

01/08/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Munshi Premchand:*

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid tributes to renowned litterateur Munshi Premchand on his birth anniversary.

About Munshi Premchand:

- ❖ Munshi Premchand (born Dhanpat Rai Srivastava) was born on 31 July 1880 in Lamhi village near Varanasi and is regarded as the greatest writer of modern Hindi and Urdu literature.
- ❖ He was born to Munshi Ajaib Lal (post office clerk) and Anandi Devi, learned Urdu and Persian early, and later earned a B.A. (1919) from Allahabad University in English, Persian, and History.
- ❖ After an unsuccessful first marriage, he married Shivarani Devi, a child widow, in 1906, a progressive and socially reformist step; she later wrote the memoir Premchand Ghar Mein.
- ❖ From 1899 to 1921, he served as a school teacher and Deputy Sub-Inspector of Schools, resigning in 1921 in support of Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement.
- ❖ He initially wrote under the pen name "Nawab Rai", but adopted "Premchand" after the British banned his patriotic collection Soz-e-Watan in 1910.
- ❖ Honoured as "Upanyas Samrat" (Emperor of Novels) and "Magician of the Pen," he pioneered realism in Hindi and Urdu literature.
- ❖ He authored over 300 short stories and 18 novels, with classics such as Godan, Kafan, Pus Ki Raat, and Panch Parmeshwar, highlighting social injustice, rural life, and human values.
- ❖ He contributed to journals like Zamana, Saraswati, Madhuri, Maryaada, Chaand, and Sudha, and edited Jagran newspaper and Hans literary magazine.
- ❖ He purchased Saraswati Press, though it later closed due to financial losses, and subsequently moved to Mumbai to write film scripts.
- ❖ He became the first President of the All-India Progressive Writers' Association in 1936, strengthening the progressive literary movement in India.
- ❖ The period 1918–1936 is known as the "Premchand Era" in Hindi literature, reflecting his enduring influence on themes of social justice, equality, and freedom.

2. *'Samudra Manthan':*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved 'Samudra Manthan' – the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas with an approved outlay of Rs.84,084 crore for implementation up to FY 2030–31.

About 'Samudra Manthan':

- ❖ The Scheme encompasses a comprehensive set of interventions across the offshore exploration value chain.
- ❖ It provides for large-scale acquisition, processing and interpretation of high-quality seismic data, accelerated deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploratory drilling, scientific drilling in frontier basins, development of common offshore production and evacuation infrastructure, and establishment of an integrated Oil & Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone.

- ❖ It also includes dedicated provisions for digital programme management, capacity building, technology adoption, stakeholder engagement and international outreach, creating an integrated ecosystem to accelerate offshore exploration and production in the country.
- ❖ Samudra Manthan is expected to catalyse reserve accretion of over 600 Million Metric Tons of Oil Equivalent(MMTOE), substantially increase offshore exploration activity

3. *Khelo India Scheme:*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved an expanded Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) with a combined outlay of Rs.36,441 crore for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31, reaffirming the Government's commitment to harnessing the power of sports for youth development and nation-building.

About Khelo India Scheme:

- ❖ Khelo India is a scheme envisioned by Prime Minister Modi in 2017-18 to give a platform to grassroots athletes and build sports infrastructure across India.
- ❖ The Khelo India Scheme is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- ❖ Twin objectives: Mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports
- ❖ Khelo India University Games is a national level multi-sport event held in India, where athletes from universities across the country compete in different sports disciplines.
- ❖ The inaugural edition held in Odisha started on 22 February and concluded on 1 March 2020.
- ❖ The Khelo India Youth Games is an annual multidisciplinary grassroots sporting event held at the national level in India. It is conducted for 2 groups of students – 1. Students under 17 years of age in secondary school and 2. Students under 21 years of age in college. It was started in 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the name of Khelo India School Games. In 2019, its name was changed to Khelo India Youth Games.
- ❖ The revamped scheme is designed to create a seamless pathway for every talented young Indian—from school playgrounds and village sports fields to the Olympic podium.
- ❖ It seeks to ensure that no sporting talent is left undiscovered because of geography, economic background or lack of opportunity.
- ❖ Aligned with the vision of Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and the National Education Policy 2020, the scheme integrates sports with education, fitness, technology and high-performance training while laying a strong foundation for India's long-term sporting ambitions, including the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the country's bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

4. *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme:*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme from 2026–27 to 2030–31. A total financial outlay of Rs.3.15 lakh crore has been approved for the Scheme during this period.

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme:

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a centrally sector scheme launched on 24 February 2019 to provide assured income support to landholding farmer families with cultivable land nationwide.
- ❖ Under the scheme, each eligible farmer family receives annual financial assistance of ₹6,000, disbursed in three equal installments of ₹2,000 through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts.
- ❖ The benefits of the scheme are provided to farmers upon seeding of land records in the PM-KISAN portal, linking bank accounts with Aadhaar, and completing e-KYC verification.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to increase the income of small and marginal farmers by providing financial support for agricultural inputs, thereby improving crop health and productivity.
- ❖ State Governments play a central role in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi by identifying eligible farmer households and developing a comprehensive beneficiary database.
- ❖ In September 2023, the Government introduced Kisan-eMitra, an AI-enabled chatbot integrated with the PM-KISAN digital ecosystem.
- ❖ Developed with technical support from the EkStep Foundation and BHASHINI, the chatbot provides farmers with real-time information on payments, registrations, and eligibility under the scheme in multiple Indian languages.

Key Achievements of the PM-KISAN Scheme:

- More than Rs.4.47 lakh crore has been transferred directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 installments under the Scheme.
- Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs.18,984 crore released.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than Rs.1.71 lakh crore was disbursed to provide financial assistance to farmers.
- Women farmers have received more than Rs.1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer.

5. *Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)*

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)', a Scheme for the development of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) Projects with Energy Storage Systems (ESS) with a total outlay of Rs.5,070 crore.

About Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY):

- ❖ The scheme envisages the development of 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects with co-located Energy Storage Systems having a minimum storage capacity of two hours i.e., 10,000 MWh.
- ❖ The projects will be sanctioned during FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with disbursement of financial support continuing up to FY 2032-33.
- ❖ Under the scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of Rs. One crore per MW will be provided for eligible Floating Solar Photovoltaic projects after successful commissioning.

- ❖ In addition, CFA of up to Rs.50 lakh per project will be available for undertaking feasibility studies, including bathymetry and hydrography assessments, environmental studies, and other preparatory activities required for de-risking the project development.
- ❖ The scheme would enhance the floating Solar PV capacity in the country by 5,000 MW, which is presently around 700 MW only.
- ❖ The scheme would help in the reduction of around 10 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.
- ❖ It would help in the generation of approximately 16,000–17,000 full-time equivalent employment opportunities across the project value chain.
- ❖ The scheme would also promote domestic manufacturing of floatation systems as well as the entire value chain of the projects, like PV cells, modules, energy storage systems, etc., and support the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

6. *Government e Marketplace (GeM):*

Context: Government e Marketplace (GeM) today formally launched the 10-day celebrations leading up to its 10th Foundation Day, marking the beginning of a series of stakeholder engagement initiatives commemorating a decade of transforming public procurement through technology, transparency and inclusivity.

About Government e Marketplace (GeM):

- ❖ The Government e Marketplace Special Purpose Vehicle (GeM SPV), a Section 8 non-profit company under the Ministry of Commerce, was incorporated on 17 May 2017 under the Companies Act, 2013 to develop, manage and maintain the GeM platform.
- ❖ Over the years, GeM has emerged as a major digital public procurement platform, promoting ease of doing business and wider market access for sellers across the country.
- ❖ It is an online platform for public procurement.
- ❖ It was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).
- ❖ It was created with the objective to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers to facilitate the online procurement of goods and services.

7. *Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan:*

Context: Since its inception in 2016, more than 7.91 crore pregnant women received antenatal care services and more than 1.24 crore high-risk pregnancies have been identified India's Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined by 43 points from 130 per one lakh live births in SRS (2014–16) to 87 per one lakh live births in SRS (2022–24).

About Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan:

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) provides a fixed day, free of cost, assured and quality Antenatal Care on the 9th day of every month.
- ❖ It is launched in 2016, aiming at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and ensuring safe pregnancies and deliveries.
- ❖ Target Beneficiaries: All pregnant women in their 2nd and 3rd trimesters of pregnancy. Women from underserved, semi-urban, poor, and rural areas are particularly focused on.

- ❖ Under PMSMA, all pregnant women are provided services including drugs, laboratory investigations, ultrasound, and antenatal check-up by the OBGY specialist/ Medical Officer at designated Public Health facilities including DH, SDH, CHC-FRUs, non-CHC-FRUs, and PHCs.
- ❖ Obstetricians/ physicians from private sector and retired OBGY specialists are encouraged to provide voluntary services at designated public health facilities on the 9th of every month.
- ❖ Group Counselling is also provided to all pregnant women for diet, sleep, regular ANC check-up, institutional delivery, and breastfeeding including awareness about supplementary nutrition.
- ❖ Information Education & Communication (IEC), Inter-personal Communication (IPC) and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities are undertaken.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Seema on winning the Bronze medal in the Women's Discus Throw event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Lovepreet Singh on winning the Silver medal in the Men's +110 kg weightlifting event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ APEDA Facilitates First-Ever Air Shipment of Karnataka's Neelam and Totapuri Mangoes to the Maldives.
- ☐ General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), today launched the indigenously developed Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel in New Delhi. Developed jointly by the Indian Army and Oil Marketing Companies, the specialised fuel will enhance the mobility, safety and operational availability of combat and logistics vehicles in extreme climatic conditions. The technology also has wider civilian use in high-altitude and severe winter regions and represents a significant step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ☐ The Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) announced the successful go-live of the integration between the Maldives Instant Payment System, 'Favara', and India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on 30th July 2026. This marks a transformative milestone in cross-border digital financial connectivity and bilateral economic cooperation between the Maldives and India.
- ☐ India's social protection systems now cover about 101 crore people, or over 68 per cent of the population, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, said at the 4th Global Industrial Relations Summit in New Delhi today. This figure, the Minister said, had been highlighted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) the BRICS Labour Ministers' Meeting in Hyderabad last week.
- ☐ The eCourts Mission Mode Project, under the National e-Governance Plan, is being implemented by Department of Justice in coordination with eCommittee, Supreme Court of India. As per the information provided by eCommittee, Supreme Court of India, an AI-based tool Legal Research Analysis Assistant (LegRAA) has been developed by the Artificial Intelligence Division of NIC and the Centre of Excellence for eCourts (CoEE), NIC to assist Hon'ble Judges in legal research and document analysis.
- ☐ Indian Railways has achieved a historic milestone in the field of healthcare by successfully transporting a live donor heart by train for the first time in India. The life-saving organ was transported from Surat to Ahmedabad aboard Train No. 20901 Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar

Capital Vande Bharat Express, ensuring its safe and timely arrival for transplantation at the U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre, Ahmedabad.

- ☐ The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, will observe World Breastfeeding Week 2026 from 1st to 7th August across the country. This year's theme is Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works. The week-long campaign will create awareness among families, communities and healthcare providers about early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and continued breastfeeding up to two years and beyond alongside appropriate complementary feeding.
- ☐ The Mission Shakti App is a digital platform for women and child safety in India. It provides access to seven helpline services, including Women Helpline 181, Emergency Response Support System 112, National Cyber Crime Helpline 1930, Child Helpline 1098, and Tele-MANAS 14416.
- ☐ Two endangered tribal languages spoken by Mavila and Malaveduvan communities in north Kerala are being documented in dictionaries to preserve their linguistic heritage. The texts record the vocabulary, oral traditions and cultural identity of the communities with a combined population of around 60,000, spread across Kannur and Kasaragod. The Mavila dictionary has been completed and is scheduled for publication in the first week of August, while work on the Malaveduvan dictionary is under way. Together, the volumes will document more than 5,000 words.
- ☐ In an international collaboration, astronomers from Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), along with their counterparts from India, Italy, France and the U.S., have discovered the formation of a Blue Straggler Star (BSS) whose origin and evolution has long puzzled astronomers. The BSS is a peculiar class of stars found in star clusters that appear hotter, brighter and more massive than their peers, and in a study published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters astronomers have provided direct evidence of how such stars are created.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel was jointly developed by:

- (a) DRDO and ISRO
- (b) HAL and Bharat Petroleum
- (c) Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC
- (d) Indian Army and Oil Marketing Companies

The AI-based Legal Research Analysis Assistant (LegRAA) has been developed under:

- (a) Digital India Programme
- (b) eCourts Mission Mode Project
- (c) National AI Mission
- (d) India Justice Portal

With reference to the 'Samudra Manthan' Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to strengthen India's offshore oil and gas exploration and production ecosystem.
2. It includes large-scale acquisition, processing and interpretation of seismic data.
3. It is implemented by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

With reference to the Khelo India Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Khelo India is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
2. It was launched in 2017–18 with the vision of promoting grassroots sports and developing sports infrastructure.
3. The scheme aims at both mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports.
4. It is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Ministry of Education.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Which of the following objective best describes the Government e-Marketplace (GeM)?

- (a) Agricultural e-trading
- (b) E-commerce regulation
- (c) Transparent government procurement
- (d) Export promotion

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