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Weekly Current Affairs

August 2026 - Week 4

24 - 30 August 2026 | Exam Revision Notes

40+ Topics · 12 Sections · ~35 Min Read

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Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz! This week brought a rich set of developments — Nepal floods, AP's emergence as a major subsea cable hub, UPI's 10-year milestone, new environment notifications, critical defence deliveries, and rich AP epigraphy — all directly relevant to your APPSC journey.

Read each topic carefully, note the key facts, and revise before your next practice session. Consistency is your greatest weapon. **Every small step today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.**

— Team ReadingRoomz | contact@readingroomz.com

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1. International Current Affairs

Flash Flood Strikes Nepal's Bhotekoshi River Basin - 157 Deaths; 133 Indian Nationals Missing

A massive flash flood struck Nepal's **Bhotekoshi River basin** on **26 August 2026**, severely affecting **Rasuwa district** near the Nepal-Tibet border. **157 deaths** reported; hundreds missing including **133 Indian nationals**. Nepal's **NDRRMA** indicated a rock-and-ice landslide/glacial collapse ~20 km northeast of the **Rasuwagadhi border crossing** generated a debris-laden flood in the **Lhende River** (a Bhotekoshi tributary), which moved downstream through the **Bhotekoshi-Trishuli river system**.

River System: Bhotekoshi River originates in Tibet → flows into Nepal's Trishuli River → eventually enters India as the Gandak River.

Panama-Flagged MV Ocean Winner Sinks off Odisha Coast - 24 Crew; Iron Ore Cargo

The Panama-flagged bulk carrier **MV Ocean Winner** sank in the Bay of Bengal, about **240 nautical miles off the Paradip coast of Odisha**, on **22 August 2026**. Carrying iron ore; **24 crew members** (20 Chinese, three from Myanmar, one from Bangladesh). Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy launched a major search-and-rescue operation.

7th Session of the India-Morocco Joint Commission - Bilateral Trade ~\$4 Billion; 70th Anniversary in 2027

India and Morocco agreed to **double bilateral trade over the next five years** at the **7th Session of the India-Morocco Joint Commission** in Morocco in August 2026. Bilateral trade: **~USD 4 billion in 2025**. Sectors: fertilisers, minerals, machinery, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, renewable energy, and digital technologies. A **Cultural Exchange Programme 2026-2030** was signed. India and Morocco will mark their **70th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027**.

2. National Current Affairs

Mizoram Adopts 'Ro Min Rel Sak Ang Che' as Official State Song - Composed by Rokunga (1947)

The **Mizoram Legislative Assembly** **unanimously adopted** the song '**Ro Min Rel Sak Ang Che**' as Mizoram's official State song on **27 August 2026**. Resolution moved by CM **Lalduhoma**. Composed in **1947 by renowned Mizo writer and composer Rokunga**. Title means "**Be Thou Our Counsellor**". Previously an unofficial State anthem, it now has formal recognition.

NCW Forms Panel to Probe 'Paro' or 'Molki' Marriages - Mewat Region, Nuh District, Haryana

The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** constituted a five-member fact-finding team to examine the practice of '**Paro**' or '**Molki**' marriages in the Mewat region, particularly **Nuh district, Haryana**. Women from economically vulnerable communities in other States are reportedly brought through intermediaries and married to local men, allegedly involving monetary transactions. The inquiry will examine allegations of resale, abuse, and inter-State trafficking.

₹472 Crore T-Series Tanks Overhaul Facility - Vehicle Factory Jabalpur; AVNL; 80 Tanks/Year

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** performed the Bhoomi Pujan for the **T-Series Tanks Overhaul Project** at **Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur** on **27 August 2026**. Cost: **₹472 crore**. Will overhaul **T-72 and T-90 tanks**; capacity **80 tanks per year**. Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur is a unit of **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)** — a Mini Ratna Defence PSU. Existing facility: **Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Tamil Nadu** (~150 tanks/year).

Hutatma Smruti Smarak Inaugurated at Patradevi, Goa - Goa Liberation Movement Memorial

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the re-developed **Hutatma Smruti Smarak** at **Patradevi, Goa** on **26 August 2026**. Commemorates Satyagrahis who participated in the **Goa Liberation Movement against Portuguese rule**. On **15 August 1955**, thousands participated in a peaceful satyagraha at Patradevi; Portuguese forces fired, causing several deaths. Goa was liberated through **Operation Vijay in December 1961**.

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

AP Set to Become India's Third Major Subsea Cable Hub - Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam

AP is set to emerge as a major **international subsea cable gateway**, adding geographical diversity to India's existing hubs in Mumbai and Chennai.

Project	Details
Google - America-India Connect	New international subsea gateway at Visakhapatnam Connects towards Singapore, Australia, and South Africa Makes Visakhapatnam a major alternative to Mumbai and Chennai
India-Southeast Asia (I-2SEA) Cable	Consortium: Lightstorm, Microsoft, Singtel, Tata Communications ~3,600 km Indian landing points: Machilipatnam (AP) and South Chennai

Strategic Importance: Alternative international internet routes | Greater network resilience | Additional capacity for data centres and AI workloads | Terrestrial fibre will connect landing stations with Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai.

Centre Approves ₹2,447.98 Crore for NHM in AP (2026-27) | Kharif 2026: 51% Rainfall Deficit

NHM 2026-27: Central Government approved **₹2,447.98 crore** for NHM in AP. Largest component: **₹1,008.50 crore** (HR and staff salaries); **₹411.12 crore** for medicines, vaccines and diagnostic reagents. **Kharif 2026:** AP recorded a **51% rainfall deficit** between 1 June and 25 August 2026 (national: 13% deficit). **All 28 districts** rainfall-deficient; three under large-deficit category.

7th-Century Inscription - Earliest Epigraphical Reference to Guntur; Eastern Chalukya Vishnuvardhana II (669 C.E.)

The earliest known epigraphical reference to Guntur is identified in the **Pune copper plates of Eastern Chalukya king Vishnuvardhana II** (ASI), issued in his **first regnal year in 669 C.E.** Name evolution: **Kumturu → Gomturu → Gunturu → Guntur**. Another reference in the **10th-century Ederu copper plate inscription** as Gomturu.

India's First Non-GMO Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed - Musunuru, Eluru District, AP

VP **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched India's first **non-GMO high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed** at **Musunuru, Eluru district** on **24 August 2026**. Associated with AP-based **Gourmet Popcornica**; supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. Over **17,500 farmers across 8 States** on nearly **40,000 acres** are associated with Gourmet Popcornica.

AP Epigraphy - Three Key Discoveries in Annamayya and Sri Sathya Sai Districts

Discovery	Key Details
9th-Century Hero Stone - Annamayya	Aravidu village, Galiveedu mandal Telugu, 9th century C.E. Warrior Kadega (son of Chandraditya, ruler of Pochhitam) Battle at Tiruvula: Vaidumba ruler Ganda Trinetra vs Bana king Vanaraja Hero stones (Viragallu) = memorials for warriors who died in battle
Tank Inscription of Venkatapatiraya II - Annamayya	Nulividu village, Galiveedu mandal Telugu Saka 1527 = 15 November 1605 C.E. Records renovation of Merugula tank and installation of Kalupa (weir)
Rajendra Chola I Inscription - Sri Sathya Sai	Buchayagaripalli village, Bukkapatnam mandal Tamil rock inscription 31st regnal year of Rajendra Chola I = 1042 C.E. Records excavation of irrigation tank "Eri" named Mudikonda Chola Pereri

Rare Giraffe and Camel Carvings at Srisailam Temple - Vijayanagara Period; Maritime Trade Evidence

Rare carvings of **two giraffes and two camels** (with attendants) identified on the southern **prakara wall of the Srisailam temple complex, Nandyal district**. Associated with the **Vijayanagara period**. Giraffes are not native to India — archaeologists suggest contacts through **maritime trade routes connecting India with Africa and West Asia**.

Siddhavatam Fort, Kadapa - ASI Restoration; Initial Construction 1303 C.E.; Heritage Tourism Plans

Siddhavatam Fort (also Sidhout Fort) in **Kadapa district** is under ASI restoration. Located on the **left bank of the Penna (Pinakini) River** between the **Palakonda (Lankamalla) and Veligonda hill ranges**.

Key Facts: Initial construction 1303 C.E. under Matli rulers (attributed to Ananta Raja) | 1605 C.E. Vijayanagara inscription records Matli Ananta's achievements | Later controlled by: Golconda Sultanate → Nawabs of Cuddapah → Hyder Ali → Nizams of Hyderabad → British East India Company | Briefly served as Cuddapah district headquarters from 1807 to 1812, then shifted back to Cuddapah following Penna River floods.

4. Polity & Governance

Smart Glasses - Privacy and Data Protection Concerns; K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)

AI-powered **smart glasses** can contain discreet cameras, microphones and speakers — people nearby may not know they are being recorded. Major concerns: **non-consensual recording**, collection of personal data, and protection of women and children in public and semi-private spaces.

K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) is the landmark privacy judgment — the Supreme Court recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.

Definition of 'Industry' - Industrial Relations Code 2020, Section 2(p); Bangalore Water Supply Case (1978)

Under the **Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (Section 2(p))**, "industry" means a systematic activity carried on through cooperation between an employer and workers for producing, supplying or distributing goods or services to satisfy human wants. Profit motive not required.

Aspect	Detail
Exclusions (Code 2020)	Institutions mainly engaged in charitable, social or philanthropic services Sovereign functions (defence research, atomic energy, space) Domestic service Activities notified by Central Government
Bangalore Water Supply Case (1978) - Triple Test	SC evolved Triple Test: (1) Systematic activity; (2) Cooperation between employer and employee; (3) Production/distribution of goods or services to satisfy human wants Profit motive not essential Brought hospitals, educational institutions, and municipal activities within "industry" (except core sovereign functions)

5. Economy

Parishrama Adalat - MSME Delayed-Payment Conciliation; 45-Day Rule; MSME ODR Portal

A **Parishrama Adalat** (conciliation conclave for MSE delayed-payment disputes) at FTCCI, Hyderabad resolved **65 cases involving ₹8.29 crore**. Uses conciliation, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), and the MSME Samadhaan framework.

Legal Framework – MSMED Act, 2006: Payment to an MSE supplier cannot be delayed beyond 45 days | Delay: compound interest with monthly rests at three times the RBI-notified bank rate | Disputes referred to MSEFC (Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council) | MSE ODR sub-scheme of World Bank-supported RAMP programme | MSME ODR Portal launched by the President of India on 27 June 2025 (MSME Day).

UPI Completes 10 Years - Launched 25 August 2016; 84% of India's Digital Payments; 741 Banks

UPI was launched by **NPCI** on **25 August 2016** under the regulatory oversight of the **RBI**. It completed **10 years in August 2026**.

Indicator	Data
Launch Date	25 August 2016 by NPCI, under RBI oversight
Annual Volume - FY16-17 → FY25-26	1.78 crore → 24,162 crore transactions Value: ₹0.07 lakh crore → ~₹314 lakh crore
Peak Month (July 2026)	2,366 crore transactions Value: ₹29.88 lakh crore (highest-ever)
Banks Live (July 2026)	741 banks
Share of India's Digital Payments	~84% in FY 2025-26
Global Real-Time Payments Share	Nearly 49% of global real-time payment volume (2025)
Countries Where Operational	11 countries: UAE, France, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and Maldives

6. Environment

Heatwaves and Lightning Added to SDRF Notified Calamities - 12 → 14; FC-XVI Recommendation

MHA included **heatwaves and lightning** in India's notified natural calamities under **SDRF/NDRF guidelines 2026-31** (on **FC-XVI** recommendation). Total notified calamities: **12 → 14**. Earlier, States could use only up to 10% of SDRF for heatwaves as a local disaster — this restriction is now lifted.

FC-XVI Corpus (2026–27 to 2030–31): SDRF: ₹1,63,521 crore | State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF): ₹40,880 crore | Total: ₹2,04,401 crore | Allocation based on Disaster Risk Index (hazard, exposure, vulnerability).

India Restores 21.76 Million Hectares of Degraded Land (2011-2020) - Bonn Challenge; Target 26 MH by 2030

India restored **21.76 million hectares** of degraded and deforested land during **2011-2020**, generating **~1.22 billion person-days of employment** (India's Second Progress Report on the Bonn Challenge). India's Bonn Challenge target: **26 million hectares by 2030**.

Bonn Challenge: Global restoration initiative launched in 2011 | Global target: 350 million hectares by 2030 | India's programmes: Green India Mission, CAMPA-supported afforestation, watershed development, agroforestry, and community-based restoration | Financing mechanisms (highlighted at COP17): Sovereign Green Bonds, Green Credit Programme, compensatory afforestation funds.

7. Science & Technology

Salmonella and Rising Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in India

Salmonella causes illnesses from mild gastroenteritis to serious bloodstream infections. **Typhoid and paratyphoid** (enteric fever) are caused by *Salmonella Typhi* and *Salmonella Paratyphi* respectively. A 2026 study (*PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*; isolates 1977–2024) found **fluoroquinolone resistance peaked at 85%** during 2015–19, though it subsequently declined. Resistance to third-generation cephalosporins and azithromycin remained comparatively low.

India Considers Strategic Fuel Programme - 28 MT Crude + 9 MT LNG + 4 MT LPG; Existing SPR at Visakhapatnam

India is considering a decade-long **strategic fuel programme** to strengthen energy security. *Proposed* additions: **28 MT crude oil + 9 MT LNG + 4 MT LPG (41 MT total)** — still under consideration.

Detail	Fact
Proposed Additional Storage	28 MT crude oil + 9 MT LNG + 4 MT LPG = 41 MT total (proposed)
Existing Phase-I SPR	Capacity: 5.33 MT Actual stored: ~3.37 MT Locations: Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur
Phase-II Approved (Crude)	6.5 MT at Chandikhol and Padur
Existing LPG Caverns	Visakhapatnam and Mangaluru — combined capacity: ~0.14 MT
Natural Gas Storage	India currently has NO operational underground natural-gas storage facility
LNG Storage Requirement	Specialised cryogenic tanks at ~-162°C Proposed 9 MT ≈ 56 days of projected LNG imports

IN-SPACE Issues India's First Guidelines for Planned Re-entry of Space Objects

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE)** issued India's first guidelines for **planned re-entry of space objects**. The **Indian Space Policy 2023** empowers IN-SPACE to authorise planned re-entry.

Key Points: Maximum acceptable casualty risk: less than 1 in 10,000 | Post-launch decision: application at least 6 months in advance | Re-entry parameters re-verified ~3 months before operation | IN-SPACE advisory for warnings to aircraft and marine vessels at least 45 days before re-entry | Strengthens space sustainability, public safety, and accountability of private space operators.

8. Defence

‘Samarthak’ - First Multi-Purpose Vessel Delivered to Indian Navy; L&T; Kattupalli; 75%+ Indigenous

Samarthak, the first **Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)** built by **L&T; at Kattupalli**, was delivered to the Indian Navy on **27 August 2026**. More than **75% indigenous content**. Designed as a **versatile trial and evaluation platform**; also undertakes maritime surveillance, offshore patrolling, and **HADR** operations.

Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 - IAF and Royal Malaysian Air Force; Subang, Malaysia

The **IAF** participated in **Exercise Udara Shakti 2026** at **Subang, Malaysia**. Bilateral air exercise between the **IAF and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)**. IAF aircrew conducted high-intensity combat sorties and joint tactical manoeuvres with the RMAF. The 2026 edition followed IAF's participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia.

ASW-SWC ‘Mangrol’ - Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft; CSL Kochi; 80%+ Indigenous

The Indian Navy received **‘Mangrol’**, the **third ASW Shallow Water Craft** built by **CSL, Kochi**, on **21 August 2026**. More than **80% indigenous content**. Designed for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare in coastal waters, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and mine warfare. Propelled by **waterjets**; equipped with torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, advanced radars and sonars. Named after **Mangrol**, a coastal town and minor port in **Junagadh district, Gujarat**.

9. Awards & Honours

APMDC Wins ‘Best State Linked Issuer’ Award - ASSOCHAM; 9th Corporate Bond Market Summit

Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC) received the **‘Best State Linked Issuer’** award from **ASSOCHAM** at the **9th National Summit & Awards on Corporate Bond Market**, held in Mumbai on **20 August 2026**.

10. Person in News

Mahatma Ayyankali - 163rd Birth Anniversary; Villuvandi Yatra (1893); Founded SJPS (1907)

Mahatma Ayyankali's 163rd birth anniversary was observed on **28 August 2026**. Born **28 August 1863 at Venganoor, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. A pivotal social reformer who fought against caste discrimination and demanded education, freedom of movement, dignity and better working conditions for oppressed communities.

Detail	Fact
Birthplace	Venganoor, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala
Villuvandi Yatra (1893)	Famous bullock-cart protest challenging restrictions that prevented oppressed castes from using public roads
Organisation Founded	Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham (SJPS) in 1907 — worked for education, social equality, freedom of movement and better conditions for agricultural labourers

Veteran Actress Sowcar Janaki Passes Away - Age 94; Born in Rajamahendravaram, AP; Padma Shri 2022

Sowcar Janaki (born Sankaramanchi Janaki) passed away in Chennai on **21 August 2026** at age **94**. Born in **Rajahmundry (Rajamahendravaram), AP**. Career began with **All India Radio (AIR)**. Film debut: Telugu movie **Shavukaru (1950)**. Performed across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi films. Received **Padma Shri in 2022 (Art)** and the **Kalaimamani Award** of Tamil Nadu.

11. Important Days

World Water Week 2026 - Stockholm; Theme: "Water for People and Progress"; Yuktdhara and E-Jal App

World Water Week 2026 held in **Stockholm, Sweden** from **23 to 27 August 2026**. Theme: "**Water for People and Progress**". Organised by the **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**. Ministry of Rural Development represented India.

India's Digital Water Tools Highlighted: Yuktdhara — geospatial planning platform using GIS and remote sensing E-Jal Application — supports water budgeting at the Gram Panchayat level India emphasised the role of Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees in sustainable rural water management.

12. Miscellaneous

'Gnani Artha' - Sovereign AI Stack; Evon 3.3 LLM + Plexus Platform; GNANI AI

VP **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched '**Gnani Artha**', a sovereign AI stack by **GNANI AI**, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on **28 August 2026**. Comprises: **Evon 3.3** (Large Language Model) and **Plexus** (platform to connect AI capabilities with real-world work and institutions).

DAANVEER – Computer Crowdsourcing for Gram Panchayats; Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Meri Panchayat App + DigiHaat

Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched **DAANVEER** — a people-led **Computer Crowdsourcing Initiative** for **Gram Panchayats**. Citizens, CSR partners and diaspora can donate desktop computers to eligible GPs through the **Meri Panchayat App** → **DigiHaat** (ONDC-enabled marketplace). Delivery digitally tracked. GP Secretary confirms receipt → donor receives **Certificate of Appreciation**. Complements **RGSA**. As of 27 August 2026: **75 donations** made.

e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years - 26 August 2021-26 August 2026; 31.89 Crore Registrations; 54.28% Women

e-Shram Portal completed **five years on 26 August 2026**. Launched **26 August 2021** by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** to create India's first **Aadhaar-authenticated National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)**. Developed by **NIC**.

Feature	Detail
Unique ID	12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN) for every registered worker
Workers Covered	Agricultural labourers, construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, migrant workers, gig and platform workers
Evolution	Became e-Shram One-Stop Solution on 21 October 2024 Integrates 15 social security and welfare schemes Links with NCS and Skill India Digital Hub
Registrations (August 2026)	31.89 crore Women: 54.28% of registered workers
Multilingual	22 languages via Bhashini (introduced 2025)