

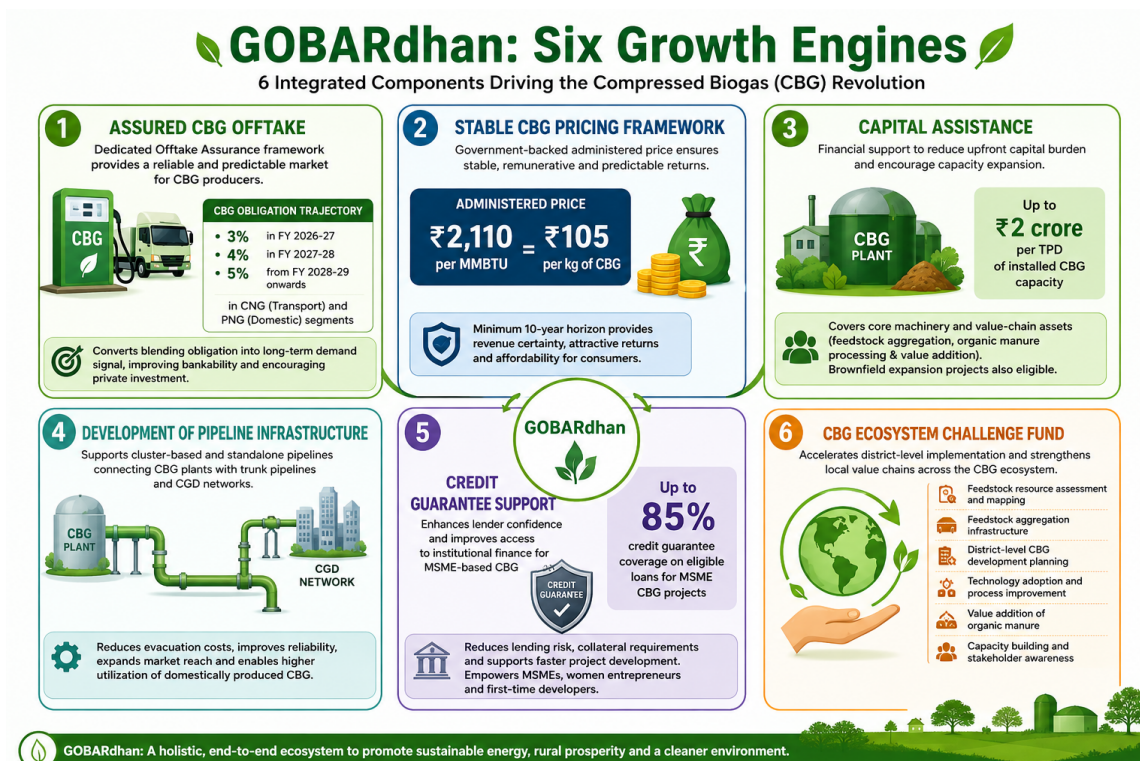
07/08/2026 Daily Current News

1. Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan):

Context: Union Cabinet approved GOBARdhan, the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore on 06 August 2026.

About Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan):

- ❖ Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan) was originally launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in 2018 as an integral component of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), converting bio-waste - animal waste, kitchen leftovers, crop residue and market waste, into biogas and bio-slurry, thereby ensuring cleanliness in villages and improving rural lives.
- ❖ Earlier, the Compressed Biogas (CBG) ecosystem was spread across four different ministries. To ensure better coordination and accelerate the sector's growth, the Government has consolidated the entire scheme under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG).
- ❖ Implementation Period: FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36 with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore.
- ❖ Objective: To establish Compressed Biogas (CBG) as a major pillar of India's future clean energy mix.



- ❖ Key Support Measures: Assured demand, remunerative and stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline infrastructure, credit guarantee, and technology development.

- ❖ Production Target: Increase domestic CBG production nearly ten-fold and accelerate nationwide expansion of the CBG sector.
- ❖ Economic & Environmental Goals: Mobilize large-scale private investment, promote waste-to-wealth initiatives, and develop a circular bioeconomy.
- ❖ Vision: Convert India's waste into clean energy, transform villages into clean energy hubs, and make farmers key partners in India's energy security.

2. *Agni missiles:*

Context: Medium Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-4' was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on August 06, 2026. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters. The test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

About Agni missiles:

- ❖ Agni-4 is an ingeniously built advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- ❖ It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptor missile.
- ❖ Agni-1 to 5 missiles are designed & developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ Agni I: Range of 700-800 km.
- ❖ Agni II: Range more than 2000 km.
- ❖ Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km
- ❖ Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
- ❖ Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

3. *The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:*

Context: The Act East Policy places the North Eastern Region (NER) at the centre of India's engagement with Southeast Asia. A central focus of the Act East Policy is development of cross-border connectivity infrastructure. The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project are flagship projects under this framework.

About India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway:

- ❖ Regional Connectivity Project: A major connectivity initiative linking India, Myanmar, and Thailand by road to enhance trade, tourism, and people-to-people ties.
- ❖ Route & Length: The highway is approximately 1,360 km (845 miles) long, connecting Moreh (Manipur, India) → Myanmar → Mae Sot (Thailand).
- ❖ Origin: The project was proposed by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and approved in April 2002 during a ministerial meeting of India, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- ❖ Construction: Work on the highway commenced in 2012 and is being executed in multiple phases.
- ❖ First Segment: The India–Myanmar Friendship Road forms the initial stretch, connecting Tamu/Moreh – Kalemmyo – Kalewa in Myanmar.

- ❖ **Implementation:** On the Indian side, the project is implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in coordination with Myanmar and Thailand, with funding support from the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ **Significance:** The highway is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy, strengthening connectivity with ASEAN, boosting regional trade, economic integration, and strategic cooperation in Southeast Asia.

About Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project:



- ❖ Kaladan Project would link India and Myanmar via the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ It aims to create a multi-modal mode of transport for the shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar as well as to the North-Eastern part of India through Myanmar.
- ❖ Once completed, it will link Kolkata with the Sittwe seaport in Rakhine state in Myanmar, primarily over the Bay of Bengal – covering over 500 km.
- ❖ The project envisaged four important stages: Kolkata to Sittwe waterway; Sittwe to Paletwa inland (River Kaladan) waterway; Paletwa to India-Myanmar border post in Myanmar; finally, linking the road to Lawngtlai in Mizoram as part of the project's last leg.

4. ***Prime Minister Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI):***

Context: Demonstrating how targeted financial assistance can transform lives, Rajan Kumar, a 25-year-old student from the Other Backward Class (OBC) community, successfully completed his Master of Business Administration (MBA) with support under the PM-YASASVI Scheme – Top Class Education for OBC, EBC and DNT Students.

About PM-YASASVI:

- ❖ PM-YASASVI is an umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, implemented by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, providing scholarships and hostel facilities for socially and educationally backward students.

- ❖ It aims to promote educational empowerment of students belonging to OBC, EBC, and DNT communities by providing scholarships and hostel facilities, enabling them to overcome financial and geographical barriers and complete quality education.
- ❖ Evolution: The hostel component began in 1998–99, was revised in 2017–18, and later consolidated into the PM-YASASVI umbrella scheme.
- ❖ Objective: To remove financial and geographical barriers and ensure equitable access to secondary and higher education.
- ❖ Beneficiaries: Students belonging to OBCs, EBCs, and Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs); OBC applicants must belong to the Non-Creamy Layer.
- ❖ Scholarship Components: Covers Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship, Top Class Education in Schools, and Top Class Education in Colleges.
- ❖ Hostel Provisions: Priority is given to rural post-matric and undergraduate students, with 5% reservation for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ Hostel Construction Norms: Per-seat cost is ₹3.50 lakh (North-East), ₹3.25 lakh (Himalayan States), and ₹3.00 lakh (Rest of India), with completion mandated within 18 months to 2 years.
- ❖ Implementation Features: Allows hostel construction on existing government campuses/projects, avoiding the need for new land acquisition.
- ❖ Fund Release & Monitoring: Central assistance is released in a 50:45:5 ratio, with the final installment linked to occupancy verification; 0.25% of the budget is earmarked for third-party quality audits and impact assessment.

5. *Dhansiri River:*

Context: The flood situation in Assam remained grim in affected areas due to the continuous rise in the water level of the Dhansiri river.

About Dhansiri River:

- ❖ Dhansiri is the main river of Golaghat District (Assam) and Dimapur District (Nagaland) and is an important tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- ❖ It originates from Laisang Peak in Nagaland.
- ❖ The river first flows northwest (about 40 km), then northeast (about 76 km) to Dimapur, and later flows northward before turning northwest near Golaghat.
- ❖ It finally joins the Brahmaputra River at Dhansirimukh in Assam.
- ❖ The river has a total length of about 352 km and a catchment area of around 1,220 sq. km.
- ❖ It flows along the Nagaland–Assam border, supporting rich biodiversity.
- ❖ The river corridor is flanked by Dhansiri Reserved Forest on one side and Intanki National Park on the other, making it an ecologically significant landscape.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Bhubaneswari Opencast Project (MCL), Odisha is a 30 MTPA coal mine in the Talcher Coalfield, integrating high productivity with sustainability and technology. In FY 2025–26, it produced 26.477 MT (105.98% of target), with a cumulative production of 370.4 MT, significantly supporting India's energy security.
- ☐ India successfully concludes the Tenth BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur under its BRICS Chairship 2026.
- ☐ Union Education Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi will participate in the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' meeting to be held tomorrow in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The Meeting will deliberate on key priorities including Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), skill development, research and innovation, mutual recognition of qualifications and academic leadership.
- ☐ The IndiaAI Mission, under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, organised the AIKosh University Engagement Programme (UEP) at Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab on August 6, 2026. The programme aimed to strengthen AI awareness, democratise access to AI resources, and equip students with the knowledge and tools required to participate in India's rapidly growing artificial intelligence ecosystem.
- ☐ The 82.15 Km long India's first Namoo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor namely, Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor (which includes 23 km of Meerut metro network on same infrastructure) has become fully operational since February, 2026. National Capital Region Transport Corporation Ltd. (NCRTC), the implementing agency for Namoo Bharat RRTS, has informed that as on date, over 3.8 crores commuters have availed the Namoo Bharat services since beginning of operation with a punctuality level of over 99%.
- ☐ BRICS WAVES Bazaar, a premier international marketplace for the creative economy brings together over 500 delegates from BRICS member and partner countries in Mumbai.
- ☐ Lesotho, with its capital at Maseru, is a landlocked country completely surrounded by South Africa and is popularly known as the "Kingdom in the Sky" or "Mountain Kingdom". It is the only country in the world where the entire territory lies above 1,400 m in elevation. Its major mountain systems are the Drakensberg and Maloti ranges, and its highest peak is Thabana Ntlenyana (3,482 m). The Orange River originates in the Lesotho Highlands. The country also shares the transboundary Maloti-Drakensberg Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising Sehlathebe National Park in Lesotho and Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg National Park in South Africa.
- ☐ The Falcon 9 is a reusable, two-stage orbital launch vehicle designed and manufactured by SpaceX to transport astronauts and payloads into Earth orbit and beyond. It is the world's first orbital-class reusable rocket, with its reusable first stage significantly reducing the cost of space missions by enabling multiple flights. In 2025, a Falcon 9 launched two commercial robotic lunar landers; after mission completion, the first stage successfully returned to Earth, while the second stage remained in space and eventually crashed into the Moon's surface, as announced by NASA.
- ☐ The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister and is headed by the Cabinet Secretary, the senior-most civil servant in India and ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board. It administers the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, provides secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and its Committees, ensures inter-ministerial coordination by resolving differences through Committees

of Secretaries, facilitates policy formulation and the smooth conduct of government business, and coordinates the management of major national crises and emergencies by ensuring effective cooperation among various ministries.

- ☐ The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism launched the 'As Seen on Netflix' section on the Incredible India portal on 5 August 2026. The feature was developed with Netflix India to connect films and series with real locations, cultural traditions, and travel experiences in India.
- ☐ Massachusetts declared August 15, 2026, as India Day across the state, and Boston issued a similar proclamation for the same date. The observance coincides with the 79th anniversary of India's independence from British colonial rule in 1947.
- ☐ Boleng in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh will host the Asian Rafting Championships 2026 from 5 October to 9 October 2026. The five-day event will take place on the Simang River, a Class III+ tributary of the Siang River, and will bring paddlers from across Asia to compete in white-water rafting events.
- ☐ The Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2026 is the second edition of the event and will be held from 23 to 25 October 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The Indian Rice Exporters' Federation (IREF), which represents over 8,000 rice exporters, is organising the conference.
- ☐ India's non-fossil fuel electricity generation capacity has crossed 300 GW and the country is on track to achieve its target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Which of the following is/are the function/functions of the Cabinet Secretariat? (CSP 2014)

1. Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
2. Secretariat assistance to Cabinet Committees
3. Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Which one of the following correctly distinguishes the Namo Bharat system from a conventional metro rail system?

- (a) It is designed primarily for long-distance freight movement similar to metro train for population
- (b) It provides high-speed regional connectivity between urban centres.
- (c) It operates on elevated corridors specifically to connect the IT corridors in major cities

(d) It is intended to support poor people with low cost metro logistics

Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries? (CSP 2026)

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
2. IMT Trilateral Highway
3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Consider the following statements regarding the GOBARdhan Scheme:

1. GOBARdhan is presently implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. The scheme aims to convert organic bio-waste into biogas and bio-slurry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

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