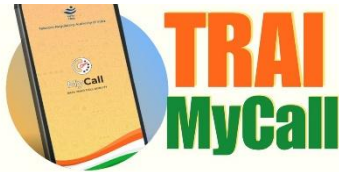


Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

WHAT IS TRAI MYCALL?



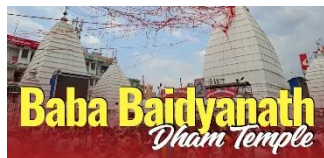
- It is a **mobile application** launched by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.
- It is a citizen-centric digital platform that empowers telecom consumers to share real-time feedback on their voice-calling experience, along with relevant network parameters.
- The feedback provided by consumers is **visible to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) as well as TRAI** in an anonymised form.
- This feedback provides valuable insights to TSPs, helping them identify areas where network performance needs improvement and take targeted corrective measures.
- While network performance is evaluated using technical Quality of Service (QoS) parameters, the QoE perceived by consumers also provides an important perspective on service performance.
- The **revamped TRAI MyCall application** offers several consumer-friendly features, including:
 - **Instant rating of voice calls** through a simple **1-5 star feedback system**.
 - **Reporting of specific issues** such as **call drops, echo during calls, audio delay**, cross connection, voice breaking, one party unable to hear the other, and calls taking too long to connect, which shall be available to the respective service provider for corrective action.
 - **Automatic post-call feedback prompts** for seamless participation.
 - **Rating and feedback history on interactive map**.
 - **Coverage Test feature** to assess signal strength.
 - **Multilingual support** with Bhashini.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

Key Facts about Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):

- It is a **regulatory body** responsible for **overseeing the telecommunications industry in India**.
- It was **established** under the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997**, passed by Parliament.
- **Objectives:**
 - To stimulate the growth and **development of the telecommunication sector** by creating favorable conditions.
 - To provide a **fair and transparent environment** for telcos.
 - To come up with different **regulatory directions/mandates** on tariffs, DTH, portability of mobile numbers, and so on.

BABA BAIDYANATH DHAM TEMPLE



- It is a **Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva** located in Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- It is **one of the 12 Jyotirlingas** in India.
- This ancient temple has been mentioned in several **ancient scriptures**, such as **Puranas, Vedas, Mahabharata, Ramayana**,
- **History:**
 - The **mythological origin** of Baidyanath Dham is tied to the legend of **King Demon Ravana**, who was granted a boon by Lord Shiva to take a sacred Jyotirlinga to his palace in Lanka.
 - But he placed it on the ground in Deoghar, where the Lingam permanently resides.
 - **Historical records** suggest the temple's **original construction** in the **8th century** by **Puran Mal**, an **ancestor of the Nagavanshi dynasty**.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

- Over the centuries, the temple has seen **numerous renovations** and expansions, reflecting various architectural styles and cultural influences.
- The **current structure** is attributed to **Raja Man Singh** in the **16th century**.
- The temple hosts the famous **Shravani Mela**, one of the **largest annual religious gatherings** in India.
- **Architecture:**
 - The temple showcases the classic **Nagara style** of **North Indian architecture**.
 - The **main temple** is the **Baidyanath Jyotirlinga Temple**, which **houses the lingam of Shiva**.
 - The temple is **built of stone** and has a **pyramidal tower** that rises to a height of **72 feet**.
 - The temple has a simple and elegant design, with a **spacious hall**, a **sanctum**, and a vestibule.

VIKRAM SARABHAI MEDAL



- It was constituted in 1990 in the honour of Vikram Sarabhai.
- It is an international medal awarded to scientists from developing countries for their outstanding contributions to the field of space research.
- It is awarded jointly by **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** and the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**.
- **Eligibility:** For a candidate to be eligible for this award, her or his relevant work must have been carried out mainly in the five year period ending one year before the COSPAR Scientific Assembly at which the medal is to be presented.
 - **Other Indian recipients:** Anil Bharadwaj (2024), Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014) and UR Rao, (1996).

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

Key facts about Committee on Space Research

- It was established in 1958.
- It is an international body affiliated to the **International Science Council and United Nations (through UN-COPUS)**.
- COSPAR is one of the largest forums for space scientists and **holds its scientific assembly biennially**.

GLAW LAKE



Glaw Lake is designated as India's 101st Ramsar Site.

- **Location:** It is located in the state of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- It is **Arunachal Pradesh's first designated Ramsar Site**.
- It is a freshwater lake in the **Eastern Himalayas** is a **biodiversity hotspot**, nestled **within the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Water Source:** The Lake is fed by perennial mountain streams and is surrounded by lush vegetation, supporting rich floral diversity.
- **Biodiversity:** The wetland has over **150 tree species** and **49 orchid species recorded** within the site and its catchment, underscoring the ecological significance of Glaw Lake and its surrounding landscape.
- It supports high-altitude aquatic biodiversity, including endangered species such as the **White-Bellied Heron and Clouded Leopard**.

Key Facts about Ramsar Convention:

- It is an **intergovernmental treaty** that sets the framework for both national action and international cooperation to conserve and ensure the **wise use of wetlands and their resources**.
- It was **adopted in 1971** in the city of **Ramsar in Iran** and **came into force in 1975**.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

DIGITAL TRAILS, REAL DANGERS: WHY KERALA WANTS SENSITIVE FOREST SPOTS OFF ONLINE MAPS

The Kerala Forest Department has decided to identify and remove **illegally geotagged locations** within the state's forests from online mapping platforms, citing risks to human lives, wildlife, and ecologically fragile zones.

Geotagging

- Geotagging is the process of attaching geographical information (such as latitude, longitude, altitude, date, and time) to digital content like photographs, videos, social media posts, or documents.
- It enables the precise location where the content was created or shared to be identified.

What Is Illegal Geotagging?

- Illegal geotagging refers to the unauthorized capture, sharing, or publication of location-specific information that is prohibited by law or poses a threat to national security, public safety, or individual privacy.
- **Examples**
 - When sensitive ecological locations within protected forest areas are publicly marked without approval.
 - Notably, even trekking routes used by forest department personnel inside protected areas — including parts of Silent Valley — had appeared on online maps.
 - Geotagging and uploading photographs of **military installations, air bases, naval facilities, or strategic infrastructure**.
 - Publishing the precise location of individuals without their consent, violating privacy laws.
 - Geotagging critical infrastructure such as nuclear plants, ammunition depots, or communication facilities where disclosure is restricted.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

The Process: Identification and Removal

- The department's IT wing has been tasked with identifying illegally tagged locations and preparing a list for the Forest Management Wing.
- A final list will be submitted to online map platforms, requesting removal of the tags.
- The department also plans to identify individuals who uploaded such geotags within reserve and protected forest areas and pursue legal action where required.

Why This Is a Concern?

- **Disaster Risk**
 - Many illegally tagged locations lie in **mountainous regions vulnerable to landslides and other natural hazards**, particularly during the monsoon season.
 - Tourists seeking to witness the Kerala monsoon are increasingly stepping into these dangerous zones.
- **Wildlife and Ecological Risk**
 - Exposing **wildlife corridors** increases the risk of **human-animal conflict**, especially in areas inhabited by elephants, big cats, and bison, which require controlled access.
 - Officials stressed that the "**sanctity**" of **such areas** must be preserved, and unauthorised tourism entry cannot be permitted.

Additional Measures Planned

- Forest teams have been instructed to engage with human habitations near sensitive zones.
- The department is working with local bodies to establish a regulatory mechanism preventing illegal entry and future unauthorised tagging.
- Environmental organisations in Kerala have also flagged concerns over unregulated access to protected forests, urging authorities to curb illegal geotagging of ecologically sensitive areas.

Kerala's initiative to remove sensitive forest locations from digital maps highlights an emerging governance challenge at the intersection of technology and conservation — where unchecked digital visibility of fragile ecosystems can directly endanger both human lives and wildlife.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

NOTTO'S NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT PORTAL

- The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (**NOTTO**) has launched a dynamic real-time national portal and mobile application to digitise India's organ transplantation ecosystem.
- The platform aims to establish a unified nationwide waiting list, enable transparent organ allocation, facilitate national-level donor matching, and improve transplant outcome monitoring.
- This will help in strengthening equity, efficiency, and accountability in organ transplantation.

Why the Portal is Significant?

- The portal represents a major reform in India's organ transplantation framework by -
 - **Reduce delays** in transplantation by creating a real-time national waiting list for organ recipients.
 - Enabling **transparent** and traceable organ allocation across hospitals and states.
 - Increase utilisation of donated organs by facilitating nationwide matching of swap donors.
 - Recording post-transplant health outcomes through follow-up data.
 - Strengthening **cooperative federalism** through better Centre-State coordination.
 - Improving coordination among hospitals, State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations (**SOTTOs**), Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations (**ROTTOs**), and NOTTO.
 - Promoting organ donation through Aadhaar-linked organ donation pledges.
 - Generating evidence-based data for future healthcare planning, and improving public trust in the transplantation system.
- The initiative aligns with the broader goals of Digital Health, Good Governance, and **Universal Health Coverage**.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

CRITICAL MINERALS, THE FOUNDATION OF STRATEGIC POWER

- The global energy and technological transition is transforming the geopolitics of natural resources.
- Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, copper and rare earth elements are essential for electric vehicles, batteries, renewable energy, semiconductors, defence and advanced manufacturing.
- As decarbonisation and digitalisation accelerate, **mineral security** is acquiring **strategic importance** comparable to oil.
- For India, securing these resources is crucial for energy security, technological sovereignty and national security.

Rising Demand and Supply Vulnerabilities

- The clean-energy transition will substantially increase mineral demand.
- The existing copper project pipeline could result in a **30% supply shortfall by 2035**, while rising lithium demand may push the market into deficit during the 2030s.
- Rare-earth demand is also expected to grow rapidly with wind power, electronics and advanced magnets.
- India faces particular pressure because its **net-zero ambitions** and manufacturing expansion are mineral-intensive.
- Under a net-zero pathway, cumulative demand for critical energy-transition minerals could reach around **169 million tonnes by 2070**, significantly exceeding demand under current policies.

India's Reserve-to-Refining Gap

- India possesses substantial resources of **cobalt, copper, graphite and nickel**, besides monazite deposits containing rare-earth oxides.
- Recycling could eventually meet a significant share of copper and graphite demand.
- However, **geological reserves** do not automatically ensure supply security.

Current Affairs - 04 August 2026

- India remains import-dependent for lithium, cobalt and nickel, while China's dominance in graphite and rare-earth processing creates additional risks.
- The critical weakness is the **midstream processing** and refining capacity.
- China accounts for more than 90% of rare-earth and graphite processing, nearly 75% of cobalt processing and around 70% of lithium-chemical production.
- India must therefore move beyond bulk-mineral extraction towards **high-purity processing** and value-added manufacturing.

Structural Constraints

- India's progress is constrained by **limited exploration, inadequate geological data**, lengthy regulatory clearances and restricted private participation.
- Remote-region projects also face high infrastructure and logistical costs.
- Processing is an even greater bottleneck. India lacks adequate facilities for certain high-purity inputs, while copper and graphite face technological, purification and scale constraints.
- Recycling cannot immediately replace primary supply because collection networks, feedstock and technologies remain limited.

The Way Forward: From Mission to Execution

- The immediate priority is **effective implementation**. Processing and refining must become national industrial priorities through targeted incentives, infrastructure and technological partnerships.
- Better geological information, predictable approvals and risk-sharing mechanisms can attract private investment.
- India should develop **strategic mineral stockpiles**, strengthen industry-linked R&D, expand recycling and diversify overseas mineral assets through trusted partners.
- Mineral-specific risk assessments should determine where domestic production, diversified imports, strategic reserves or recycling are most appropriate.
- A coordinated institutional framework should establish **measurable milestones across exploration**, mining, refining, recycling and overseas acquisition.