

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

18-08-2026

Medak Fort

 Telangana Today

Postal department launches special cover and stamp on Medak fort

The postal department launched a postal cover and stamp on the historical Medak fort, in a rare honour. The initiative is expected to...



Why in News: The postal department issued a **postal cover and stamp** commemorating the historic **Medak Fort** in Telangana.

Historical Context

- **Medak Fort** is a historic hill fort located in **Medak town**, Telangana.
- It was built during the **12th century** under **Kakatiya ruler Pratapa Rudra** and was initially known as **MethukuDurgam**.
- The fort later served as a **command post for the Qutub Shahis**.



Architectural Features

- The fort covers about **100 acres** and contains a lake, barrack, warehouse, granaries and an **11-foot-long 17th-century cannon**.
- Its three principal entrances are **Prathama Dwaram, SimhaDwaram and GajaDwaram**.
- The main entrance bears the double-headed **Gandabherundam**, associated with the **Vijayanagara Empire** and ruler **Sri Krishnadevaraya**.
- A **17th-century mosque** built during the Qutub Shahi period is also located within the fort.

National Anubhav Awards

Why in News: The **National Anubhav Awards 2026** were conferred on **15 awardees** in New Delhi.

Institutional Framework

 News On AIR

15 people get National Anubhav Awards for their contributions in Nation-building

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh today conferred the National Anubhav Awards, 2026 to 15...



- The awards were launched in **March 2015** by the **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW)** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions**.
- They recognise and incentivise **outstanding contributions and work experiences** of retiring employees.

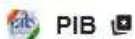
Award Structure

- **Anubhav Awardees** receive a **medal, certificate and ₹10,000 prize**.
- **Jury Certificate Winners** receive a **medal and certificate**.

Eligibility and Objectives

- Eligible employees include those of **Central Government, CPSEs and Public Sector Banks** who are due to retire within **8 months** or have retired within **3 years**.
- The initiative creates a database of significant **suggestions and work experiences** for institutional learning.
- It helps Ministries and Departments identify **useful and replicable suggestions** from retiring personnel.

Appeal and Complaint Management System (AppCoMS) 2.0



[Central Information Commission launches upgraded Second Appeals and Complaints Portal on 17 August 2026](#)

Why in News: The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** launched the upgraded **AppCoMS 2.0** for digital management of RTI appeals and complaints.

RTI Governance Framework

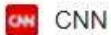
- AppCoMS was initially introduced by the **Central Information Commission in September 2016**.
- It enables citizens to file **Second Appeals and Complaints** online under the RTI framework.
- The **CIC** functions as the appellate authority for second appeals under the **RTI Act**.



Digital Features

- The upgraded platform provides user accounts for **applicants, CPIOs and other stakeholders**, linked with email IDs and mobile numbers.
- Applicants can track **case timelines**, access documents and download hearing notices and decisions.
- The system enables **Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs)** for digitally signing and issuing notices and orders.
- AppCoMS 2.0 aims to improve **security, functionality and workflow efficiency**.

Lake Powell



'Uncharted territory': Second-largest reservoir in US plunges to a record low

Lake Powell, the second-largest reservoir in the United States, provides water and electricity to millions in the West.



Why in News: **Lake Powell**, one of the largest reservoirs in the United States, has fallen to its **lowest level since filling began**, raising concerns over the Colorado River system.

Geographical Setting

- Lake Powell is a **man-made reservoir on the Colorado River** extending across **Utah and Arizona, USA**.
- It was created by the construction of the **Glen Canyon Dam**, which flooded Glen Canyon.
- It is the **second-largest US reservoir by volume**, after **Lake Mead**.



Hydrological Significance

- At full capacity, it is designed to store more than **26 million acre-feet (MAF)** of water.
- Much of its water originates from **snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin**.
- It functions as a major **water-storage reservoir** for states in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Ecological and Economic Features

- Lake Powell is an **oligotrophic reservoir**, characterised by relatively low nutrient concentrations and algal production.
- Its clear waters, sandstone canyons and rock formations make it an important **recreation area**.

INS Imphal

Why in News: More than **200 students from Indian schools in Muscat** visited the indigenously built **INS Imphal** while it was berthed at **Sultan Qaboos Port, Oman**.



Over 200 students visit Indian warship berthed at Oman port

Over 200 Indian school students in Muscat visited the indigenously built warship INS Imphal at Sultan Qaboos Port as part of India's 80th...



Indigenous Naval Capability

- **INS Imphal** is an indigenously built **stealth guided-missile destroyer** of the Indian Navy.
- It is the **third ship of Project P-15B**, also known as the **Visakhapatnam class**.
- It was commissioned in **December 2023** and belongs to the **Indian Navy's Western Fleet**.
- The **Navy's Warship Design Bureau** designed it, while **Mazagon Dock Ltd. (MDL)** constructed it.

Key Specifications

- The ship has about **75% indigenous content**, measures **163 m** in length and has a displacement of **7,400 tonnes**.
- It has a complement of approximately **315 personnel** and can attain speeds exceeding **30 knots**.
- Its maximum operating endurance is about **45 days**.
- It uses four gas turbines in a **Combined Gas & Gas (COGAG)** configuration.

Strategic Capabilities

- Its warfare roles include **Anti-Air Warfare (AAW)**, **Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW)** and **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)**.
- Its weapons include **BrahMos missiles**, **medium-range surface-to-air missiles**, **anti-submarine rocket launchers** and a **76-mm super-rapid gun**.
- Enhanced stealth reduces its **Radar Cross Section (RCS)**, while its **Total Atmospheric Control System (TACS)** protects personnel against chemical, biological and nuclear threats.

Distinctive Features

- INS Imphal is the **first Indian warship named after a city in Northeast India**, with Imphal being the capital of Manipur.
- It was the first naval warship commissioned with accommodation facilities for **women officers and sailors**.

Exercise MAITREE-XV



PIB

INDIAN ARMY CONTINGENT DEPARTS FOR INDIA-THAILAND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE MAITREE-XV

The Indian Army contingent departed today for Thailand to participate in the 15th edition of the India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise...



Why in News: An Indian Army contingent departed for **Thailand** to participate in the **15th edition of Exercise MAITREE (MAITREE-XV), 2026**.

Bilateral Defence Framework

- **Exercise MAITREE** is a bilateral military exercise between the **Indian Army and Royal Thai Army**.
- It was instituted in **2006** to strengthen military cooperation and exchange operational best practices.
- The 2026 Indian contingent is represented primarily by troops from the **9 Gorkha Rifles**.



Operational Focus

- The exercise focuses on company-level joint training in **jungle and semi-urban terrain**.
- Training covers **Joint Counter-Insurgency/Terrorist Operations** under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter**.
- Activities include field exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and a culminating validation exercise.

Strategic Significance

- The exercise facilitates the exchange of **operational experience, contemporary equipment and military technologies**.
- It strengthens long-standing **India–Thailand bilateral defence relations**.

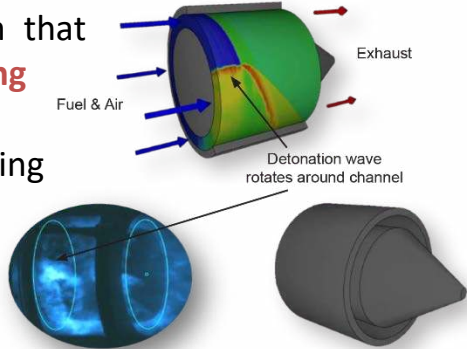
Other Important News of the day

Places in News	Mount Kanlaon
	Why in News: Mount Kanlaon in the Philippines recently emitted a greyish volcanic plume rising about 200 metres above its summit crater. Geographical and Geological Setting ➤ Mount Kanlaon is an active stratovolcano on Negros Island, Philippines, and forms part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. ➤ At about 2,465 m, it is the highest peak in the Visayas region and the tallest mountain on Negros Island. ➤ Its summit contains a broad northern caldera with a crater lake and a smaller historically active crater to the south.



	Volcanic Structure ➤ The volcano contains fissure-controlled pyroclastic cones and craters, several of which contain lakes. ➤ Its base covers approximately 30 km × 14 km and consists of lava flows, lahar deposits, airfall tephra and pyroclastic materials. ➤ Its slopes form important headwater catchments for major river systems of Negros Island. Eruptive Behaviour ➤ Kanlaon has erupted more than 30 times since 1819. ➤ Most eruptions are phreatic eruptions, which are driven by steam and generally produce small to medium quantities of ash. ➤ The volcano is also biologically diverse and supports various flora and fauna.
Sports	Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship  ChessBase India <u>Saranya Devi Narahari Becomes 2026 Asian Junior Girls Blitz Champion</u> Vignesh Advait Vemula scored 6/7 points to become the 2026 Asian Junior Blitz Champion. Vignesh Vemula, Viresh Sharnarhi, and Nandish VS...  Why in News: Indian players Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi won the Open and Girls' gold medals, respectively, at the Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship in Mumbai on 17 August 2026. Key Results ➤ Vignesh Vermula, the 23rd seed, won the Open title on tie-break scores. ➤ Sharnarhi Viresh and Nandish V S secured silver and bronze, respectively. ➤ Saranya Devi, the ninth seed, won the Girls' title, while Prishita Gupta and Shanmathi Sree won silver and bronze. ➤ The championship was held at ITC Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai, under the Maharashtra Chess Association. Important Facts ➤ Blitz chess is a fast format with a very limited time control. ➤ Tie-break scores determine rankings when players finish with equal points.

	➤ The event included separate Open and Girls' sections and was inaugurated by former BMC Commissioner Jayraj Pathak.
Disease	Huntington's Disease ThePrint <u>DNA damage could be causing Huntington's disease. Study opens door to a new way to treat</u> New Delhi: A discovery by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reveals a new class of treatments for Huntington's disease.  Why in News: Researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA, are exploring potential new treatments for Huntington's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disorder. Genetic Basis ➤ Huntington's disease is a rare hereditary disorder caused by a mutation in the HTT gene. ➤ If one parent has the disease, the affected individual has a 50% chance of inheriting the condition. ➤ The mutation produces abnormal huntingtin proteins that contribute to neuronal degeneration. Neurological Effects ➤ The disease primarily damages neurons in the basal ganglia, affecting body movements, and the cerebral cortex, affecting cognition and memory. ➤ Common manifestations include chorea, abnormal postures, behavioural changes, emotional disturbances and cognitive decline. ➤ Symptoms usually appear between 30 and 50 years, although juvenile and late-onset cases also occur. Epidemiology and Treatment ➤ Huntington's disease affects an estimated 3–7 people per 100,000. ➤ Around 5–10% of cases develop symptoms before age 20, while about 10% have onset after age 60. 

	➤ There is currently no cure, although medicines can manage some symptoms. ➤ Patients generally die within 15–20 years after symptom onset.
Defence	Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE) THE Hindu <u>Rotating detonation engines: the science and the promises</u> Recently, India-based defence start-up D-Propulse announced that it had successfully demonstrated a rotating detonation engine at a Defence...  Why in News: Defence start-up D-Propulse demonstrated a Rotating Detonation Engine (RDE) at a DRDO facility in Hyderabad. Propulsion Technology ➤ An RDE is a propulsion system that generates thrust using rotating supersonic detonations. ➤ Unlike conventional engines using deflagration, RDEs burn fuel through rapid supersonic detonation. ➤ The rotating detonations produce more thrust for the same amount of fuel.  Key Advantages ➤ RDEs can potentially provide greater range, higher speed and improved affordability. ➤ Their compact design can free volume for additional fuel or payload. ➤ The absence of moving parts makes RDEs mechanically simpler than conventional gas-turbine engines and potentially cheaper to manufacture.
Science and Technology	Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) THE Hindu <u>IT Ministry approves ₹7,877 crore worth projects under electronic component scheme</u> IT Ministry approves ₹7877 crore projects under ECMS, boosting India's electronics manufacturing with new components and job creation.  Why in News: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 31 additional applications under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).

Policy Architecture

- The **ECMS** was launched in **2025** by the **Ministry of Electronics & IT**.
- It aims to build a robust domestic **electronic components manufacturing ecosystem** and integrate Indian industry with **Global Value Chains (GVCs)**.

Incentive Mechanism

- The scheme provides **turnover-linked incentives** based on revenue.
- It provides **capex-linked incentives** for investments in plants and machinery.
- A **hybrid incentive model** combines turnover- and capital-expenditure-linked incentives.
- **Employment generation** is mandatory for both component manufacturers and capital-equipment producers.

Targeted Components

- ECMS primarily focuses on **passive electronic components**, including **resistors, capacitors, speakers, microphones, special ceramics, relays, switches and connectors**.
- **Active electronic components** fall under the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.

Implementation Framework

- The scheme has a **six-year tenure** with a **one-year gestation period** for the turnover-linked incentive.
- The **capex-linked incentive** is available for a **five-year period**.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Kirti Chakra for Inspector Sunil Kumar

 Hindustan Times

[Kirti Chakra for fallen UP STF brave heart Sunil Kumar | Hindustan Times](#)

LUCKNOW UP Special Task Force (STF) inspector Sunil Kumar was awarded the Kirti Chakra posthumously for displaying exceptional courage...



Why in News: **Uttar Pradesh Police Inspector Sunil Kumar** was posthumously awarded the **Kirti Chakra** for exceptional bravery during an encounter with the **Mukim Kala gang** in **Shamli district**.

Gallantry and Sacrifice

- Inspector **Sunil Kumar**, an **STF inspector**, was killed while leading an operation against criminals belonging to the **Mukim Kala gang**.
- Four gang members, including **Arshad**, were killed during the encounter.
- He continued leading the operation despite grave danger and sacrificed his life in the **line of duty**.

Award and Recognition

- The **Kirti Chakra** was presented posthumously to his family on **Independence Day** by **Meerut Zone ADG Bhanu Bhaskar**.
- Inspector Sunil Kumar became the **first Uttar Pradesh Police personnel to receive the Kirti Chakra**, according to the provided source.
- **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** paid tribute to him and described the recognition as a proud moment for Uttar Pradesh.

Kirti Chakra

- The **Kirti Chakra** is a major Indian peacetime gallantry award recognising **conspicuous gallantry** and exceptional courage.
- It is awarded for acts of bravery performed **otherwise than in the face of the enemy**.