

RADIUS EDUCATION

13-08-2026



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- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **Dr. Srinivas Kumar Tummala is the new Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences**
- **Indian physicist Deepak Dhar to receive 2026 Dirac Medal**
- **Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026 to give legal recognition to digital banking records**
- **Karnataka bike taxi dispute reaches Supreme Court**
- **NSP-DBT scholarship initiative launched for agriculture students**
- **India adds 11 new ports of entry for e-visa holders**
- **Uttar Pradesh's Farm Security Scheme protects crops through solar fences**
- **World Organ Donation Day — a global effort to raise awareness about organ donation**

1. Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Appointed as New Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences

Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala is a renowned oceanographer and scientist-administrator with over three decades of experience in Remote Sensing, Satellite Oceanography, and Disaster Risk Reduction. He played a leadership role in the UNESCO-IOC's Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and made significant contributions to strengthening India's Tsunami Early Warning System following the 2004 tsunami. As the Director of INCOIS since August 2020, he promoted services such as PFZ Advisories, the Coral Reef Bleaching Alert System, and Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Mapping.



2. Indian Physicist Deepak Dhar Awarded the 2026 Dirac Medal

Indian theoretical physicist Deepak Dhar has been awarded the 2026 Dirac Medal for his contributions to statistical mechanics, complex systems, optimization, neuroscience, and AI. His key contributions lie in the study of the Sandpile Model and Self-Organized Criticality (SOC), which are crucial for understanding the collective behavior of complex systems. The Dirac Medal was established by the ICTP in 1985 and is awarded annually on August 8; it carries a prize of US\$5,000. Deepak Dhar was previously honored with the Boltzmann Medal in 2022 and the Padma Bhushan in 2023; he earned his PhD from Caltech and served as a teaching assistant to Richard Feynman.



3. Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 Grants Legal Recognition to Digital Banking Records

Parliament has passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026, which will replace the 135-year-old Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, and align banking laws with the digital era. The Bill grants legal recognition in courts to bank records stored in electronic, digital, cloud, backup, and disaster recovery systems. It includes provisions for standardized authentication procedures—including digital and electronic signatures—thereby strengthening the authenticity and evidentiary value of digital records.



4. Karnataka Bike Taxi Dispute Reaches Supreme Court

The Karnataka government has challenged the Karnataka High Court's January 23, 2026, verdict in the Supreme Court; that verdict had paved the way for the operation of bike taxis by allowing motorcycles to be registered as 'transport vehicles.' The High Court viewed the bike-taxi business as falling under the freedom to practice a profession or carry on an occupation as guaranteed by Article 19(1)(g), noting that reasonable restrictions under Article 19(6) are permissible. The dispute centers on the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, with the state seeking a clear regulatory framework addressing passenger safety, commercial insurance, permits, road safety, traffic management, and pollution control.



5. NSP-DBT Scholarship Initiative Launched for Agriculture Students

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the NSP-DBT initiative for agriculture students, aiming to make scholarship and fellowship payments faster, transparent, and streamlined. Under this initiative, ₹21.35 crore was transferred directly to the bank accounts of over 6,000 agriculture students via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The new system ensures eligible students receive scholarships on a monthly basis, minimizing payment delays and allowing them to focus better on their education and research. This initiative strengthens digital governance, financial inclusion, and targeted welfare delivery, while also emphasizing practical training and field-based learning in agricultural education.



6. India Adds 11 New Ports of Entry for e-Visa Holders

On August 10, 2026, the Government of India notified 11 new international ports of entry for foreign nationals holding e-Visas, comprising 9 land ports and 2 airports. The new entry points include Agartala, Darranga, Gede, Ghogadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, Attari (Road), Bhopal, and Tirupati. This brings the total number of authorized ports of entry for e-Visas in India to 88—consisting of 37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land ports. This initiative boosts tourism, regional connectivity, and the digital visa facility, making entry into India easier for foreign travelers.



7. Crop Protection via Solar Fencing under Uttar Pradesh's Khet Suraksha Yojana

The objective of Uttar Pradesh's 'Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana' (Chief Minister's Farm Protection Scheme) is to minimize crop damage caused by stray animals, nilgai (blue bulls), and wild boars. Under this scheme, eligible farmers receive government assistance to install solar-powered electric fencing around their fields. This initiative promotes the use of renewable energy and agricultural technology while boosting crop protection, agricultural productivity, and farmers' income. Terms regarding subsidies, eligibility, and assistance are determined by government guidelines, and applications are processed through the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Department.



8. World Organ Donation Day — A Global Effort to Raise Awareness About Organ Donation

The objective of World Organ Donation Day is to raise awareness about organ donation and encourage organ transplantation for patients in need. Organ donation can save lives through the transplantation of organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver, and lungs, as well as tissues like the cornea and skin. Key challenges in India include the gap between the demand for and availability of organs, a lack of awareness, social myths, medical infrastructure issues, and the logistics of organ transport. The THOTA Act (1994) and NOTTO form the legal and institutional backbone of the organ donation and transplantation system in India.



5. Who launched the NSP-DBT initiative for agriculture students?

- A - Dharmendra Pradhan B - Shivraj Singh Chouhan
C - Mansukh Mandaviya D - Piyush Goyal

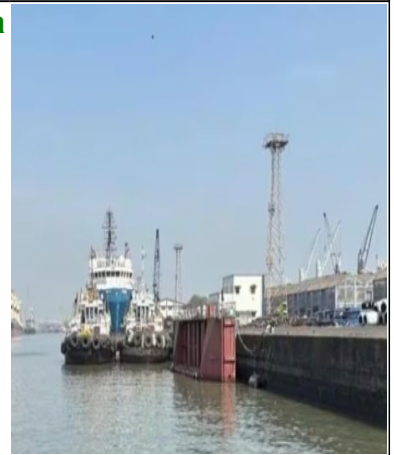
Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the NSP-DBT initiative for agriculture students, under which scholarships worth ₹21.35 crore were transferred directly to the bank accounts of over 6,000 students. The new system emphasizes practical training in agricultural education while strengthening digital governance, financial inclusion, and targeted welfare delivery through monthly scholarship payments.



6. How many new international ports of entry did the Government of India notify for e-visa holders?

- A - 7 B - 9
C - 11 D - 13

The Government of India added 11 new international ports of entry for foreign nationals holding e-visas, comprising 9 land ports and 2 airports. This brings the total number of authorized ports of entry for e-visas in India to 88—37 airports, 38 seaports, and 13 land ports—thereby boosting tourism and regional connectivity.



7. The 'Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana' (Chief Minister's Farm Protection Scheme) is an initiative of which state?

- A - Madhya Pradesh B - Rajasthan
C - Uttar Pradesh D - Bihar

The objective of Uttar Pradesh's 'Mukhyamantri Khet Suraksha Yojana' is to provide government assistance to farmers for solar-powered electric fencing to protect crops from stray animals, nilgai (blue bulls), and wild boars. The scheme promotes crop protection, farmers' income, agricultural productivity, renewable energy, and agricultural technology, and is implemented by the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Department.



8. What is the primary objective of World Organ Donation Day?

- A - Promoting blood donation B - Raising awareness about organ donation
C - Promoting vaccination D - Preventing cancer

The objective of World Organ Donation Day is to raise awareness about organ donation and encourage organ transplantation for patients in need, thereby saving lives through the transplantation of organs such as the heart, kidney, liver, and lungs. Key challenges regarding organ donation in India include a lack of awareness, social misconceptions, medical infrastructure issues, and organ transportation logistics, while THOTA (1994) and NOTTO provide the legal and institutional framework for it.



One Liner

1. What is the total number of authorized international ports of entry in India following the addition of new entry points for e-visas? - **88**
2. Under the UP Khet Suraksha Yojana, what technology-based assistance is provided to farmers to protect their crops? - **Solar-powered electric fencing**
3. Which fundamental right did the High Court cite in the Karnataka bike taxi case? - **Article 19(1)(g)**
4. Which old Act will the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 replace? - **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891**
5. Who is the Indian theoretical physicist to receive the 2026 Dirac Medal? - **Deepak Dhar**
6. Under the NSP-DBT initiative for agriculture students, ₹21.35 crore was transferred to how many students? - **More than 6,000**
7. What is the prize money awarded with the 2026 Dirac Medal? - **US\$ 5,000**
8. What is the primary law governing organ donation and transplantation in India? - **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994**
9. How many new international ports of entry did India add in August 2026 for foreign nationals holding e-visas? - **11**
10. Dr. Srinivas Kumar Tummala assumed charge as the Secretary of which ministry? - **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**