

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 12 August, 2025



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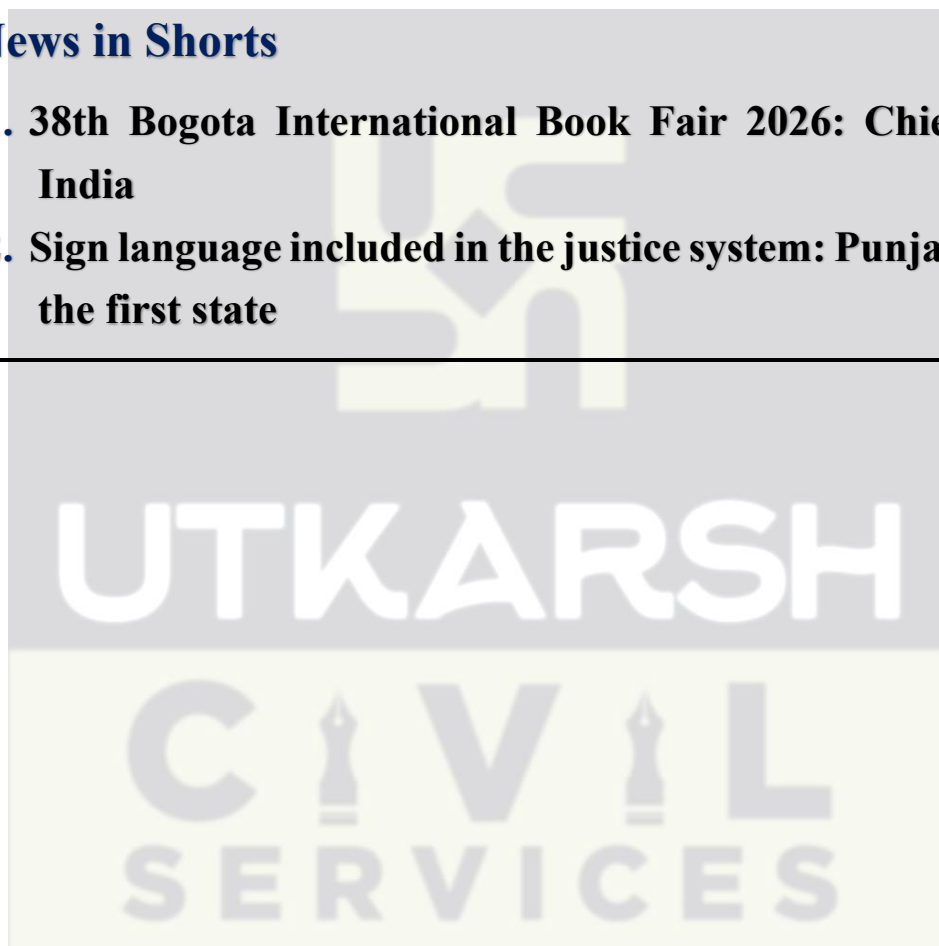
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Rajasthan

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - Claim Payment Program

➔ Why in News?

- On August 11, 2025, a crop insurance claim payment program was organized in Jhunjhunu under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.



➔ Main Point

- In the program, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma transferred the first installment of insurance claim amount for Rabi season 2024-25 and Kharif season 2024 to the accounts of farmers through DBT.
- In the program, 34 lakh 48 thousand farmers across the country were benefited under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, including 9 lakh 70 thousand farmers of Rajasthan.

- In Rajasthan, 7 crore 4 lakh crop insurance policies have been done under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Also, crop insurance claim has been paid to 1 crore 48 lakh farmers.

Facts for Prelims:

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

- **Launch:** 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' was launched by the Central Government on February 18, 2016 with the objective of providing a comprehensive protection against crop losses due to unforeseen natural calamities.
- **Main objective:** To provide financial assistance to farmers suffering from crop loss/damage due to natural calamities such as hailstorm, drought, flood, cyclone, heavy and unseasonal rains, diseases and pest attacks, etc.
- **Premium:** Farmers pay affordable premium – 2 per cent for Kharif crops, 1.5 per cent for Rabi crops and 5 per cent for annual commercial or horticultural crops.
- In January 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) up to the financial year 2025-26 with a total budget of ₹69,515.71 crore.
- The Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is a weather index-based scheme that was launched simultaneously with PMFBY. The basic difference between PMFBY and RWBCIS is in the methodology of calculating admissible claims for farmers.

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajivikas) and Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Committee (RVJVVS) with the aim of strengthening the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and linking them with alternative, sustainable and diverse livelihood opportunities.



➔ Main Point

- This MoU is specifically signed under the Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP), which is being run by RVJVVS in collaboration with Rajasthan Forest Department.

Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP)

- Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP) is an initiative supported by the French Agency Française de Développement (AFD), which will run for 8 years from the year 2023-24 to 2030-31.

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- **Total cost of the project:** ₹1,693.91 crore, (₹1,185.28 crore as loan contribution from AFD and ₹508.63 crore provided by the State of Rajasthan)
- The project is being implemented in 13 districts of Rajasthan; Alwar, Baran, Bhilwara, Bharatpur, Bundi, Dausa, Dholpur, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Karauli, Kota, Sawai Madhopur and Tonk.
- It involves activities for 800 villages, aimed at conserving biodiversity and enhancing deciduous forest resources in the eastern region of the state.
- The main objective of RFBDP is to conserve biodiversity and enhance forest resources to combat climate change, which will be done through community empowerment.

Main Activities:

- **Afforestation:** To increase green cover to restore ecological balance.
- **Soil and Water Conservation:** Enhancing soil fertility and water availability.
- **Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation:** Improving habitats and promoting wildlife development works.
- **Capacity Building and Research:** Organizing training programmes and research activities for effective forest management.
- **Livelihood Improvement:** Supporting forest-dependent communities through participatory management under Joint Forest Management.

World Tribal Day – State Level Function

➔ Why in News?

- The Tribal Area Development Department organized a state level function on World Tribal Day at Mahipal Sports Ground in Sagwara, Dungarpur.



➔ Main Point

- **World Tribal Day:** Celebrated every year on 9 August.
- **Theme for the year 2025:** Indigenous Peoples and AI: Defending Rights, Shaping Futures.
- In December 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution declaring the year 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples. In the year 1994, the United Nations announced the celebration of this day.

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- According to the 2011 census, 8.6 percent of India's total population is tribal groups.

Facts for Prelims:

Tribal Pride Day:

- The Union Cabinet decided to celebrate 15 November (birthday of Lord Birsa Munda) as 'Tribal Pride Day' to honour the brave tribal freedom fighters on the occasion of completion of 75 years of India's independence on 15 November 2021.

Other important points:

- Tribal Pride Day has been declared a public holiday in Rajasthan.
- Manikya Lal Verma established 'Khandlai Ashram' in Sagwara (Dungarpur) in the year 1934 to spread education and development among tribal Bhils and Harijans.

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New Chairman of AIIMS Jodhpur - Dr. Tejas Madhusudan Patel

➔ Why in News?


- Recently, renowned cardiologist from Gujarat Dr. Tejas Madhusudan Patel was appointed as the new Chairman of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jodhpur by the Central Government.



➔ Main Point

- Renowned cardiologist Dr. Tejas Madhusudan Patel has been awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in the year 2024 for his pioneering work in the field of interventional cardiology.
- Dr. Patel has received the degree from UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, Ahmedabad.
- Dr. Tejas Madhusudan Patel will replace S.S. Patel.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur was established in the year 2012 as an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Prof. Nand Kishore Pandey</p>  <p>♦ Recently, Rajasthan Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Bagde appointed Prof. Nand Kishore Pandey as the Vice Chancellor of Haridev Joshi University of Journalism and Mass Communication, Jaipur.</p>

2.

Play 'Maktoob' staged in Italy



- ♦ Jaipur's theatre director Sikandar Khan will represent India in the 27th edition (2025) of the International Theatre Festival.
- ♦ The play 'Maktoob' written and directed by Sikandar Khan will be staged in this festival.
- ♦ **Event:** 4 to 7 September, 2025.

3.

Muskan Kothotya wins gold medal in Taekwondo

- ◆ Muskan Kothotya, a student of Girls School run by Keshav Vidyapeeth Samiti located in Jamdoli (Jaipur), won the gold medal in the 'International Taekwondo



Championship' held in Thailand from 8 to 10 August, 2025.

4.

BSF's Operation Alert



- ◆ Recently, 'Operation Alert' was launched by the Border Security Force (BSF) on the international border located in Jaisalmer.
- ◆ This operation has been started keeping in mind the possibility of possible infiltration on Independence Day.

5.

'Tere Mere Sapne' Pre-Marital Dialogue Center

- ◆ The Department of Women's Empowerment is setting up pre-marital counseling centers in all the divisions of Rajasthan. Earlier, such centers have been established in two divisions; Bikaner and Udaipur.
- ◆ The purpose of setting up such centers is to prepare the youth mentally, emotionally and socially before marriage so that they can understand their relationship better and lay the foundation for a successful married life.
- ◆ It is worth noting that the National Commission for Women (NCW) had launched a new initiative of pre-marital counseling centers 'Tere Mere Sapne' on the occasion of International Women's Day-2025.
- ◆ **Chairman of National Commission for Women: Vijaya Rahatkar.**



6. **New women safety and advice centers in 20 police stations of the state**



- ♦ The Women Empowerment Department will open new women safety and advice centers in 20 police stations of the state to provide help and advice to women suffering from domestic violence.
- ♦ One center will be opened in Jaipur district, while the maximum 3 centers will be opened in Sikar and 2 centers in Jodhpur district.

National

Visit of President of Philippines Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. to India

➔ Why in News?

- From August 4 to 8, 2025, President of the Republic of Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. paid a State Visit to India.



➔ Main Point

- This was the first visit of President Marcos to India since assuming office as the President of the Philippines.
- President Marcos' State Visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of India-Philippines diplomatic relations (1949).

Agreements/MoUs:

1. **India-Philippines Strategic Partnership: Action Plan (2025-29)** focusing on key areas such as defence, trade, technology, maritime cooperation, connectivity and climate change.

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2. **Terms of Reference for Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard Air Force Talks.**
3. **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters between the Government of India and the Government of the Philippines.**
4. **Treaty on Transfer of Convicts between the Government of India and the Government of the Philippines.**
5. **Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology between the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India and the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines for the period 2025-2028.**
6. **Implementation Programme (2025-2028) between the Department of Tourism of the Government of the Philippines and the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India on Tourism Cooperation.**
7. **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the Philippines on Cooperation in the Field of Digital Technology.**
8. **Statement of Intent between Indian Space Research Organisation and Philippine Space Agency for Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.**
9. **Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of India and the Government of the Philippines.**

Announcements:

1. **India will provide assistance in the pilot project for establishment of Sovereign Data Cloud Infrastructure of the Philippines.**

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2. Philippines invited to participate in the Indian Ocean Region – Information Fusion Centre (IFC-IOR).
3. Free e-tourist visa facility extended to citizens of Philippines for a period of one year from August, 2025.
4. Jointly released commemorative postage stamp to mark 75th anniversary of establishment of India-Philippines diplomatic relations.
5. Terms of Reference adopted for negotiations on Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Philippines.

Other important points:

- In 2022, India signed a deal to supply BrahMos missiles to the Philippine Navy, India's first major defence export to Southeast Asia.

Philippines:



Important Days

World Day of Indigenous Peoples: 9 August

➔ Why in News?

- World Day of Indigenous Peoples is celebrated every year on 9 August with the aim of protecting the rights of indigenous communities and promoting their cultural heritage.



➔ Main Point

- **Recognition:** By the United Nations General Assembly in December 1994.
- **Reason:** This day is celebrated to commemorate the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in the year 1982.
- **Theme:** "Indigenous peoples and AI: Protecting rights, shaping the future."
- **2025 Equator Prize:** One of the ten indigenous-led, community-based organisations selected by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the Equator Prize 2025 is India's Bibi Fatima Self Help Group, which supports village farmers through multi-cropping, seed banks and solar energy processing.

Status of tribals in India:

- According to the 2011 census, they constitute about 8.6% of the total population of India.
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission classified Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, which were considered less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, PTG was renamed as PVTG and currently there are 75 PVTGs groups.
- Of the 75 PVTGs groups listed in India, the highest number is found in Odisha.

Major Initiatives of Government of India:

- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools:** Launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 1997-98 to establish residential schools to provide high quality education in tribal areas.
- **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana:** Van Dhan Yojana was launched as a pilot project by the Prime Minister of India in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh on 14 April 2018 to promote livelihood opportunities based on forest resources.
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN):** November 15, 2023 (Tribal Pride Day)
- **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED):** Incorporated in August 1987 by the Government of India as a national level cooperative institution under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984.
- **Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools:** Launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to facilitate digital education in tribal schools.

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International Youth Day

➔ Why in News?

- International Youth Day is celebrated every year on 12 August.

➔ Main Point

- The first International Youth Day was celebrated on 12 August 2000 and since then, it is celebrated every year to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and to recognize the potential of youth as partners in the current global society.
- **Theme for the year 2025:** Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond.
- The idea of International Youth Day was first proposed in the year 1991 by young people gathered in Vienna, Austria for the first session of the World Youth Forum.
- In the year 1999, the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth adopted a resolution to declare 12 August as International Youth Day, which was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 December 1999.

Other important points:

National Youth Day:

- Every year on 12 January, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, 'National Youth Day' is celebrated across the country.
- Celebrating 12 January as National Youth Day started in the year 1984.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to make Swami Vivekananda's thoughts, ideals and his working methods a source of inspiration for the Indian youth.



Personality

S. Radha Chauhan: Chairperson of Capacity Building Commission

➔ Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Government appointed senior administrative officer and former Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) S. Radha Chauhan as the full-time Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission (CBC).



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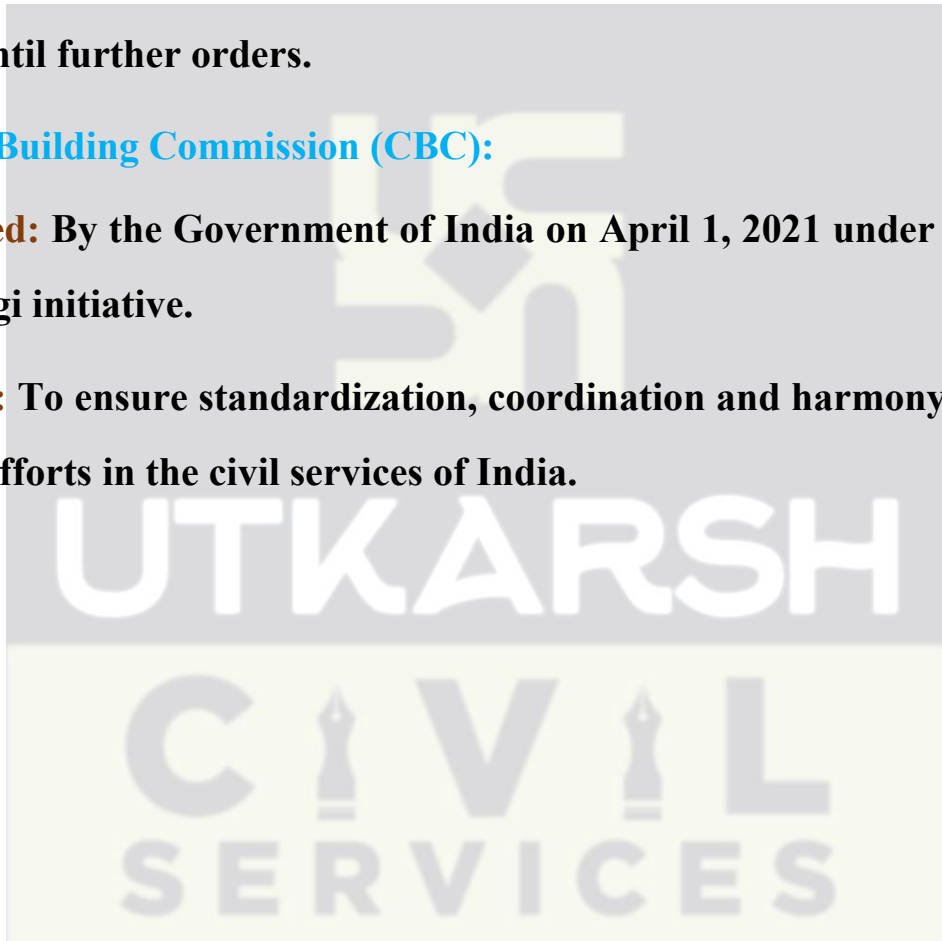


➡ Main Point

- Radha Chauhan will replace Adil Zainulbhai, who served as its founding chairperson since the inception of the Commission in April, 2021.
- Radha Chauhan will hold the post for a period of three years from August 1, 2025 or until further orders.

Capacity Building Commission (CBC):

- **Established:** By the Government of India on April 1, 2021 under the Mission Karmayogi initiative.
- **Objective:** To ensure standardization, coordination and harmony of capacity building efforts in the civil services of India.



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News in Shorts

S. No.	News
1.	<p>38th Bogota International Book Fair 2026: Chief Guest – India</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ India has been invited as the 'Guest of Honour' country to the 38th Bogota International Book Fair (FILBO) 2026.◆ Since the year 1988, the Colombian Book Chamber and Corferias organize the Bogota International Book Fair.◆ The National Book Trust of India showcased a group exhibition of books from India for the first time at the 37th Bogota International Book Fair 2025 held from 25 April to 11 May this year.

2. **Sign language included in the justice system: Punjab becomes the first state**



- ◆ To make the justice system more inclusive, the Punjab government formally listed sign language interpreters, translators and special educators under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- ◆ With this, Punjab became the first state in India where sign language experts have been appointed to provide justice to differently-abled children.
- ◆ This facility will also be applicable to cases under JJ Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012.