

Daily Current Affairs

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Dutch Grand Prix 2026

- Lando Norris won his second successive win in the 2026 Formula 1 season after holding on to victory in a thrilling and exciting Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort. The McLaren driver beat Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes by 11.536 seconds, with George Russell finishing third.
- Max Verstappen went off the road early in the race, crashing out after completing only one lap. Strategic games, Virtual Safety Cars, and Ferrari pressure made the final Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort a thrilling race.
- **Top 5 Finishers**
 - Lando Norris – McLaren
 - Kimi Antonelli – Mercedes
 - George Russell – Mercedes
 - Lewis Hamilton – Ferrari
 - Charles Leclerc – Ferrari



National Space Day 2026

- National Space Day 2026 celebrated on 23rd August, 2026 in honor of one of the most notable events in India's scientific history the landing of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft near the southern pole of the moon.
- This day has been chosen to mark the historical moon landing that was carried out by the ISRO on 23 August 2023.
- The theme for National Space Day 2026 is,
- **"Towards Viksit Bharat – Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring Global Space Leadership."**
- The landing of Chandrayaan-3 has received much worldwide attention and become one of the most important scientific events related to India's space programme.
- The historical place of the landing of Chandrayaan-3 has been called **Shiv Shakti Point**. The location of impact connected with Chandrayaan-2 has been named **Tiranga Point**.



Mitchell Starc Becomes Leading Wicket-Taker in WTC History

- Mitchell Starc, left arm fast bowler of Australia, has managed to enter the record books of ICC World Test Championship and become the biggest wicket taker in the tournament history.
- Currently, the bowler has 234 wickets in WTC matches, surpassing both Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, who have 228 wickets each. Australian three bowlers still have the exclusive right to be the only bowlers with more than 200 wickets in WTC matches. Starc took his 234 wickets with an average of 24.25.
- The bowler has eleven four-wicket hauls and eight five-wicket hauls. The best WTC match figures of the player are 7/58.



India Signs Fuel Supply Deal with Mauritius

- Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the State Trading Corporation of Mauritius signed a five-year sales and purchase agreement in Port Louis. Under the agreement, IOCL will supply 100% of Mauritius's import requirements for motor spirit, high-speed diesel and aviation turbine fuel.
- India and Mauritius signed a government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding on 20 August 2026 for cooperation in oil and gas, biofuels, capacity building and training. The agreement papers were exchanged in the presence of India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

- Hardeep Singh Puri visited Port Louis on 20–21 August 2026 for bilateral energy discussions. On 21 August 2026, he took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for a USD 25 million marine bunker fuel storage facility at Mer Rouge, Port Louis, which will have a storage capacity of 27,500 metric tonnes.
- Long-term fuel supply agreements are commercial arrangements that secure petroleum products for a fixed period. India has used energy partnerships with neighbouring countries such as Nepal and Bhutan in its regional cooperation framework.
- The agreement was signed by a state-owned Indian oil company and Mauritius's State Trading Corporation. The marine bunker fuel storage project at Mer Rouge is linked to Indian Oil (Mauritius) Ltd.



India Launches First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid

- India launched its first non-GMO high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed on 24 August 2026 at the Gourmet Popcornica facility in Musunuru, Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Popcorn maize is a specialised form of Zea mays selected for kernel expansion after heating. High-expansion hybrids are bred for larger popped volume, which is a key quality parameter in the popcorn industry.
- Non-GMO seeds are developed through conventional breeding methods and do not contain genetically modified traits. Hybrid seed production in maize uses controlled cross-pollination between selected parent lines to combine desirable agronomic and processing traits.

- The hybrid seed was developed through a scientific and commercial collaboration between the ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research and Gourmet Popcornica, which began in February 2021.
- ICAR-IIMR is a maize research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and works on maize breeding, agronomy, and value-chain development.
- The popcorn value chain directly supports more than 17,500 farming families and covers nearly 40,000 acres of land. Official launch details placed the farm network across eight Indian states, while an earlier February 2026 release mentioned nine states.
- Gourmet Popcornica is described as one of Asia's largest popcorn maize processing plants. The indigenous hybrid seed is linked to reduced dependence on imported popcorn maize technologies and to export-oriented production in the maize processing sector.



Vice President Inaugurates 'MALHAR 2026'

- The Vice President, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated 'MALHAR 2026', a youth-centric, monsoon-themed celebration of Indian classical music by Antar Hriday Connect, in New Delhi.
- He noted that the Malhar family of ragas is traditionally associated with the monsoon and described 'MALHAR' as a symbol of renewal, with music having the power to refresh the human spirit, awaken imagination and inspire hope.
- The Vice President emphasised that India's classical music tradition has remained a living tradition because it has continuously evolved. He urged the

youth to become custodians and ambassadors of India's civilisational heritage and encouraged them to take the country's classical music and cultural traditions to communities across the world.

- The Vice President congratulated all those associated with MALHAR and expressed hope that the celebration would become a recurring musical journey, returning every monsoon with greater energy, wider participation and an ever-growing love for Indian classical music.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who won the Dutch Grand Prix 2026?

- A) Max Verstappen
- B) Lando Norris
- C) Kimi Antonelli
- D) George Russell

Answer: B) Lando Norris

2. National Space Day in India is observed on which date?

- A) 15 August
- B) 22 August
- C) 23 August
- D) 24 August

Answer: C) 23 August

3. What is the name given to the Chandrayaan-3 landing site?

- A) Tiranga Point
- B) Shiv Shakti Point
- C) Vikram Point
- D) Bharat Point

Answer: B) Shiv Shakti Point

4. Who became the leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship history with 234 wickets?

- A) Pat Cummins
- B) Nathan Lyon
- C) Mitchell Starc
- D) Josh Hazlewood

Answer: C) Mitchell Starc

5. Which Indian company signed a five-year fuel supply agreement with Mauritius' State Trading Corporation?

- A) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- B) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- D) Oil India Limited

Answer: C) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

6. The marine bunker fuel storage facility being developed at Mer Rouge, Mauritius, will have a capacity of:

- A) 17,500 metric tonnes
- B) 22,500 metric tonnes
- C) 27,500 metric tonnes
- D) 32,500 metric tonnes

Answer: C) 27,500 metric tonnes

7. India's first non-GMO high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid was launched in which state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Karnataka
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: D) Andhra Pradesh

8. The popcorn maize hybrid was developed through collaboration between ICAR-IIMR and:

- A) Amul
- B) Gourmet Popcornica
- C) NAFED
- D) Mother Dairy

Answer: B) Gourmet Popcornica

9. MALHAR 2026 is primarily associated with which field?

- A) Indian classical music
- B) Space technology
- C) Traditional sports
- D) Renewable energy

Answer: A) Indian classical music

10. Who inaugurated MALHAR 2026 in New Delhi?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Rajnath Singh
- C) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- D) Jagdeep Dhankhar

Answer: C) C. P. Radhakrishnan