

05/08/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Indigenous African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine:*

Context: Scientists at ICAR–National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (ICAR-NIHSAD), Bhopal, have developed India's first indigenous MA-104_Cell_Line-Based Live Attenuated African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine for pigs. Developed using a novel attenuated ASFV Genotype II virus with unique gene deletions in the MA-104 cell line, the vaccine is a major breakthrough in veterinary research and is well suited for large-scale production. The indigenous vaccine is expected to substantially reduce pig mortality, minimise economic losses and improve the livelihoods of pig farmers across the country.

About African Swine Fever (ASF):

- ❖ African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral hemorrhagic disease affecting domestic pigs and wild boars.
- ❖ Not a zoonotic disease – it does not infect humans or other livestock species.
- ❖ It causes very high morbidity and mortality (up to 90–100%), leading to severe economic losses in the pig farming sector.
- ❖ Origin & Distribution: First identified in sub-Saharan Africa; now widespread across Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- ❖ India: The first ASF outbreak was reported in January 2020 in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Transmission: Spreads through direct contact with infected pigs, soft ticks (in some regions), contaminated feed, pork products, and contaminated clothing, vehicles, equipment, and other fomites.
- ❖ Symptoms: High fever, weakness, loss of appetite, red skin, inflamed eyes, bloody diarrhea, vomiting, and sudden death; symptoms resemble Classical Swine Fever (CSF).
- ❖ Prevention: No effective treatment or commercially available vaccine; control relies on strict biosecurity, surveillance, movement restrictions, and culling of infected/exposed animals.

2. *Yuva Sangam:*

Context: The Ministry of Education today opened the online registration portal for Yuva Sangam Phase VII under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) initiative. Interested youth aged 18–30 years, including students of Higher Education Institutions, NSS/NYKS volunteers, and young professionals, are eligible to register.

About Yuva Sangam:

- ❖ Yuva Sangam is a flagship Youth Exchange Programme of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, aimed at strengthening emotional bonds and fostering mutual understanding among young citizens from different States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The initiative promotes the spirit of "Unity in Diversity" by facilitating structured exposure visits between paired States and Union Territories, enabling participants to experience India's rich cultural, linguistic, educational and developmental diversity firsthand.
- ❖ The programme is structured around the five thematic pillars (5 Ps) of Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions & Culture), Pragati (Development & Governance), Paraspar Sampark (People-to-People Connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology & Innovation).

- ❖ Through these thematic engagements, participants develop a deeper appreciation of India's cultural diversity while fostering mutual understanding and national unity, in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ Yuva Sangam is implemented through a collaborative "Whole of Government" approach with active support from participating Ministries, Departments, State Governments and partner Higher Education Institutions.

3. *Clouded Leopard:*

Context: On the occasion of International Clouded Leopard Day (August 4th), India has reaffirmed its commitment to the conservation of one of Asia's most elusive wild cats through the newly launched Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP). Prepared under the Government of India-GEF-UNDP initiative, the Action Plan CAP was released during the 91st meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wild Life (SCNBWL), held in the second week of July 2026, at Coimbatore.

About Clouded Leopard:

- ❖ Clouded Leopard is a medium-sized wild cat inhabiting dense forests from the Himalayas through Southeast Asia to South China.
- ❖ There are two species: Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) – Mainland Southeast Asia and Sunda Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis diardi*) – Sumatra and Borneo.
- ❖ It is an ancient cat lineage, but is neither a true big cat nor a true small cat, as it cannot roar or purr.
- ❖ Distribution: Found from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Indochina, southern China, Sumatra, and Borneo; also occurs at high elevations in the Himalayas.
- ❖ Distribution in India: Present in Sikkim, North Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura; it is the State Animal of Meghalaya.
- ❖ Habitat: Prefers lowland tropical rainforests, but also inhabits dry woodlands, secondary forests, and mangrove swamps (especially in Borneo).
- ❖ Physical Features: Measures 60–110 cm in length, weighs 11–20 kg, and has distinctive cloud-shaped dark markings on a pale yellow to brown coat.
- ❖ Unique Adaptations: Possesses an exceptionally long tail for balance, short legs, broad paws, and tiger-sized canine teeth relative to its body size.
- ❖ It is an arboreal and nocturnal predator, capable of climbing down trees headfirst, hanging upside down, and hunting in trees—a rare ability among cats.
- ❖ It is shy, elusive, and solitary, with an average lifespan of 13–17 years.
- ❖ Conservation Status: Classified as Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

4. *PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:*

Context: PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana Achieves Milestone of Over 50 Lakh Rooftop Solar Installations.

About PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

- ❖ PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched by Narendra Modi on 13 February 2024 with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore.
- ❖ The scheme aims to install rooftop solar systems and provide up to 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore households.
- ❖ It offers Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of 60% for systems up to 2 kW and 40% for additional capacity between 2–3 kW, capped at 3 kW.
- ❖ Beneficiaries can apply for subsidies through the National Portal and select approved vendors for installation.
- ❖ Households can avail collateral-free loans at around 7% interest for residential rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW.
- ❖ The scheme includes a “Model Solar Village” component to establish one model village per district to promote rural solar adoption.
- ❖ ₹800 crore has been allocated for Model Solar Villages, with ₹1 crore awarded to each selected village to promote energy self-reliance.
- ❖ Launched on 13 February 2024 with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has become the world’s largest domestic rooftop solar programme.
- ❖ Over 1 crore households have registered on the National Portal, with more than 33 lakh rooftop systems installed as of May 2026, adding over 12 GW capacity.

5. ***National Handloom Awards:***

Context: The President of India will present the prestigious Handloom Awards during the National Handloom Day celebrations on 7 August 2026. The function will be attended by the Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, senior dignitaries, representatives of the handloom industry, master weavers, designers, exporters, artisans, and other distinguished guests. A total of 22 awardees, comprising 3 Sant Kabir Handloom Awardees and 19 National Handloom Awardees, will be honoured for their exceptional contribution towards preserving, promoting and advancing India's rich handloom traditions.

More details:

- ❖ Ministry of Textiles announced the recipients of the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025.
- ❖ These awards are the highest national recognition for excellence in India's handloom sector.
- ❖ They are instituted under the Handloom Marketing Assistance (HMA) component of the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP).
- ❖ The awards recognize excellence in weaving, innovation, design development, marketing initiatives, start-ups, and producer companies associated with the handloom ecosystem.
- ❖ The awards will be presented during the National Handloom Day celebrations.
- ❖ The objective is to honour individuals and organisations that have strengthened India's handloom heritage and improved its domestic and global competitiveness.

Sant Kabir Handloom Award

- ❖ It is the highest honour for handloom weavers in India.
- ❖ It recognizes extraordinary craftsmanship, lifelong dedication, and the preservation and promotion of traditional weaving traditions.

- ❖ Selection criteria include technical excellence, innovation, sustained contribution, promotion of traditional weaving, mentoring artisans, and community development.
- ❖ Award Components: Gold Coin (Mounted), Tamrapatra, Shawl, and Certificate.

National Handloom Award

- ❖ It honours handloom weavers and other stakeholders for creativity, quality, innovation, and excellence in the handloom sector.
- ❖ It encourages product diversification, design innovation, superior craftsmanship, and expanded market outreach while preserving India's diverse handloom traditions.
- ❖ Award Components: Tamrapatra, Shawl, and Certificate.
- ❖ Both awards aim to promote innovation, preserve traditional skills, and support the socio-economic development of weaving communities across India.

6. *Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication technology:*

Context: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed mandating Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication systems in all new vehicles in a phased manner from October 2027 to enhance road safety.

About Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication technology:

- ❖ Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) is a wireless communication technology that enables vehicles to exchange real-time information such as speed, location, acceleration, braking, and direction.
- ❖ It is a subset of Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) technology and forms part of the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) framework.
- ❖ V2V is a key component of Vehicular Ad Hoc Networks (VANETs), supporting short- to medium-range and multi-hop communication between vehicles.
- ❖ Working: Vehicles are equipped with an On-Board Unit (OBU) (costing about ₹5,000–₹7,000) that wirelessly exchanges data with nearby vehicles within a range of about 300 metres.
- ❖ Communication Technologies: Uses Dedicated Short-Range Communication (DSRC), 4G/5G cellular networks, Wi-Fi, and WiMAX.
- ❖ Benefits: Provides real-time alerts on sudden braking, collision risks, black spots, accident-prone zones, fog, obstacles, and parked vehicles, thereby reducing accidents and traffic congestion.
- ❖ The technology is inspired by aviation safety systems, where aircraft continuously broadcast their position and speed to nearby aircraft and ground stations.

7. *Chandipura Virus (CHPV):*

Context: In Gujarat, 22 children died during the current monsoon season, 35 children tested positive from 184 suspected cases, and 11 sample results remained pending as of 3 and 4 August 2026 due to Chandipura Virus (CHPV).

About Chandipura Virus (CHPV):

- ❖ The Chandipura virus (CHPV) is a member of the Rhabdoviridae family, known to cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in humans.

- ❖ It was first identified in 1965 after being isolated from the blood of two patients from Chandipura village in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It affects mostly children and is characterized by influenza-like illness and neurologic dysfunctions.
- ❖ Transmission: Spread by vectors like mosquitoes, ticks, and sandflies.
- ❖ Symptoms: Fever, flu-like illness, and acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) .
- ❖ Diagnosis: Real-time reverse-transcriptase PCR assay helps diagnose the virus .
- ❖ Treatment: No specific treatment exists, with supportive care being the mainstay of management.
- ❖ Prevention: Avoiding mosquito, tick, and sandfly bites through repellents and protective clothing is crucial.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, along with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, today co-chaired the second Investors' Meet in Mumbai for India's first and only Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) in Gwalior, securing fresh investment commitments worth ₹2,000 crore for the initiative.
- ☐ Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) has so far introduced seeds of 18 crops and 124 varieties in the market under the 'Bharat Beej' brand for distribution across the country. BBSSL distributes its seeds through its nationwide network of member cooperative societies, private distributors and dealers, as well as through State Seed Federations and Seed Corporations under various government schemes.
- ☐ The Ministry of Education, under India's BRICS chairship 2026, is scheduled to host the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting and the 3rd BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting from August 5–7, 2026 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ☐ The Government of India is promoting balanced and sustainable fertilizer use through the PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM), while simultaneously expanding organic farming, natural farming and precision nutrient management to improve soil health, reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and promote environmentally sustainable agriculture.
- ☐ Nitrosamines (N-nitrosamines) are a class of chemical compounds formed when amines react with nitrites or nitrates under conditions such as high heat, acidic pH, or oxidising environments. They can be generated during food processing, storage, cooking, water disinfection, and even inside the human stomach. Growing consumption of processed foods, pharmaceuticals, and chemically treated water has increased concern over human exposure to nitrosamines. Long-term exposure to these compounds is associated with an increased risk of cancer, making their monitoring and regulation an important public health priority.
- ☐ Agratas, the battery arm of Tata Group, is developing proprietary lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cell technology for its factory at Sanand in Gujarat. Lithium iron phosphate is a lithium-ion battery chemistry that uses lithium iron phosphate as the cathode material. LFP cells are known in battery engineering for thermal stability, long cycle life, and lower reliance on nickel and cobalt than nickel manganese cobalt (NMC) cells.
- ☐ IIT Hyderabad and Crimson Energy Experts Pvt. Ltd. launched ANUGYAN, the Nuclear Technology Orientation Programme, on 3 August 2026. The three-month residential programme

is India's first industry-academia course for engineers and industry professionals in the civil nuclear energy sector.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) is being developed in:

- (a) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Hyderabad, Telangana
- (c) Pune, Maharashtra
- (d) Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

ANUGYAN, launched by IIT Hyderabad, is India's first initiative related to which of the following?

- (a) Commercial nuclear power generation project for electricity production
- (b) Industry-academia orientation programme for civil nuclear energy professionals
- (c) National nuclear reactor simulation training and research centre
- (d) Advanced nuclear medicine research and clinical innovation programme

Consider the following statements regarding the Clouded Leopard:

1. It can climb down trees headfirst and even hang upside down.
2. The Clouded Leopard has the largest canine teeth relative to body size among living cats.
3. The Clouded Leopard is the State Animal of Meghalaya.
4. It is capable of both roaring like a tiger and purring like a domestic cat.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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