

RADIUS EDUCATION

21-08-2026



DISTANCE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

HIGHLIGHTS

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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **210 Indian peacekeepers in UNMISS awarded UN medals**
- **Chief Minister Youth Self-Employment Scheme: An initiative to make youth entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh**
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: Aiming for 'Housing for All' through PMAY-G and PMAY-U**
- **Maharashtra declares snakebite a notified disease: a significant step towards public health surveillance and prompt treatment**
- **365 days maternity leave for third child in Tamil Nadu: A new initiative for the welfare of women employees**
- **The rise of H1N1 swine flu: understand influenza viruses, antigenic drift, and antigenic shift**
- **Lakshmanan Meyyappan becomes world's youngest male chartered accountant**
- **World Senior Citizens Day: Global emphasis on respect, protection and dignified living for the elderly**

1. UN Medals Awarded to 210 Indian Peacekeepers in UNMISS

210 Indian peacekeepers serving under UNMISS in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, were awarded the prestigious UN Medal for their outstanding service. The honored contingent included 6 female peacekeepers and 7 staff officers who made significant contributions during crises, medical emergencies, and humanitarian relief operations. India is one of the major contributors of military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping missions. As of April 2026, India was the largest troop contributor to UNMISS, with a deployment of 1,775 Indian military personnel.



2. Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme: An initiative to turn Uttar Pradesh's youth into entrepreneurs

The objective of the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme is to encourage educated, unemployed youth to pursue self-employment and entrepreneurship. Under the scheme, bank loans of up to ₹25 lakh for the manufacturing and industrial sectors and up to ₹10 lakh for the service sector are made available. Eligible beneficiaries receive margin money assistance of up to 25%, with a maximum limit of ₹6.25 lakh for the industrial sector and ₹2.50 lakh for the service sector. Youth aged 18 to 40 who are residents of Uttar Pradesh and have passed Class 10 are eligible for this scheme, which promotes MSMEs, local entrepreneurship, and job creation.



3. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: The goal of 'Housing for All' through PMAY-G and PMAY-U

The objective of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is to promote social security and inclusive development by providing affordable, permanent housing to eligible families. PMAY-G focuses on providing permanent houses to eligible families in rural areas who are homeless or living in *kutcha* (temporary/makeshift) houses. PMAY-U has been implemented to provide affordable housing to EWS, LIG, and other eligible families in urban areas. Safe housing plays a crucial role in poverty alleviation and inclusive development by improving health, sanitation, women's empowerment, and the overall quality of life.



4. Maharashtra Declares Snakebite a Notifiable Disease: A Significant Step Towards Public Health Surveillance and Prompt Treatment

The Maharashtra government has declared snakebite a notifiable disease effective August 18, 2026, making the reporting of suspected and confirmed cases—as well as fatalities—mandatory. Hospitals and healthcare providers are required to report snakebite cases to the relevant health authorities via systems such as HMIS and IDSP. A multi-level system of nodal officers has been established at both state and district levels, with a strong emphasis on prompt treatment during the critical 'Golden Hour'—the first 60 minutes following a snakebite.



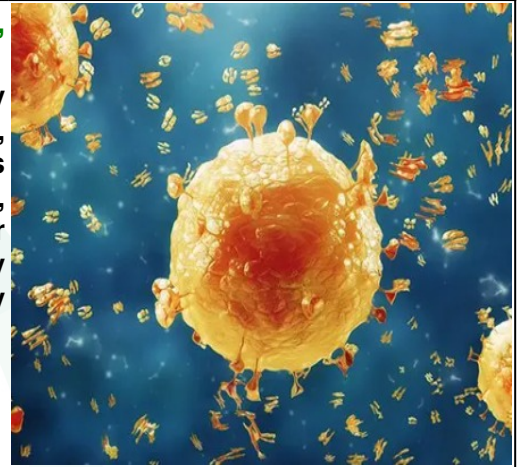
5. 365-Day Maternity Leave for Third Child in Tamil Nadu: A New Initiative for Women Employees' Welfare

The Tamil Nadu government has announced that female government employees will now be granted 365 days of maternity leave upon the birth of a third child as well. This decision has been taken with a focus on women's empowerment, social welfare, and maternal and child health. In the state, the duration of maternity leave was increased from 90 days to 6 months in 2011, to 9 months in 2016, and to 365 days for eligible female employees in 2021. The extended maternity leave is expected to boost female workforce participation, gender equality at the workplace, and the economic and social security of women.



6. Rise in H1N1 Swine Flu: Understanding Influenza Virus, Antigenic Drift, and Antigenic Shift

H1N1, or swine flu, is an Influenza A virus that affects the respiratory system and belongs to the *Orthomyxoviridae* family. As of August 12, 2026, 1,449 cases of H1N1 were recorded in Delhi, compared to 229 cases during the same period the previous year. Antigenic drift involves small, gradual genetic changes, whereas antigenic shift involves sudden, major changes that can trigger new pandemics. Disease surveillance, timely diagnosis, infection control, protection of high-risk groups, and regularly updated influenza vaccines are crucial for prevention.



7. Lakshmanan Meyyappan Becomes the World's Youngest Male Chartered Accountant

Lakshmanan Meyyappan set a Guinness World Record as the world's youngest male Chartered Accountant at the age of 16 years and 141 days in Dubai. He began his ACCA studies at around the age of 15 and subsequently obtained the CFA Charter as well. Meyyappan currently works as a Senior Research Analyst at Dubai-based Century Financial, focusing on investment research and financial analysis. After developing an interest in accounting during the COVID-19 pandemic, he achieved remarkable academic and professional milestones in the financial sector at a young age.



8. World Senior Citizens Day: Global emphasis on respect, safety, and a dignified life for the elderly

World Senior Citizens Day is observed annually on August 21 to honor the contributions of senior citizens and raise awareness about their rights, health, and social security. The global elderly population is rising due to increased life expectancy, leading to a growing need for healthcare, pensions, and long-term care. In India, senior citizens face challenges such as financial dependency, health issues, social isolation, and a lack of care. Article 41 of the Indian Constitution addresses the provision of public assistance in old age, linking senior citizen welfare to the concepts of social justice and the welfare state.



1. With which honor were 210 Indian peacekeepers awarded under UNMISS?

A - Bharat Ratna

B - United Nations Medal

C - Ashoka Chakra

D - Peace Prize

210 Indian peacekeepers serving under UNMISS in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, were awarded the United Nations Medal for their outstanding services. With the deployment of 1,775 Indian military personnel to UNMISS, India was the largest troop contributor to this mission.



2. What is the maximum loan amount for the service sector under the Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme (Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana)?

A - ₹5 lakh

B - ₹10 lakh

C - ₹15 lakh

D - ₹25 lakh

Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme encourages educated unemployed youth towards self-employment and entrepreneurship. It includes provisions for loans of up to ₹25 lakh for the manufacturing sector and up to ₹10 lakh for the service sector, along with margin money assistance of up to 25%.



3. What is PMAY-U related to?

A - Rural housing

B - Urban housing

C - Agricultural development

D - Rural employment

The objective of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is to promote social security and inclusive development by providing affordable and permanent housing to eligible families. PMAY-G is implemented for homeless families in rural areas, while PMAY-U is implemented to provide affordable housing to EWS, LIG, and other eligible families in urban areas.



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4. What is considered the duration of the 'Golden Hour' following a snakebite?

A - 30 minutes

B - 45 minutes

C - 60 minutes

D - 90 minutes

The Maharashtra government has declared snakebite a notifiable disease effective from August 18, 2026, making the reporting of suspected and confirmed cases as well as deaths mandatory. This will facilitate better surveillance through HMIS and IDSP, prompt treatment within the 60-minute 'golden hour,' and the availability of anti-snake venom (ASV) in remote areas.



5. Which state has announced 365 days of maternity leave upon the birth of a third child?

- A - Kerala
B - Tamil Nadu
C - Karnataka
D - Telangana

The Tamil Nadu government has announced 365 days of maternity leave for female government employees upon the birth of a third child. This decision will promote women's empowerment, maternal and child health, female workforce participation, and gender equality in the workplace.



6. What type of virus is H1N1 or Swine Flu?

- A - Influenza A
B - Influenza B
C - Influenza C
D - Influenza D

H1N1 or Swine Flu is an Influenza A virus; it belongs to the *Orthomyxoviridae* family and affects the respiratory system. By August 12, 2026, 1,449 cases had been recorded in Delhi; disease surveillance, timely diagnosis, infection control, and regularly updated vaccines are crucial for prevention.



7. In which field did Lakshmanan Meyyappan set a Guinness World Record?

- A - Sports
B - Chartered Accountancy
C - Music
D - Science

Lakshmanan Meyyappan set a Guinness World Record as the world's youngest male Chartered Accountant in Dubai at the age of 16 years and 141 days. Having obtained ACCA and CFA Charter qualifications, he currently works as a Senior Research Analyst at Century Financial, Dubai.



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8. What is the primary objective of World Senior Citizens' Day?

- A - Promoting sports
B - Honoring the contributions of senior citizens
C - Promoting tourism
D - Developing agriculture

World Senior Citizens' Day is observed annually on August 21 to honor the contributions of senior citizens and to raise awareness regarding their rights, health, and social security. In India, the welfare of the elderly is linked to social justice and the concept of a welfare state, and Article 41 of the Constitution pertains to public assistance in old age.



One Liner

1. The primary objective of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) is to provide permanent housing to families in which area? - **Rural areas**
2. How many days of maternity leave has the Tamil Nadu government announced for female government employees upon the birth of their third child? - **365 days**
3. To which virus family does the H1N1 virus belong? - **Orthomyxoviridae**
4. When is World Senior Citizens' Day observed every year? - **August 21**
5. What percentage of margin money assistance is provided to eligible beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme? - **25%**
6. What is the maximum loan amount provided for the manufacturing and industrial sectors under the Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme? - **₹25 lakh**
7. Which prestigious honor was awarded to 210 Indian peacekeepers serving in UNMISS? - **United Nations Medal**
8. In which field did Lakshmanan Meyyappan set a Guinness World Record as the youngest male in the world? - **Chartered Accountant**
9. How many Indian military personnel were deployed in UNMISS as of April 2026? - **1,775**
10. Which condition has Maharashtra declared a notifiable disease, effective from August 18, 2026? - **Snakebite**