

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

29-08-2026

PARIVARTAN Scheme

 News On AIR

Government says 1,500 beneficiaries registered under PARIVARTAN scheme in one month

Government has said that around one thousand five hundred beneficiaries have been registered on PARIVARTAN, (Programme for Accelerated...



Why in News

- Around **1,500 beneficiaries** have been registered under the **PARIVARTAN Scheme** since its launch.

Environmental Objective

- **PARIVARTAN** stands for **Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions**.
- It aims to replace older, highly polluting **trucks and buses in the NCR** with cleaner **BS-VI-compliant or electric vehicles**.
- The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** and funded by the **National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)**.

Incentive Mechanism

- Benefits include **Motor Vehicle Tax concessions**, **registration-fee waivers**, and **5% interest subvention** on vehicle loans.
- Eligible beneficiaries can also receive a minimum **8% OEM discount**, monthly fuel-voucher support for eligible diesel/CNG replacement vehicles, and one-time assistance for electric replacement vehicles.

Digital Integration

- The scheme uses an integrated digital platform interfacing with **VAHAN, V-Scrap, DigiELV, PFMS** and participating lenders.
- **Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi** have issued notifications granting **Motor Vehicle Tax incentives**.

Defence Export Reforms: Open General Export Licence (OGEL)

Why in News

- The **Department of Defence Production**, Ministry of Defence, has undertaken reforms to simplify the **Defence Export SOP and OGEL framework**.

 The Times of India

Centre cuts red tape to fast-track India's defence exports - what it mean

In an effort aimed to make India's defence exports more competitive, the Department of Defence Production, a part of the defence ministry...



Core Features

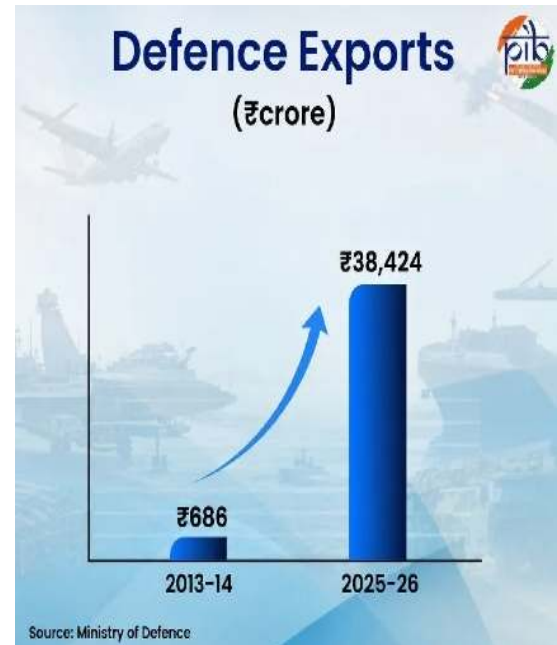
- **OGEL** is a standing, one-time export authorisation that allows eligible exporters to self-generate authorisations for multiple consignments of specified defence items.
- It was first introduced in **2019** to facilitate defence exports and reduce the need for separate authorisations for each consignment.

Recent Reforms

- Three existing OGEL SOPs covering major platforms and equipment, parts and components, and intra-company technology transfers have been merged into a **single framework**.
- OGEL validity has increased from **two to three years**, reducing renewal and compliance requirements.
- Coverage has expanded from **41 countries to all countries**, except negative/sensitive nations and countries subject to **UN Security Council sanctions or arms embargoes**.

Export Facilitation

- A new provision supports Indian companies having long-term contracts with **Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (FOEMs)**.
- The revised framework permits specified **civil-end-use exports of parts and components of small-calibre arms and protective equipment**, subject to prescribed conditions.



National Test House (NTH)

News On AIR

National Test House establishes advanced Shoe Testing Laboratory in Ghaziabad

The National Test House (NTH) of Northern Region in Ghaziabad, under the Department of Consumer Affairs, has established a state-of-the-art...



Why in News

- The **National Test House** is set to host its **115th Foundation Day** celebration at its **Jakkuru Campus, Bengaluru**.

Institutional Profile

- NTH is a premier scientific organisation of the Government of India established in **1912 under the then Railway Board**.
- It is India's largest **multi-location, multidisciplinary government testing laboratory** for testing, calibration and quality evaluation according to national and international standards.

Technical Functions

- It provides **technical consultancy, testing, calibration and quality evaluation** across multiple sectors.
- It supports **NABL** in accreditation activities and **BIS** in standard formation through technical assistance.
- It is also a pioneering government entity in **drone certification**, besides undertaking **EV battery testing** and **organic food testing**.

Administrative and Geographical Profile

- NTH functions under the **Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**.
- Its branches are located at **Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Guwahati and Varanasi**.

Renaming of Lake Ontario as "Lake America"

Hindustan Times

Trump's 'Lake America' name change sparks 'Donald Ducks' memes on social media | Hindustan Times

US President Donald Trump on Thursday renamed Lake Ontario "Lake America" amid trade war with Canada. The executive order applies to the US...



Why in News

- On **27 August 2026**, U.S. President **Donald Trump** signed an executive order directing the federal government to rename **Lake Ontario** as **"Lake America"**.

Geographical Significance

- **Lake Ontario** is the **easternmost of North America's five Great Lakes** and lies along the **Canada–United States border**.
- The other Great Lakes are **Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Lake Erie**.
- The Great Lakes constitute a major shared freshwater system between **Canada and the United States**.



Institutional and Legal Dimension

- The order directed the U.S. Department of the Interior to update the **Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)** within **30 days**.
- **GNIS** is the official U.S. federal database for geographic names and is maintained by the **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** under the Department of the Interior.
- The U.S. executive order cannot unilaterally rename the **Canadian portion of an international lake** or compel Canada to adopt the new name.

Bilateral Context

- Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney** rejected the proposed renaming and stated that Canada would continue using **Lake Ontario**.
- The development occurred amid strained **Canada–U.S. trade relations**, including U.S. tariffs and Canadian retaliatory measures.

High Court Bench for Ladakh

Live Law

President Promulgates Regulation Allowing Ladakh Bench For J&K&L High Court

President Droupadi Murmu has promulgated a regulation providing for the establishment of a sitting bench of the High Court of Jammu and...



Why in News

- President **Droupadi Murmu** promulgated the **Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026** on **27 August 2026**.

Constitutional and Statutory Basis

- The regulation was issued under **Article 240 of the Constitution**, which empowers the President to make regulations for certain Union Territories.
- **Section 58(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** provides the statutory basis for arrangements relating to the common High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Judicial Arrangement

- Judges and Division Courts of the **High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh** may sit in Ladakh at a venue selected by the Chief Justice, subject to approval by the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**.
- The Chief Justice may direct cases originating from Ladakh to be heard at **Jammu or Srinagar**.
- The principal seat of the common High Court remains unchanged.

India–China Boundary Consensus

TOI The Times of India

India & China announce 8-point boundary consensus before Xi's visit, target early & substantial harvest i

India News: NEW DELHI: India and China jointly announced Wednesday that the Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary question...



Why in News

- India and China reached an **eight-point consensus** during the **25th Round of Special Representatives' Talks** on the boundary question held in **Beijing on 25 August 2026**.

Diplomatic Mechanism

- The talks were co-chaired by India's **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** and China's **Foreign Minister Wang Yi**.
- The **Special Representatives mechanism** is the principal bilateral diplomatic format for discussions on the India–China boundary question.
- The **Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC)** was established in **2012** for consultation on border affairs.



LAC and Border Management

- The consensus focused on maintaining **peace and tranquillity** and reducing friction along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- The LAC is the **de facto boundary** between Indian- and Chinese-controlled areas but is **not a formally demarcated international boundary**.
- Existing **diplomatic and military communication channels**, including local commander-level meetings, will be used to address ground situations promptly.

Military Communication

- Additional meeting points were proposed for the **General Level Mechanism** and **Senior Highest Military Commander meetings**.
- Two new **military border hotlines** were proposed for the **Eastern and Middle Sectors**.

Trans-Border River Cooperation

- The two countries agreed to hold the next meeting of the **Expert-Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers** in **September 2026**.
- The mechanism is associated with **hydrological data sharing** and renewal of **MoUs on river cooperation**.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** is India's nodal ministry for bilateral diplomacy and external relations.

Other Important News of the day

Persons in News

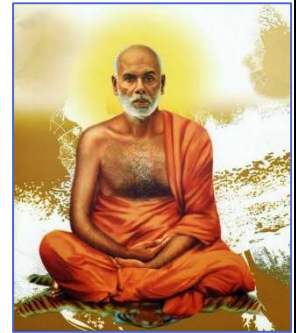
Sree Narayana Guru

Why in News

- The Prime Minister recently paid tribute to **Sree Narayana Guru** on his birth anniversary.

Social Reform Legacy

- **Sree Narayana Guru** was a saint, philosopher and social reformer from **Kerala** who challenged the caste system and social inequality.
- He belonged to the **Ezhava community** and advocated the principle **“One Caste, One Religion, One God for Mankind.”**



Major Movements and Institutions

- In **1888**, he consecrated a **Shiva idol at Aruvippuram**, symbolising resistance to caste-based restrictions on temple entry.
- The **Sri Narayana Guru Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP)** was established in **1903** under the Indian Companies Act, with Narayana Guru as permanent chairman and **Kumaran Asan** as general secretary.
- The **Sivagiri Foundation** was established in **1924** to promote cleanliness, education, devotion, agriculture, handicrafts and trade.

Literary Contributions

- His important works include **Advaita Deepika, Atmavilasam, Daiva Dasakam and Brahmavidya Panchakam**.
- He also participated in the **Vaikom Satyagraha**, associated with resistance to caste discrimination, untouchability and inequality.

India–Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting



Inaugural India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee Meeting Held in New Delhi

The inaugural meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) was held in New Delhi on August 28, 2026. Both countries agreed to...



Why in News

- The inaugural meeting of the **India–Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** was held in **New Delhi**.

Geographical Location

- Kuwait** is located in **Western Asia**, at the northern edge of Eastern Arabia and the tip of the **Persian Gulf**.
- It shares land borders with **Iraq** to the north and west and **Saudi Arabia** to the south, while the **Persian Gulf** lies to its east.
- Its capital is **Kuwait City**.

Regional and Economic Linkages

- Kuwait is a member of the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**, **Arab League**, **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** and **OPEC**.
- Its major mineral resources are **petroleum and natural gas**.

Physical Geography

- Kuwait has a **hyper-arid desert climate** with recurrent climatic extremes.
- It has **no perennial rivers or lakes**, with **wadis/transient watercourses** draining into inland basins, and much of the country lies within the **Arabian Desert**.



Environment	Sesame
	bl. BusinessLine <u>TNAU sees black sesame prices at ₹140-145/kg during harvest</u> Prices could vary depending on monsoon performance and the volume of arrivals from other sesame-growing States.  Why in News • Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has forecast that good-quality black sesame may fetch ₹140–145 per kg during the harvest season. Botanical and Historical Significance • Sesame is scientifically known as Sesamum indicum L. and is regarded as one of India's oldest indigenous oilseed crops. • Remnants of sesame seeds have been discovered at Harappa and Mohenjodaro, indicating its ancient cultivation in the Indian subcontinent. Agro-Climatic Conditions • Sesame generally requires an optimum temperature of 25–35°C, while temperatures above 40°C with hot winds can reduce oil content. • It prefers well-drained light to medium-textured soils, particularly sandy loams with adequate moisture. • It is cultivated during kharif in arid and semi-arid tropics and during rabi/summer in cooler areas. Production Geography • Sesame is cultivated across most parts of India, with more than 85% of production coming from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
Defence	Javelin Missile Why in News • The source provides information on the Javelin Missile, an American-made anti-tank guided missile.

Technical Profile

- **Javelin** is a **medium-range, man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile (ATGM)**.
- It entered service with the **US military in 1996** and is jointly developed and produced by **Raytheon and Lockheed Martin**.
- Its standard effective range is about **2.5 km**.



Operational Capabilities

- It can be launched in **top-attack or direct-attack modes** and can also be fired from a remote launcher mounted on an **unmanned ground vehicle**.
- It is designed against **main battle tanks, lighter military vehicles, bunkers, fortifications and helicopters**.

Guidance Mechanism

- Its **fire-and-forget** capability allows the missile to guide itself after launch, enabling the operator to reposition or take cover.
- In the **top-attack profile**, the missile climbs above the target and strikes its relatively weaker upper armour.

Uttar Pradesh in News

Fragrance Park, Lucknow

Hindustan Times

From garbage dump to Fragrance Park: New green space opens in Old Lucknow | Hindustan Times

Spread across 2.20 acres, the Lala Lajpat Rai Fragrance Park has been developed at a cost of around ₹5 crore by the Lucknow Development...



Why in News

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** is scheduled to inaugurate the **Fragrance Park** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**, in **August 2026**.

Development and Features

- The park has been developed by the **Lucknow Development Authority (LDA)** and the **Lucknow Cultural and Art Museum**.
- It contains more than **200 species of aromatic, ornamental and medicinal plants**.
- An **interpretation centre** uses videos to provide information about the plants, while **CCTV cameras** support security and monitoring.

Urban and Environmental Significance

- The project has transformed a previously neglected **wasteland** into an attractive public recreational space.
- The park combines **environmental awareness, recreation, heritage conservation and public education**.

Cultural Dimension

- Statues of **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Sardar Bhagat Singh** have been installed in the park.
- The project adds a new public attraction for residents and visitors while integrating **heritage with urban development**.