require care, because aggregators render both as accomplished:

Exercise SAHYOG-HOPTAC. The second edition of the Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard joint exercise was **scheduled at sea for August 27, 2026**, off Chennai, following the 7th High-Level Meeting at Chennai on August 25. Vietnam Coast Guard ship **CSB 8002** arrived with a six-member delegation. **No post-event confirmation was available at the time of writing**, so it is reported as scheduled.

India-UK agreement on Integrated Full Electric Propulsion. An inter-governmental agreement covering IFEP for **four Landing Platform Docks** for the Indian Navy is reported as expected to be signed, with **GE Vernova** partnering **BHEL** to set up India's first maritime land-based testing facility. As background, a **Statement of Intent** was signed at **Portsmouth on November 28, 2024**. **The IGA has not been signed.**

ISRO's GISAT-1A / EOS-05 on a GSLV Mk II is planned for the **first week of September 2026** from the Second Launch Pad at Sriharikota, and **has not launched.**

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEEDIA

IFEP = Integrated Full Electric Propulsion; LPD = Landing Platform Dock, an amphibious ship with a well deck

Background: India-UK Statement of Intent on electric propulsion signed at Portsmouth, November 28, 2024

Indian Navy's stated long-term goal: a 200-ship fleet by 2047

SAHYOG-HOPTAC is the ICG-Vietnam Coast Guard joint exercise, under the 2015 MoU

IN BRIEF: TODAY'S DEEP-DIVE TOPICS

- **UNCERD published its concluding observations on India** and India rejected them.
- **A flash flood down the Bhote Koshi** destroyed the Rasuwagadhi border post, with Indian pilgrims out of contact.
- **The Centre moved the Supreme Court** on the OBC creamy layer verdict.
- **India pressed for community-led rangeland restoration** at UNCCD COP17.
- **The Panchayatan Temple foundation was laid** at Ekatma Dham, Omkareshwar.
- **India will host the 18th BRICS Summit** in New Delhi in September.
- **A NITI Aayog report mapped obstacles to R&D** and urged GERD of 2 per cent of GDP.
- **45 coal plants are on critically low stocks** after monsoon disruption to mining and evacuation.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Dolly Parton, the American singer and songwriter, died on **August 25, 2026**, aged **80**, in Nashville, Tennessee. Beyond her music, the philanthropic work of exam relevance is the **Imagination Library**, a childhood book-gifting programme operating across several countries as an early-literacy intervention, and her funding of vaccine research. She was a Country Music Hall of Fame inductee.

Bhupender Yadav, Union Environment Minister, represented India at UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar.

C. Joseph Vijay, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, announced the Parandur cancellation and two welfare schemes on August 24.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 1: Indian culture and observances; geography of lakes and wetlands.

GS Paper 2: Welfare scheme design and targeting; land acquisition law; India's international engagements.

GS Paper 3: Rural banking and financial inclusion; defence **indigenisation** and overhaul capacity; specialty materials and import substitution; plastic waste and circular economy.

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OBSERVANCES:

World Lake Day: August 27, per UNGA resolution A/RES/79/142 of December 12, 2024; marks the World Lake Conference first held in 1984; second observance in 2026

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

BANKING:

RRBs: Act of 1976, Narasimham Working Group 1975, first RRB Prathama Bank October 2, 1975

Shareholding 50:35:15 Centre, sponsor bank, State; 28 RRBs after One State One RRB

FY 2025-26 net profit ₹10,176 crore; GNPA 5.3 per cent, NNPA 2.1 per cent

DEFENCE:

₹472 crore tank overhaul facility at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur under AVNL; 80 tanks a year; T-72 Ajeya, T-90 Bhishma

ICGS Ajit: Adanya-class FPV by Goa Shipyard; 51.43 m, 330 tonnes, over 65 per cent indigenous

Indian Coast Guard raised February 1, 1977; Coast Guard Act, 1978; motto "Vayam Rakshamah"

INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT:

Hindalco Superfine PPT ATH plant at Belagavi: 30,000 tpa, expandable to 60,000

Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016; EPR Guidelines 2022; single-use plastic ban in force since 2022, effective July 1, 2022

STATES:

Tamil Nadu CM is C. Joseph Vijay (TVK), in office since 2026, sworn in May 10, 2026

RFCTLARR Act, 2013: consent thresholds 70 per cent PPP, 80 per cent private

Sources: PIB, Business Standard, UNDP India

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