

RADIUS EDUCATION

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

HIGHLIGHTS

- INTERNATIONAL NEWS
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TODAY NEWS HIGHLIGHT

- **National Teachers Award 2026 — 48 teachers to be honored**
- **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Plan 2026: A major step towards making India a global electronics hub**
- **Social Security, Retirement and Pension Schemes 2026**
- **Control of illegal activities in West Bengal: Four special toll-free helplines launched**
- **Sophie Adenot's historic spacewalk: the first French woman to walk in space**
- **Louisiana's vanishing coastal wetlands: 40 years of land change in satellite images**
- **Japan's agrivoltaic experiment: A new model for producing food and solar energy from the same farm**
- **India's first soil texture map: A major step towards precision agriculture and land use planning**

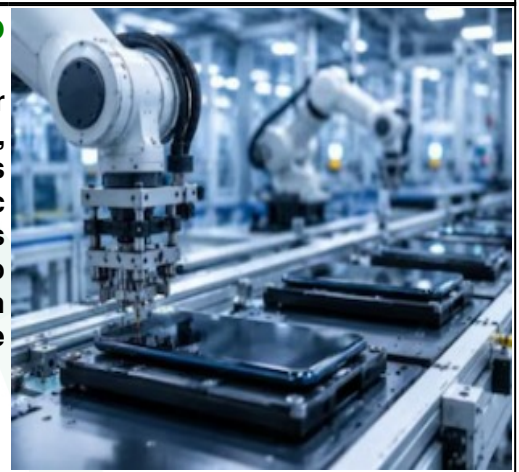
1. National Teachers' Award 2026 — 48 Teachers to be Honoured

President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Teachers' Award upon 48 selected teachers from across the country at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Teachers' Day, September 5, 2026. Established in 1958, this award recognizes outstanding contributions, innovation, leadership, and effective teaching in the field of education. It is administered by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education and is associated with Teachers' Day and the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The selection process involves online self-nomination followed by evaluations at the district/regional and state/organization levels, culminating in a final selection by an independent national jury.



2. Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme 2026: A Major Step Towards Making India a Global Electronics Hub

On August 21, 2026, the Central Government announced a five-year Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) worth ₹62,500 crore, effective from April 1, 2026, through the 2030-31 financial year. Its objectives include expanding mobile manufacturing, increasing domestic value addition, strengthening the supply chain, and establishing India as a global electronics manufacturing hub. The scheme comprises two target segments—one for mobile manufacturing and another for Indian brands—and includes provisions for additional incentives regarding the sourcing of domestic components as well as research and design.



3. Social Security, Retirement, and Pension Schemes 2026

Social security schemes in India aim to provide financial protection to unorganized sector workers, farmers, traders, and vulnerable sections against risks such as old age, financial distress, and illness. Contributory pension schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana provide for a monthly pension of ₹3,000 to eligible beneficiaries upon attaining the age of 60. Schemes such as PMJJBY and PMSBY offer low-cost life and accident insurance coverage, while the government has also expanded the scope of social security to include other segments of society.



4. Curbing Illegal Activities in West Bengal: Four Special Toll-Free Helplines Launched

Four special toll-free helplines have been launched in West Bengal to address complaints regarding extortion, syndicate activities, illegal toll collection, and illicit liquor. Citizens can directly register complaints about these illegal activities via the numbers 155334, 155335, 155337, and 155339. During his visit, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the functioning of these helplines and assured prompt action on the complaints received. This initiative is significant for strengthening citizen participation, law and order, crime control, accountable administration, and internal security.



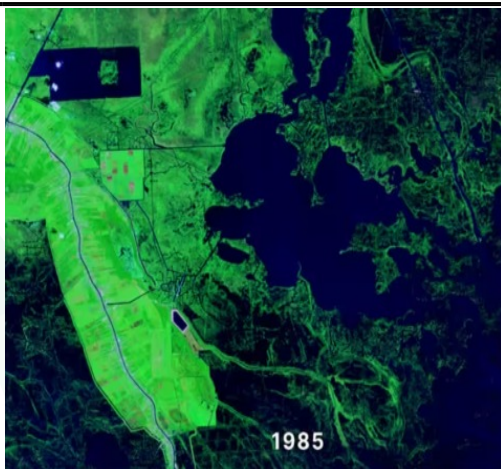
5. Sophie Adenot's historic spacewalk: the first French woman to walk in space

European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot became the first Frenchman and second European woman to walk in space on 18 August 2026. He performed a spacewalk for 6 hours 23 minutes outside the ISS as part of the EVA-97 mission with NASA astronaut Anil Menon. The main objective of this mission was to strengthen the ISS's communications system by replacing the failed Space-to-Ground Antenna (SGANT) located on the Z1 Truss. Despite technical challenges during the spacewalk, the mission was conducted safely and provided critical support by the Canadarm2 robotic arm and the ISS crew.



6. Louisiana's Vanishing Coastal Wetlands: 40 Years of Landscape Change in Satellite Imagery

NASA's Landsat satellite images from 1985 and 2024 reveal the conversion of wetlands into open water and coastal land loss in Louisiana's Bay Dosgris region. The natural replenishment capacity of the wetlands has been compromised by reduced sediment supply from the Mississippi River and the construction of levees and dams. Factors such as land subsidence, canal construction, oil and gas activities, erosion, and rising sea levels have placed severe stress on the coastal ecosystem. Research indicates that Louisiana lost approximately 5,000 square kilometers of coastal wetlands between 1932 and 2010, while sea levels are rising at a rate of about 12 mm per year.



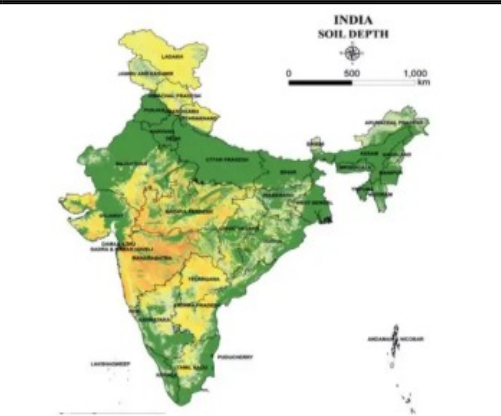
7. Japan's Agrivoltaic Experiment: A New Model for Producing Food and Solar Energy from the Same Field

A six-year study by the University of Tokyo in Japan tested an agrivoltaic system that integrates rice cultivation and solar energy production on the same land. While rice yield dropped by approximately 23% due to the shade cast by solar panels, changes were also observed in the field's microclimate and the quality of the rice. Based on the combined economic value of rice and solar electricity, this system generated a gross profit nearly 14 times higher than that of rice-only farming. This model serves as a significant example of multi-purpose land use, income diversification for farmers, and the promotion of renewable energy through a "Food + Energy" approach.



8. India's First Soil Texture Map: A Major Step Towards Precision Agriculture and Land-Use Planning

On July 16, 2026, India produced its first soil texture map, developed by the NBSS&LUP, which provides detailed digital information on soil composition. Featuring high resolution at the one-hectare level, this map will facilitate precision agriculture and scientific decision-making regarding farming at the local level. Soil texture—defined by the proportions of sand, silt, and clay—influences water-holding capacity, drainage, aeration, and crop suitability. Created using remote sensing, satellite imagery, geospatial data, and AI, this map will help optimize crop selection, irrigation planning, and water management.



1. To how many teachers will the National Teachers' Award 2026 be presented?

- A - 40
B - 48
C - 50
D - 60

President Droupadi Murmu will present the National Teachers' Award to 48 teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day, September 5, 2026, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Established in 1958, this award recognizes excellence in teaching, innovation, and leadership, and is administered by the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Ministry of Education.



2. What is the estimated total mobile phone production under the MPMS scheme?

- A - ₹25 lakh crore
B - ₹30 lakh crore
C - ₹39 lakh crore
D - ₹50 lakh crore

On August 21, 2026, the Central Government launched the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) worth ₹62,500 crore, aimed at strengthening domestic manufacturing, value addition, supply chains, and Indian mobile brands. Spanning from April 1, 2026, to the 2030-31 financial year, the scheme is projected to generate mobile production worth approximately ₹39 lakh crore and create 60,000 new direct jobs.



3. How much monthly pension does an eligible beneficiary receive after the age of 60 under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana?

- A - ₹1,000
B - ₹2,000
C - ₹3,000
D - ₹5,000

Social security schemes in India provide protection against economic risks for unorganized sector workers, farmers, traders, and vulnerable sections of society by offering pension, insurance, food, housing, and health security. Schemes such as PM-SYM, PM-KMY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, PDS, ONORC, PMAY-G, and Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY strengthen the inclusive social security mechanism.



4. Which helpline number is designated for complaints regarding extortion in West Bengal?

- A - 155334
B - 155335
C - 155337
D - 155339

Four dedicated toll-free helplines have been launched in West Bengal to address complaints regarding extortion, syndicate activities, illegal toll collection, and illicit liquor. This initiative aims to foster citizen participation and strengthen law and order, crime control, and internal security, while ensuring prompt grievance redressal.



5. Who became the first French woman to perform a spacewalk?

- A - Sophie Adenot B - Jessica Meir
C - Sunita Williams D - Peggy Whitson

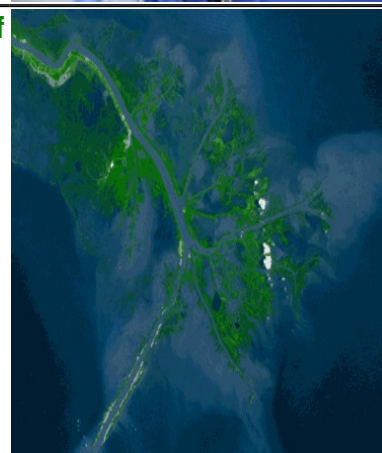
On August 18, 2026, Sophie Adenot became the first French woman and the second European woman to perform a spacewalk; she, along with Anil Menon, conducted a 6-hour 23-minute spacewalk during the EVA-97 mission. The mission's objective was to replace a faulty SGANT antenna located on the ISS's Z1 Truss, with significant assistance provided by Canadarm2 and the ISS crew.



6. In which region did NASA satellite imagery reveal the conversion of wetlands into open water?

- A - Florida B - Louisiana
C - Texas D - California

NASA's Landsat satellite imagery revealed the conversion of wetlands into open water and coastal land loss in Louisiana's Bay Dosgrais region. Approximately 5,000 square kilometers of wetlands were lost between 1932 and 2010 due to factors such as sediment deficit, land subsidence, canal construction, oil and gas activities, and sea-level rise.



7. What is jointly produced in an agrivoltaic system?

- A - Food and coal B - Rice and solar energy
C - Cotton and wind energy D - Wheat and hydroelectric power

A study by the University of Tokyo in Japan tested an agrivoltaic system that combines rice cultivation and solar energy production on the same land. Despite a 23% reduction in rice yield, the combined value of rice and solar energy generated a gross profit approximately 14 times higher, thereby promoting the "Food + Energy" model.



8. Which organization developed India's first soil texture map?

- A - ISRO B - ICAR
C - NBSS&LUP D - NITI Aayog

India prepared its first soil texture map, developed by NBSS&LUP, which provides detailed digital soil information at the one-hectare level. Created using remote sensing, satellite imagery, geospatial data, and AI, this map will aid in precision agriculture, crop selection, irrigation planning, and water management.



One Liner

1. What monthly pension is received after the age of 60 under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana? - ₹3,000
2. Satellite images from which satellites were used to study the changes in Louisiana's coastal wetlands? - Landsat-5 and Landsat-9
3. Soil texture is primarily based on the proportions of which three components? - Sand, silt, and clay
4. What is the agricultural system in Japan that involves the combined production of rice and solar energy called? - Agrivoltaic
5. What is the name of the mobile phone manufacturing scheme worth ₹62,500 crore? - MPMS
6. Which helpline number has been launched in West Bengal for complaints regarding extortion? - 155334
7. To how many teachers will the National Teachers' Award 2026 be presented? - 48
8. In which year was the National Teachers' Award instituted? - 1958
9. Who became the first French woman to perform a spacewalk? - Sophie Adenot
10. Which institution has prepared India's first soil texture map? - NBSS&LUP