

## 02/08/2026 Daily Current News

### 1. *Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):*

Context: Announced in August 2025, PM-VBRY is being implemented over a two-year period from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027, with an outlay of ₹99,446 crore. On 1 August 2026, the scheme completes one year of implementation, marking an important milestone in India's efforts to expand formal employment and social security coverage.

#### About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):

- ❖ PM-VBRY aims to generate employment for over 3.5 crore people, including 1.92 crore first-time employees.
- ❖ The scheme encourages young people to enter the organised workforce through EPFO registration.
- ❖ It also expands social security coverage across various sectors, particularly labour-intensive manufacturing. It complements the National Manufacturing Mission by promoting employment in new and expanding industries.

At the heart of PM-VBRY is a **two-part incentive framework**, with distinct provisions for employees and employers.

#### Part A: Incentive to First-Time Employees

- First-time employees earning up to ₹1,00,000 per month are eligible for this part.
- They receive a one-time incentive equivalent to one month's EPF wage, capped at ₹15,000.
- The incentive is paid in two instalments. The first is paid after six months of service and the second after twelve months of continuous service, following completion of a financial literacy programme.
- A portion of the incentive is invested in a designated savings instrument, encouraging financial security and savings. It can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date.

#### Part B: Support to Employers

- Employers are eligible for incentives for employees with salaries of up to ₹1,00,000 per month.
- Employers receive up to ₹3,000 per month for two years for every eligible additional employee retained for at least six months.
- The support lowers hiring costs and encourages sustained employment generation.
- For the manufacturing sector, incentives are extended to the third and fourth years as well, owing to high employment generation potential.

### 2. *Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026:*

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today presented the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 to National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval in Pune, Maharashtra.

#### About Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026:

- ❖ The award is conferred annually by the Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust and includes a memento, citation, and ₹1 lakh cash prize.
- ❖ Ajit Doval has been honoured for his exceptional contributions to national security, counter-terrorism, covert operations, and border security.
- ❖ His major contributions include Operation Black Thunder, the Doklam diplomatic negotiations, and the Balakot air strike.
- ❖ A 1968-batch IPS officer (Kerala cadre), Ajit Doval served in India's intelligence establishment for over three decades and later became the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- ❖ The award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.
- ❖ This award is given every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, to persons who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions, working for the progress and development of the nation.

#### **About Lokmanya Tilak:**

- ❖ Bal Gangadhar Tilak, popularly known as Lokmanya Tilak, was a leading nationalist, freedom fighter, social reformer, and educationist.
- ❖ He was born as Keshav Gangadhar Tilak and was later given the title "Lokmanya", meaning revered by the people.
- ❖ He was one of the strongest advocates of Swaraj (Self-Rule) and coined the famous slogan "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."
- ❖ Tilak was regarded as an Extremist (Radical Nationalist), and the British called him the "Father of Indian Unrest."
- ❖ He joined the Indian National Congress in 1890 and emerged as a prominent nationalist leader.
- ❖ In 1916, he co-founded the All India Home Rule League with Annie Besant and G. S. Khaparde to demand self-government.
- ❖ He founded the newspapers Kesari (Marathi) and The Maratha (English) to spread nationalist ideas.
- ❖ His notable books include The Arctic Home in the Vedas and Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Rahasya (Gita Rahasya).
- ❖ He co-founded the Deccan Education Society in 1884, which established Fergusson College and the New English School.
- ❖ Tilak taught Mathematics at Fergusson College and strongly promoted modern education.
- ❖ He supported social reforms, including the eradication of untouchability and child marriage, and promoted women's education.
- ❖ Along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal, he formed the famous Lal–Bal–Pal trio.
- ❖ He was imprisoned several times for sedition, and during his 1908–1914 Mandalay imprisonment, he wrote Gita Rahasya.
- ❖ In 1916, Tilak concluded the Lucknow Pact with Muhammad Ali Jinnah, promoting Hindu–Muslim unity in the freedom struggle.

### **3. *National Handloom Day:***

Context: The Ministry of Textiles will celebrate the 12th National Handloom Day on 7 August 2026 with a national function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC), New Delhi, to celebrate India's rich handloom heritage and recognise the contribution of the handloom weaving community to the nation's cultural and economic development

### About National Handloom Day:



- ❖ National Handloom Day is observed on August 7 to honor handloom weavers and acknowledge their contributions to India's economy and culture.
- ❖ It commemorates the Swadeshi Movement launched on this day in 1905.
- ❖ The day aims to highlight the significance of the handloom sector in the Indian economy and to promote the use of handloom products.
- ❖ The first National Handloom Day was celebrated on August 7, 2015.

### 4. *Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026:*

Context: India is ranked 176th out of 177 countries in the Yale Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026, with a score of 22.46, placing it second lowest globally (above Laos) and 7th among 8 South Asian countries, while Estonia topped the index with a score of 74.79.

### More details about Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026:

- ❖ Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is a biennial global index launched in 2000.
- ❖ It is jointly published by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy (YCELP) and the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN).
- ❖ EPI 2026 evaluates 177 countries using 47 indicators across 12 environmental issue categories.
- ❖ The indicators are grouped under three policy objectives: Environmental Health, Ecosystem Vitality, and Climate Change.
- ❖ The index tracks global progress towards the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ❖ Top 3 countries (2026): Estonia, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom.

- ❖ India ranked 176th in EPI 2026, the same as in 2024.
- ❖ India's ranking trend: 141 (2016) → 177 (2018) → 168 (2020) → 180 (2022) → 176 (2024 & 2026).
- ❖ India has remained among the five worst-performing countries since 2022.
- ❖ Major concerns: Poor performance in environmental health, air quality, biodiversity, with declines in fishery, tree cover, and pesticide pollution.
- ❖ Areas of relative improvement: Better performance in climate change mitigation, waste management, and sanitation.
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has criticized the EPI methodology for overlooking India's development stage, population, historical emissions, and the principle of CBDR, while relying on extrapolated and simplified comparisons.

### 5. *Shipki La:*

Context: The cross-border trade between India and China through Shipki La, known as the ancient Silk Route joining India with Tibet, resumed on Saturday after a gap of six years.

#### About Shipki La:

- ❖ Shipki La is a high-altitude mountain pass on the India–China border in Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It lies at an altitude of 3,930 metres and is one of India's highest motorable passes.
- ❖ The pass serves as a boundary post on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China.
- ❖ It is located near Khab village and is an offshoot of the ancient Silk Road.
- ❖ Originally known as Pema La (Shared Gate/Shared Pass), it came to be called Shipki La after the 1962 India–China War, when the Indo-Tibetan Border Police adopted the name.
- ❖ The Sutlej River (Langqen Zangbo in Tibet) enters India through Shipki La from the Tibet Autonomous Region.
- ❖ Shipki La is India's third border trade pass with China, after Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim).

#### Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated Yash Vir Singh on winning the Bronze medal in the Men's Javelin event at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Neeraj Chopra on winning the Silver medal in the Men's Javelin event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Yamini Maurya on winning the Silver medal in the 57 kg Judo category at the Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has congratulated Tejaswin Shankar on winning the Bronze medal in the Men's Decathlon event at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow.
- ☐ Ceuta is a Spanish autonomous city located on the north coast of Africa, bordering Morocco near the Strait of Gibraltar. Although it is an integral part of Spain and the European Union (EU), Morocco claims sovereignty over Ceuta. Along with Melilla, Ceuta forms the European Union's

only land border with Africa, making it a major hotspot for irregular migration, as thousands of migrants and refugees attempt to enter Europe through this route every year.

- ☐ Vizhinjam International Seaport is India's first deep-water container transshipment port, developed by the Government of Kerala to handle container transshipment, multi-purpose, and break-bulk cargo. The port has been developed under the PPP-DBFOT (Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer) model in partnership with Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited. Strategically located just 10 nautical miles from the major Europe–Persian Gulf–Far East international shipping route, it is well positioned to attract global maritime traffic. The port has a natural draft of about 18 metres, enabling it to accommodate large container vessels without the need for capital dredging, making it one of India's most strategically significant maritime infrastructure projects.
- ☐ Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh won India's first-ever judo gold medals at the Commonwealth Games on 31 July 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland. The medals were won at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) during the Commonwealth Games 2026.
- ☐ The Pacific island nation of Nauru has officially adopted the name Republic of Naoero.

## Practice questions:

### *Objective questions:*

Ceuta, recently mentioned in news in the context of the migration crisis, is located near which important maritime passage?

- (a) Strait of Hormuz
- (b) Bab-el-Mandeb
- (c) Strait of Gibraltar
- (d) Bosphorus Strait

India's first-ever Commonwealth Games judo gold medals were won by:

- (a) Yamini Maurya and Tejaswin Shankar
- (b) Harsh Singh and Asmita Dey
- (c) Priya Ghangas and Yash Vir Singh
- (d) Asmita Dey and Yamini Maurya

With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is being implemented from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2027.
2. It aims to generate employment for more than 5 crore people.
3. It seeks to promote formal employment through EPFO registration.
4. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one

- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Consider the following statements (CSP 2023)

Statement-I: 7th August is declared as the National Handloom Day.

Statement-II: It was in 1905 that the Swadeshi Movement was launched on the same day.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

***Mains practice question:***

Examination malpractices undermine meritocracy and public trust. Examine how the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 attempts to address this challenge.

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