

August 13, 2026

DAILY MASTER CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Executive Summary of the Day

Welcome to the Daily Master Current Affairs! Today's digest covers essential updates across National Affairs, Banking & Finance, Appointments, Science & Technology, Important Days, and Obituaries for August 13, 2026. Review all sections thoroughly along with the practice MCQs and quick revision sheet at the end.

1. National News

Kavach 4.0 Approved for 660 Route Km in Izzatnagar Division

- Kavach Version 4.0 has been approved for 660 route kilometres of the Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway at an estimated cost of **₹295 crore**.
- The project will be implemented under the umbrella work for providing Kavach with an LTE communication backbone.
- Kavach is India's indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system that prevents Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD) incidents and train collisions by continuously monitoring train movements and applying brakes automatically.

NSP Initiative for Agriculture Students: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the scholarship and fellowship fund disbursement for agriculture students through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) at ICAR-IARI, Pusa. A total of **₹21.35 crore** was transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to over 6,000 agriculture students across India, providing monthly payments.

Asia's First Desert-Themed Drive-Through Night Safari: The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) approved the Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at Deesa, Banaskantha, Gujarat, spread



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over 103 hectares with an estimated cost of **₹542.14 crore**. It will house around 2,700 animals and birds across nearly 83 species.

First-Ever Black-necked Crane Festival: Ladakh is hosting its first-ever Black-necked Crane Festival to promote conservation. The **Changthang Cold Wildlife Sanctuary** is the only breeding ground of the Black-necked Crane in India (key wetlands: Tsokar and Hanle at 2,500–5,000m elevation). The crane is the State Bird of Ladakh and the only alpine crane species in the world.

‘Srijan: Voices from the Loom’: Organized by the Ministry of Textiles in New Delhi to celebrate and honor over 100 women weavers from six handloom clusters. An anthology featuring their stories was also released.

‘Gramin Gyan Setu’ App Launched: Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the app on National Library Day (birth anniversary of Padma Shri S. R. Ranganathan) to integrate libraries across the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency of Gujarat (63 village libraries established, 752 connected via app).

IIHT SUTRA 2026: Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated IIHT SUTRA 2026, the 1st national conclave of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology, in New Delhi under the theme “*IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate. Transform.*”

2. Banking & Financial News

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 4.45% in July 2026

According to data released by MoSPI, India's CPI-based retail inflation rose to **4.45%** in July 2026 from 4.38% in June 2026. Based on the new 2024=100 base, July inflation stood at **4.84% in rural areas** and **3.96% in urban areas**.

Previous Months CPI Trend (Base Year 2024): January (2.75%), February (3.21%), March (3.4%), April (3.48%), May (3.93%), June (4.40%).

3. Appointments & International News

Dr. Bhooma VG Appointed VC of AIPSI: Dr. Bhooma VG (IRPS Retd.) has been selected as the Vice-Chancellor of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation (AIPSI) in



Mauritius (formerly Civil Service College of Mauritius, jointly inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam in March 2025).

4. Science & Technology

VinSpace Signs Deal with SpaceX: Vietnam's VinSpace (subsidiary of Vingroup, est. Nov 2025) signed a contract with SpaceX to launch its first satellites in 2027 via a SpaceX Transporter rideshare mission.

5. Important Days

- **13 August - International Left-Handers Day:** First observed in 1976, initiated by Dean R. Campbell, founder of Left-Handers International, Inc.
- **13 August - World Organ Donation Day:** Observed annually to raise awareness about organ donation and transplantation.

6. Obituary News

Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji Dies at 97: Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji (Vice Premier 1991–1998, Premier 1998–2003) passed away at 97. He played a major role in China's economic reforms and guided China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2002.

7. Daily MCQs for Practice (Top 15)

Q1. What is the estimated cost of the Kavach 4.0 project approved for 660 route km in the Izzatnagar Division?

- a. a) ₹200 crore
- b. b) ₹250 crore
- c. c) ₹295 crore
- d. d) ₹350 crore

Answer: c) ₹295 crore



Q2. Which authority approved Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari in Deesa, Banaskantha, Gujarat?

- a. a) Wildlife Institute of India
- b. b) Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
- c. c) National Tiger Conservation Authority
- d. d) Gujarat Biodiversity Board

Answer: b) Central Zoo Authority (CZA)

Q3. Which sanctuary in Ladakh is the only breeding ground of the Black-necked Crane in India?

- a. a) Hemis High Altitude National Park
- b. b) Changthang Cold Wildlife Sanctuary
- c. c) Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary
- d. d) Kanji Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: b) Changthang Cold Wildlife Sanctuary

Q4. What app was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on National Library Day to connect village libraries in Gujarat?

- a. a) Gramin Shiksha Setu
- b. b) Gramin Gyan Setu
- c. c) Pustakalaya Setu
- d. d) Digital Gyan Setu

Answer: b) Gramin Gyan Setu



Q5. What was the theme of IIHT SUTRA 2026, the first national conclave of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology?

- a. a) Handloom India: Traditional to Modern
- b. b) IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate. Transform.
- c. c) Crafting Futures: Indian Weavers
- d. d) Srijan: Voices from the Loom

Answer: b) IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate. Transform.

Q6. According to MoSPI data, India's retail inflation (CPI) for July 2026 stood at what percentage?

- a. a) 4.38%
- b. b) 4.45%
- c. c) 4.84%
- d. d) 3.96%

Answer: b) 4.45%

Q7. Based on the new 2024=100 CPI base, what was the rural inflation rate in July 2026?

- a. a) 3.96%
- b. b) 4.38%
- c. c) 4.74%
- d. d) 4.84%

Answer: d) 4.84%

Q8. Dr. Bhooma VG has been selected as the Vice-Chancellor of which institute in Mauritius?

- a. a) Civil Service Academy
- b. b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation (AIPSI)
- c. c) Mauritius Institute of Management
- d. d) Indian Ocean Public Service Institute

Answer: b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation (AIPSI)



Q9. Vietnam's VinSpace signed a contract with which space company to launch its first satellites in 2027 via a rideshare mission?

- a. a) Blue Origin
- b. b) ISRO
- c. c) SpaceX
- d. d) Rocket Lab

Answer: c) SpaceX

Q10. Who initiated the first observance of International Left-Handers Day in 1976?

- a. a) Dean R. Campbell
- b. b) Rudolf Diesel
- c. c) S. R. Ranganathan
- d. d) Paul Dirac

Answer: a) Dean R. Campbell

Q11. Former Premier Zhu Rongji, who recently passed away at 97, was instrumental in guiding which country's entry into the WTO in 2002?

- a. a) Vietnam
- b. b) China
- c. c) Mauritius
- d. d) Singapore

Answer: b) China

Q12. How much total amount was transferred via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to agriculture students under the NSP initiative launched by Shivraj Singh Chouhan?

- a. a) ₹15.50 crore
- b. b) ₹21.35 crore
- c. c) ₹25.00 crore
- d. d) ₹50.00 crore

Answer: b) ₹21.35 crore



Q13. Which event is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles in New Delhi to celebrate and honor over 100 women weavers?

- a. a) IIHT SUTRA 2026
- b. b) Srijan: Voices from the Loom
- c. c) Vande Mataram Weaves
- d. d) Gramin Gyan Setu

Answer: b) Srijan: Voices from the Loom

Q14. International Biodiesel Day on 13 August commemorates which pioneer who demonstrated the use of peanut oil as fuel in 1893?

- a. a) Dean R. Campbell
- b. b) Rudolf Diesel
- c. c) S. R. Ranganathan
- d. d) Zhu Rongji

Answer: b) Rudolf Diesel

Q15. What is the estimated cost of the CZA-approved Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at Deesa, Banaskantha, Gujarat?

- a. a) ₹295 crore
- b. b) ₹350 crore
- c. c) ₹542.14 crore
- d. d) ₹660 crore

Answer: c) ₹542.14 crore



★ ONE-PAGE QUICK REVISION ★

1. National News: Kavach 4.0 approved for 660 km in Izzatnagar Division (₹295 crore). NSP initiative transferred ₹21.35 crore via DBT to >6,000 agriculture students. CZA approved Asia's 1st desert-themed night safari at Deesa, Gujarat (103 hectares, ₹542.14 crore). Ladakh hosted 1st Black-necked Crane Festival at Changthang Sanctuary. Textiles Ministry to organise 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom'. Amit Shah launched 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app on National Library Day. Giriraj Singh inaugurated IIHT SUTRA 2026.

2. Economy: Retail Inflation (CPI) rose to **4.45%** in July 2026 (June was 4.38%). Based on 2024=100 base, rural inflation stood at 4.84% and urban inflation at 3.96%.

3. Appointments & Sci-Tech: Dr. Bhooma VG appointed VC of AIPSI in Mauritius. Vietnam's VinSpace partnered with SpaceX for a 2027 rideshare satellite launch.

4. Important Days & Obituary: 13 August observed as International Left-Handers Day (first in 1976 by Dean R. Campbell) and World Organ Donation Day. Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji died at 97 (guided China's 2002 WTO entry).

