

UPSC Daily Current Affairs | One Liners 19-08-2026

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History, Art and Culture

Digitization of Medical Manuscripts

CCRAS-NIIMH Signs MoU with Sevadhi Museum and Indological Research Institute (SEMIRI) for Digitization of Medical Manuscripts.

- **Event** - MoU signed between NIIMH (Hyderabad) under CCRAS, Ministry of Ayush and SEMIRI, Kerala.
- *Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS); National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH)*
- **SEMIRI** - Located in Kumaranalloor, Kottayam.
- It is a heritage and research facility dedicated to preserving the cultural, social and administrative history of Central Travancore.
- **Collection** - Over 30,000 manuscripts, including rare works on Ayurveda and allied knowledge.
- **Process** - Systematic digitization and descriptive catalogue documenting bibliographic details.
- **Aim** - Preserve Kerala's medical heritage, reduce handling of fragile manuscripts.



Polity & Governance

Rural Tap Coverage in 2026

Jal Jeevan Mission clocks seven years; rural drinking water tap coverage surges from 16.7% to over 82%.

- **Launch** - Started on 15 Aug 2019.
- **Progress** - Coverage rose from 3.23 cr (16.7%) to 15.91 cr (82.24%) households.
- **Milestone** - 188 districts, 1.01 lakh GPs, 2.04 lakh villages certified Har Ghar Jal.
- **Impact** - 12.68 cr new households with tap water; improved health, hygiene, dignity.
- **JJM 2.0** - Focus on service delivery, source sustainability, community ownership.
- **Extension** - Mission continued till Dec 2028; promotes rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, water security



International Relations and Issues

12th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting

BRICS condemns EU carbon tax, calls for more adaptation finance for developing nations.

- **Stand** - BRICS opposes EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAMs) as punitive, discriminatory, protectionist.
- **Concern** - CBAMs may undermine developing countries' climate efforts; India's steel exports most exposed.
- **Demand** - Urges tripling adaptation finance by 2035; support must be new, predictable, concessional.
- **Context** - Meeting held in New Delhi under India's chairship; ahead of COP31 in Turkey.
- **Significance** - Stresses climate resilience, easier access to funds, and equity for developing nations.



7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting

7th BRICS ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Working Group Meeting continues in Pune with focus on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Digital Governance.

- **Focus** - DPI discussions on affordable, inclusive, reliable, secure, sustainable, citizen-centric digital services guided by openness, interoperability, sovereignty, privacy, trust.
- **India's Role** - Presented India's DPI, concept note on BRICS DPI Repository and Pilot Projects.
- **Reports** - Updates on capacity building, submarine cable cooperation, digital ecosystem webinars.
- **Task Force** - Draft Terms of Reference for Digital Applications Expert Group and Digital Governance Expert Group.

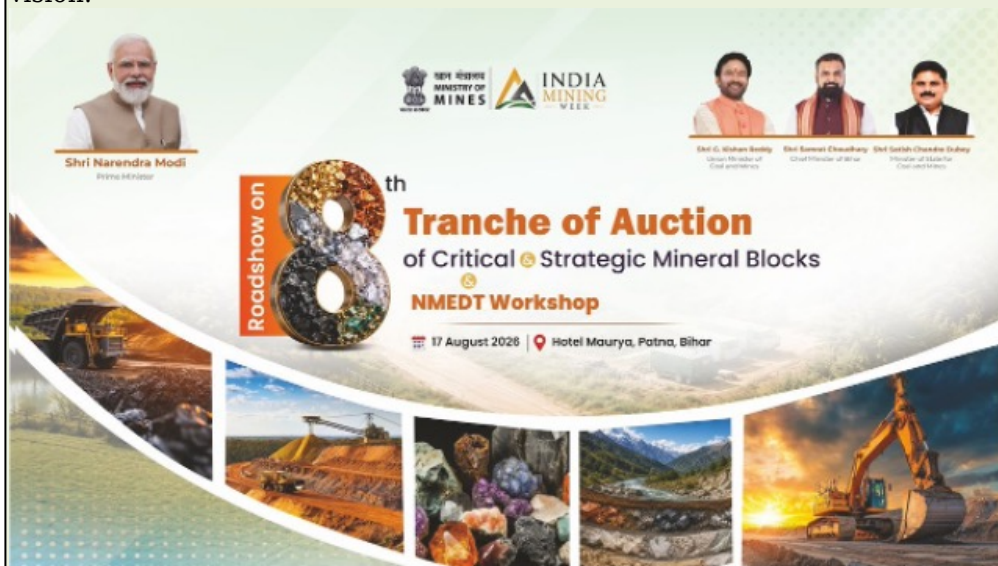


Economy

8th Tranche of Critical and Strategic Mineral Block Auctions

Ministry of Mines to organise Roadshow on 8th tranche of critical and strategic mineral block auctions in Patna.

- **Blocks** - 20 mineral blocks (3 Mining Lease, 17 Composite Licence) including Graphite, REE, Rare Metals, Vanadium, Gallium, Titanium, Molybdenum, Tungsten, Potash, Phosphorite, Glauconite.
- **Purpose** - Showcase mineral potential, auction framework, bidding process, investor opportunities.
- **Significance** - Promotes exploration, private participation, mineral security, Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.



Security

IN-USN Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026

8th Edition - IN-USN EOD Exercise 2026 concludes at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, enhancing interoperability and specialised maritime cooperation.

- **Stand** - Bilateral engagement between Indian Navy and US Navy on EOD operations.
- **Focus** - Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs) covered real-time threats from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), mine neutralisation, unmanned underwater systems.
- **Training** - Cross-training in diving, wreck salvage, specialist equipment, slithering operations.
- **Outcome** - Improved professional competence, skill-sets, mutual understanding.
- **Significance** - Strengthens operational synergy and cooperation in specialised maritime operations.

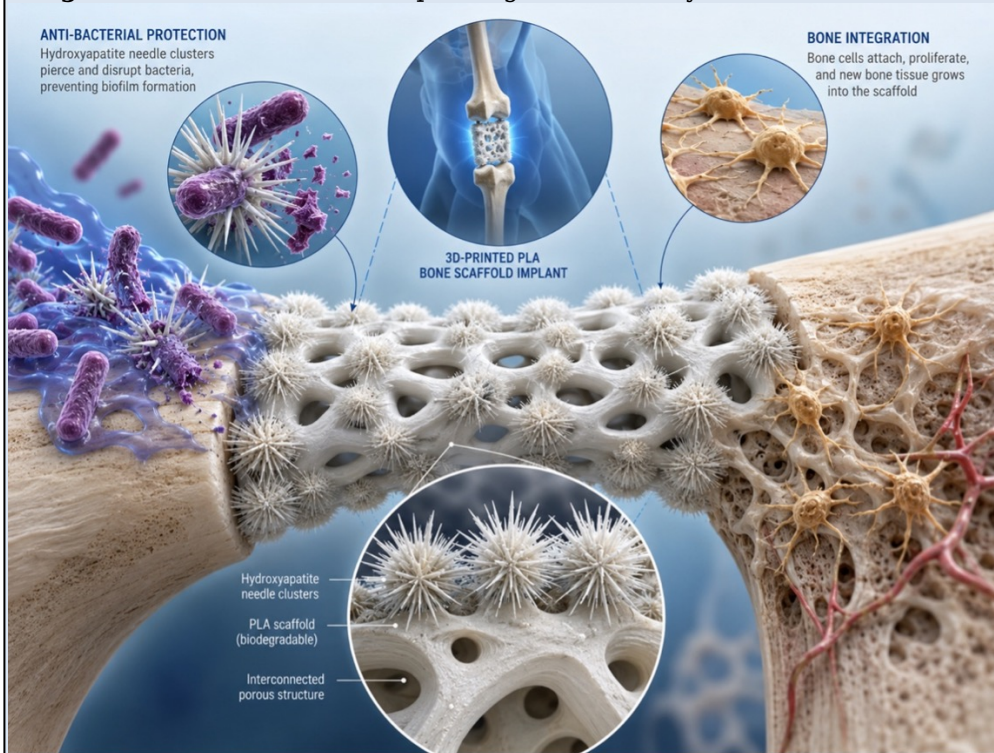


Science

Sea Urchin-Inspired Bone Implants

Recently, IIT Mandi develops hydroxyapatite surface to fight infection and aid bone integration.

- **Innovation** - Bio-inspired coating with hydroxyapatite needle clusters resembling sea urchins.
- **Process** - Two-stage: alkaline activation of 3D-printed PLA scaffold + hydrothermal treatment at 90°C.
- **Benefits** - Mechanically disrupts bacteria, prevents biofilms.
- Enhances bone bonding with biodegradable polylactic acid (PLA) scaffolds.
- **Applications** - Useful for orthopaedic, dental implants, biomedical devices.
- **Significance** - Combines 3D printing + biomimicry for advanced, infection-resistant implants.



Miscellaneous

Aparajita - Parang La

Recently, Defence Minister flags off All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026' in New Delhi.

- **Event** - A flagship adventure activity of the National Cadet Corps, in New Delhi.
- **Trek** - Spans 250 km Parang La Pass, connecting Spiti Valley (HP) to Changthang (Ladakh) over 30 days.
- **Team** - 28 Girl Cadets led by 3 women officers representing the 3 services.



World Humanitarian Day 2026

World Humanitarian Day 2026 observed on 19 August to honour humanitarian workers.

- **Theme** - "Honouring fallen humanitarian workers and calling for greater protection of health care."
- **Focus** - Tribute to humanitarian & health workers who lost lives in crises.
- **Need** - Greater protection for health workers, patients, facilities, medical transport.
- **Campaign** - Calls to end attacks, respect International Humanitarian Law, and #ActForHumanity.
- **History** - Date marks 2003 Baghdad Canal Hotel bombing; UNGA designated day in 2008.



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