

# Daily Current Affairs

## 18 August 2026

### India and Nepal Set Three-Year Target for Border Land Mapping

- India and Nepal have agreed to complete the mapping of cross-border occupation of land within three years, in an effort to address a long-standing technical issue along their open and porous border.
- The proposed mapping exercise will use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to identify areas where people from one country may be cultivating land or residing in territory belonging to the other country. The exercise is expected to provide reliable technical information that can help both countries deal with border-related issues.
- When will the mapping begin?
- According to the PPT, the mapping process is likely to begin after the 2026 monsoon season, around September or October 2026.
- The exercise is aimed at generating credible technical information that can assist India and Nepal in addressing issues associated with their border dispute.
- India and Nepal share a border of approximately 1,880 kilometres, passing through 27 districts.
- Nepal's Department of Survey has stated that 8,554 boundary pillars have been erected along the border. However, 1,325 pillars are missing, while another 1,956 boundary pillars are damaged.



## **Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi Win Asian Junior Blitz Chess Titles**

- Indian chess players Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi won the Open and Girls' gold medals respectively at the Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship held in Mumbai on 17 August 2026.
- The tournament was organised at the ITC Maratha Sheraton in Mumbai under the aegis of the Maharashtra Chess Association.
- Vignesh Vermula Wins Open Blitz Title
- Vignesh Vermula, who was the 23rd seed, secured the Open blitz championship on tie-break scores after finishing level on points with other players.
- Indian players dominated the top positions in the Open category. Sharnarathi Viresh finished second, while Nandish V S secured third place.
- Saranya Devi Wins Girls' Title
- In the Girls' section, Saranya Devi, the ninth seed, emerged victorious after displaying tactical skills throughout the tournament.
- Prishita Gupta won the silver medal, while Shanmathi Sree secured the bronze medal.
- Turkmenistan's top seed Lala Shohradova finished fourth.
- What is Blitz Chess?

- Blitz chess is a fast format of chess in which players have a very short time control. When players finish with equal points, tie-break scores are used to determine their final positions.



## Hurricane Lala Hits Hawaii's Big Island and Maui

- **Hurricane Lala** strengthened into a **Category 1 hurricane** on **15 August 2026** while moving just offshore of Hawaii's Big Island.
- The storm had maximum sustained winds of **75 mph** and brought heavy rainfall, strong winds, power outages, airport closures, flight cancellations and flood warnings across parts of Hawaii.
- **When Does a Tropical Storm Become a Hurricane?**
- A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when its maximum sustained winds reach at least **74 mph (119 km/h)** in the Atlantic and eastern Pacific basins.
- The intensity of hurricanes is classified using the **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale**, which ranges from **Category 1 to Category 5** based on sustained wind speed.
- **Impact on Hawaii**
- Hawaii's **Big Island** is the largest island in the Hawaiian archipelago. It includes **Hilo** on its eastern side and **Kona** on the western side.
- The storm also affected **Maui County**, which includes Maui and several smaller islands.

- Forecasts on 15 August projected rainfall of **10–20 inches on the Big Island**, with some local areas potentially receiving up to **25 inches**. Eastern Maui was forecast to receive approximately **8–12 inches** of rainfall.
- **Airports Closed**
- The Hawaii Department of Transportation closed:
- **Hilo International Airport**
- **Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keahole**
- The closures took effect at **2:00 p.m. HST**. The Hawaii Department of Water Supply also issued an **“Essential Needs Only”** notice for water use.
- The **Wailuku River in Hilo** rose sharply from 3.4 feet on Friday night to 16.2 feet by Saturday morning, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.



## Government Clears ₹7,877 Crore Electronics Components Projects

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** approved **31 project proposals** under the **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** on **17 August 2026**.
- The approved projects involve a proposed investment of **₹7,877 crore** spread across **10 Indian states**. They are expected to generate production output worth approximately **₹82,243 crore** and create nearly **10,000 direct jobs**.
- **What is the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme?**

- The **Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)** is a central government initiative aimed at strengthening India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.
- The scheme covers various components and inputs, including:
  - Electronic components
  - Sub-assemblies
  - Raw materials
  - Capital goods used in electronics manufacturing
- **Cumulative Investment Crosses ₹69,548 Crore**
- With the latest approvals, cumulative investment under the scheme has reached **₹69,548 crore** through **106 approved applications**.
- This figure has surpassed the scheme's original investment target of **₹59,350 crore**.
- **Major Investments**
- **Wipro Global** increased its investment commitment by **₹1,033 crore** for manufacturing copper-clad laminates. Its total proposed investment under the scheme has consequently reached **₹1,401 crore**.
- **Jyoti CNC Automation** received approval for an investment of **₹1,021 crore** in electronic capital-goods manufacturing.
- **Bhagwati Products Limited**, associated with Micromax, announced an investment of **₹1,015 crore**. This includes **₹450 crore for mobile display manufacturing through TXD India** and **₹565 crore for precision moulding in Greater Noida**.



## National Sports Awards 2025 Announced

- The **National Sports Awards 2025** were announced by the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** on **18 August 2026**.
- The awards were finalised on the recommendations of a selection committee chaired by **Justice (Retd.) Arun Kumar Mishra**, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Arjuna Awardees**
- The PPT lists the following sportspersons among the Arjuna Award recipients:

| • <b>Sport</b> | • <b>Awardee</b>    |
|----------------|---------------------|
| • Chess        | • Divya Deshmukh    |
| • Badminton    | • Gayatri Gopichand |
| • Badminton    | • Treesa Jolly      |
| • Chess        | • Vidit Gujurathi   |
| • Athletics    | • Tejaswin Shankar  |
| • Boxing       | • Narender          |
| • Shooting     | • Dhanush Srikanth  |
- **No Khel Ratna Award**
- A notable feature of the National Sports Awards 2025 announcement was that **no awardee was announced for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**.
- **Arjuna Award for Lifetime Achievement**
- **Mr. I Arumainayagam**, a former football player who was part of India's gold-winning team at the **1962 Asian Games**, was selected for the **Arjuna Award in the Lifetime Achievement category**.
- **Dronacharya Award**
- The PPT lists the following recipients under the **Dronacharya Award for Best Coaches**:

|                                            |
|--------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Parveer Singh</b> – Athletics         |
| • <b>Chhote Lal Yadav</b> – Boxing         |
| • <b>Neha Nandkumar Chavan</b> – Shooting  |
| • <b>Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar</b> |



- The **Pune-based Army Paralympic Node** was selected for the **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2025**.



## UN Medal in South Sudan

- A total of **210 Indian peacekeepers** received the **United Nations Medal** in **Juba, South Sudan**, on **17 August 2026**.
- The group included **six women and seven staff officers** serving with the **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.
- **India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping**
- India remains one of the major contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations. According to the PPT, India is the **second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel** to UN peacekeeping missions.
- More than **4,200 Indian military and police personnel**, including **155 women**, were deployed globally in 2026.
- India has contributed more than **200,000 personnel** to **49 of the 71 United Nations peacekeeping missions** established since 1948.
- More than **160 Indian peacekeepers have died** while serving under the United Nations flag.
- **About UNMISS**
- The **United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** was established in **2011**, following the independence of South Sudan.
- Its major responsibilities include:
  - Protection of civilians
  - Support for humanitarian assistance

- Assistance to the peace process in South Sudan
- **UNISFA**
- Another group of Indian peacekeepers received UN medals in the **United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)** on **15 August 2026**.
- UNISFA operates in the **Abyei Area**, a disputed region between **Sudan and South Sudan**.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. India and Nepal have set what target for mapping cross-border occupation of land?**

- A. One year
- B. Two years
- C. Three years
- D. Five years

**Answer: C. Three years**

**2. Which technology is proposed to be used for India-Nepal border land mapping?**

- A. Satellites only
- B. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
- C. Sonar systems
- D. Underwater drones

**Answer: B. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**



**3. Who won the Open gold medal at the Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship 2026?**

- A. Sharnarthi Viresh
- B. Nandish V S
- C. Vignesh Vermula
- D. Lala Shohradova

**Answer: C. Vignesh Vermula**

**4. Hurricane Lala strengthened into which category on 15 August 2026?**

- A. Category 1
- B. Category 2
- C. Category 3
- D. Category 4

**Answer: A. Category 1**

**5. What was the maximum sustained wind speed of Hurricane Lala mentioned in the PPT?**

- A. 65 mph
- B. 70 mph
- C. 75 mph
- D. 85 mph

**Answer: C. 75 mph**

**6. How many project proposals were approved under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme on 17 August 2026?**

- A. 21
- B. 31
- C. 41
- D. 51

**Answer: B. 31**

**7. What was the total investment involved in the newly approved Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme projects?**

- A. ₹5,877 crore
- B. ₹6,877 crore
- C. ₹7,877 crore
- D. ₹8,877 crore

**Answer: C. ₹7,877 crore**

**8. Which award was not given to any recipient in the National Sports Awards 2025 announcement?**

- A. Arjuna Award
- B. Dronacharya Award
- C. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award
- D. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar

**Answer: C. Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**

**9. How many Indian peacekeepers received the United Nations Medal in Juba, South Sudan, on 17 August 2026?**

- A. 110
- B. 150
- C. 210
- D. 310

**Answer: C. 210**

**10. UNMISS, in which Indian peacekeepers are serving, was established in which year?**

- A. 2005
- B. 2008
- C. 2011
- D. 2015

**Answer: C. 2011**