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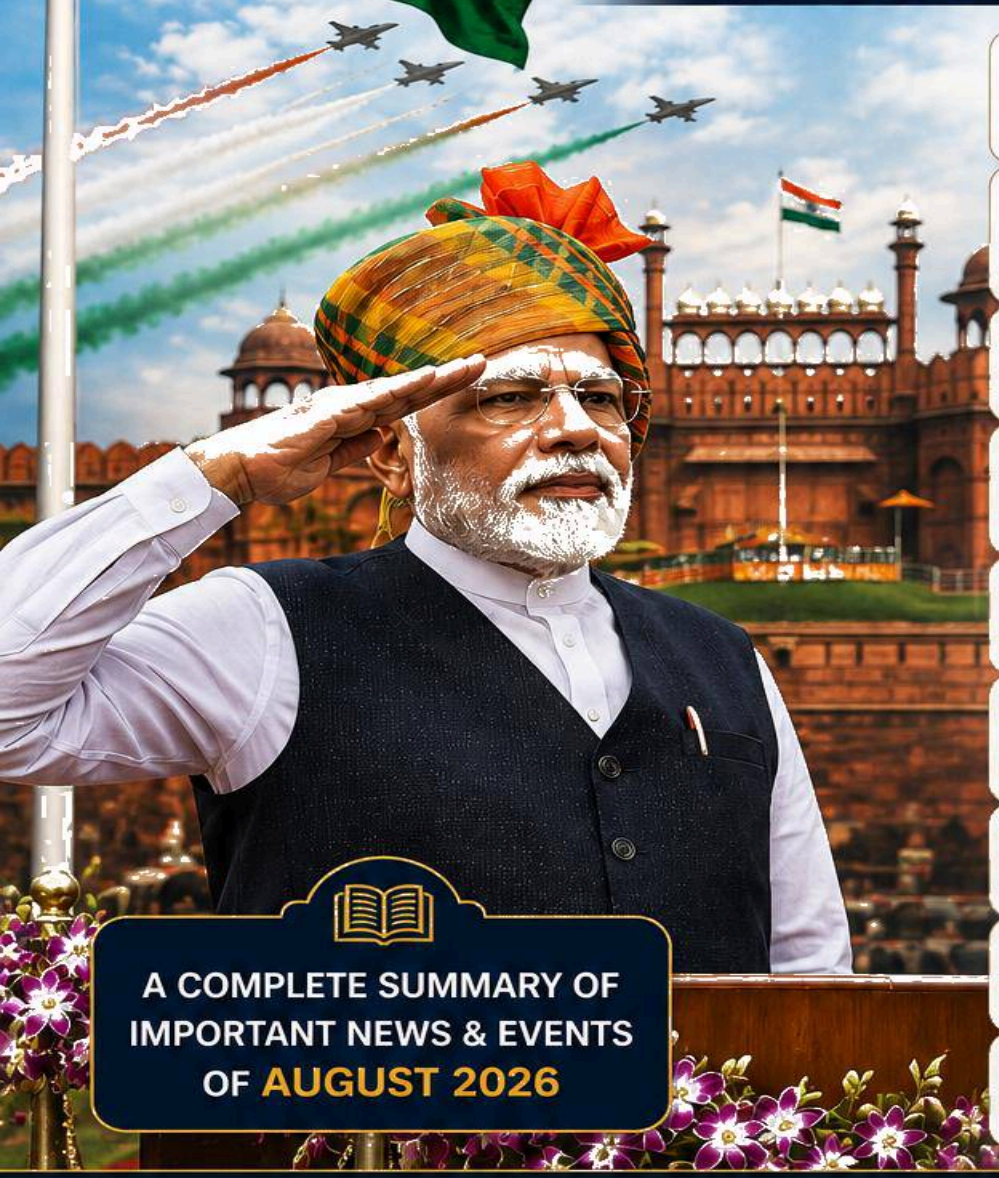
THE HINDU REVIEW

August 2026

Current Affairs

Monthly Capsule



1. Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Tally
2. Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026
3. Independence Day 2026
4. Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25
5. Gallantry Medals 2026
6. National Teachers' Awards 2026
7. UPI Completes 10 Years
8. e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years
9. PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years

A COMPLETE SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT NEWS & EVENTS OF AUGUST 2026

EXAM FOC[redacted] & UPDATED | [redacted]ORT[redacted] ALL COMPETITIVE EXAMS | FA[redacted] & KEY POINTS | [redacted]P MONTHLY SOLUTION

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Most Important Current Affairs of the Month

Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Tally

The remarkable performance of Indian Contingent with 39 medals in Glasgow, India has achieved fourth position in the overall medal table of the Commonwealth Games 2026. Even after certain figures of major medal-winning sports like wrestling, badminton, table tennis, shooting, and hockey were excluded from the Games' menu, the Indian team did quite well and collected 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze medals.

Boxing turned out to be the most successful sport for India in the Games. Besides the boxing success, weightlifting, athletics, para athletics, and judo contributed to the medal tally as well.

India Finishes Fourth in the Commonwealth Games Medal Table for 2026

With total 39 medals at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, India matched the total for the domestic team, Scotland. However, India secured fourth place because of more silver medals.

The final standings for the Olympic Games medal table for 2026 were as follows.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	70	45	56	171
2	England	29	45	36	110
3	Canada	19	20	23	62
4	India	13	17	9	39
5	Scotland	13	9	17	39
6	New Zealand	10	14	12	36
7	Nigeria	10	7	7	24
8	Jamaica	10	4	5	19
9	Wales	9	10	12	31
10	Malaysia	8	3	5	16

India's Medal Tally by Sport

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Boxing	7	3	0	10
Athletics	0	5	5	10
Weightlifting	1	6	1	8
Para Athletics	3	2	1	6
Judo	2	1	1	4
Para Powerlifting	0	0	1	1
Total	13	17	9	39

Complete List of India's Medal Winners

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Jhandu Kumar	Para Powerlifting	Men's Heavyweight	Bronze
2	Rishikanta Singh	Weightlifting	Men's 60kg	Silver
3	Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 48kg	Gold
4	Muthupandi Raja	Weightlifting	Men's 65kg	Silver
5	Gyaneshwari Yadav	Weightlifting	Women's 53kg	Silver
6	Bindyarani Devi	Weightlifting	Women's 58kg	Bronze
7	Sharmila Dhankar	Para Athletics	Women's Shot Put F57	Gold
8	Sarvesh Kushare	Athletics	Men's High Jump	Silver

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
9	Shilpa K Shyla	Para Athletics	Women's Shot Put F57	Bronze
10	Valluri Ajaya Babu	Weightlifting	Men's 79kg	Silver
11	Harjinder Kaur	Weightlifting	Women's 69kg	Silver
12	Gulveer Singh	Athletics	Men's 10,000m	Silver
13	Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics	Men's Long Jump	Silver
14	Dilip Gavit	Para Athletics	Men's 100m T47	Gold
15	Mohammed Basil	Para Athletics	Men's 100m T47	Silver
16	Lovepreet Singh	Weightlifting	Men's +110kg	Silver
17	Seema Kaliramna	Athletics	Women's Discus Throw	Bronze
18	Asmita Dey	Judo	Women's -48kg	Gold
19	Harsh Singh	Judo	Men's -60kg	Gold
20	Yamini Mourya	Judo	Women's -57kg	Silver
21	Tejaswin Shankar	Athletics	Men's Decathlon	Bronze
22	Yash Vir Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw	Bronze
23	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw	Silver
24	Preeti Pawar	Boxing	Women's 54kg	Gold
25	Pravreen Chithravel	Athletics	Men's Triple Jump	Silver
26	Selva Prabhu	Athletics	Men's Triple Jump	Bronze
27	Jaismine Lamboria	Boxing	Women's 57kg	Gold
28	Jadumani Singh	Boxing	Men's 55kg	Silver
29	Shubham Juyal	Para Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Silver
30	Soman Rana	Para Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Gold
31	Unnati Sharma	Judo	Women's -63kg	Bronze
32	Sakshi Chaudhary	Boxing	Women's 51kg	Gold
33	Priya Ghanghas	Boxing	Women's 60kg	Gold
34	Arundhati Choudhary	Boxing	Women's 70kg	Gold
35	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing	Women's 75kg	Silver
36	Sachin Siwach	Boxing	Men's 60kg	Gold
37	Ankush Panghal	Boxing	Men's 80kg	Gold
38	Narender Berwal	Boxing	Men's +90kg	Silver
39	Gulveer Singh	Athletics	Men's 5,000m	Bronze

India's Major Highlights

Category	Achievement
Overall Rank	4th
Total Medals	39
Most Successful Sport	Boxing (10 medals)
Most Gold Medals	Boxing (7 Gold)
Mirabai Chanu	First Indian woman to win three consecutive CWG gold medals
Asmita Dey	India's first Commonwealth Games Judo Champion
Gulveer Singh	First Indian track & field athlete to win two individual medals at one CWG
Tejaswin Shankar	India's first Commonwealth Games Decathlon medallist
Para Campaign	Best-ever performance with 7 medals
Neeraj Chopra	Returned to CWG with Silver after missing Birmingham 2022

Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026

Top 10 Women Leaders in the 2026 Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List

Rank	Name	Organization/Association	Age
1	Meena Bindra	BIBA	83
2	Tushara Shankar	Lupin	46
3	Rajni Bector Bectors	Food Specialities	86
4	Vaishali Nigam Sinha	ReNew Power	56
5	Suneeta Reddy & Preetha Reddy	Apollo Hospitals Enterprise	67 & 68
6	Avani Lekhara	Paralympic Medallist	24
7	Sudha Murthy	Author	75
8	Ananya Birla	Entrepreneur & Social Media Influencer	32
9	Faye D'Souza	Journalist Independent	44
10	Kanika Gupta Shori	Square Yards	---

Youngest Women Leaders List 2026

Rank	Name	Organization/Association
1	Sheetal Devi	Paralympian
2	Noureen Aysha	Femi Safe
3	Parul Gulati	Entrepreneur & Influencer
4	Priyanka Sharma	Independent Journalist
5	Rithika Mohan	Garuda Aerospace
6	Savi Sharma	Author
7	Masaba Gupta	House of Masaba
8	Shreya Mishra	Solar Square
9	Nishtha Gupta	Suzlon
10	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	HCL Technologies

Oldest Women Leaders Across Categories

Rank	Name	Organization/Association
1	Rajni Bector Bectors	Food Specialities
2	Meena Bindra	BIBA
3	Manju D. Gupta	Lupin
4	Bina Modi Godfrey	Phillips India
5	Banu Mushtaq	Author
6	Arundhati Bhattacharya	Salesforce India
7	Madhulika Sharma	ITC
8	Vaishali Nigam Sinha	ReNew Power
9	Deepa Malik	Paralympian
10	Barkha Dutt	Mojo Story

Independence Day 2026: AI Training, Saptadhara, Free Coaching and Viksit Bharat 2047

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on the occasion of 80th Independence Day of India from Red Fort on 15 August, 2026. The address, which lasted for about 75 minutes, covered a wide array of topics such as self-reliance, critical minerals and energy security, artificial intelligence, manufacturing, defence, sports, women representation and youth empowerment.

The celebrations on the 80th Independence Day of India also marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram when the national song was rendered at the Red Fort on the occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of 'Yuva Shakti' for the journey towards 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and presented the concept of the Saptadhara, or seven streams, which would be responsible for taking India towards further growth.

PM Modi Hoists Tricolour at Red Fort

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the National Flag at the Red Fort after his arrival at the historical venue.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was received by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and inspected the Guard of Honour comprised of personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police.
- The flag-hoisting ceremony was synchronized with the 21 gun salute by the 1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial) using indigenous 105 mm Light Field Guns.
- Before the flag-hoisting ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat and remembered the sacrifices of the freedom fighters of India.

150 Years of Vande Mataram

- Commemorating the 150 years of Vande Mataram was a major feature of the 2026 Independence Day celebrations of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it an historic occasion and mentioned that the slogan Vande Mataram was reverberating in the hearts of Indians along with the Tricolour fluttering all across the country.
- Prime Minister also extended support to the people who were suffering because of floods, landslides and other natural calamities in different parts of the country.

Viksit Bharat by 2047: The Core Objective of PM Modi

- PM Modi reaffirmed the goal of transforming India into a developed country by 2047 as the country will celebrate its 100 years of independence.
- He pointed out that this goal can only be met together by the more than 140 crore citizens of the country.
- The Prime Minister pointed out that India's development has already undergone some remarkable changes and the goals of the country must be raised further now.
- He further pointed out that determination of all sections of citizens including poor, middle-class, youth, etc., has helped India achieve its development.
- According to PM Modi, more than 25 crore people have been taken out of poverty, which he highlighted as one of the most significant achievements of India's development process.

Aatmanirbharta and “Vocal for Local”

- Self-reliance, or Aatmanirbharta, was one of the main themes of his speech.
- PM Modi said that India should not continue to depend on other nations for essential products and technologies. He urged for strengthening of Swadeshi, self-reliance and "Vocal for Local".
- He further said that this goal can be accomplished through the "Make in India" initiative as India needs to be self-reliant in key sectors to protect its national interests.

Critical Minerals and Energy Security

- Critical minerals and energy security became increasingly important for India's future according to PM Modi.
- As the new age industries like semiconductor manufacturing and data centres require assured supply of energy and critical minerals, PM Modi said India needs to achieve self-reliance in these areas.
- PM Modi talked about India's initiatives relating to the critical mineral corridor and said that many countries have placed their trust in India regarding the same.
- According to him, energy security is vital for a modern economy due to growing demand from data centres, semiconductor plants and other technology intensive industries.

India’s Semiconductor Strategy

- There was an emphasis on semiconductor manufacturing in India’s self-reliance drive.
- According to PM Modi, India has set up three semiconductor facilities, and there is already production in place, and further such facilities will be set up in the future.
- Creating a domestic semiconductor industry will enable India to cut down on dependence on imports from abroad for essential semiconductors and boost its position in the global technology supply chain.

₹85,000 Crore Deep Sea Exploration

- Deep sea exploration was also one of the initiatives taken by India that PM Modi talked about in his speech.
- PM Modi said that ₹85,000 crore had been earmarked for deep sea exploration through the recently launched Samudra Manthan initiative.

- Exploration of India's offshore area for new oil reserves was also mentioned by PM Modi where he said that the vast areas of the coastline that India used to consider as "no go" areas for exploration will now be explored.
- The goal behind such explorations is to enhance domestic energy security and find new strategic resources.

India's Nuclear Energy Target of 2047

- India's nuclear power generation plans were part of the speech of PM Modi.
- PM Modi revealed that India's target of generating 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047 and the development of new nuclear power reactors.
- This expansion of nuclear power generation is being done as part of India's long-term plan of meeting rising demands of energy and providing energy security.

India's Piped Gas, Solar Power, and Household Energy Generation

- PM Modi talked about the development of piped gas infrastructure, mentioning that prior to 2014 there were only around 70 cities with piped gas facility, but the number has increased to more than 700 cities now.
- It has helped more than 1.45 crore families with their piped gas facility.
- Talking about solar power generation, PM Modi said that more than 50 lakh families have received solar energy generation facility.

Electrification of Railways and Hydrogen Train

- Prime Minister mentioned the evolution of India's railway systems.
- In his speech, he mentioned that railway electrification started back in 1925 but only 30 percent of the system got electrified over the past 90 years. He added that the remaining electrification process took place in the past ten years in India.
- According to PM Modi, the railway electrification process has led to reduced imports of fuel and provided environmental advantages as well.
- India has made remarkable progress in hydrogen trains according to PM Modi.
- He used hydrogen train as an example for showing how India is making progress in the rail technology frontiers.

FTA and MSME Opportunities

- PM Modi said India is signing FTA with 40 countries.
- He encouraged Indian MSMEs to use the agreements and increase their exports.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that Indian products should be sold to international markets along with maintaining international standards of quality, cost and competitiveness.
- In particular, the seafood exporting capacity of India was highlighted by Prime Minister Modi. He pointed towards the opportunities of Kerala and Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and Bengal.

Saptadhara: Seven Streams for Viksit Bharat

Perhaps one of the most significant parts of the speech was the announcement of Saptadhara by PM Modi, which means seven streams of development.

PM Modi said that India is entering the next level reform phase and described India as a "reform express".

The seven streams are,

- Manufacturing
- Farming and Food Processing
- Technology and Innovation
- Gati Shakti
- Raksha Shakti
- Green and Blue Economy
- Soft Power

India's International Corporate Aspirations

- The PM asked Indian corporates to aim bigger internationally.
- Why should not India have 50 corporations in the Fortune 500 in the coming decade, he wondered.
- Further, he added that at least one Indian bank needs to feature among the world's top five banks.
- Similarly, at least one Indian pharmaceutical firm needs to be in the list of world's top five pharmaceutical firms.

One Crore Youth to be Trained in AI

- Empowering the youth was one of the most important parts of the speech.
- PM Modi informed that one crore youngsters would be imparted training in Artificial Intelligence.
- This is part of the efforts to make India's youth ready for an era dominated by AI and other advanced technologies.
- Moreover, he mentioned the advantages gained by youth through various programs such as Digital India, Skill India, Khelo India and National Education Policy.

Free Coaching for Competitions

- Apart from this, PM Modi announced the creation of a network to provide free coaching centers for youngsters.
- The purpose of this program is to ensure that lack of money does not come in the way of students preparing for their exams.
- In particular, this announcement is helpful for those who are preparing for government jobs and other competitive exams.

More Than ₹1 Lakh Crore Innovation Fund

- The Prime Minister has spoken about an innovation fund of more than ₹1 lakh crore.
- It is about fostering innovation and offering chances to the young innovators of India and its technology space.
- This is one of those schemes that can help in achieving the goal of turning India into an innovative nation that produces technologies and businesses that are competitive at a global level.

2036 Olympics and 2030 Commonwealth Games

- Sports got quite some emphasis in the Independence Day speech of PM Modi.
- According to the Prime Minister, India will be hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games and has its eyes set on hosting the 2036 Olympics.
- According to him, India does not participate in a good number of Olympic games.
- In order to bridge this gap, he has talked about a Talent Hunt campaign for children between the ages of 5 to 15 years.
- The aim here is to identify sporting talent in children and make sure that they are capable in the areas where India has remained behind.
- “Jo Khele, Woh Khile” – his message in short.

Naxalism and ‘Dimagi Naxal’

- Prime Minister Modi made it clear that the government’s aim is to make India Naxal-free.
- According to him, there have been great changes in the regions which used to face the problem of armed Naxals.
- Moreover, according to him, Naxals have caused huge losses both in terms of money and lives of citizens.
- However, what needs to be noted here is that the PM made a reference to ‘dimagi naxals’.

Civil Defence Network

- Moreover, he made the announcement that a civil defence network would be established.
- This project aims to enhance the preparedness and resilience when there is any emergency or some situation in which a civilian response is needed.

Women’s Reservation and Nari Shakti

- Moreover, the Women’s political representation was another important topic discussed in the speech.
- PM Modi mentioned the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam which ensures 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies subject to the conditions set out in the law.
- In addition, he requested political parties in all hues to support the initiative and asked for the political empowerment of women.
- He said that the potential of women should be acknowledged and more representation in Indian politics.

PM Modi appeals to youth for census

- At the end of the speech, PM Modi appealed to the youth to take part in the process of census.
- Crisis Management and the Spirit of "Nagrik Devo Bhava"
- Prime Minister mentioned challenges that India faced due to the situation following the pandemic, namely conflicts and global energy crisis.
- In particular, there were fears and rumours regarding shortages of vaccines, fuel, diesel and fertilisers.
- In accordance with the Prime Minister, measures were taken by the Government to make sure that citizens, as well as farmers, do not feel the whole brunt of these crises.
- "Prime Minister referred to the spirit of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava', with the citizen as the focal point of governance."
- In addition, he gave the example of fertilisers being available to farmers at regulated prices despite their high costs internationally.

Reduction of Poverty in India

- Another accomplishment was the reduction of poverty in the country.
- In particular, PM Modi stated that more than 25 crore people were saved from poverty in the specified period, mentioning the contribution of citizens in different social and economic strata to India's development.
- In particular, he said that it is becoming increasingly hard to stop development of the country thanks to the common will of its citizens.

Transformation of Governance and Infrastructure Development

- The Prime Minister also mentioned transformations that have occurred within the governance system during the last decade.
- Old laws have been abolished, the way of governance has changed, as well as infrastructure has been renewed.
- In particular, PM Modi mentioned the development of metro rail in India's cities and the acceleration of infrastructure development.

Atmanirbhar Bharat and Domestic Exploration of Resources

- Self-reliance became the key theme of the speech of the Prime Minister.
- In particular, he said that the country should explore its own resources and increase domestic capacities instead of relying on foreign sources of energy.
- He especially emphasised the importance of offshore exploration of oil and other resources as connected with the long-term energy security of India.
- The ₹85,000 crore Samudra Manthan allocation was mentioned in this context.

75 Minute Independence Day Address

- The Independence Day address given by PM Narendra Modi lasted about 75 minutes.
- It was a combination of thoughts about India's progress since the time of its independence along with several future-focused announcements on areas such as AI, manufacturing, energy, semiconductors, defense, infrastructure, sports, women, youth, and reforms.

Key Highlights of PM Modi's Independence Day Speech 2026

- India celebrated its 80th Independence Day.
- The celebration also marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram.
- PM Modi reiterated the target of Viksit Bharat in 2047.
- The Saptadhara approach to the development plan was mentioned.
- One crore youth will be trained in AI.
- A free coaching network will be set up for competitive exams.
- More than ₹1 lakh crore innovation fund was announced.
- India plans 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- India is striving to make itself self-reliant on critical minerals.
- Three semiconductor manufacturing plants are operational now, according to PM Modi.
- ₹85,000 crore has been allocated for deep sea exploration.
- India is working on FTAs with more than 40 countries.
- Railway electrification has reached 100%, according to PM Modi.
- More than 50 lakh households are powered by solar energy.
- India plans to have 50 fortune 500 companies in the next decade.
- At least one Indian bank should come into the top five in the global list.
- At least one Indian pharma company should rank among the top five in the world.
- India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and will also aim to host 2036 Olympics.
- The launch of sports talent hunt program for the 5-15 age group.
- PM Modi reiterated the target of India becoming Naxal-free.
- A Civil defense network will be set up.
- PM Modi appealed for support in the cause of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state legislatures.
- The youth was urged to assist their families in providing accurate data during the census.
- Aatmanirbhar, Swadeshi, and Vocal for Local was stressed by PM Modi.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25: President to Honour 115 Artists

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows — Akademi Ratna

S. No.	Fellow
1	Ramlal Bareth
2	A V Anand
3	Rita Ganguly
4	Puru Dadheech
5	Chittaranjan Jyotishi
6	Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma
7	Sudharani Raghupathy

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Arun Nagesh Kashalkar	Hindustani Vocal
2	Nirmalya Dey	Hindustani Vocal - Dhrupad
3	Bharat Bhushan Goswami	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
4	Sanjay Mukherjee	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
5	Krishna Vageesh	Carnatic Vocal
6	N. Vijay Siva	Carnatic Vocal
7	A S Krishnan Carnatic	Instrumental – Morching
8	Komanduri Seshadri Carnatic	Instrumental – Violin
9	Rakesh Chaurasia	Creative and Experimental – Flute

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
10	Prabhati Mukherjee	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Anand Bhate	Other Major Traditions of Music – Abhang
12	Samandar Khan Manganiar	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mand

Dance

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Rajeswari Sainath	Bharatanatyam
2	Bipul Chandra Das	Kathak
3	Rajkumari Thambalsana Devi	Manipuri
4	Veena Murthy Vijay	Kuchipudi
5	Bichitrananda Swain	Odissi
6	Prema Ozah Borbayan	Sattriya
7	Sreedevi Rajan	Mohiniattam
8	Nripen Sahis	Chhau
9	Shashidharan Nair	Creative and Experimental
10	Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan	Music for Dance – Kathakali
11	Kumara Surya Narayana	Music for Dance

Theatre

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Satish Dave	Direction
2	T S Nagabharana	Direction
3	Ravi Chaturvedi	Direction
4	Om Katare	Direction
5	Gummadi Gopala Krishna Rao	Acting
6	Vagai Chanderasekar	Acting
7	Arun Nalavde	Acting
8	Dhiren D Merchant	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
9	Dinesh Kumar Poddar	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
10	Mukund Ram Marathe	Traditional Theatre – Sangeet Natak

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Dursheti Ramaiah	Folk Music, Telangana
2	K Murugan	Folk Dance, Puducherry
3	S C Sharma	Folk & Tribal Music, Karnataka
4	Atamjeet Singh	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
5	Mahendra Ram	Folk Music, Bihar
6	Butan Devi and Somari Devi (Joint)	Folk Dance, Jharkhand
7	Ranajit Kumar Nag	Folk Dance – Sambalpuri, Odisha
8	Hawa Singh	Folk Music, Haryana
9	Veswuzo Phesao	Folk Music & Dance, Nagaland
10	Gulabi Sapera	Folk Dance, Rajasthan – Kalbeliya
11	Lourembam Bedabati	Folk Music, Manipur

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
12	Subhash Narayan Nakashe	Folk Dance, Maharashtra
13	Kishorbhai Somabhai Mistry	Instrument Making – Rudra Veena

Overall & Others

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	T S Sathyavathi	Overall Contribution in Music
2	Voleti Rangamani	Overall Contribution in Dance
3	Shubhada Manohar Varadkar	Scholarship in Performing Arts – Dance
4	Tapati Chowdhurie	Art Critique – Performing Arts
5	Sunanda Nair	Overseas – Dance (Mohiniattam)

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2025

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Krishna Mohan Pathak	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
2	Suresh Gandharv	Hindustani Vocal
3	Shailesh Bhagwat	Hindustani Instrumental – Shehnai
4	Jyoti Ganpati Hegde	Hindustani Instrumental – Rudra Veena
5	Pantula Rama	Carnatic Vocal
6	Papanasam Ashok Ramani	Carnatic Vocal
7	Tripoonithura N Radhakrishnan	Carnatic Instrumental – Ghatam
8	Anoor R. Anantha Krishna Sharma	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
9	D. Srinivas Carnatic	Instrumental – Veena
10	Yugantar Sindoor	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Satchidananda Das Other	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mardala
12	Seema Anil Sehgal	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet

Dance

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Roja Kannan	Bharatanatyam
2	Krishna Mohan Mishra Maharaj, Vaswati Misra and Ram Mohan Maharaj (Trio)	Kathak
3	Kalamandalam Krishnakumar	Kathakali
4	Irengbam Nalini Devi	Manipuri
5	Seetha Nagajothy and P. Nagajothy (Joint)	Manipuri
6	Mallika Kandali	Sattriya
7	Girija Chandran	Mohiniattam
8	Pagulu Jena	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
9	Kaniyal Hariprasad	Music for Dance – Bharatanatyam
10	Bhaskar Jyoti Ojah	Music for Dance – Sattriya
11	S. Kumar	Major Traditions of Dance & Dance Theatre – Bhagavatamela

Theatre

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Kapildev Chandrakant Shukla	Direction
2	Kallol Bhattacharyya	Direction
3	Navdeep Kaur	Direction
4	Pramod Dnyandeo Pawar	Direction
5	Subodh Patnaik	Direction
6	Chetana Das	Acting
7	Suresh Kumar Hazzu	Acting
8	Makhan Lal Saraf	Acting
9	Ashok Patki	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
10	Usha Nangiar	Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Nangiarkooth

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Anup Ranjan Pandey	Folk Music, Chhattisgarh
2	Bheru Singh Chouhan	Folk Music, Madhya Pradesh – Nirguni
3	Surjya Kumar Debbarma	Folk Dance, Tripura
4	Joginder Singh Habbi	Folk Dance, Himachal Pradesh
5	Romalo Ram	Folk Music & Dance, Jammu and Kashmir
6	Harmanpreet Singh	Folk Dance, Punjab
7	Ali Mohammad	Folk Music, Ladakh
8	Domin Karbak	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
9	K. Rosiama	Folk Dance, Mizoram
10	Rani Maring	Instrument Making
11	Sushanta Kumar	Mask Making – Chhau
12	Mangla Prasad Sharma	Instrument Making

Overall & Others

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Kunal	Overall Contribution in Theatre
2	Maneesha Sathe	Overall Contribution in Dance – Kathak
3	Rakesh Sinha	Overall Contribution – Art Photography
4	Manjari Sinha	Art Critique – Performing Arts
5	T S Nandakumar	Overseas – Music (Mridangam)

Gallantry Medals Awarded to Police, Fire Service Personnel

President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) 2026 — State/Organisation-Wise Winners

Andhra Pradesh

- Shri Vijaya Kumar Gudi — Inspector General
- Shri Venkata Rami Reddy Balankari — Inspector General

Assam

- Shri Devojyoti Mukherjee — Inspector General

Bihar

- Shri Sanjay Kumar — Inspector General
- Smt. Bina Kumari — Superintendent of Police

Chhattisgarh

- Shri Moti Lal Kotwani — Deputy Inspector General

NCT of Delhi

- Shri Dinesh Kumar Gupta — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Rajesh Kumar — Assistant Sub Inspector

Gujarat

- Shri Amit Kumar Kishor Vishwakarma — Additional Director General
- Shri Bahadursinh Abhesinh Chudasama — Deputy Superintendent of Police

Haryana

- Smt. Sushila Kaushik — Sub Inspector

Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Gurdev Chand Sharma — Deputy Inspector General

Jharkhand

- Shri Shailendra Kumar Sinha — Inspector General

Karnataka

- Shri Dharmendra Huccha Nanjappa Kallegowdana Koppalu — Assistant Commissioner of Police

Kerala

- Shri Sasidharan Sankaran Ezhuthachan Kizhakkekara — Superintendent of Police

Madhya Pradesh

- Shri Dharmvir Singh — Superintendent of Police
- Shri Sunil Kumar Pandey — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Anil Kumar Bhadauria — Inspector
- Shri Raj Lochan Prasad Dubey — Constable

Maharashtra

- Shri Shirish Ravindra Jain — Additional Director General
- Shri Subhash Nanasaheb Bhujang — Deputy Superintendent of Police
- Shri Sanjay Rajaram Vaychale — Assistant Sub Inspector

Manipur

- Shri Lokhendro Singh Arambam — Armed Police Sub Inspector

Mizoram

- Smt. Meenu Choudhary — Additional Director General

Nagaland

- Shri Videlalie Zashumo — Inspector General

Odisha

- Shri Sanjeeb Panda — Additional Director General
- Ms. Smitarani Mohanty — Deputy Superintendent of Police

Punjab

- Shri Baljit Singh — Inspector

Rajasthan

- Shri Surendra Singh Ranawat — Assistant Commissioner of Police
- Shri Mahendra Kumar Bhagat — Additional Superintendent of Police

Tamil Nadu

- Shri J Vijai Anand — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Shri K Ramachandran — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Shri S Kumar — Assistant Commandant

Telangana

- Shri Narsaiah Jogula — Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police
- Shri R Jagadishwar Reddy — Superintendent of Police

Uttar Pradesh

- Shri Dhruva Kant Thakur — Director General of Police
- Smt. Padmaja Chauhan — Additional Director General
- Shri Prashant Kumar — Additional Director General
- Shri Deo Narayan Yadav — Assistant Commandant
- Shri Ajay Kumar Tripathi — Assistant Commandant
- Shri Vikas Srivastava — Deputy Superintendent of Police

West Bengal

- Shri Ajay Nand — Commissioner of Police

Puducherry

- Shri Ranganathan B — Superintendent of Police

Jammu & Kashmir

- Shri Shoket Hussain Shah — Senior Superintendent

Central Armed Police Forces & Other Organisations

Assam Rifles

- Shri Pritam Lal — Subedar Major

Border Security Force (BSF)

- Shri Mangi Lal Garg — Inspector General
- Shri Charu Dhwaj Aggarwal — Inspector General
- Shri Ashok Kumar — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Dhirendra Singh Sindhu — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Amarvir Yadav — Second-in-Command

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- Smt. Harpreet Kaur Sohi — Inspector General
- Shri Mohan S — Assistant Commandant

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- Shri Narendra Kumar Singh — Inspector General
- Shri M Dhinakaran — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Manish Sharma — Commandant
- Shri Mahesh Chandra Thwal — Commandant
- Shri D Jayachandra Naidu — Inspector

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- Shri Mandhir Ekka — Inspector General
- Shri Nishith Chandra — Deputy Inspector General
- Shri Mohan Singh — Inspector

National Security Guard (NSG)

- Shri Rakesh Sharma — Group Commander

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

- Shri Malothu Ramulu Naik — Inspector General
- Shri Sanjay Bahadur Chand — Commandant

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

- Shri Narayanamurthy Venkataramanan — Deputy Foreign Language Advisor
- Shri Ujjwal Kumar Sukla — Joint Deputy Director/EXE
- Shri Jijo Jacob — Assistant Director/EXE
- Shri Md Zafare Alam — Assistant Director/EXE
- Shri Raman Kumar — Assistant Director/EXE
- Shri Kamal Kant — Assistant Director/Staff Officer
- Ms. Phul Maya Tamang — Assistant Central Intelligence Officer-I/EXE
- Shri Khota Able Shinglai — Assistant Central Intelligence Officer-I/EXE

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- Smt. Shobha Dutta — Superintendent of Police
- Shri Manoj Banerjee — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Smt. Ginni Rana — Additional Superintendent of Police
- Shri Ramesh Chand — Assistant Sub Inspector
- Shri Madan Lal Dhiman — Assistant Sub Inspector
- Shri Sanjay Kumar Samal — Deputy Superintendent of Police

Special Protection Group (SPG)

- Shri Umesh Chander Datta — Inspector General
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
- Shri Gambhir Singh Chauhan — Deputy Inspector General

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

- Shri K M Mallikarjuna Prasanna — Inspector General
- Shri Braj Bhushan Pathak — Additional Superintendent of Police

Department of Defence Production

- Shri Sajid Farid Shapoo — Additional Director General

Railway Protection Force (RPF)

- Shri Rajesh Lal — Assistant Security Commissioner

Fire Service

Goa

- Shri Rajendra Aanant Haldankar — Deputy Director (Fire Services)

Odisha

- Shri Malaya Kumar Mohanty — Assistant Station Officer

Uttar Pradesh

- Shri Naimuddin — Leading Fireman

CISF

- Shri Mahendra Singh Kandari — Assistant Commandant

Home Guards & Civil Defence Service

Chhattisgarh

- Shri Rajesh Kumar Pandey — Additional Commandant General

NCT of Delhi

- Shri Suresh Kumar Shokeen — Commandant

Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Prem Raj — Company Commander

Correctional Services

Maharashtra

- Shri Sanjiv Sakharam Ghanekar — Subhedar
- Shri Sanjay Rajaramji Talware — Havildar

National Teachers Awards 2026

List of National Teachers Awards 2026

S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
1	Shri J Prakash Rao	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	PM SHRI GMSSS Mayabunder, Pokadera
2	Shri Rajesh Kouluri	Andhra Pradesh	MPPS Chinamallupeta, Chinamallupeta
3	Ms. Yaku Tame	Arunachal Pradesh	Government Secondary School, G-Sector Naharlagun, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, Ward No. 16 IMC
4	Shri Rajesh Bordoloi	Assam	Adarsha Tribal Higher Secondary School, Jorhat, Kalbari
5	Ms. Khushboo Kumari	Bihar	Urdu Primary School Bidaydih, Bidaydih
6	Ms. Pushpa Prasad	Bihar	Middle School Kuchaikote Kanya, Kuchaikote
7	Ms. Radha Rajesh	CISCE	New Horizon Public School, Indiranagar
8	Ms. Sangeeta Yadav	CBSE	St. Joseph's Convent Sr. Sec. School, Ward No. 8, Idgah Hills

S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
9	Shri Ravi Jaiswal	Chandigarh	Govt. Model High School Maloya Colony, Chandigarh, Maloya Colony
10	Ms. Sunita Yadav	Chhattisgarh	Govt. M.S. Khichari, Khichari
11	Ms. Patel Purnima Mohanlal	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	GHS Dalwada, Dalwada
12	Ms. Suman Goel	Delhi	GSKV Pooth Kalan, Pooth Kalan
13	Md. Zafar Alam	Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Ministry of Tribal Affairs	EMRS Karanjia, Binuria (Tato)
14	Shri Mahadev Hanamant Shinde	Goa	Gujarati Samaj-Special School, Aquem
15	Shri Nitinkumar Mahendrakumar Pathak	Gujarat	Rangpur Primary School, Rangpur
16	Shri Anil Kaushik	Haryana	GMSSSS Sanghi, Rohtak, Sanghi
17	Ms. Manjari V Mahajan	Himachal Pradesh	Government Senior Secondary School, Bhaleth, Bhaleth
18	Mohd. Ayaz Raina	Jammu & Kashmir	HSS Dalhori, Dalhori
19	Ms. Munmun Bhattacharjee	Jharkhand	MS Barmasia, Barmasia
20	Ms. Rathnakumari S	Karnataka	Government Higher Primary School Samatagaru, Honnebailu
21	Ms. Amutha J	Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sangathan PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Madurai, Madurai
22	Dr. Manisha Khetrapal	Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sangathan PM SHRI KV NFR Rangiya, Rangia
23	Shri Sunil Kumar KP	Kerala	GHSS Irikkur, Irikkur
24	Shri Mohd Mustafa Kumal	Ladakh.	Govt Middle School Zgangjing, Sankoo, Kanoor
25	Dr. Archana Shukla	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Mahatma Gandhi Sandipani Hr. Sec. School, BHEL Bhopal, BHEL Bhopal
26	Shri Shailendra Pratap Singh	Madhya Pradesh	Government Middle School Kanjwar, Village Kanjwar, Post Pondi Jodouri, Block Majhauli, District Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh
27	Dr. Kavita Narsingrao Gitte	Maharashtra	Sane Guruji Niwasi Vidyalaya Kaij, Sane Guruji Niwasi Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Kaij-Dharur Road, Kaij
28	Ms. Kunda Jayawant Bachhav	Maharashtra	NMC School No. 18, Anandwalli, Nashik, Maharashtra
29	Shri Wanglembam Gobin Singh	Manipur	Laikon Upper Primary School, Kongba Makha Nandeibam Leikai
30	Ms. Lalnunmawii	Mizoram	Government Electric Veng High School, Electric Veng
31	Shri R Ronald Meru	Nagaland	GHSS Sechu Zubza, Sechu
32	Shri Vaibhav Vasantrao Kulkarni	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti	PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Latur, 12 No. Pati, Near Manjara Sugar Factory, Barshi Road
33	Shri Padaraj Umakanta Nayak	Odisha	Government High School Alipingal, Alipingal
34	Shri Ganesan S Puducherry	Seenuvasan	Government High School, Mettupalayam
35	Shri Dinesh Kumar	Punjab	Govt. Victoria Girls Senior Secondary School, Patiala
36	Dr. Divyendu Sen	Rajasthan	Mahatma Gandhi Government School Pachpahar, Pachpahar
37	Dr. Vartika Gulati	Rajasthan	GGUPS Tumli Ka Bas, Chaksu, Jaipur, Post Jagat Shiromani Pura
38	Shri Shivprasad Arvind Tingare	Sainik Schools, Ministry of Defence	Sainik School Satara, Satara

S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
39	Ms. Sushma Tamang	Sikkim	PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School Dikling, Dikling
40	Shri Thanga Raj	Tamil Nadu	Panchayat Union Primary School Puliyampatti, Puliyampatti
41	Ms. Bhavani Bompelly	Telangana	MPPS Girls Gandhari, Gandhari
42	Shri Ranjan Debnath	Tripura	PM SHRI Sabroom Girls HS School, Sabroom
43	Dr. Renu Tripathi	Uttar Pradesh	Govt. Balika Inter College Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ward No. 14 (Municipal Area)
44	Dr. Iftkhar Khan	Uttar Pradesh	Government Inter College Ballia, Jagdishpur, Ballia
45	Ms. Shalini Kushwaha	Uttar Pradesh	Composite School Rasoolabad, Koilaha
46	Shri Gabar Singh	Uttarakhand	Govt. UPS Musyakhand, Maira
47	Shri Palash Chowdhury	West Bengal	Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidyapith Primary School, Ward No. 30
48	Shri Santanu Patra	West Bengal	Govt. Model School, Nayagram Block, Baranigui

President Approves 78 Gallantry Awards and 89 Mention-in-Despatches on Independence Day

The awards have been distributed as follows,

Gallantry Award	Number of Awards	Posthumous
Kirti Chakra	9	7
Bar to Shaurya Chakra	1	-
Shaurya Chakra	19	1
Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)	5	-
Sena Medal (Gallantry)	36	5
Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry)	3	-
Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry)	5	-
Total	78	13

Kirti Chakra is one of the highest peacetime gallantry awards of India and has been awarded to 9 people including Lieutenant Colonel Maneo Francis PF, Major Jitendra Rathee, and Havildar Gajendra Singh. Out of 9 Kirti Chakra awards, 7 are posthumous.

Gallantry Awards 2026 - Award List

Kirti Chakra - 9

1. Lt Col Maneo Francis PF — Army
2. Major Jitendra Rathee — Army
3. Havildar Gajendra Singh — Army (Posthumous)
4. Head Constable Jagbir Singh — MHA (Posthumous)
5. SG Constable Jaswant Singh — MHA (Posthumous)
6. SG Constable Balvinder Singh — MHA (Posthumous)
7. SG Constable Tariq Hussain — MHA (Posthumous)
8. Head Constable Bashir Ahmad — MHA (Posthumous)
9. Inspector Sunil Kumar, STF — MHA (Posthumous)

Bar to Shaurya Chakra – 1

1. Major Aditya Pratap Singh — Army

Shaurya Chakra – 19

1. Major Paramveer — Army
2. Major Tarun Vasudevan — Army
3. Major Keshav Kumar — Army
4. Major Gaurav Singh Brijwal — Army
5. Major Vipeen Kumar — Army
6. Naib Subedar Shankar Ram — Army
7. Naib Subedar Dabbal Singh Bisht — Army
8. Havildar Jagattar Singh — Army
9. Lance Naik Narender Sindhu — Army (Posthumous)
10. Lance Naik Kapil Dev — Army
11. Sepoy Jaswinder Singh — Army
12. Lt Commander Shivam Kumar — Navy
13. Squadron Leader Sudhir Kumar — Air Force
14. DySP Dheeraj Singh Katoch — MHA
15. Inspector Ajay Singh Chib — MHA
16. DySP Sukhvir Singh — MHA
17. ASI Niyaz Ahmad — MHA
18. Deputy Commandant Anjani Kumar — MHA
19. Constable Deepak Sah — MHA

Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 5

1. Major DS Paosho — Army
2. Major Anuj Mahajan — Army
3. Major Krishan Kant — Army
4. Subedar Ramesh Kumar — Army
5. Naib Subedar Rajendra Singh — Army

Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 36

1. Lt Col Pushkar Vijay Chaudhary — Army
2. Lt Col Sonam Topden Bhutia — Army
3. Major Sudhansu Sekhar Pani — Army
4. Major Mohit Podia — Army

5. Major R Sahil — Army
6. Major Balendu Kumar Jha — Army
7. Major Ravi Shankar Joshi — Army
8. Major Rupam Das — Army
9. Major Arnav Bali — Army
10. Major Anshuman Ranjan — Army
11. Major Arvind Kumar — Army
12. Captain Karan Singh Cheema — Army
13. Captain Harish Singh Dewali — Army
14. Captain Mohit Rawat — Army
15. Captain Anshumaan Singh — Army
16. Captain Bane Swaraj Sudhir — Army
17. Captain Pruthviraj Jaysing Nighot — Army
18. Captain Savik — Army
19. Lt Bhanu Pratap Singh — Army
20. Lt Aman Pandey — Army
21. Assistant Commandant Bikash Rai — Army
22. Subedar Pawan Kumar — Army
23. Subedar Perbhat Gaur — Army (Posthumous)
24. Subedar Kanase Namdev Balkrishna — Army
25. Subedar Baljinder Singh — Army
26. Naib Subedar Dayal Singh — Army
27. Havildar L Joel Kom — Army
28. Havildar Mulla Abidali Ashrafali — Army
29. Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh — Army (Posthumous)
30. Naik Ali Mohammad Khan — Army
31. Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh — Army (Posthumous)
32. Lance Naik Abhimanu Singh — Army
33. Lance Naik Bidha Singh — Army
34. Lance Naik Pritpal Singh — Army (Posthumous)
35. Sepoy Harminder Singh — Army (Posthumous)
36. Paratrooper Himanshu Kumar — Army
37. Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 3
38. Commander Vineet Sharma — Navy
39. Commander Yuvraj Kumar — Navy
40. AC Avinash Annaso, POA (FD) — Navy
41. Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 5
42. Group Captain Rahul Jagotta — Air Force
43. Group Captain Rahul Rawat — Air Force
44. Wing Commander Ashish Rajpoot — Air Force
45. Flight Lieutenant Yash — Air Force
46. Master Warrant Officer Ravinderjit Singh — Air Force

Overall Gallantry Awards

- Total Gallantry Awards: 78
- Posthumous Awards: 13
- Kirti Chakra: 9
- Bar to Shaurya Chakra: 1
- Shaurya Chakra: 19
- Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry): 5
- Sena Medal (Gallantry): 36
- Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry): 3
- Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry): 5

Mention-in-Despatches – 89

- Indian Army: 75 personnel
- Indian Navy: 4 personnel
- Indian Air Force: 10 personnel

Army – 75

Operation Rakshak: 24 personnel, including Army Dog Tyson

1. Operation Hifazat: 14 personnel
2. Operation Orchid: 5 personnel
3. Operation Meghdoot: 2 personnel
4. Operation Snow Leopard: 6 personnel
5. Operation Chakravyuh: 1 personnel
6. Operation Chet heba: 1 personnel
7. Operation Khoijuman: 1 personnel
8. Operation Mount Kangto: 1 personnel
9. Operation Talash: 2 personnel
10. Operation Awang Lekhai: 1 personnel
11. Operation Khoj: 1 personnel
12. Operation Nongren II: 1 personnel
13. Operation Maova-Kiyevi: 1 personnel
14. Operation Secure Shield–XLII: 2 personnel
15. Operation Chanbirok: 1 personnel
16. Miscellaneous Operations: 11 personnel

Navy – 4

1. Commander Nikhil Chugh
2. Lt Ajay Jose N Joseph
3. Ashwin Santosh, AVR Sea (CD)
4. Abhishek C Dhanawade, Sea I (CD)

Air Force – 10

1. Wing Commander Raja Reddy Lalita Nagesh Kumar
2. Wing Commander Ammar Haider Naqvi
3. Wing Commander Manoj Puri Goswami
4. Squadron Leader Kundarapu Koushik
5. Flight Lieutenant Parthasarathi Mulay
6. Master Warrant Officer Brahm Prakash (Retd)
7. Master Warrant Officer Anoop Singh
8. Corporal Mohan Lal Saini
9. Wing Commander CR Pradeep
10. Squadron Leader Aviral Gandhi

Total Honours: 78 Gallantry Awards + 89 Mention-in-Despatches = 167 honours approved by President Droupadi Murmu on the eve of 80th Independence Day 2026.

UPI Completes 10 Years

Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Introduced on 25 August 2016 by the NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) under the regulatory authority of the RBI (Reserve Bank of India), UPI is a revolutionary system that has transformed the way people and organizations conduct their payments.

Whereas only a few transactions took place initially, the system has now become one of the largest real-time payment systems in the world. In the course of 10 years, UPI has spread out to banks, businesses and customers, being a major element of the DPI of India.

UPI Crosses 10-year Mark

UPI has witnessed phenomenal growth over the years. The annual transaction volume grew from 1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26.

That is a 13,000 times rise in annual transaction volume within less than a decade. The transaction value has risen too, from ₹0.07 lakh crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹314 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

This is due to the high degree of penetration of UPI into our daily finance activities. From making transfers to your family members to paying for your groceries, food items, travels, and services, UPI transactions have seeped into our financial routine.

UPI Quick Facts: Key Statistics

- Launch Date: 25 August 2016
- Annual Transactions, FY 2016-17: 1.78 crore
- Annual Transactions, FY 2025-26: 24,162 crore
- Transaction Volume CAGR: 188%
- Annual Transaction Value, FY 2016-17: ₹0.07 lakh crore
- Annual Transaction Value, FY 2025-26: ₹314 lakh crore
- Transaction Value CAGR: 155%
- YoY Volume Growth, 2025-26: 30%
- YoY Value Growth, 2025-26: 21%
- Average Daily Transactions in 2026: 66 crore
- Record Monthly Transactions: 2,366 crore in July 2026
- Record Monthly Value: ₹29.88 lakh crore in July 2026
- Banks Live on UPI, July 2026: 741
- Banks at Launch: 21
- First Month Transactions: 90,000
- Share of India's Digital Payments: 84% in FY 2025-26
- Share of Global Real-Time Payment Volume: 49% in 2025
- Countries Where UPI is Operational: 11

UPI Hits New Records in July 2026

A period of growth continued for UPI in 2026. UPI transactions crossed 2,300 crore for the first time in May 2026. The number of transactions done through UPI in May 2026 was around 2,320 crore.

UPI set another record in July 2026 with its monthly transactions crossing 2,366 crore for the first time. It is the highest volume seen for a month in a decade of UPI operations. The transaction value during the month was also record ₹29.88 lakh crore.

On an average, around 66 crore transactions are done through UPI per day now, making it a regular financial tool for many people of India.

Participation of More Banks and a Bigger UPI Ecosystem

The growing use of UPI has also been fueled by the increasing participation of more banks.

From 44 banks in FY 2016-17, the number of banks on UPI has gone up to 703 in FY 2025-26. As of July 2026, the number has further increased to 741 banks.

Public sector banks, private banks, small finance banks, payment banks, and cooperative banks are the banks that have joined the system.

The banks can participate as remitter PSPs, which facilitate outgoing transactions, and/or beneficiary PSPs, which receive funds.

UPI has Revolutionized Everyday Payments

One of the most impressive features of UPI is its capability to facilitate not only person-to-person but also person-to-merchant payments using an interoperable system.

Approximately 63% of transaction volume on UPI relates to P2M payments, demonstrating the popularity of this payment solution for making daily purchases. Yet, P2P transactions make up around 71% of transaction volumes, which is associated with a bigger average value of transfers between people.

The usage of this platform is most important to small transaction volumes. So, in FY 2025-26, around 86% of P2M transactions were below ₹500. It demonstrates how UPI became a go-to choice for making everyday retail purchases.

At the same time, there is also considerable usage of P2P transactions with the volume below ₹500. Such transactions account for around 59% of transaction volumes.

UPI becomes the World Leader in Digital Payments

Nowadays, the influence of UPI has significantly expanded beyond the borders of India. Based on the information shared by the government, UPI was responsible for almost 49% of the global transaction volume for real-time payments in 2025.

According to IMF, UPI became the world's biggest real-time payment system in terms of transaction volumes thanks to India's digital payments infrastructure.

Today, UPI works in 11 different countries,

- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Bhutan
- Sri Lanka
- Nepal
- Singapore
- Mauritius
- Qatar
- Cambodia
- Greece
- Maldives

UPI and Financial Inclusion

The effects of UPI go beyond the number of transactions. They lie much deeper, and the true value of UPI in its capacity to make financial inclusion easier.

Since UPI enabled people to transfer money instantly through a number of applications and bank accounts, this system made transactions simpler both for consumers and merchants. Local enterprises, small shop owners and street merchants do not have to install expensive payment devices to receive payments in their stores.

Thus, UPI became a way to solve some of the problems of the digital divide as well as increase the participation in the formal financial system.

Future of UPI

The coming decade seems to be as crucial for UPI as the previous one. Since transaction volume is already extremely high, the key challenges in the following years will be the increase of both users and merchants who participate in the process and the improvements of innovation, security and convenience.

With continuous development and support of policies, UPI can become even more useful as a system for both domestic payments and international transfers.

With the progress of Digital Public Infrastructure in India, UPI will keep on playing one of the central roles there.

e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years

The e-Shram portal will complete five years on 26 August 2026, which is quite an important milestone in the journey of India towards making social security systems strong for the workers of the unorganized sector. The e-Shram portal was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2021 to make India's first Aadhaar based National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW).

The portal which started as a registration portal for workers became a more comprehensive digital portal for various welfare schemes related to social security, employment, skilling, apprenticeship, and pension. Till August 2026, 31.89 crore workers have registered themselves on the portal.

What is the e-Shram Portal?

The e-Shram Portal was introduced on 26 August 2021 with the aim of establishing a national database of the unorganised workers. It is a product of National Informatics Centre (NIC) and provides the registered worker with an unique 12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN).

The system aims at facilitating welfare delivery while also assisting the governments in recognising workers who could benefit from social security schemes. It also supports the portability of benefits for migrant and construction workers, who might need to change locations.

Unorganised workforce encompasses agricultural workers, construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, migrant workers, self-employed workers and gig and platform workers, amongst others.

Why was e-Shram introduced?

One of the primary reasons behind introducing the e-Shram system is to facilitate a common digital database of India's large and varied unorganised workforce.

The portal allows different government departments to share the relevant details of the workers via secure APIs which helps in better implementation of welfare schemes and making data-driven policies. The portal can even assist in planning for assistance during emergencies or crisis.

e-Shram Becomes a One-Stop Solution

The platform saw a huge boost in scope with the introduction of the e-Shram One-Stop Solution launched on 21 October 2024. It now does much more than just register workers. The platform connects workers to a larger range of government services.

The one-stop solution comprises of 15 social security and welfare schemes including Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The portal allows workers to look at the schemes they are eligible for and check the benefits they have already availed, thus making the process of navigation of different government welfare schemes much easier using just one platform.

Financial Services, Insurance and Employment Services

e-Shram also connects workers to various financial services, insurance and employment-related services.

Using the portal, eligible workers can register themselves under PMSBY, which provides accidental insurance of ₹2 lakh in case of accidental death or permanent disability and ₹1 lakh for partial disability. In addition, workers can enrol under PMJJBY which provides life insurance of ₹2 lakh in case of death due to any reason.

The portal also connects workers to the National Career Service (NCS) and the Skill India Digital Hub for employment and skilling and apprenticeship related programmes respectively. Moreover, using the myScheme platform, the workers can know about the government schemes available for them.

Eligible workers under PM-SYM will get a minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 per month once they reach 60 years of age, as per the terms of the scheme.

Expansion of Services to Migrant and Gig Workers

One of the unique features of this platform is its capability to capture details of the family members of the migrant workers. The platform also helps in transferring construction worker data to States and UTs for their registration under the respective Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Board.

Moreover, this platform now includes the gig and platform workers, another rapidly growing segment of the workforce in India. Approximately 11.5 lakh platform workers were registered on the e-Shram portal till August 2026.

The database would help the policymakers in designing social security and welfare schemes for this emerging class of workers.

Eligibility and Registration for e-Shram Scheme

Registration on e-Shram Portal is one-time and free.

Workers aged above 16 years, working in the unorganised sector and who are not income-tax payers and EPFO or ESIC members, are eligible to register.

Workers can register themselves via the official portal of e-Shram or may approach a CSC/State Seva Kendra to get help. State government officials help workers in registering at the district and sub-district level.
To register oneself, one needs to have their Aadhaar number for eKYC and mobile number, preferably linked to the Aadhaar number.

Numbers Behind e-Shram Portal
The capacity of the platform has seen a major increase over the last five years. As of August 2026, the portal has recorded 31.89 crore registrations.
Female workers form the majority of the registered workers, as compared to male workers, with their share standing at 54.28%, while that of male workers stands at 45.72%. The age group 18-40 has been the maximum age group among the registered workers, with their share standing at 55.21%.
Occupational categories include agriculture, domestic and household work, construction, and apparel. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have seen the highest registrations till date.
Common Service Centres have been the most popular choice for workers to register themselves.

Multilingual and Digital Reaches of e-Shram
In order to enhance accessibility of the platform in the various linguistic environment in India, multilingual capabilities were implemented in 22 languages through the Bhashini platform in 2025.
This would be especially important for such an initiative that seeks to connect with workers across rural and urban India who might find access to digital services a challenge.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has become 12 years old, which is an important step forward for India in its quest for financial inclusion. The scheme, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014, has ensured that all those who were outside the purview of the banking system before gain access to financial services.
During the last 12 years, PMJDY has become a much more than just the bank account scheme for people. It has connected people with banks, insurance, pension schemes, digital payments, and government welfare services.
As of August 19, 2026, 59.09 crore PMJDY accounts have been opened with total deposits of ₹3.17 lakh crore.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years
The idea behind introducing PMJDY is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure the access to a basic bank account to every unbanked adult.
An important feature of the scheme is that it does not require a person to keep any minimum balance in the account to open it. It helps poor people access formal banking system.
The scheme has been giving great importance to rural and semi-urban areas and women.

59.09 Crore Jan Dhan Accounts Opened
As per the latest data by the government, the number of total accounts in the PMJDY scheme amounted to 59.09 crore on August 19, 2026.
A considerable portion of these accounts are owned by women. Specifically, 55.7%, which equals 32.92 crore accounts, are held by women.
The scheme also achieved high rural coverage. About 77.8%, or 45.95 crore PMJDY accounts, are in rural and semi-urban areas.
The numbers demonstrate the impact the program had on making financial services accessible to people from previously disadvantaged groups.

PMJDY Deposits Amount to ₹3.17 Lakh Crore
As of August 19, 2026, the amount of money deposited in Jan Dhan accounts was ₹3,16,514 crore, or approximately ₹3.17 lakh crore.
According to the information provided by the Ministry of Finance, over the past 12 years, the deposits made in accounts under PMJDY grew by about 12.8 times, whereas the number of accounts increased by about 2.3 times.
The growth in deposits can be considered as the evidence that these accounts are utilized actively and are not dormant.

Average Balance per PMJDY Account Reaches ₹5,356
As of August 19, 2026, the average balance in PMJDY accounts equaled ₹5,356.
According to the data provided by the government, the average balance in these accounts increased by about 3.4 times over the past 12 years.
The growth is interpreted by the government as the result of better account utilization and formation of savings habits by account owners.

41.29 Crore RuPay Cards Issued
Apart from this, another significant accomplishment of PMJDY has been the increase in access to digital payments.
By August 19, 2026, 41.29 crore RuPay cards had been issued to account holders of PMJDY.
These cards help account holders make digital transactions and also offer accident insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakhs based on applicable conditions.
Thus, it can be seen that the scheme helps create a link between financial inclusion and the digital payments ecosystem of India.

Benefits of PMJDY: Banking, Insurance and Overdraft
A Jan Dhan account gives the account holder access to a number of financial services.
Overdraft facilities worth ₹10,000 can be availed by eligible account holders. This provides financial assistance during emergencies, as per applicable conditions.

Accounts under PMJDY have also helped people access various government schemes related to insurance and pension. The schemes include Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

Thus, it is clear that financial inclusion through a bank account can give more than just a bank account itself. It also provides access to insurance, pensions and other financial services.

JAM Trinity Enhances Direct Benefit Transfers

One of the most significant achievements of the PMJDY scheme has been its incorporation in the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity.

With PMJDY as the key element, the JAM Trinity has allowed the Indian government to carry out transfers of welfare benefits directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

This form of transfers has lowered the reliance on intermediaries and ensured that delays and diversion in the delivery process are minimised.

The system has played an important role in developing India's digital public infrastructure and welfare delivery systems.

PMJDY and Financial Empowerment

Apart from facilitating the opening of bank accounts, the Jan Dhan Accounts have also provided many other opportunities.

Through these bank accounts, one can obtain many other services like savings, insurance, pensions and even credit facilities. Bank accounts have made it possible for individuals to build their financial history and obtain formal credit. Credit-linked schemes like MUDRA loans may be accessed by eligible account holders based on their eligibility criteria.

It may be useful for entrepreneurs and workers who wish to improve their income and financial standing.

National News

Cabinet Approvals

- **Cabinet Approves ₹84,084 Crore 'Samudra Manthan' National Offshore Exploration Scheme:** The Union Cabinet has approved the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, "Samudra Manthan," with an outlay of ₹84,084 crore for implementation up to FY 2030–31. The scheme aims to accelerate offshore oil and gas exploration and strengthen India's energy security by reducing dependence on imports. It includes ₹28,534 crore for modern offshore seismic data acquisition and processing, ₹43,200 crore for drilling 60 deepwater exploration wells, ₹10,000 crore for common offshore infrastructure hubs and ₹2,000 crore for oil and gas manufacturing and services zones. The government will provide financial support of up to 50% of the eligible cost of drilling deepwater exploration wells, subject to a maximum of ₹675 crore per well. The scheme targets an increase in domestic oil and gas production from around 62 MMTOE to 80 MMTOE annually and expansion of the hydrocarbon resource base from 1.6 billion TOE to 2.2 billion TOE.
- **Cabinet Approves ₹23,731 Crore GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme:** The Union Cabinet has approved GOBARdhan, India's National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore. The scheme will be implemented from FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36 and aims to increase domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production nearly ten-fold. It will convert agricultural residue, cattle dung, press mud, municipal organic waste and other biomass into clean fuel and organic manure. The scheme includes six major components—assured CBG offtake, a stable pricing framework, capital assistance, pipeline infrastructure, credit guarantee support and a CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund. It also introduces an administered CBG price of ₹2,110 per MMBTU and capital assistance of up to ₹2 crore per tonne per day of installed CBG capacity for eligible projects.
- **Cabinet Approves ₹8,970.20 Crore Guwahati–Tezpur Highway Corridor in Assam:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the development of the 135.871-km, four-lane access-controlled Guwahati–Tezpur Corridor on NH-15 in Assam at a capital cost of ₹8,970.20 crore. The project will be developed under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Toll Mode and will include a 4.9-km Emergency Landing Facility in the Tezpur Bypass, developed in coordination with the Indian Air Force. It will also include five major bypasses, 15 major bridges, 30 minor bridges, 19 flyovers, an elephant underpass, 46 underpasses and around 210 km of service roads. The corridor is expected to double average travel speeds, cut travel time by half and improve connectivity to major industrial, tourism, social and logistics nodes across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Cabinet Approves ₹3,590.73 Crore Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa NH-22 Project:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the upgradation of the 82.578-km Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in Bihar to four-lane standard. The project, costing ₹3,590.73 crore, will be developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). The corridor will provide an important connection between the India–Nepal border at Sonbarsa and Muzaffarpur, which is connected to the NH-27 East–West Corridor. Designed for speeds of up to 100 kmph, the project will include seven major bridges, three Railway Over Bridges and two flyovers. It will improve connectivity to industrial estates, railway stations, the Buddhist Circuit, Punaura Dham and other important economic, social and religious destinations in Bihar.

- **Cabinet Approves Four Railway Multitracking Projects Worth ₹9,450 Crore:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved four railway multitracking projects in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with an estimated investment of ₹9,450 crore. The projects include the 173-km Kharagpur–Bhadrak fourth line, 75-km Bhadrak–Haridaspur fourth line, 90-km Gummidipundi–Gudur third and fourth lines and 72-km Cuttack–Paradeep third and fourth lines. Together, the projects will add around 410 km to the Indian Railways network and improve connectivity for approximately 6,448 villages with a population of about 60 lakh. They are also expected to generate additional freight capacity of around 76 MTPA while reducing oil imports by nearly 13 crore litres and CO_2 emissions by around 65 crore kg.
- **Rail Projects to Strengthen Freight, Tourism and Multimodal Connectivity:** The four approved railway projects are planned under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan to improve multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency. The expanded rail capacity will support the transportation of coal, iron ore, cement, steel, automobiles, containers and food grains while reducing congestion on important railway routes. The projects will also improve access to major tourist and pilgrimage destinations such as Bhitarkanika National Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary and several prominent temples and Buddhist sites. By shifting more freight to the energy-efficient railway network, the projects are expected to lower logistics costs and contribute to India's climate and energy-efficiency goals.

State-wise August Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh and Australia signed **four Memoranda of Understanding** in Amaravati on August 2, 2026, covering clean energy, manufacturing, inclusive education, student mental health, and skill development. Partners include **UNSW Sydney, IIT Tirupati, APSCHE, APSSDC, Samagra Shiksha**, and Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam. A **Centre of Excellence for Solar Manufacturing** will support solar PV manufacturing, recycling, and research. Another agreement focuses on neurodiverse students through teacher training. A pilot mental health initiative will provide counselling, while the fourth MoU strengthens vocational education, certification, and employment opportunities.
- Andhra Pradesh has unveiled a **₹9.5 lakh crore development plan for the Visakhapatnam Economic Region**, covering eight districts across north coastal Andhra Pradesh. The initiative targets a **US$120 billion regional economy by 2032** and aims to generate **20–24 lakh jobs**. Investment will focus on **AI data centres, green hydrogen, clean energy, IT, ports, logistics, steel, healthcare, tourism and agriculture**. The **Bay City Project** provides an integrated planning framework, while the **CII Partnership Summit 2026** in Visakhapatnam is expected to attract global investors and accelerate regional development.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet**, chaired by **N. Chandrababu Naidu**, approved the **PPP Policy-2026** and **Ease of Doing Business Act-2026** on August 6. The PPP policy covers transport, ports, healthcare, education and energy, with ₹1,500 crore in **Viability Gap Funding**. The Ease of Doing Business Act proposes time-bound approvals. The Cabinet also approved a **Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy**, ₹1,002.49 crore for Quantum Valley Twin Towers, and an aquaculture subsidy. The measures aim to attract investment, improve infrastructure and make approvals more predictable for businesses.
- Andhra Pradesh unveiled a **₹9.5 lakh crore Visakhapatnam Economic Region** plan covering eight districts. The initiative targets a **US$120 billion regional economy by 2032** and aims to generate 20–24 lakh jobs. Investment will focus on AI data centres, green hydrogen, clean energy, IT, ports, logistics, steel, healthcare, tourism, agriculture and food processing. Based on the **Bay City Project** planning model, it promotes sustainable infrastructure and industrial growth. The **CII Partnership Summit** in Visakhapatnam on November 12–13 is expected to attract investors. The plan targets connectivity.
- Andhra Pradesh notified the **Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy, 2026** on August 7, following Cabinet approval. The framework covers urban, rural and fringe areas and mandates safer, obstruction-free pedestrian infrastructure. It requires a minimum **two-metre clear walking zone**, slip-resistant surfaces, tactile indicators, wheelchair ramps, Braille and audible signals. The policy follows directions associated with the Supreme Court's **S. Rajaseekaran judgment**, recognising safe footpaths under **Article 21**. Authorities will prioritise **15–20 high-fatality blackspots** and conduct road-safety audits covering at least **20% of roads** during the first year.
- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has approved a **₹31,387-crore green integrated AI data centre** project in **Visakhapatnam district**. **AM AI Factory Pvt Ltd** will establish the **512-MW facility** at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal. The project is expected to create employment for up to **1,000 people** and must be completed within **two years and four months**. The state will support the project through **power infrastructure and water supply**. Incentives include exemptions from **stamp duty and electricity duty**. The initiative aims to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position in **green infrastructure, artificial intelligence and data-centre development**.

- Andhra Pradesh approved India's first dedicated **Quantum and AI University campus** in Amaravati, to be established by **NIELIT** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The campus will cover 8.5 acres and involve an investment of **₹730.7 crore** over five years through central grants. Academic programmes will begin in September 2026 at a temporary facility in Guntur. The university will focus on **quantum technology, artificial intelligence, semiconductors and deep technology**. Planned infrastructure includes advanced research facilities, cleanrooms, high-performance computing and startup incubation. Around **8,250 learners** are expected to receive training over five years, strengthening India's future deep-tech workforce.
- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Pramaan Operating System**, an AI-powered accounting and statutory compliance platform developed by **Pramanique Infotech Private Limited**. The system combines **artificial intelligence, accounting automation and data analytics** to simplify financial reporting and compliance processes. During the launch at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Velagapudi, Naidu reviewed its technological architecture, automated workflows and **data security measures**. The platform is intended for businesses, **chartered accountants and finance professionals**, offering integrated financial-management solutions. The Chief Minister appreciated the initiative and encouraged developers to explore broader applications, technological improvements and future **market expansion**.

Arunachal Pradesh

- Researchers from **CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology** have discovered a new sunflower-family species, **Doronicum sanctum**, in **Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh**. The species was formally described on August 11, 2026, and belongs to the genus **Doronicum**, commonly known as Leopard's Bane, and the family **Asteraceae**. It was recorded at an elevation of approximately **4,000–4,086 metres** near the Chumi Gyatse Holy Waterfalls. Researchers identified distinctive characteristics including **yellow flowers, heart-shaped leaves and pubescent ray cypselae**. The discovery is significant because it represents the **first documented Doronicum species from Northeast India**.

Assam

- The **Assam Government** released around **₹160 crore** in flood relief through Direct Benefit Transfer to 75,000 affected families. Announced on August 3, each family received **₹15,000** into bank accounts in districts including Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat, and Golaghat. The package includes **₹9 lakh ex-gratia compensation** for flood-related deaths and ₹10,000 for displaced families unable to return home by August 9. Students will receive book grants of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000, plus textbooks and uniforms. Around **1.35 lakh people** remained affected across five districts, with **85 deaths** recorded.
- **Assam** inaugurated the new **Kalamati Wildlife Range Office** at **Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary** in Sonitpur district on **7 August 2026**. The facility is expected to strengthen **forest administration, patrolling, habitat protection, wildlife monitoring** and conservation activities. The sanctuary covers approximately **220 sq km**, including a core area of nearly **175 sq km**, and lies in Assam's Himalayan foothills. Its forests, grasslands and river systems support **Asian elephants, Indian bison, rhinoceros, leopards, tigers** and numerous birds. Sonai Rupai is particularly significant for the endangered **White-winged Wood Duck**, Assam's state bird. The new office will improve field coordination and biodiversity protection.
- **Dehing Patkai National Park** in Assam recorded **165 butterfly species**, including 37 endangered species, during its 2026 biodiversity survey. The park covers **234.26 sq km** across Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts and contains tropical wet evergreen forests. The fourth annual **Dihing Patkai Biodiversity and Butterfly Trail**, conducted from July 28–31, documented the park's exceptional ecological diversity. A wider survey covering Assam and parts of Arunachal Pradesh identified more than **260 butterfly species**. The findings highlight the importance of the northeastern rainforest landscape for biodiversity conservation and strengthen scientific understanding of butterfly populations and their habitats in the region.

Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh** has received **₹3,942 crore** from the Centre for expansion of the **Amended BharatNet Programme**. On August 18, 2026, the Digital Bharat Nidhi, Department of Telecommunications, Chhattisgarh, CSBIL, BSNL and CHiPS signed an implementation agreement. The project will cover **11,682 Gram Panchayats**, comprising 4,048 Phase-I, 5,964 Phase-II and 1,670 newly created panchayats. Another **8,328 villages** will receive on-demand connectivity. The initiative is expected to support over **three lakh rural fibre connections**, strengthening **e-governance, online education, telemedicine and digital payments**. CSBIL will implement the project to expand inclusive rural digital connectivity.
- **Chhattisgarh** became India's first **inland state to export value-added Tilapia products**, shipping **382 tonnes** to the United States on August 20, 2026. Tilapia is a freshwater fish commonly cultivated in ponds, tanks, cages and other aquaculture systems. The state has invested nearly **₹900 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** to strengthen fisheries infrastructure and production. A review meeting in Raipur was chaired by Fisheries Secretary **Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi**, with participation from the **National Fisheries Development Board, MPEDA, NABARD**, fish farmers and exporters.

Delhi

- The **Delhi Master Plan 2047 (MPD-2047)** was unveiled as a long-term roadmap to transform the capital into an inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive city. It proposes around **40 lakh affordable housing units**, including homes along metro corridors and for slum dwellers and low-income groups. The plan promotes **Transit-Oriented Development**, mixed-use development, land pooling and multimodal connectivity. It proposes regularisation of **1,511 unauthorised colonies**, benefiting nearly **45 lakh residents**. Around **1,500 heritage assets**, 1,700 hectares of Yamuna floodplains and 52 km of cycle tracks are targeted. Narela becomes an education hub.
- The **Delhi Lakshmi Yojana** is scheduled to provide **₹2,500 monthly financial assistance** to eligible women from September 1, 2026. Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** distributed approval letters to around 2,500 women, marking progress in implementation. More than **9.13 lakh women** have registered, while 6.52 lakh have completed applications. Eligible women aged 21–60 can receive assistance directly through their bank accounts. Beneficiaries can receive ₹1,000 through **central bank digital currency** and invest ₹1,500, or invest the full amount in fixed or recurring deposits. The scheme aims to provide financial support while encouraging savings among eligible women.
- **Delhi** recorded the highest own-revenue share among states and Union Territories with comparable data during the **2024-25 Budget Estimates**, according to the India State Fiscal Health Tracker. Delhi's own revenue contributed **93.2% of total revenue receipts**, followed by **Haryana at 80.4%**, Telangana at 78.4%, Karnataka at 77.3% and Tamil Nadu at 75.5%. Own revenue includes **tax and non-tax revenue** generated by a government. A higher share generally indicates greater **revenue self-reliance**, although it does not alone determine overall fiscal health. The figures are based on **Budget Estimates** and may differ from final accounts.

Gujarat

- The **Gujarat Government** has imposed a statewide ban on the production, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of **unstandardised analogue paneer, cheese and butter** under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**. Announced on August 5, the decision followed inspections by the **Food and Drugs Control Administration**, which identified several substandard products. Analogue dairy products often contain **vegetable oils, starches, emulsifiers and stabilizers** instead of milk. The measure protects consumers from misleading products while supporting Gujarat's dairy sector. **Amul**, India's largest dairy cooperative, is headquartered in Gujarat.
- The **Gujarat Forest Department** launched a **₹2.94 crore Plastic Waste Management Project** around the **Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary**, a Ramsar-designated wetland, on **11 August 2026**. Linked with Gujarat's **Project for Eco-Restoration**, the initiative receives support from **JICA** and aims to reduce plastic pollution while creating rural livelihood opportunities. A collection centre has been established at **Kayla village in Viramgam taluka**, covering villages across Ahmedabad and Surendranagar districts. **Eco-Development Committees** will appoint local **Swachhta Praharis** to collect and segregate dry plastic. The project combines **wetland conservation, waste management, community participation and livelihood generation**.
- Gujarat launched the **Gramin Gyan Setu mobile application** on August 12, 2026, to digitally connect libraries in the **Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency**. The initiative follows a hub-and-spoke model linking village libraries with four central libraries holding around **2.80 lakh books**. Officials said 752 libraries were interconnected within three months. The initial network covers 63 village libraries across Gandhinagar, Kalol and Sanand. Four **MPLAD-funded mobile library vans** will visit villages every fortnight to exchange books and deliver requested titles. The launch coincided with **National Library Day**, observed in honour of S. R. Ranganathan.
- **Vantara** and the **Gujarat Forest Department** released **20 blackbucks** into the **Banni Grasslands of Kutch** on India's 80th Independence Day. The release comprised **five males and 15 females** and received technical support from the **Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre**. The animals came from Vantara, Jamnagar, following approvals from the **Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat**, and **Central Zoo Authority**. Authorities conducted veterinary examinations, health screening, quarantine, disease surveillance and humane transportation. The initiative aims to restore native herbivore populations, strengthen **predator-prey relationships** and improve Banni's ecological balance through scientific monitoring and community participation.
- **Gujarat** is set to develop **Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park** at **Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district**. The **Central Zoo Authority** approved the project on August 12, 2026. Covering around **103 hectares** of government land, the project is estimated to cost **₹542.14 crore**. It will feature **five dedicated night safari enclosures** and a separate day zoo. Around **2,700 animals and birds representing 83 species** are proposed, including **Chinkara, Blackbuck, Indian wild ass, Cheetah, Giraffe, Zebra, Kangaroo and Emu**. The Gujarat Forest Department expects the project to boost **wildlife awareness and eco-tourism**.

- **Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary** in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**, has emerged as an important breeding site for the **Black-necked Stork (Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus)**. Researchers surveyed 48 georeferenced points between July 2024 and March 2025. The sanctuary recorded a peak seasonal population of **21-23 storks**. During the October-December breeding period, researchers identified **four active nests**, each successfully producing two fledglings, resulting in **eight juveniles**. The nests were built on the invasive **Neltuma juliflora**, locally known as gando baval, at heights of 3-4.5 metres. Shallow wetlands supported successful nesting and feeding.
- Gujarat's **Banas Dairy**, **Suzuki Motor Corporation** and **National Dairy Development Board** jointly inaugurated a **Banas Bio-CNG Model Plant** at Vinchhiwadi in Banaskantha. The facility can process **100 metric tonnes of cattle dung daily** through anaerobic digestion to produce **Bio-CNG and organic manure**. A Bio-CNG filling station was also opened. The wider Banas Bio-CNG network now includes four plants with combined capacity of **340 tonnes per day**. The event also launched India's first rural cooperative-model **Gramin Bharat Taxi** service with nine vehicles. The initiative promotes **waste-to-energy**, clean fuel production, cattle-dung utilisation and rural cooperative development.
- **Gujarat** has launched India's first state-level **Sports Genomics Programme**, combining **genomics, sports science, physiology and nutrition** to improve athlete identification and high-performance training. The programme is led by the **Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre** under the Department of Science and Technology. Around **2,000 athlete samples annually** are planned, with nearly 10,000 samples targeted over five years. Athletes from **tennis, archery, fencing, judo and shooting**, among other sports, will be studied. Researchers will examine genetic factors linked to endurance, power, recovery and injury risks. Gujarat also plans a **Gujarat Athlete Genome Database** for personalised training and nutrition.
- **The remaining content continues with Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.** I can continue it directly in the next message in exactly this same cleaned text format.

Haryana

- Haryana created history during **Independence Day 2026** celebrations when a grand **Tiranga Yatra in Palwal** achieved two Guinness World Records. Organised on August 13 under Sports and Youth Empowerment Minister **Gaurav Gautam**, the event featured a gigantic **5-kilometre-long and 10-foot-wide national flag**. Thousands of students, youth groups, women, war veterans and residents participated. The procession covered approximately **6.5 kilometres** and passed through 20 key locations in Palwal. It established records for **Longest Mass March With Flag** and **Most People Holding National Flag**. The event promoted patriotism, community participation and remembrance of India's freedom fighters during the Independence Day celebrations.

Himachal Pradesh

- The **Himalayan Serow** was recorded in Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie catchment forests after nearly **20 years**, with footage captured near **Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary** on August 4, 2026. The sighting confirms the continued presence of this elusive goat-antelope in the Western Himalayas. Classified as **Near Threatened by the IUCN**, the species faces habitat loss, fragmentation, poaching, and human encroachment. The rediscovery highlights the value of forest monitoring and conservation efforts and reinforces the need to protect Himalayan habitats and ecological corridors supporting rare mountain wildlife and regional biodiversity.
- The **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department** and **Bharti Institute of Public Policy at ISB** signed a five-year MoU in Shimla on August 20, 2026, to assess the state's **forest and pastoral economy**. Officials identified approximately **₹22,600 crore** of untapped potential in selected bio-resources. A joint forest inventory involved more than **500 forest guards**, over two lakh tree-level records, species-tagged images, AI, machine learning and satellite data. The partners released **"Counting Green Wealth"**, covering seven species: **khair, bamboo, chir pine, amla, wild mango, sal and rhododendron**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** became the **fourth state** to prohibit the sale and supply of **non-dairy or analogue paneer** that fails food safety requirements. The Food Safety Commissioner banned its manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution, sale and supply. Products marketed as paneer cannot replace milk fat, milk solids or other milk constituents partly or completely with **vegetable oils or fats**. Such substitutes are designed to imitate traditional dairy paneer. Similar restrictions exist in **Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat**. The decision seeks to protect consumers and prevent dairy substitutes from being falsely marketed as genuine paneer.

Jammu and Kashmir

- The **Jammu and Kashmir administration** approved **₹10 crore** on **9 August 2026** for restoration of **Rattan Garh Fort** in Bhaderwah, Doda district. Built in **1733 by Raja Sampat Pal**, it is described as the only surviving structure among seven original bastions in the Bhaderwah valley. Historical records indicate that the fort was later used as a **prison**. The restoration aims to preserve its architectural heritage and develop it as a **tourism and heritage destination** in the Chenab Valley. The region comprises **Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban**, known for mountainous landscapes, river valleys and cultural heritage, enhancing the fort's tourism potential.

Karnataka

- The **Karnataka Government** expanded its Council of Ministers on August 3, 2026, with **19 MLAs** taking oath at Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru. Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot** administered the oath, increasing ministry strength to **33**, leaving one vacancy within the constitutional limit of 34. Although 20 names were approved, **Gayathri Shanthegowda** did not take oath, leaving no woman minister. **S. S. Mallikarjun** replaced Mankala Vaidya at the last moment. Several senior leaders, including Dinesh Gundu Rao, H. K. Patil, Mahadevappa, and Laxmi Hebbalkar, were excluded.
- Karnataka is exploring an artificial intelligence partnership with **Anthropic**, the developer of Claude, to expand AI skilling and improve public services. Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** met an Anthropic delegation in Bengaluru on August 6 to discuss certification, governance, healthcare, education, cybersecurity and startups. A proposal would introduce **Claude-focused certification** through the NIPUNA initiative, creating a large pool of AI-trained talent. Discussions also covered AI-based fraud reduction, administrative efficiency, question-paper security, **data privacy, data sovereignty and AI**. The partnership could benefit Karnataka's students and officials.
- **HAL Airport, Bengaluru**, became India's first airport to operationalise the **RNP CAT H helicopter approach procedure** on August 7, 2026. Developed by the **Airports Authority of India** and validated through flight trials by HAL test pilots, the satellite-guided system received **DGCA approval**. Required Navigation Performance uses satellite guidance and onboard avionics to maintain precise flight paths, while CAT H applies specifically to helicopter operations. The procedure improves navigation in adverse weather, urban environments and terrain-constrained areas. It reduces approach time from approximately **12 minutes to four minutes** and supports nearly **50 daily helicopter movements**.
- **Bengaluru City Police** launched **Operation Mukta** on August 8 to identify and verify suspected illegal immigrants, particularly suspected Bangladeshi nationals. More than **500 police personnel** conducted early-morning raids across over 30 locations within six police-station jurisdictions in the Whitefield division. Teams checked identity documents, including Aadhaar and Voter IDs, across Whitefield, Kadugodi, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Varthur, Mahadevapura and Electronic City. Around **40 people** were detained for verification, with four allegedly identified as Bangladeshi nationals after foreign documents were recovered. Police planned coordination with the **FRRO** for further legal action and deportation.
- **Karnataka** has approached the **Supreme Court** challenging a High Court ruling permitting motorcycles to be registered as transport vehicles and used as **bike taxis**. The state raised concerns over **passenger safety, insurance coverage, road congestion, pollution and enforcement**. The dispute follows the **23 January 2026 Karnataka High Court judgment** involving Ola, Uber, Rapido, motorcycle owners and the Bike Taxi Welfare Association. Karnataka argues that the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** does not automatically authorise motorcycles as commercial taxis. A **Rajya Sabha response of 18 March 2026** also stated that "bike taxi" is not specifically defined under the Act or rules, intensifying the regulatory debate.
- Karnataka launched **Tathyakosh.in** in Bengaluru on August 12, 2026, as an open, non-commercial **digital public good for public data discovery**. Developed by the ACSEL Technology Forum, a government Centre of Excellence in AI, with the IIT Alumni Centre Bengaluru, the platform brings together more than **1.5 million datasets from 458 public repositories**. It functions as a discovery layer rather than replacing existing databases. Startups, researchers and technology teams can use it to locate information related to **agriculture, healthcare, climate, legal research and financial inclusion**. The Sanskrit-inspired name combines "Tathya," meaning fact, and "Kosh," meaning repository.
- Karnataka has prohibited the **manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation and sale** of tobacco and nicotine products, including gutkha and pan masala, for one year. The restriction is imposed under **Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, which permits restrictions in the interest of public health. The ban covers packaged and unpackaged gutkha, pan masala and separately sold tobacco or nicotine products intended for mixing. The state's Food Safety and Drugs Administration has launched **special inspection drives** and encouraged citizens to report violations. Reports differ regarding the notification date, citing August 10 or June 15, 2026.

- Karnataka approved phased implementation of **SAMASTA**, an integrated digital health platform designed to replace paper-based health records. Linked with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**, it will operate at Ayushman Arogya Kendras and Primary Health Centres through ASHA workers, ANMs and health inspectors. The platform supports **online and offline data entry**, improving usability in low-connectivity areas. It reduces ASHA diary data elements from 485 to 134 digital points, potentially cutting data-entry workload by about 75%. SAMASTA integrates family IDs, Aadhaar verification and **ABHA IDs**. A Udupi pilot achieved 95% beneficiary registration and 85% health-check completion while linking over 4 lakh ABHA IDs.
- Karnataka approved the **Sandhya Kiran contributory cashless healthcare scheme** for eligible retired state employees below 70 years, family pensioners and dependents. It provides up to **₹5 lakh annual cashless medical coverage per family** on a floater basis for secondary, tertiary and emergency treatment at designated hospitals. The scheme operates under **Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka** and is implemented by the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust. Service pensioners contribute 1.25% of basic pension, while family pensioners contribute 0.75%. Estimated annual premium collection is ₹117 crore against treatment costs of ₹81.75 crore. Contribution rates may rise by five basis points if corpus utilisation exceeds **85%**.
- The **Karnataka Cabinet** cleared the **Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026**, on August 13. The proposed law requires prior government permission for rallies, events and gatherings on government-maintained **land, buildings, roads, parks and playgrounds**. Political rallies, religious gatherings, route marches and processions involving more than **10 people** are covered, while marriage and funeral processions are exempt. Unauthorised first-time use may attract **two years' imprisonment or ₹1 lakh fine**, while repeat violations may bring **three years and ₹2 lakh**. Offences would be **cognisable and non-bailable**.
- Karnataka has imposed a **one-year ban on analogue paneer** when non-dairy products are manufactured, stored, distributed or sold as "paneer." The order is effective from **August 17, 2026, to August 17, 2027**, and seeks to protect consumers and enforce **food safety standards**. Analogue paneer may contain **vegetable oil, vegetable fat or other non-dairy ingredients** instead of traditional milk-based components. The restriction operates under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, bringing hotels, restaurants and food businesses under greater scrutiny. However, **processed cheese, frozen desserts and mixed fat spreads** are excluded from this specific restriction.
- **Hindalco Industries** commissioned India's first greenfield **Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH)** plant in Belagavi, Karnataka. The facility initially produces **30,000 tonnes annually**, with capacity planned to rise to 60,000 tonnes. Superfine ATH is used in **flame-retardant materials**, halogen-free products, polymer insulation and thermal insulation. The plant is expected to reduce import dependence and support growing demand from electrical, infrastructure and electric-vehicle sectors. Hindalco states that it is the world's only specialty alumina plant powered entirely by **renewable energy**, using solar, wind and biomass. The facility also incorporates automation and indigenous technology, strengthening advanced domestic manufacturing.

Kerala

- **Kerala** has unveiled an AI-led governance overhaul combining **artificial intelligence, digital governance, and process re-engineering** to improve public-service delivery. The initiative aims to simplify procedures, reduce bureaucratic delays, increase transparency, and strengthen coordination across departments. AI-assisted decision-making will analyse administrative data for policy formulation, while digital platforms will support faster applications, online approvals, and grievance redressal. Automation of routine work and data-driven monitoring will streamline workflows and improve resource allocation. The reforms seek to reinforce Kerala's position in **technology-driven administration** and provide faster, citizen-centric government services.
- The **India Meteorological Department** plans to commission an **X-Band Doppler Weather Radar** at Pulpally in Kerala's **Wayanad district** by December 2026. The radar will provide high-resolution observations within a **100-km radius**, improving monitoring of rainfall, cloudbursts and severe weather. X-Band systems operate at higher frequencies than S-Band and C-Band radars, making them suitable for detailed short-range observations. The project is particularly important for Wayanad's **Western Ghats** terrain, which is vulnerable to heavy rainfall and landslides. Land has been provided by Pazhassi Raja College, with disaster-management support from Kerala authorities.
- **Kerala** has officially been renamed **Keralam**, with the new name taking effect on **August 25, 2026**. The change was implemented through the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026**, following approval by Parliament and presidential assent. The Union Cabinet had approved the proposal in February. The **Lok Sabha passed the Bill on August 11**, followed by the Rajya Sabha on August 12. **President Droupadi Murmu** gave assent on August 14, after which the Union Home Ministry notified August 25 as the commencement date. The change modifies Kerala's entry in the **First Schedule of the Constitution** under **Article 3**.

Ladakh

- **Ladakh** has approved India's first high-altitude wildlife safari to promote regulated tourism and conservation. The decision was taken at the first meeting of the **Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature Conservation Society**, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. Safaris will cover **Hemis National Park, Changthang, Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, Nubra, Zanskar, Sham, Kargil and Drass**, focusing on snow-leopard sightings and bird watching. Specially designed open-back jeeps will use trained local guides and drivers. Ladakh is estimated to host **477 of India's 718 snow leopards**. It supports conservation.
- Ladakh hosted its first **Black-Necked Crane Festival** from August 11 to 14, 2026, to promote awareness and conservation of the rare Himalayan bird. The **Black-Necked Crane (Grus nigricollis)** is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN and is closely associated with high-altitude wetlands. Ladakh is its key Indian breeding region, particularly around **Tso Kar, Hanle and Changthang**. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the festival, which brought together conservationists, researchers and experts. The event also promoted local livelihoods and eco-tourism. Major threats include **wetland degradation, climate change, infrastructure, pollution and tourism disturbance**.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** has promulgated a regulation allowing sittings of the **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court** in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The regulation, notified on **August 27**, follows the Union Cabinet's approval on August 20 and addresses the long-standing demand for improved access to higher judicial remedies. Judges and divisions of the common High Court can conduct sittings at locations in Ladakh designated by the **Chief Justice**, with the Lieutenant Governor's approval. The principal seat will remain unchanged. The move is expected to reduce **travel time and legal expenses** for litigants, advocates and others seeking higher judicial remedies.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Indore** opened India's first **virtual zoo experience** at **Kamala Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya** on August 17. Spread across **8,000 square feet**, the facility was developed under a **Public-Private Partnership** at an estimated cost of **₹4.5 crore**. It combines digital projection, sound, motion and special effects through a **3-D dome theatre, 14-D cinema and digital jungle safari**. The 14-D theatre includes moving seats, wind, water, fog, bubbles and vibrations. Attractions include a gorilla entrance, neon jungle pathways, glow garden, roar maze and **Hanuman hologram**. Entry costs **₹70**, with 16 daily shows.

Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra** imposed a one-year statewide ban on **analogue paneer** from July 30, 2026, under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The prohibition covers manufacturing, storage, distribution, transportation, and sale of non-dairy paneer by hotels, restaurants, caterers, and cloud kitchens. Since May 1, businesses had to disclose analogue-paneer use on menus, boards, and bills. Violations can attract imprisonment of up to **six months** and fines up to **₹1 lakh**. The measure aims to prevent misleading sales, protect consumers, and strengthen food safety standards throughout Maharashtra.
- **Maharashtra** has declared **snakebite a notifiable disease**, making it mandatory for hospitals, medical colleges and healthcare professionals to report suspected and confirmed cases and deaths. The decision followed an August 9 incident in **Gadchiroli**, where three tribal schoolgirls died and three others were hospitalised after a venomous snakebite. Reports must include the **bite date and location, patient details, symptoms, treatment, anti-snake venom doses, referrals and outcomes**. Serious and fatal cases require immediate reporting. Healthcare institutions must maintain updated **ASV stock records**. The state will establish a nodal mechanism for prevention and control while district authorities promote awareness, first aid and timely treatment.
- The **Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration** banned the sale of **loose or unpackaged edible oil and fats** statewide on August 20, 2026. The order covers oil expellers, refiners, blenders, repackers, importers, wholesalers, transporters, retailers and e-commerce platforms. Edible oil must be sold in **sealed, tamper-evident packages** with mandatory labels. Multi-sourced vegetable oil packs are restricted to **15 kg** maximum. Commercial establishments cannot repeatedly reuse frying oil, while used cooking oil exceeding **25% Total Polar Compounds** must go to authorised collectors. Violations may attract penalties under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** has introduced **QR-enabled reflective collars** for stray dogs to strengthen **animal birth control and anti-rabies measures** in Mumbai. Each collar carries a unique QR code connected to digital records containing the dog's **vaccination, sterilisation and health details**. Officials, animal welfare organisations and citizens can use the system to identify dogs requiring intervention and avoid duplicate treatment. Developed with **Ridlan Al Foundation's PawFriend.in**, the collars offer more durable identification than temporary coloured markings. The initiative supports Mumbai's goal of achieving **rabies elimination by 2030** through better monitoring and treatment.

- **Mumbai** has entered the **IWG 2026 Work From Anywhere Index** as the only Indian city featured among global remote-work destinations. The city scored **77 points**, performing well in transport, accommodation, climate and flexible workspace availability, but scoring relatively lower in broadband quality, local events and happiness. **Bangkok** topped the ranking with 106.5 points, followed by Tokyo, Barcelona, Porto and Vancouver. India recorded the highest maturity score of **100** in the cited flexible-workspace assessment. The country had **79.7 million sq ft** of flexible workspace across its top eight cities by Q2 2025, expected to exceed 100 million sq ft in 2026.
- The **Maharashtra government** has partnered with the **OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation** and **Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust** to expand school eye-care services. The three-year programme, running from August 2026 to June 2029, aims to screen **20 lakh students** in Classes 5 to 10 across government and Zilla Parishad schools. The programme will provide school-based screening, teacher training, optometry services and spectacles. OneSight will contribute **1 lakh free prescription spectacles**, while Ratna Nidhi will provide qualified optometry teams. Since 2019, the partnership has already screened more than **6.8 lakh children across 800 schools in 18 districts**.

Meghalaya

- The **Meghalaya Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution opposing **uranium exploration and mining** in the state. Chief Minister **Conrad K. Sangma** moved the resolution, supported by all 60 MLAs, urging the Centre, Department of Atomic Energy and Uranium Corporation of India Limited not to undertake mining activities. Meghalaya possesses significant uranium deposits, but previous exploration faced strong public opposition. The state government cited concerns regarding the potential **health and environmental impacts** of uranium mining. The resolution represents Meghalaya's formal political opposition to such activities and seeks to prevent future mining operations while reflecting concerns expressed by local communities across the northeastern state.
- Meghalaya launched the **CM-IMPACT Read & Rise programme** to improve **foundational literacy** and reading readiness among children, particularly in remote and rural areas. Its **Universal Reading Readiness Mission** aims to ensure every child can confidently read and write by age seven. Children above seven will receive a three-month intervention designed to address learning gaps. The state also released a **Teacher Training Guide** to support implementation across Meghalaya. The initiative responds to learning disruptions and aims to strengthen early educational outcomes. Education Minister **Lahkmen Rymbui** and senior officials attended the launch, highlighting the state's emphasis on literacy and inclusive school education.

Puducherry

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** presented the prestigious **President's Colours** to the **Puducherry Police** on **9 August 2026**, recognising its bravery, dedication and service. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor **K. Kailashnathan** and Chief Minister **N. Rangasamy** attended the ceremony. Shah highlighted the force's responsibilities across Puducherry's **four geographically separated regions**, including its frontline role during the **COVID-19 pandemic**. He also discussed India's **three new criminal laws**, emphasising technology, timelines and trust.
- Infrastructure projects highlighted included **₹2,200 crore NH-332A four-laning** and runway expansion. Between 2014 and 2026, Puducherry received approximately **₹13,762 crore**, alongside nearly **₹39,000 crore industrial investment**.

Punjab

- Punjab Education Minister **Harjot Singh Bains** said the state secured the top position in the **NITI Aayog School Education Quality Index 2026**, overtaking Kerala. He cited improvements in government-school infrastructure, textbook distribution and inspections since 2022. The **Mission Samarth** foundational learning programme covers nearly **12 lakh students and 70,000 teachers** annually, grouping learners by achievement levels. Punjab has also introduced **Artificial Intelligence as a core subject from Class 1 to 12**. Government-school NEET qualifiers increased from **80 in 2021 to 882 in 2026**, supported by the **PACE initiative**.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan has announced a **₹12,500-crore school infrastructure modernisation roadmap** covering all **41 districts**. The plan includes **₹2,487.75 crore** for 3,587 new school buildings, **₹8,378.30 crore** for 83,783 classrooms, ₹1,129.45 crore for repairs in 22,589 schools and ₹340.40 crore for 13,616 toilet complexes. Assembly discussions highlighted major infrastructure gaps, including **611 schools without buildings, 2,047 without functional toilets and 1,049 without basic drinking-water facilities**. A new **₹18 lakh school building** is also planned at Rampura Kanwarpura in Jaipur, addressing longstanding infrastructure deficiencies in government schools.

Tamil Nadu

- India recorded **20,138 organ transplants in 2025**, the highest ever, according to the **NOTTO Annual Report 2025–26**. **Tamil Nadu** led deceased organ donation with **266 donors** and ranked second nationally in transplants with 2,796 procedures. It has **172 transplant centres**, the country's largest network, and leads several organ categories. Nationwide, kidneys accounted for **62.03%** of transplants. Women represented 68% of living donors, while men formed 78% of recipients. The **Jug Jug Jiyo Abhiyaan**, NOTTO app, and new guidelines aim to increase awareness and donation.

- The **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly** unanimously adopted a resolution on **10 August 2026** making **Tamil Thai Vazhthu** the first song at official events across the state. The rule applies to **government departments, universities, educational institutions, PSUs** and other public organisations.
- The resolution was moved by **Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay** and passed through a voice vote with support from **DMK, AIADMK, Congress and BJP** members. The decision followed controversy over the sequencing of Tamil Thai Vazhthu, Vande Mataram and the National Anthem. **Tamil Thai Vazhthu**, drawn from **Manonmaniam** by **Manonmaniam Sundaranar**, was officially declared Tamil Nadu's **State Song in 2021**.
- **Tamil Nadu** has announced an increase in **maternity leave to 365 days** for women government employees having a third child, compared with the earlier 12-week provision. Human Resources Management Minister **D Sarathkumar** made the announcement in the Assembly, citing women's empowerment and social welfare. Existing rules provide one year of leave for regular women employees with fewer than two surviving children, while employees with two or more surviving children receive 12 weeks with full pay. Tamil Nadu had increased maternity leave from 90 days to six months in 2011, nine months in 2016 and one year in July 2021. A detailed government order will specify implementation.
- Tamil Nadu will introduce the **TN-ARIVU curriculum** in government schools from the **2027-28 academic year**, incorporating artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. TN-ARIVU represents **Analytical thinking, Reasoning, Innovation, Venture and entrepreneurship, and Upskilling**. The programme will have three stages: **ARIVU Foundation** for Classes I-V, **ARIVU Discovery** for Classes VI-VIII and **ARIVU Edge** for Classes IX-XII. The state has also announced **31 school education initiatives** with an estimated ₹44,527-crore outlay. Other measures include **TN PAL**, Mathichudar, Vetripathai, PLAY, no-school-bag days and **50 Sports Plus schools**.
- Tamil Nadu has announced the **Annapoorani Super Six LPG Scheme** to reduce cooking-fuel expenses for eligible families. Announced in the State Assembly on August 24, 2026, the scheme is scheduled to begin on **Pongal Day in January 2027**. Under its reimbursement-based system, beneficiaries will purchase domestic LPG cylinders first and receive eligible reimbursement directly through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. The scheme will cover families earning below **₹2.5 lakh annually**, middle and marginal farmers, and families of persons with disabilities. The state expects an annual expenditure of around **₹4,000 crore** under the welfare initiative.
- **Tamil Nadu** has notified three **elephant corridors** in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary under the Hosur Forest Division to improve habitat connectivity and facilitate safer elephant movement between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The **Jawalagiri–Panai–Anchetty corridor** is the largest, covering **6,881.47 hectares** and extending 20.90 km. The **Jawalagiri–Ulibanda–Thaggatti corridor** covers 3,241.53 hectares, while the **Billikkal Jawalagiri corridor** spans about 196 hectares. The notification followed **Madras High Court directions** and committee recommendations. Officials said the recognition will strengthen **elephant conservation** while retaining existing land protections and avoiding additional restrictions on local communities.

Telangana

- **Telangana Police** has launched the **NextGen Dial-112 Emergency Response Support System** at the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre in Hyderabad. The platform integrates **18 emergency services** under one helpline, covering police, ambulance, fire, women and child safety, and disaster response. AI features include **intelligent call filtering, incident prioritisation, smart routing and voice-to-text transcription**, reducing average call processing time from 190 to 133 seconds. Telangana also became the first state to pilot **AI-enabled drones** with Dial-112, improving emergency assessment, surveillance and response during accidents and disasters.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Uttar Pradesh** presented a supplementary budget of **₹59,019.54 crore** for 2026-27, with ₹41,620.04 crore, or over 70%, earmarked for **capital expenditure**. Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna highlighted allocations for industries, infrastructure, rural development, energy, healthcare, education, agriculture, and local governance. Major provisions include **₹20,905.88 crore for industries and infrastructure**, ₹14,184.72 crore for rural development, and ₹7,422.27 crore for energy. Added to the ₹9.12 lakh crore annual budget, the package targets asset creation, employment, infrastructure growth, and improved public services before the 2027 Assembly elections.
- The **140-year-old Parichha Weir** in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, was designated a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS)** by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage on August 13, 2026. Built across the **Betwa River**, the rubble-stone masonry weir is 1,174 metres long and 16.8 metres high, with 318 steel falling shutters and reservoir capacity of 2,400 million cubic feet. Its associated **Betwa Canal system** extends around 2,654 km and irrigates 4,28,360 hectares across Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Construction began in 1881 and the system was commissioned in 1886. The formal award will be presented in **France in October 2026**.

- **Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture** have proposed a **₹600-crore investment fund** to support Yamanashi-based **MSMEs** investing in Uttar Pradesh. The proposal was announced at the **UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026** in Lucknow on August 21. Uttar Pradesh will create a dedicated **Yamanashi Desk at Invest UP** to assist Japanese investors with approvals and coordination. A **90-day review mechanism** will monitor land allotments and investment issues. Several MoUs were also signed covering **technical training, skill development, tourism, Japanese Global Capability Centres and legislative cooperation**, strengthening economic and institutional ties between Uttar Pradesh and Japan.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a policy allowing eligible women government employees to avail **180 days of maternity leave twice** during their service. The benefit applies to the **first two surviving children**, providing six months of leave with full pay. Eligible employees include regular women staff working under the Uttar Pradesh government and specified government-run or autonomous institutions. The policy aims to support **maternal recovery, infant care and breastfeeding**, while improving **work-life balance** for working mothers. The decision is also intended to strengthen **social security** and provide greater workplace support to women employees.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved the purchase of **25 lakh tablets** for free distribution among eligible youth under the **Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana**. The state has allocated **₹2,374.60 crore** for the scheme during 2026-27. The five-year programme aims to improve young people's access to **digital education, training, employment and self-employment opportunities**. Eligible beneficiaries include students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, skill-development and other approved programmes. The tablets will enable access to online learning, government schemes and employment services. The initiative seeks to strengthen **digital access, training quality and youth employability**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** launched the **Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission portal** and **UP Startup Policy 2026** to strengthen its innovation ecosystem. Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** said the state now has more than **24,000 startups and eight unicorns**, compared with roughly 120 startups before 2017. The government distributed incentives exceeding **₹3.42 crore to 107 startups** and ₹1.79 crore to nine incubators. Support will focus on **funding, incubation, research and innovation**, with emerging sectors such as drones, quantum computing, robotics, medtech, space technology and green hydrogen receiving attention. Around half of Uttar Pradesh's startups are reportedly operated by **women entrepreneurs**.

Uttarakhand

- The **Uttarakhand government** approved relocating the High Court from **Nainital to Haldwani** in August 2026. A final executive order identified a 30-hectare site at Lamachaur along the Haldwani-Rudrapur highway for the new campus. The **Supreme Court** had earlier ruled that establishing or shifting a High Court is an administrative decision. The Cabinet approved forest-land transfer on August 7 following the Supreme Court's July 16 direction. However, a PIL has raised environmental concerns, claiming the proposed site is **reserved forest and an elephant corridor**. Concerns include removal of thousands of saplings.

West Bengal

- **West Bengal** hosted its first **Kaushal Mahotsav** at Balurghat Stadium in Dakshin Dinajpur on August 18, 2026. It was the **11th Kaushal Mahotsav** organised nationally by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **NSDC** and the state government. More than **8,000 candidates** registered, while over 7,500 interviews were conducted in one day. The event offered more than **7,000 career opportunities** across IT, banking, logistics, hospitality, healthcare, manufacturing and retail. Major recruiters included **Wipro, Tata Group and Axis Bank**, strengthening industry-linked employment under the **Skill India Mission**.
- **West Bengal** launched four **toll-free complaint helplines** allowing citizens to report extortion, syndicate activities, illegal road and toll-tax collections and illegal liquor operations. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** announced the initiative and said complaints would be directly registered for swift action. Helpline **155334** handles extortion complaints, **155335** addresses syndicate activities, **155337** covers illegal road and toll-tax collections, while **155339** is dedicated to illegal liquor activities. Shah reviewed the helpline system during a meeting with Chief Minister **Suvendu Adhikari** and senior officials in **Siliguri** during his three-day West Bengal visit.
- The **West Bengal government** plans to establish **Arjun Bahini**, a specialised disaster-response force comprising trained **Agniveers**, expected to become operational in September 2026. Around **200 personnel** have already been selected through the Sainik Board, with 100 planned for Kolkata, 50 for hill areas and 50 for Sagar. Modelled on the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**, the force will use modern equipment for rapid emergency response. West Bengal has also announced **20% reservation for Agniveers** in recruitment to the Fire and Emergency Services, Forest Department, Police and Disaster Management Department, creating additional employment opportunities.

August Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The Department of Posts released a **commemorative postage stamp marking the birth centenary of Satish Gujral**, celebrated artist, sculptor, muralist, and architect. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveiled the stamp on August 3, 2026, at Bikaner House, New Delhi. It features Gujral's 2010 self-portrait, one of only four self-portraits created by him. Designed by Anuj Kumar, the issue followed a proposal from Raseel Gujral Ansal. A special exhibition and limited-edition collectible sets will accompany the release, celebrating Gujral's contribution to modern Indian art and architecture.
- The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** has launched a real-time **National Organ Transplant Portal and Mobile App** to digitally transform organ transplantation. The platform provides a unified national waiting list, transparent allocation, donor-recipient matching, and post-transplant monitoring. It also enables Aadhaar-linked donation pledges, transplant-centre registration, licence renewals, and approvals. Importantly, paired kidney swap transplantation can now expand nationally rather than remain limited to individual hospitals. Connecting NOTTO, ROTTOs, SOTTOs, hospitals, donors, and recipients will improve transparency, efficiency, organ utilisation, and equitable access to transplantation.
- **TRAI launched a revamped TRAI MyCall app** on August 3, 2026, to strengthen consumer participation in voice-quality monitoring. Users can rate calls from one to five stars, report call drops, echo, delays, voice breaking, and one-way audio, and conduct signal-coverage tests. Automatic post-call prompts and interactive feedback maps are also available. By combining consumer responses with technical network data, the platform helps telecom operators identify problems and improve performance. TRAI expects stronger evidence-based regulation and improved Quality of Experience for India's telecom subscribers.
- The **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 campaign** was launched by Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on August 6, with nationwide participation scheduled from August 9 to 17. The fifth edition, launched in 2022, focuses on the **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram**. The Suryapath Tiranga initiative will involve Indian missions in 54 countries, while Partition Horrors Remembrance Day will be observed on August 14. Citizens can display the national flag and upload photographs through Selfie with Tiranga, which crossed 10 crore selfies previously.
- Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav chaired the 27th Governing Body meeting of CCRAS on August 6 and launched several research and digital initiatives. Infrastructure projects were inaugurated at Pune and Ranikhet, while groundwork began for a 50-bedded hospital in Nagpur. **CCRAS-PARAMPARA** will document and scientifically validate local health traditions and traditional veterinary knowledge. The National Research Recognitions portal promotes postgraduate Ayurveda research, while Ayur-dict integrates multiple Ayurveda dictionaries. The initiatives emphasise AI, innovation, startups, translational research and global collaboration to strengthen evidence-based Ayurveda.
- Amit Shah launched **'Bank in a Box' and a dedicated Security Operations Centre (SOC)** for Urban Cooperative Banks under the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' programme in Mumbai. The integrated platform will provide core banking, digital payments, cloud infrastructure, regulatory compliance, loan origination, Aadhaar-based services and AI-driven fraud prevention. The SOC will provide 24×7 cybersecurity monitoring, while MuleHunter will help identify suspicious transactions and mule accounts. NUCFDC has been capitalised with nearly ₹306 crore, with around 650 UCBs already joining. An MoU with NFSU will support cybersecurity training and digital forensics.
- India launched **E-Samudra** on August 8, 2026, a comprehensive **digital maritime governance platform** providing single-window services to seafarers, shipping companies, ports and other stakeholders. The platform offers online payments, real-time tracking, digital certificates and streamlined workflows under Digital First and Faceless Governance. Supporting initiatives include 24×7 e-NAVIK grievance redressal, the proposed Seafarer Tracking Dashboard, Digital Seafarers Employment Agreement (d-SEA) and enhanced welfare measures. India's active seafarers increased from 1.03 lakh in 2013 to over 3.23 lakh in 2025, making India the world's second-largest seafarer supplier.
- NeGD, under MeitY, partnered with the Association of Australian Education Representatives in India to launch **AAERI Verify**, a digital authentication platform for Indian students seeking higher education in Australia. Launched at the AAERI Annual Convention in New Delhi on August 7, 2026, it integrates with DigiLocker for secure, paperless and consent-based verification of academic, identity and financial documents. Its two-stage system verifies student credentials before applications and sponsor finances after admission offers. Digitally signed records can be shared directly from authorised institutions, reducing paperwork, manual verification and fraud risks.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the **Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** on August 9, 2026, commemorating August Kranti Diwas and the Quit India Movement of 1942. He hoisted the National Flag at Flag Point, Sri Vijaya Puram, highlighting the islands' connection with India's freedom struggle and Cellular Jail. The event recalled Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's historic Tricolour hoisting at Port Blair on December 30, 1943.

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched a new **scholarship and fellowship payment system for agriculture students** through the National Scholarship Portal using Direct Benefit Transfer. At ICAR-IARI, Pusa, more than 6,000 agriculture students received **₹21.35 crore** directly into their bank accounts. Eligible students will receive scholarship assistance monthly, reducing delays and improving transparency. The initiative aims to strengthen agricultural education, encourage technology-driven solutions for farmers and support national objectives relating to food security and improved farmers' incomes.
- The revamped Handloom Haat at Janpath, New Delhi, has been transformed into the **Handloom Experience Centre**, combining India's handloom heritage with contemporary design, enterprise and retail. Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh was scheduled to inaugurate it on August 14, 2026. The inaugural exhibition features 24 award-winning weavers and over 30 curated brands participating in Weave The Future 5.0.
- NIELIT launched **CYBER KUSHTI 2026**, a national cybersecurity and AI hackathon, on August 15 with the ISAC Foundation and CERT-In as Knowledge Partner. The competition focuses on human judgment rather than detection speed. It has three stages: Akhada on September 15, Dangal on September 24, and Kesari Final on October 9 in New Delhi. Winners receive the **Cyber Kesari 2026** title and traditional Gada.
- India launched its **first Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** at the 17th UN Convention to Combat Desertification session in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on August 17, 2026. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted the importance of grasslands, scrublands, ravines and other open ecosystems for ecology and livelihoods. The guide covers Himalayan and Terai grasslands, Thar and Banni landscapes, Deccan savannas, rocky plateaus, coastal ecosystems and deserts.
- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** has introduced a new **four-tier question-paper checking system** to improve examination accuracy. The mechanism examines papers for factual, grammatical, translation and formatting errors before finalisation. NTA has removed 600 experts from existing panels and started recruiting new specialists. Examination security will involve CISF protection, secluded workrooms, air-gapped systems and strict device-deposit protocols.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched **Friends of MY Bharat**, a digital platform connecting Indian-origin youth abroad with India's development journey. Announced during the BRICS Youth Summit 2026 in Gandhinagar, the platform offers volunteering opportunities, nation-building programmes and youth initiatives. Its Know Your India section provides information about Indian culture, heritage, history, tourism and prominent leaders.
- The Territorial Army, in partnership with CyberPeace, launched **Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0)** on August 21. The national cyber hackathon seeks indigenous solutions for defence and digital security through three tracks: Bug Hunting, AI Kavach and National Creators Challenge. Registrations opened July 30, with the deadline extended to August 31; the Grand Finale occurs October 6–8.
- The Centre launched **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II** under DAY-NRLM to accelerate the goal of creating **six crore Lakhpati Didis**. Running from August 21 to November 21, 2026, the campaign aims to train five lakh SHG women, formalise 50,000 enterprises, orient 50,000 community cadres and onboard 25,000 members onto ONDC and GeM.
- Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated **MALHAR 2026** in New Delhi on August 21, celebrating Indian classical music through a youth-focused, monsoon-themed programme. Organised by Antar Hriday Connect, the initiative seeks to connect young people with India's classical heritage through cultural programmes and free concerts.
- The Ministry of Rural Development launched **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II** on August 21 under DAY-NRLM, focusing on rural women entrepreneurs across farm and non-farm sectors. The campaign continues until November 21, 2026 and supports the target of creating **six crore Lakhpati Didis**. It aims to train five lakh SHG women, formalise 50,000 enterprises and add two lakh members to producer groups.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated **seven infrastructure projects worth ₹427.80 crore at Paradip Port Authority, Odisha**, on August 21, 2026. Projects include capital dredging, Atharbanki Second New Bridge and an Advanced Vessel Traffic Management and Information System developed with IIT Madras. The ₹352 crore dredging project will create an 18.5-metre deep-draft facility for fully laden Capesize vessels.
- The Union government launched **Kanda Express** on August 24, 2026, to transport onions from Nashik, Maharashtra, to major consumption centres such as Delhi, Chennai, Kochi and Guwahati. The initiative follows a sharp increase in onion prices. The move complements the onion buffer-stock strategy, under which NAFED and NCCF have procured around 1.2 lakh tonnes.
- The All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi has introduced the **Garbhini Mitra Course for 2026-27**. This six-month programme focuses on Ayurveda-based maternal wellness during pregnancy and the postnatal period. Applicants must be 18 years or older and Class 12 qualified. Each batch will admit 20 students.

- India Post upgraded the **Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa applications** and renovated 14 Post Office buildings. The initiatives were launched on August 24, 2026, by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Minister of State Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani. Dak MITRA serves more than 1.4 lakh Branch Post Offices, while Dak Sewa provides 24×7 services in 23 Indian languages.
- The **National Security Guard (NSG)** launched its **first Mahila Commando Conversion Course** at its Training Academy in Manesar, Haryana. The 12-week programme is designed for women personnel from State Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces. Training covers physical conditioning, weapons handling, marksmanship, tactical intervention, hostage rescue and specialised counter-terror operations.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the **9th National Security Strategies Conference 2026** in New Delhi on August 24. More than 850 participants attended the two-day conference. Discussions focused on counter-terrorism, intelligence fusion, narcotics control, illegal migration, cybercrime and proxy warfare.
- A national conclave on Tribal Languages and Museums began in Mysuru, Karnataka. The upgraded **Adi Vaani platform** received an iOS application, five additional languages and a new logo. The Ministry also launched **Jago**, an AI conversational assistant for tribal welfare information.
- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** launched **seven Nitrosamine Impurities Reference Standards** on August 25, 2026. The standards include NDMA, NDEA, NEIPA, NDBA, NMPA, NDIPA and NMBA. The initiative strengthens drug quality control and impurity profiling.
- Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **redeveloped Hutatma Smruti Smarak** at Patradevi, Goa, commemorating martyrs of the Goa Liberation Movement. Redeveloped at approximately **₹9.50 crore**, the memorial includes a central monument, sculptures, information hubs and murals depicting the liberation struggle.
- Amit Shah inaugurated the **Gujarat Gaurav Sarovar** in Amreli, Gujarat. The 21-acre reservoir has a **storage capacity of 400 million litres** and is expected to support agriculture, drinking-water availability and groundwater recharge.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched **Jago AI Assistant**, a conversational artificial intelligence chatbot designed to simplify access to information on tribal welfare schemes and government programmes. The platform is currently available in English and Hindi.

Miscellaneous National News

- President Droupadi Murmu granted assent to the **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026**. The law prohibits conversions through coercion, fraud, misrepresentation, allurement or marriage promises, while permitting voluntary conversions. It requires 60-day prior notice to the District Magistrate.
- The Union Government released an additional **₹1.09 lakh crore as advance tax devolution to states**. Under Finance Commission recommendations, states receive 41% of the Centre's divisible tax pool. **Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation of ₹19,208 crore**.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the strength of the Supreme Court from **34 to 38 judges**, including the Chief Justice of India. The amendment aims to address case backlog and improve judicial efficiency.
- The Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda reviewed expansion of **Project SARATHI**, which deploys youth volunteers in hospitals. At PGIMER Chandigarh, over 2,500 volunteers contributed 1.5 lakh service hours and reduced patient navigation time by 26%.
- India will implement a **₹45,000 crore railway infrastructure upgrade across border states** adjoining China, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The initiative will strengthen civilian connectivity and strategic military logistics, including in the **Siliguri Corridor**.
- Indian Railways provides an **Emergency Quota facility for eligible cancer patients** to secure confirmed train tickets for urgent medical treatment. Twelve Emergency Quota berths are reserved across specified travel classes.
- **Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh became India's 101st Ramsar Site** on August 3, 2026. It is also the **first Ramsar Site in Arunachal Pradesh** and lies within Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Central Government introduced **UPSC and SSC recruitment reforms** to make examinations faster, transparent, secure and technology-driven. SSC reduced its recruitment cycle to 6–8 months, while UPSC introduced a Modular Online Application Portal and AI-based attempt verification.
- India extended anti-dumping duties on four imported products and imposed a new **five-year duty on low-ash metallurgical coke** from Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia.

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed **mandatory Vehicle-to-Vehicle communication** for newly manufactured L, M and N category vehicles from **October 1, 2028**.
- The Supreme Court extended compulsory third-party insurance for new private vehicles, requiring **four years for cars and six years for two-wheelers**, replacing the earlier three- and five-year periods.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed draft rules recognising **two-wheeled ambulances as a separate emergency-vehicle category**. L2-category bike ambulances manufactured from October 1, 2027, would follow AIS-209 standards.
- India plans to raise installed power capacity to **874 GW by 2031-32**, from 548.86 GW as of June 30, 2026. Non-fossil sources already account for 54.18% of installed capacity.
- The Supreme Court ordered a **10-kilometre mining buffer around all notified wetland conservation reserves** nationwide, strengthening environmental safeguards around fragile wetlands.
- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** proposes tighter oversight of foreign funding received by NGOs, associations and individuals. It creates a Designated Authority to manage assets in specified circumstances.
- The Supreme Court issued nationwide directions against **digital arrest scams and cyber financial fraud**. RBI must prepare an SOP for identifying, freezing and investigating mule accounts used in cybercrime.
- **Massachusetts and the City of Boston declared August 15 as India Day** to commemorate India's 79th Independence Day and recognise the contributions of the Indian-American community.
- Parliament passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the Court's total strength from **34 to 38 judges**.
- The **9th India Medical Device 2026 conference** was scheduled for August 7–8 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. India's medical devices sector is targeted to reach **US$50 billion by 2030**.
- The **Bharat International Rice Conference 2026** will be held from October 23 to 25 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. India is the world's largest rice exporter, shipping over 20 million tonnes annually to more than 170 countries.
- India's **IT Rules 2026** reduced the deadline for removing unlawful content after a valid court order or government notice from **36 hours to 3 hours** and introduced provisions covering AI-generated content and deepfakes.
- The Union government told the Supreme Court that the **creamy layer principle should not be extended to SCs and STs**, arguing that their reservation addresses historical and social disadvantage rather than income alone.
- Lok Sabha passed the **MSME Development Amendment Bill, 2026** on August 7. The legislation aims to address delayed payments through faster dispute resolution and improved liquidity.
- The **Scan and Register Service under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission crossed 25 crore OPD registrations**. It operates across 30,800 healthcare facilities covering all 36 States and Union Territories.
- India completed its **first sea shipment of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia** in August 2026. The consignment originated from farmers in Darbhanga.
- India crossed **300.50 GW installed non-fossil fuel capacity** as of July 31, 2026. Solar power led with 164.59 GW, followed by wind at 58.14 GW and hydropower at 57.24 GW.
- The **CPGRAMS** platform connects citizens with Central ministries, State governments and Union Territories for government-service complaints. The framework requires grievances to be resolved within a **maximum of 21 days**.
- India's **Asiatic lion population increased from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025**, a rise of nearly 70%. Greater Gir in Gujarat remains their principal natural habitat.
- India celebrates its **80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026**, with the theme **"Yuva Shakti: Leading the journey to Viksit Bharat@2047."**
- The 80th Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort will feature **Vande Mataram for the first time as part of the official programme**, commemorating 150 years of the National Song.
- Tripura achieved an agricultural export milestone by sending its **first-ever mustard honey shipment to Dubai**. The one-metric-tonne consignment was exported by the Dergang Farmer Producer Organisation with assistance from APEDA.
- India identified **45 major Invasive Alien Plant Species** through the Forest Survey of India to strengthen forest ecosystem management.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026**, proposing an independent **National Tribunals Commission** to oversee appointments, administration and performance of tribunals.
- **V.O. Chidambaranar Port became India's first major port to achieve Scope-2 Emission-Free status** on August 10, 2026. It also became India's first major port to receive ISO 50001:2018 certification for its Energy Management System.
- India diversified its urea imports in 2026 amid West Asia-related supply disruptions. Between April and June, it imported **15.08 lakh tonnes from 17 countries**.
- The MSME Ministry and DPIIT signed an MoU to expand market access for **Geographical Indication (GI) products** through ONDC, Government e-Marketplace and the "Bharat GI" banner.

- World Elephant Day 2026 highlighted that **India holds nearly 60% of the global wild Asian elephant population**. The SAIEE 2021–25 estimated India's population at 22,446 elephants.
- Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, establishing a proposed independent **National Tribunals Commission (NTC)** to oversee 16 major tribunals.
- The Union Jal Shakti Ministry amended the **Ganga floodplain management framework**, dividing floodplains into Active Floodplain, Regulatory Zone and Warning Zone.
- The **RailOne App crossed 4.76 crore downloads** by August 2, 2026. Around 89% of reserved railway tickets are now booked online.
- The **Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on August 13, 2026**, with Parliament passing 11 Bills.
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** was passed by both Houses on August 13, amending the MMDR Act, 1957.
- As of July 31, 2026, **DigiLocker had more than 72.43 crore registered users**, while UMANG crossed 11.66 crore users.
- Parliament passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**, paving the way for Kerala to officially become **Keralam**.
- Lok Sabha referred the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** to a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee** on August 12.
- A Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended a **National Pine-Needle Utilisation Policy** to address Himalayan forest fires and utilise pine biomass.
- Akali Dal chief **Sukhbir Singh Badal was injured in a kirpan attack** at Gurdwara Mata Sahib Devan Ji Mugat near Nanded, Maharashtra, on August 13, 2026.
- NITI Aayog identified **chemicals, textiles, telecom and networking equipment, and solar photovoltaic manufacturing** as four high-potential sectors for positioning India as a global manufacturing hub.
- The Railway Board approved **seven new Amrit Bharat Express services** in August 2026 to improve long-distance interstate connectivity.
- The Central Government approved a **fourth railway line in the Malda–New Jalpaiguri section** through the strategically important **Siliguri Corridor or Chicken's Neck**.
- The Lucknow–Delhi Tejas Express will operate as the **Sprite Tejas Express** under a commercial branding arrangement.
- The Central Government has delisted **18 monuments from the centrally protected sites list since 2021**. ASI now maintains 3,688 centrally protected monuments and sites.
- **Suryapath Tiranga** completed a historic global relay involving **54 Indian missions and posts** on India's 80th Independence Day.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **nationwide sports talent identification campaign for children aged 5–15 years**, targeting future athletes for India's possible 2036 Olympics.
- India hosted the **BRICS ICT Track in Pune from August 17–21, 2026**, focusing on secure, inclusive and sustainable digital ecosystems.
- The Supreme Court asked the remaining **19 States and Union Territories to consider declaring cancer a notifiable disease**.
- India's 80th Independence Day celebrations in New Jersey achieved a **Guinness World Record for the Largest Flagpole Number**, using over 1,300 US flags to form "250".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide sports talent hunt for **children aged 5–15 years** to identify athletes for the **2036 Olympics**.
- The BJP announced its new national team under president **Nitin Nabin** on August 17, 2026.
- India constituted a **12-member high-powered committee** to review restoration and future management of the **Teesta Barrage Project** in West Bengal.
- The **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project** is advancing towards its expected August 2027 launch. The 508-km corridor is expected to support trains travelling at up to 320 km/h.
- Three UAE-based Indian skydivers participated in a **Guinness World Record event** over Benghazi, Libya, involving 65 skydivers from 38 nationalities.
- Senior IAS officer **Anurag Jain assumed charge as NITI Aayog CEO**.
- A newly discovered Himalayan plant, **Impatiens nimspurjai**, has been named after mountaineer **Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja**.
- UIDAI completed more than **2 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates for schoolchildren** under its nationwide mission-mode campaign.
- **Lakshmanan Meyyappan**, aged 16 years and 141 days, entered the Guinness World Records as the **world's youngest male Chartered Accountant**.
- **Semicon India 2026** will take place from September 17–19 at Yashoobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi, under the theme **"Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem."**
- **Vizhinjam International Seaport** began full-fledged EXIM operations, transforming it from a transshipment facility into a major gateway for Indian trade.
- The **PM CARES Fund had a closing balance of ₹8,452.07 crore** as of March 31, 2025, according to audited financial statements.
- NHAI expanded its **FASTag Local Pass facility to 121 toll plazas** across India for eligible residents living within 20 km of designated toll plazas.

- The National Medical Commission proposed a centrally generated **Unique Identification number for registered doctors** and the concept of **"One Nation, One Licence."**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **₹3,590.73 crore NH-22 four-laning project in Bihar**, covering 82.578 km.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved **four multi-tracking railway projects worth ₹9,450 crore** across West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The **31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting** was held on August 20, 2026, at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- The Union Cabinet approved establishing a **Jammu & Kashmir High Court bench in Ladakh** to improve access to justice.
- The **Aadhaar App crossed 5 crore downloads**, highlighting growing adoption of digital identity services.
- North Eastern Railway operated the **Awadh Mahashakti freight train**, its longest train operation, consisting of **129 wagons** powered by three locomotives.
- India's **first large-scale biopolymer plant** is being constructed at the Kumbhi sugar unit in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, at a cost of around **₹3,080 crore**.
- India hosted the **12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting in Pune** on August 21, 2026.
- The BJP is preparing nationwide **Modi@25 celebrations** to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public service.
- The Supreme Court reduced the mandatory practice requirement for entry-level judicial service examinations from **three years to one year**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs transferred processing of pending **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 applications** to District Collectors in eight States and Union Territories.
- The government notified the **₹62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)**. The five-year scheme runs from April 1, 2026 to FY 2030-31.
- The government notified the **Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, removing the earlier **12-minute-per-hour television advertisement cap**.
- The government restricted fixed-dose combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for **children below four years of age**.
- ICAR-NBAGR registered **16 new indigenous livestock and dog breeds**, taking India's total registered animal breeds to **262**.
- A NITI Aayog report estimates around **8.7 crore Indian youth aged 15–29** are outside education, employment or training.
- India restored **21.76 million hectares of degraded land between 2011 and 2020**, generating approximately 1.22 billion person-days of employment.
- India's installed non-fossil fuel power capacity reached **300.50 GW by July 31, 2026**, exceeding 54% of total electricity generation capacity.
- India plans to add **100 new merchant ships over the next five years**, potentially saving nearly USD 75 billion in freight costs.
- ICAR-CCARI conducted the **"Carbon Pathshala: Voluntary Carbon Market for Farmers"** workshop in Goa on August 21, 2026.
- PM Modi is scheduled to address the **Khelo India Dialogue** as part of National Sports Day celebrations, focusing on India's sports ecosystem and preparation for the **2036 Olympics**.
- Indian Railways plans to **quadruple-track seven high-density railway corridors** covering around 11,000 km.
- India plans to **eliminate SCADA imports for the power sector beyond 2030**, supporting technological self-reliance and grid cybersecurity.
- India plans to add **100 new merchant vessels over five years** to reduce dependence on foreign shipping companies.
- **NABARD and NaBFID signed an MoU** to strengthen rural infrastructure development, agricultural value chains and PPP projects.
- India will host the **18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, on September 12–13, 2026.
- The government aims to create **six crore Lakhpati Didis**, with more than 3.4 crore women already achieving the status.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is undertaking a four-day diplomatic visit to **Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan** from August 29, 2026.
- The Centre appointed **three senior officers to strengthen the National Testing Agency (NTA)** amid concerns over examination management.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards expanded its Silver HUID hallmarking network** across India ahead of the festive season.
- India recorded nearly an **80% decline in malaria cases and deaths between 2015 and 2025**, according to the Union Health Ministry.

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
GOBARdhan– National Circular Bioenergy Scheme	Union Government	**2026**	The Union Cabinet approved the scheme with an **outlay of ₹23,731 crore through 2035-36**. It aims to convert farm residue, cattle dung, urban organic waste and biomass into **Compressed Biogas (CBG), organic manure and rural livelihoods**. The scheme provides assured CBG offtake, pricing capped at ₹2,110/MMBTU, financial support of up to ₹2 crore per TPD capacity and a Challenge Fund. It targets a tenfold increase in domestic CBG production, reduced fossil-fuel imports, investment and rural employment. **Promotes circularity.**

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Vetri Vaanmagal Scheme	Tamil Nadu	**2026**	Tamil Nadu launched the scheme on **August 6** to promote agricultural drone technology and create technology-based livelihoods for women farmers. The initiative will train **500 individuals, including 100 women**, in drone operations and support pilot licensing. The state allocated ₹1.50 crore for training through the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Remote Pilot Training Organisation. Another ₹2.50 crore will provide drones to **50 trained women at a 50% subsidy**. Agricultural drones can support crop monitoring, mapping, spraying, field surveys and precision agriculture, strengthening technology adoption and opportunities in farming. **Creates jobs.**
Nijut Moina Scheme	Assam	**2026**	The Assam government opened applications on **August 6** to support students pursuing higher education. Eligibility expanded to include polytechnic girls and integrated postgraduate students. Nijut Moina focuses on **girls' education and reducing child marriage**. It benefited about 1.6 lakh girls in 2024-25 and four lakh in 2025-26, targeting **one lakh more girls** this year. The government also aided flood-affected schools and students. The scheme reduces barriers and encourages continued study.
Nijut Babu Scheme	Assam	**2026**	The Assam government opened applications on **August 6** to support students pursuing higher education. **Nijut Babu supported 50,000 boys last year, with 70,000 planned additionally.** The government also aided flood-affected schools and students. The scheme reduces barriers and encourages continued study.
Delhi Lakshmi Yojana	Delhi	**2026**	The scheme crossed **five lakh registrations** within a week of its launch, demonstrating strong participation among women in the capital. Before crossing the milestone, the portal had recorded 4.87 lakh registrations and 1.99 lakh submitted applications. Initially approved as the **Mahila Samriddhi Yojana**, it was renamed to emphasise women's welfare and economic empowerment. Eligible beneficiaries receive **₹2,500 monthly** through two savings options. One option provides ₹1,000 through a CBDC wallet and ₹1,500 through RD/FD, while the other saves the entire ₹2,500 through RD/FD. The scheme combines **immediate financial support with long-term savings and economic security**.
Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) – West Bengal Implementation	West Bengal	**2026**	West Bengal officially implemented **AB-PMJAY on August 16, 2026**. The scheme provides eligible families with **₹5 lakh annual cashless health coverage** and covers over 1.43 crore eligible families, senior citizens aged 70 years and above, and frontline workers including ASHA, AWW and AWH personnel. Beneficiaries can receive treatment at more than 36,000 empanelled public and private hospitals across India, with portability outside West Bengal. Coverage includes **pre-existing diseases, secondary and tertiary hospitalisation, and pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses**. Registration is available through NHA portals, Aadhaar e-KYC, hospitals and outreach camps.

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
UP Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	**2018**	The Uttar Pradesh government initiative was launched in **2018** to promote self-employment among educated unemployed youth. Eligible applicants can obtain bank loans of up to **₹25 lakh for manufacturing or industrial projects** and up to **₹10 lakh for service-sector businesses**. The government provides **25% margin-money assistance**, subject to prescribed limits, reducing entrepreneurs' initial financial burden. Applicants generally must be permanent Uttar Pradesh residents, aged **18–40 years**, and at least Class 10 pass. They should not be government or private employees or bank defaulters and must meet other eligibility conditions under the scheme.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- India is hosting the **Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS countries** in Lucknow on August 3–4, 2026, under its **BRICS Chairship**. Organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the meeting seeks cooperation, data quality, innovation, and harmonised statistical standards. Representatives from **ten BRICS members** are participating under the theme "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change." Discussions cover Statistical Publications, data dissemination, administrative data, and **artificial intelligence**. The meeting aims to develop statistical systems supporting evidence-based policymaking and development across BRICS countries.
- India will host the **Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting** and **Expert Network on Asset Recovery Meeting** in **Hyderabad** on August 4–5, 2026, under its **BRICS Presidency 2026**. Organised by **DoPT**, the meetings will strengthen cooperation against corruption, focusing on **asset recovery, cross-border corruption, transparency, accountability, information sharing, fugitive offenders**, and risks involving FinTech and digital assets. Under the theme **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"** discussions will also highlight technology-driven governance. The event marks the final ACWG meeting under India's BRICS Presidency.
- The Pacific island nation formerly called **Nauru** has officially adopted the name **Republic of Naoero**, restoring its indigenous spelling and pronunciation. President **David Adeang** announced the change after parliamentary approval without a referendum. The international country code has changed from **NRU to NRO**, while citizens will be called **dei-Naoero**. The **UN, Australia, and New Zealand** have updated official records. Located in the South Pacific, Naoero has around 12,000 people and gained independence in **1968**. The renaming seeks to preserve cultural identity amid climate and economic challenges.
- American engineering instructor **Nathan Thomas** became the world's **youngest male professor**, according to Guinness World Records, at **18 years and 346 days** after joining Miami Dade College. He surpassed Scottish mathematician **Colin Maclaurin**, who became professor at 19. Thomas entered college at age 10, later studied at Florida International University, and completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering with honours. Inspired by his engineering family, he is now pursuing a **Juris Doctor** at the University of Miami School of Law, combining academic achievement with continued interests in STEM and mathematics.
- India and **Uzbekistan** aim to raise bilateral trade to **US$3 billion within three years**, following the India-Uzbekistan Business Forum in New Delhi on August 3, 2026. Both countries are also exploring a **Free Trade Agreement**. Bilateral trade increased 30% in the previous year to over **US$1.32 billion**, with Indian exports reaching US$1.15 billion. Priority sectors include **mining, rare earths, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, automobiles, IT, digital infrastructure, agriculture, and cotton**. Around 400 Indian companies operate in Uzbekistan, with joint projects exceeding US$5 billion.
- The **Republic of Naoero**, formerly Nauru, launched the **Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Program**, a citizenship-by-investment scheme supporting climate adaptation. Eligible foreigners can contribute **US$115,000**, reduced to US$90,000 until December 31, 2026, after background checks. Funds will support relocating communities threatened by rising seas, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable development, with the first phase costing over US$60 million. Successful applicants receive visa-friendly citizenship but cannot own land in Naoero. More than **120 citizenships** had reportedly been granted by August 2026, creating an innovative climate-finance model.

- The **13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting** and 3rd Senior Officials' Meeting are being held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, from August 5–7, 2026. India's Education Minister **Prahlad Joshi** is participating in discussions with ministers and officials from BRICS countries. Key areas include **early childhood education, skill development, research and innovation, start-up ecosystems, digital learning, and academic collaboration**. The meetings seek greater knowledge-sharing, institutional partnerships, and student and faculty exchanges. They also aim to strengthen inclusive, future-ready education systems and deepen cooperation among emerging economies through coordinated educational development initiatives.
- **Iran and Oman** have reached an understanding on the geographic coordinates of a proposed **shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz**, with a joint statement expected after final consultations. The development marks progress in maritime cooperation, although it does not guarantee security in the strategically important waterway. The **Strait of Hormuz** carries nearly **one-fifth of global oil shipments** and serves as a crucial route for crude oil and LNG exports from Gulf countries. The proposed route could improve navigation coordination, strengthen maritime stability and reduce potential disruptions to global **energy supplies and international trade**.
- The **FAO Food Price Index** rose to **131.1 points in July 2026**, up from 130.3 in June and reaching its highest level since January 2023. The increase was driven by adverse weather and conflicts affecting agricultural markets. The **cereal index** climbed 3.4%, including a 5.8% rise in wheat prices amid Black Sea export concerns and heat damage. Vegetable oil prices increased 2%, reaching their highest level since June 2022, while sugar rose **5.6%**. Meat prices declined 2.8% and dairy prices fell 0.7%. The index remained **18.2% below its March 2022 peak**.
- **Abelardo de la Espriella** was sworn in as Colombia's **36th President** on August 7, beginning his 2026–2030 term after succeeding Gustavo Petro. He won the June 21 runoff with **49.66% of votes**, defeating Iván Cepeda, who received 48.70%. The inauguration took place at Santiago de Cali University in Cali, rather than Bogotá, with Senate President Honorio Henríquez administering the oath. De la Espriella adopted a hardline position against **drug trafficking** and said peace negotiations with armed groups had been exhausted. King Felipe VI, Javier Milei, Daniel Noboa and FIFA President Gianni Infantino attended.
- Iran appointed former **IRGC commander Mohsen Rezaei** as head of the **Supreme National Security Council (SNSC)**, replacing **Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr**. The appointment comes amid heightened tensions surrounding the **Strait of Hormuz**, a vital global energy route, and ongoing indirect diplomacy involving **Iran, the United States and Oman**. Rezaei is a veteran of Iran's security establishment and has previously supported advancement of the country's **nuclear programme**. The SNSC coordinates major **national security, defence and foreign-policy matters**, with key decisions requiring approval from Iran's Supreme Leader. His appointment may strengthen the security-oriented voice within Iran's decision-making structure amid regional tensions.
- India gifted **five young peacocks** to the **United Nations Office at Geneva** on **7 August 2026**, reviving a tradition dating back to **1981**. The flock includes **four blue Indian peafowl and one rare white male**, all belonging to *Pavo cristatus*, India's **National Bird**. The ceremony involved India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative **Arindam Bagchi** and UN Geneva Director-General **Tatiana Valovaya**. The birds will initially remain in a temporary aviary at **Ariana Park** for three months before moving around the **46-hectare UN Geneva grounds**. **Geneva Bioparc** handled transportation and medical care. The original tradition began when **Indira Gandhi** sent a breeding pair in 1981.
- Colombia declared a **national state of emergency** after a powerful **7.4-magnitude earthquake** struck western regions, causing more than 100 deaths and leaving people missing or injured. The epicentre was near San José del Palmar in Chocó, and the earthquake was described as Colombia's strongest of the 21st century. Its intermediate depth of about **107 km** reflects the country's complex tectonic environment involving the **Nazca, South American and Caribbean plates**. Colombia lies within the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, making it highly vulnerable to seismic activity. Major cities such as Cali, Bogotá and Medellín also face earthquake risks because of their proximity to active seismic zones.
- New **York and New Jersey** officially recognised August 15, 2026, in connection with India's **80th Independence Day**. New York Governor Kathy Hochul designated the date as "India Independence Day," while New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill issued an "Indian Independence Day" proclamation. The declarations recognise contributions of **Indian-American communities** to education, healthcare, technology, business and civic life. They also underline growing **India-US cultural, economic and people-to-people ties**. However, these proclamations are state-level recognitions and do not make August 15 a US federal holiday. Massachusetts and Boston had previously issued similar regional recognitions.

- Lebanon's Parliament abolished the **death penalty** on August 11, 2026, replacing capital punishment with **life imprisonment with aggravated hard labour** for future offences. The legislation also commutes sentences of prisoners currently on death row and legally formalises Lebanon's de facto moratorium on executions, which had existed since **January 17, 2004**. Lebanon became the **first Middle Eastern country** to legally abolish capital punishment and is described as the second League of Arab States member after Djibouti. Around 84–85 death-row prisoners are expected to benefit. The **European Union welcomed** the decision as an important human-rights development.
- Russia imported **gasoline from India for the first time** in August 2026 as domestic fuel supplies faced pressure from disruptions at Russian refineries. The first Indian cargo was loaded at **Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat** and transported through Egypt's Damietta port. Repeated attacks on Russian oil-refining facilities have reduced domestic refining capacity, prompting Moscow to restrict gasoline and diesel exports to protect supplies. The development represents a notable shift in **India-Russia energy trade**, with India increasingly functioning as a major global refining hub while continuing to import substantial volumes of Russian crude oil.
- Several US states have issued proclamations recognising **August 15, 2026, as India Day or India Independence Day**, celebrating India's independence, heritage and Indian-American contributions. **Delaware** became the latest state to issue recognition, following New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Delaware Governor Matthew Meyer highlighted the Indian-American community's leadership, service and contribution to the state's prosperity. **New York Governor Kathy Hochul** and New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill also issued proclamations. Indian communities across the US mark August 15 through **flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades, cultural performances and community gatherings**, reflecting strong India-US people-to-people ties.
- Russia has appointed former **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** as its arbitrator in an investment treaty dispute filed by Ukraine's state-owned **Oschadbank**. The case concerns assets and operations the bank says it lost in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia after Russia's 2022 invasion. The dispute is being heard under the **1998 Russia-Ukraine investment protection agreement**. The three-member tribunal includes Greek arbitrator Stavros Brekoulakis and Costa Rica's Dyalá Jiménez as president. Chandrachud retired from India's Supreme Court on November 10, 2024. He had reportedly earlier declined Moscow's requests in other treaty disputes.
- Iran rejected US President Donald Trump's claim that the United States has **"total control" over the Strait of Hormuz**, insisting that the strategic waterway remains blocked. The Persian Gulf Strait Authority said reopening would depend on Iran's conditions. Trump described the US naval deployment as a **"wall of steel"** and said Washington would maintain control. Iran's Supreme National Security Council head **Mohsen Rezaei** demanded that the US end the war and blockade, release frozen Iranian assets and accept a regional ceasefire involving Lebanon and Gaza. Hormuz carries nearly **20% of global petroleum trade**, making the dispute critical for energy markets and shipping security.
- **Hurricane Lala** strengthened into a **Category 1 hurricane** on August 15 while moving offshore of Hawaii's Big Island. It reached maximum sustained winds of **75 mph**, causing heavy rain, strong winds, power outages, flight cancellations and flooding risks. Forecasts projected **10–20 inches of rain** on the Big Island, locally reaching 25 inches, and 8–12 inches in eastern Maui. **Hilo and Kona international airports** were closed, while more than **42,000 utility customers** lost power. The **Wailuku River** rose from 3.4 to 16.2 feet, while wind gusts above 100 mph and landslides caused road closures.
- **India and Nepal** agreed to complete mapping of **cross-border land occupation within three years**, using **unmanned aerial vehicles and aerial imagery**. The joint survey is expected to begin after the monsoon, around **September or October 2026**. The decision followed the **13th Survey Officials' Committee meeting in Lucknow**. The exercise will identify areas where citizens cultivate or reside on land technically belonging to the other country. Changing river courses and historical demarcation contribute to disputes. India and Nepal share around **1,880 km of border**. Of **8,554 boundary pillars**, 1,325 are missing and 1,956 damaged.
- **Russia** has introduced a new multiple-entry **talent visa** aimed at attracting highly skilled foreign professionals. The programme targets specialists in **science, creative fields and sports**, graduates of leading universities, rare-skill professionals and entrepreneurs contributing to technological development. Applications will be assessed by the newly established **Agency for Attracting Foreign Talents to Russia** before standard immigration processing. The initiative seeks to simplify pathways towards **temporary and permanent residency** for eligible applicants. Russia expects the dedicated route to strengthen its workforce, innovation ecosystem and technological capabilities while making long-term relocation easier for qualified international professionals.

- **Iran's Parliament** approved the general framework of a bill on August 16 seeking to criminalise unauthorised interviews and communications with **US and Israeli media organisations** considered hostile to the Islamic Republic. The proposed legislation could impose **six months to two years' imprisonment** for unauthorised participation in hostile-media discussions. Contact with non-hostile foreign media would require notification to the **intelligence ministry**. Unauthorised contact with foreign embassies or organisations could bring fines and loss of social rights. Certain foreign-directed activities harming national security could attract penalties of up to **30 years' imprisonment**. Further parliamentary review and **Guardian Council approval** remain necessary.
- **Qatar Post** launched a **Qatar-India postal remittance service** using **PosTransfer powered by UPI**, enabling customers to transfer money directly into UPI-enabled Indian bank accounts. Available from **August 15, 2026**, through Qatar Post outlets, the service was jointly developed by **Qatar Post, India Post, UPU Interconnection Platform and NPCI International Payments Limited**. Senders require the recipient's **UPI ID** and identification details, while recipients must activate foreign inward remittance through their UPI application. Transfers range from **QAR 10 to QAR 4,000**, subject to **₹1 lakh per transaction**, with a flat **QAR 15 fee**.
- **Russia** has received at least one **gasoline shipment from India** as Moscow addresses domestic fuel shortages caused by repeated **Ukrainian drone attacks on oil refineries**. Industry sources and LSEG data showed an Oman-flagged tanker carrying approximately **68,000 tonnes of gasoline** after a ship-to-ship transfer near Port Said from tanker **Agni**, which loaded the fuel at India's **Vadinar port**. The cargo reached Russia's Arctic **Vitino port** in early August before being transported by rail to domestic buyers. Deputy Prime Minister **Alexander Novak** had announced plans to import petroleum products to stabilise supplies, with at least two more Indian cargoes expected.
- US President **Donald Trump** cited India's **voter identification system** while supporting the Republican-backed **SAVE America Act**, which seeks stricter federal voter-registration requirements. Trump referred to India's general election and highlighted the large number of voters and limited use of postal ballots. The proposed US legislation would require **proof of citizenship and valid identification** for federal voter registration and impose restrictions on mail voting, with exceptions. India uses the **Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC)** alongside electoral rolls. However, India and the US have significantly different electoral systems, registration procedures and postal-ballot frameworks.
- India hosted the **Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026** virtually on August 17 under its BRICS Chairship, bringing together more than **100 young professionals, experts and representatives**. The energy track adopted **"सर्वेषां ऊर्जम्" (Energy for All)**, stressing affordable and inclusive energy access. Discussions covered **energy security, sustainability, equity, clean technologies, digitalisation, cybersecurity and resilient supply chains**. Participants also examined innovative financing. Indian representatives highlighted **PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, SHANTI Act, RDSS and India Energy Stack**. The summit supported stronger youth participation and international cooperation on sustainable and secure energy systems.
- The **Fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) 2026** is scheduled in Singapore on August 20. India is represented by **Nirmala Sitharaman, S. Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Jitin Prasada**. Established in 2022, the roundtable reviews bilateral cooperation and explores strategic and economic opportunities. Discussions are expected to cover **advanced manufacturing, digitalisation, connectivity, healthcare, skills, sustainability and technology**. A parallel **India-Singapore Business Roundtable** will involve business leaders. The dialogue supports the countries' **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, encouraging investment, innovation, technology cooperation and deeper economic engagement.
- The latest **FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Report** for June-November 2026 identifies **13 countries and territories** facing serious acute food-insecurity risks. Conflict, displacement, climate shocks, economic instability and restricted humanitarian access are major drivers. **Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Palestine, Northeast Nigeria and Somalia** face the highest concern, while Afghanistan, DRC and Haiti face very high concern. Myanmar, Mali, Lebanon and Madagascar are also hotspots. Sudan remains particularly critical amid prolonged conflict. Gaza faces worsening hunger because of damaged infrastructure and disrupted food supplies, while South Sudan and Northeast Nigeria face additional climate and conflict pressures.

- The United States imposed **sanctions on ICC President Tomoko Akane** of Japan and Senior Trial Lawyer **Abdoulaye Seye** of Senegal on August 18, 2026. The measures were announced by Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** under a presidential executive order, escalating Washington's dispute with the **International Criminal Court**. The US is not a party to the **Rome Statute**, which established the ICC in 1998. Based in The Hague, the ICC prosecutes individuals for **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression**. Its jurisdiction generally applies under the Rome Statute when relevant territorial or nationality conditions are met.
- **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**, a senior **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** leader, was elected Bangladesh's **23rd President** with **255 parliamentary votes**, defeating **Oli Ahmed**, who secured 88. Of 349 eligible MPs, **343 participated** in the election supervised by Chief Election Commissioner **AMM Nasir Uddin**. It was Bangladesh's **first contested presidential election in 35 years**. Alamgir resigned as BNP Secretary General and from its National Standing Committee after nomination. The election followed **Mohammed Shahabuddin's resignation on July 24** due to serious health problems. Parliament must elect a replacement within 90 days.
- **Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema** was re-elected for a **second five-year term**, receiving around **60% of votes**, according to the electoral commission. His closest challenger, **Brian Mundubile**, secured 38% and announced plans to legally challenge the results over alleged voting irregularities. His party said Mundubile had gone into hiding because of alleged threats. The election followed political tensions, including allegations of arrests and a raid on his residence. Observers described polling as largely peaceful but raised concerns about **late electoral reforms, media freedom and access**. Zambia has maintained peaceful transitions since multiparty democracy returned in 1991.
- **India and Japan** agreed to deepen **defence and maritime security cooperation** during talks between Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Japanese Defence Minister **Shinjiro Koizumi** in New Delhi on August 20, 2026. They signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation** covering information sharing, maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Discussions included naval visits, joint exercises, logistics, ship repair and possible naval shipbuilding and design cooperation. Both welcomed **Veer Guardian 26**, featuring the first Japanese fighter aircraft visit to India, and agreed to expand **DRDO-ATLA defence technology cooperation**.
- India hosted the **Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026** virtually on August 17 under its BRICS Chairship. More than **100 participants** from member countries, including young professionals from governments, academia and energy ministries, participated. Organisations including the **International Solar Alliance, IRENA and Sustainable Energy for All** joined discussions. India's BRICS theme is **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"** while the energy track used **"सर्वेषां ऊर्जम्" (Energy for All)**. Discussions focused on **energy security, sustainability, access, equity, technology and innovation**. Initiatives highlighted included **PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, SHANTI Act, RDSS and India Energy Stack**.
- **BRICS Tourism Ministers** adopted the **Jaipur Declaration**, officially called the **BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communiqué 2026**, by consensus in Jaipur on August 21. The meeting was held under India's **BRICS Chairship** and chaired by Union Tourism Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**. The tourism track followed the theme **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."** Four priorities were identified: **AI and tourism, sustainability and responsible tourism, tourism skilling and capacity building, and tourism exchanges and seamless travel facilitation**. The declaration also promoted safe, responsible and **human-centred AI** for destination management, visitor services and multilingual communication.
- **India and Brazil** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on telecommunications and ICT cooperation** during the BRICS ICT Track Meeting in Pune. Union Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** and Brazilian Communications Minister **Frederico de Siqueira Filho** signed the agreement. Cooperation will cover **telecom policies, AI, 5G and 6G, Open RAN, IoT, Direct-to-Device connectivity, Low Earth Orbit satellites and Non-Terrestrial Networks**. It also includes **cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, optical fibre, submarine cables, spectrum management and digital inclusion**. The partnership seeks to strengthen technological cooperation, capacity building and **universal connectivity** between India and Brazil.
- **Singapore** has launched a prototype **biological data centre** at the **National University of Singapore's Centre for Life Sciences**, using living human neurons connected to silicon hardware. The 20-unit rack contains approximately **16 million neurons**, with around 800,000 neurons in each **CL1 biological computing system**. The neurons are grown from **stem cells** and require nutrient solutions and specialised gas-based life support. **Cortical Labs** provides the biological hardware, while **DayOne** manages infrastructure. The project explores **biological computing** and possible applications in neuro-inspired AI, biomedical modelling, drug discovery and neurological disease research. The full rack consumes about **800–1,000 watts**.

- The **United States** removed **Syria** from its **State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST)** list on August 24, 2026, ending a designation imposed since December 29, 1979. The move marks a significant change in Washington's Syria policy following the country's political transition after **Bashar al-Assad's fall**. The US also revoked the designation of **al-Nusrah Front/HTS** as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist organisation and removed HTS from the SDN List. Syria's removal could enable greater economic and financial engagement. **Cuba, Iran and North Korea** remain on the SST list following the policy shift.
- Thailand's **Act on Promoting a Peaceful Society B.E. 2569 (2026)** came into force on August 24 following royal endorsement and publication in the Royal Gazette. The law provides **amnesty for specified political offences and expressions** linked to political conflicts between January 1, 2005 and July 16, 2025. However, it excludes **Section 112**, corruption, offences causing death or serious injury and certain civil liabilities. A nine-member committee chaired by Prime Minister **Anutin Charnvirakul** will determine qualifying cases. Eligible cases may have investigations terminated, prosecutions dismissed, prison sentences ended and criminal records cleared. Parliament passed it **306-141**.
- The United States has launched **Operation Economic Outcast**, an economic pressure campaign targeting Iran's revenue sources and seeking to isolate its economy. US Treasury Secretary **Scott Bessent** said Washington would target Iranian economic lifelines, particularly oil, while warning countries and companies dealing with Tehran about possible **secondary sanctions**. The campaign focuses on **digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping**. The US Treasury imposed sanctions on **60 entities, vessels and individuals** across countries including the UAE, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland. Iran rejected the measures, while Washington seeks to push Tehran toward negotiations over its **nuclear programme**.
- India and China are holding the **25th round of Special Representatives talks** on their boundary dispute in **Beijing** on August 25, 2026. India's Special Representative, **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval**, is visiting Beijing, while Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** represents China. Established in 2003, the mechanism facilitates high-level discussions on the unresolved boundary question. The dispute spans the **western, middle and eastern sectors**, involving areas including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The previous round took place in August 2025. Current discussions focus on maintaining communication, managing differences and preserving **peace along the frontier**.
- The **Illinois State Senate** has declared **August 15 as National India Hub Day**, recognising the Indian-American community and the National India Hub in Schaumburg. The proclamation was presented during **INDIA FEST 2026**, coinciding with India's 80th Independence Day. The National India Hub is a **107,000-square-foot community centre** hosting cultural, social and community activities and bringing together more than **150 independent organisations**. Founded by **Harish Kolasani** during the COVID-19 pandemic, the centre provides a shared platform for Indian-American groups. Despite heavy rain forcing festival arrangements indoors, celebrations continued successfully.
- The **second India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue** was held in Wellington on August 24, 2026, focusing on **maritime security, joint military training and defence cooperation**. India's Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence **Amitabh Prasad**, and New Zealand Deputy Secretary **Richard Schmidt** co-chaired the meeting. Both sides discussed implementation of the **India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership Roadmap 2030** and reaffirmed support for a free, open and inclusive **Indo-Pacific**. Discussions included joint exercises, cross-service exchanges and defence staff college partnerships involving maritime, air and land forces. The Indian delegation also discussed procurement, operational coordination and future defence engagements with New Zealand officials.
- **China** has expanded construction activity around **Antelope Reef** in the disputed **Paracel Islands of the South China Sea**, according to satellite imagery. New land reclamation and infrastructure, including port-related facilities and installations on nearby islets, have been observed. China has controlled the Paracel Islands since **1974**, while **Vietnam also claims sovereignty** over the territory. Analysts have raised concerns that the facilities could support maritime operations, logistics and surveillance. China maintains that its South China Sea activities serve civilian purposes, including scientific research, weather monitoring and fisheries protection. The developments have intensified attention over **regional maritime security and territorial disputes**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard** held their seventh High-Level Meeting in **Chennai** on August 25, 2026, to strengthen maritime cooperation. The meeting was co-chaired by ICG Director General **Paramesh Sivamani** and Vietnam Coast Guard Vice Commandant **Major General Luong Dinh Hung**. Discussions covered **search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine pollution response, capacity building and professional exchanges**. Both sides reviewed ongoing engagements and stressed regular institutional interactions, training programmes, ship visits and operational best-practice sharing. The meeting also aimed to improve **interoperability and mutual trust**. The joint exercise **SAHYOG-HOPTAC** was scheduled for August 27.

- India called for **community-led rangeland restoration** at the 17th Conference of Parties of the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17)** in Ulaanbaatar. Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** emphasised that pastoralists should be recognised as custodians rather than merely beneficiaries of rangeland ecosystems. India advocated combining **traditional knowledge with modern science** for sustainable restoration. The country highlighted diverse rangelands spanning Himalayan pastures, Central Indian savannas, the Thar, Kachchh and southern sholas. Rajasthan's **Orans**, community-protected sacred groves, were cited as examples. India also highlighted satellite-based degradation atlases, sustainable grazing, watershed development and habitat restoration.
- India highlighted its **science-based snow leopard conservation** programme at a Russian-Indian roundtable in Moscow. The Indian delegation discussed advances in **population estimation, radio telemetry and genetic analysis** for monitoring the endangered species. The meeting took place under a partnership between the Interregional Association 'Irbis' and the **International Big Cat Alliance**. Russian institutions, including the A.N. Severtsov Institute and Moscow Zoo, participated. Discussions focused on scientific research, monitoring techniques, knowledge sharing and collaborative conservation. India emphasised combining advanced technology with field-based science to strengthen **snow leopard protection** and deepen international cooperation in Himalayan wildlife conservation.
- Nepal's **Rasuwa district** was struck by deadly flash floods after an **ice and rock avalanche** reportedly triggered a sudden surge in the Lhende Khola River. At least eight deaths were initially reported, with hundreds missing. Floodwaters damaged villages, roads and **hydropower infrastructure**, prompting warnings along the Bhotekoshi, Trishuli and Narayani rivers. Experts linked the growing disaster risk to a warming Himalayan environment, including **glacier melt, extreme rainfall, landslides and floods**. India offered humanitarian assistance, while Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressed condolences and assured Nepal of support. The disaster highlighted increasing climate-related vulnerabilities across the **Hindu Kush Himalaya**.
- India dispatched **10 tonnes of humanitarian and disaster-relief supplies** to flood-hit Nepal after devastating floods killed at least 95 people and left hundreds missing. An **Indian Air Force C-130J** transported essential medicines, temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits and solar lamps. External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** confirmed the assistance, while Home Minister **Amit Shah** expressed solidarity with Nepal. The National Disaster Response Force and local administrations in border areas of **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** were placed on high alert. Nepal prioritised rescue operations, medical treatment, food and shelter. India's response demonstrated its commitment to regional humanitarian cooperation during natural disasters.
- India and **Japan** agreed to deepen cooperation in **startups, deep technology, innovation and MSMEs** during the India-Japan Startup Roundtable in Tokyo. Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** highlighted India's nearly 250,000 startups and its position as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. He proposed a four-pillar framework covering a **Deep-Tech Capital Corridor, Two-Way Innovation Bridge, Manufacturing and Technology Integration, and Joint Startup Pitching Platforms**. India also proposed a second **$1 billion Fund of Funds** for deep-tech enterprises. The India-Japan Pitching Series has already connected 65 Indian startups with around 100 Japanese companies, resulting in more than 30 business tie-ups.
- **US President Donald Trump** signed an executive order directing the renaming of **Lake Ontario** as "Lake America." The order instructed the **US Department of the Interior** and Secretary **Doug Burgum** to implement the change. Lake Ontario is one of North America's five Great Lakes and lies between **Ontario, Canada, and New York, USA**. The announcement came amid strained US-Canada relations following the breakdown of trade negotiations. Both governments blamed each other for the failed talks. The proposed name change has significant symbolic and diplomatic implications because Lake Ontario is a major shared geographical feature between the two neighbouring countries.
- US President **Donald Trump** honoured the four-member **NASA Artemis II crew** with the **Congressional Space Medal of Honor** following their historic lunar flyby. Commander **Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen** became the first humans to travel to the Moon in more than five decades. Their mission came within **4,067 miles of the lunar surface** while testing NASA's **Orion spacecraft**. During the Houston ceremony, Trump also announced plans for a new **US Space Academy** involving NASA, the Space Force and the commercial space sector. Further Artemis missions are planned, including future lunar operations and potential crewed landings.
- **Italy** has requested **€8 billion** under the European Union's **Security Action for Europe (SAFE)** defence programme. SAFE is an EU-backed joint borrowing mechanism designed to help member states rapidly increase defence investment and strengthen Europe's defence-industrial capabilities. The programme can provide up to **€150 billion in long-term loans** for urgent defence requirements and common procurement. Only EU member states can receive SAFE loans, while eligible partner countries can participate in specified joint procurement arrangements. These include EU candidate countries and nations with **EU Security and Defence Partnerships**, such as **India, Canada, Japan, Norway, South Korea and the UK**.

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
1	**India Achieves 99.92% Banking Coverage**	India has achieved **99.92% banking coverage** across inhabited villages, with **6,00,868 of 6,01,328 villages** having a banking outlet within five kilometres. Services are delivered through bank branches, Business Correspondents, and India Post Payments Bank. As of July 17, 2026, India had over **1.81 lakh bank branches**, 17.36 lakh BCs, and 1.65 lakh IPPB centres. **PMJDY** has 58.77 crore accounts holding over ₹3.12 lakh crore. RBI also requires 25% of new branches to serve unbanked rural areas, strengthening financial inclusion and rural access.
2	**Monisha Chakraborty Appointed RBI Executive Director**	The **Reserve Bank of India** appointed **Monisha Chakraborty** as Executive Director with effect from August 3, 2026. Previously Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the Department of Supervision, she has over **30 years of central banking experience**. She will oversee the **Foreign Exchange Department** and **Financial Markets Regulation Department**, covering FEMA, money markets, government securities, foreign exchange, and derivatives. Chakraborty has held important roles in banking supervision, foreign exchange, government accounts, and the Banking Ombudsman. She holds Economics and Business Economics degrees from the **University of Delhi**, strengthening RBI's regulatory leadership.
3	**Unified Pension Scheme**	More than **1.18 lakh Central Government employees** have opted for the **Unified Pension Scheme**, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. By mid-July 2026, **1,18,195 employees** had enrolled. Introduced under the National Pension System, UPS became effective on **April 1, 2025**. Employees completing at least 25 years receive an assured pension equal to **50% of average basic pay** during their final 12 months. Those completing at least 10 years receive a minimum **₹10,000 monthly pension**. The scheme combines NPS contributions with pension assurance for retirement security.
4	**Government Launches LIC Offer for Sale**	The Government launched an **Offer for Sale** of Life Insurance Corporation of India shares, offering up to **6.5% stake** at a floor price of ₹382 per share. The transaction involves existing government-held shares, so LIC will not receive new capital. Full subscription could raise around **₹31,400 crore**, reducing government ownership from 96.5% to 90% and increasing public shareholding to 10%. The discounted offer increased selling pressure on LIC shares. **Retail investors** receive an additional ₹10 discount on the final cut-off price, potentially making the issue attractive to eligible investors.
5	**Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026**	The **Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026** seeks to replace the 1891 law and modernise rules governing banking records in courts. It gives legal recognition to **electronic banking records** as admissible evidence when authentic, accurate, and untampered. The Bill retains protection for bank officials from unnecessary court appearances, defines "special cause" for requiring originals, and allows the Central Government to extend provisions to other financial institutions. By aligning law with **digital banking, UPI, internet banking, and electronic records**, it aims to simplify judicial procedures, strengthen confidence in digital transactions, and support India's evolving financial ecosystem.
6	**Proposed MDR Charges on Select UPI Transactions**	The Union Finance Ministry proposed amendments to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, allowing **Merchant Discount Rate** charges on select UPI transactions. The proposal removes the zero-MDR provision under Section 10A, potentially enabling banks and payment providers to charge eligible merchants. Large businesses with annual turnover above **₹50 crore** are expected to bear the charge, while smaller businesses up to ₹1.5 crore and consumers may remain exempt. Proposed MDR could be capped at **0.5% on transactions above ₹2,000**, supporting the financial sustainability of India's expanding digital payments ecosystem.
7	**RBI Proposes On-Tap Licensing for UCBs**	The **Reserve Bank of India** has proposed an **on-tap licensing framework for Urban Co-operative Banks**, allowing eligible credit co-operative societies to apply for banking licences anytime through the **PRAVAAH portal**. The framework is the first fresh UCB licensing initiative in nearly 22 years. Applicants must have at least **₹10,000 crore deposits, ₹300 crore net worth, 10 years of operations, 12% CRAR**, and net NPAs below 3%. The proposal also strengthens governance, business planning and regulatory scrutiny. **UCBs** remain regulated by RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
8	**RBI Expands NBFC-UL List**	The **RBI** expanded the Upper Layer **NBFC-UL list to 17 entities for FY 2026-27**, compared with 15 previously. New entrants are **REC Ltd., Power Finance Corporation, IRFC and HUDCO**. The classification follows a review of the framework for large and systemically significant NBFCs. Entities with assets under management of at least **₹1 lakh crore** qualify for consideration. The Upper Layer falls under the RBI's scale-based framework and carries enhanced supervision and regulatory requirements. **Tata Sons Private Limited** remains included pending its NBFC de-registration application. The move strengthens regulatory oversight of large financial institutions.
9	**Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**	The **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026** creates a framework allowing charges on selected **UPI and digital payment transactions**. It does not impose charges immediately; future fees would require government notification. **Person-to-person transfers** are expected to remain free, while large retailers and online businesses could potentially face **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** charges. The framework could help banks, payment providers and fintech firms recover costs for infrastructure, cybersecurity, processing and support. The RBI would continue overseeing the digital payments ecosystem. Future rules will determine charges too.
10	**RBI Issues New Loan Recovery Framework**	The **Reserve Bank of India** issued nine circulars on August 6 introducing a unified framework for **loan recovery practices**, effective January 1, 2027. Recovery calls and physical visits will be allowed only between **8 AM and 7 PM**, while borrowers must receive at least one day's notice before a recovery agent's first physical visit. Lenders must record recovery calls and retain recordings for at least **six months**. Remote locking of financed devices is also regulated. Locking cannot begin before accounts become **30 days overdue**, while complete locking is allowed only after 60 days, preserving emergency and communication services.
11	**India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to $692.87 Billion**	India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **$10.51 billion to $692.87 billion** during the week ended July 31, 2026, according to RBI data. Foreign Currency Assets, the largest component, rose by **$8.75 billion to $564.68 billion**, while gold reserves increased by $1.69 billion to **$104.74 billion**. Special Drawing Rights rose by $48 million to $18.67 billion, and India's IMF reserve position increased by $28 million to $4.78 billion. The latest increase follows a $6.1 billion rise in the previous week. India's record reserves stood at **$728.494 billion** in February 2026.
12	**Government Clarifies UPI Users Will Pay No Transaction Charges**	The Government clarified that **UPI users will continue paying no transaction charges**, with all **Person-to-Person (P2P)** payments remaining free. The clarification followed discussion over proposed amendments to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act)**. Any future **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** would apply only to a limited category of merchant transactions above a specified threshold and at a nominal rate, while most merchant UPI payments would remain free. After Parliament approved the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, the **NPCI-led UPI and Services Steering Committee** will decide whether MDR is introduced. UPI processed **2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.9 lakh crore in July 2026**.
13	**Parliament Passes Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026**	Parliament passed the **Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026**, replacing the **Bankers' Book Evidence Act, 1891**, and granting explicit legal recognition to **electronic and digital banking records** in court proceedings. The **Rajya Sabha** cleared the Bill through a voice vote on **10 August 2026**, following Lok Sabha approval. The technology-neutral legislation covers records stored physically, electronically, digitally, in **cloud, backup and disaster-recovery systems**. Records can be authenticated through **manual, digital or electronic signatures**. It also protects bank officers from unnecessary court summons when their bank is not directly involved. The Bill contains around **16 clauses** and can extend to other regulated financial entities.
14	**Government Debt-to-GDP Ratio**	India's **government debt-to-GDP ratio** stood at **58.2% in FY26**, exceeding the target of 56.1% by **210 basis points**, according to Minister of State for Finance **Pankaj Chaudhary**. The government has set a lower **55.6% target for FY27**, requiring further reduction. Government liabilities declined from **61.5% of GDP in FY21 to 58.2% in FY26**, while the fiscal deficit decreased from **9.2% to 4.4%**. The higher-than-target debt ratio was partly linked to revised nominal GDP estimates under the new national accounts series with **FY23 as base year**. The government has also established a **₹1 trillion Economic Stabilisation Fund** for global economic risks.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
15	**RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters**	The **RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters**, conducted in July 2026, raised India's **FY27 real GDP growth forecast** from **6.5% to 6.6%** and increased the retail inflation projection from 4.9% to **5%**. For FY28, economists expect **7% growth** with inflation at 4.5%, suggesting potential balanced economic expansion. The survey projects **merchandise export growth at 7%**, imports at 9.9% and the **current account deficit at 1.4% of GDP**. The RBI's own FY27 growth projection is slightly higher at **6.7%**. Major risks include **food and fuel prices, monsoon conditions, geopolitical tensions, El Niño and global trade uncertainty**.
16	**FAST-DS Comes into Force**	The **Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers–Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS)** came into force on **August 16, 2026**, creating a one-time voluntary disclosure window until **December 31**. Eligible taxpayers can disclose previously undisclosed foreign income or assets worth up to **₹1 crore**, paying **30% tax plus another 30% amount in lieu of penalty**. A second category covers foreign assets up to **₹5 crore** that were already taxed or acquired while the taxpayer was a non-resident but omitted from ITRs, with a **₹1 lakh fee**. Covered assets include bank accounts, property, jewellery, shares, securities, **RSUs and ESOPs**, valued as of March 31, 2026.
17	**Shabnam Sinha to Head Airtel Payments Bank**	**Shabnam Sinha** will become the **non-executive chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank** from October 1, 2026, succeeding **Sunil Bharti Mittal**. Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises, will leave the Board on **September 30** after serving as chairman since April 2016. Sinha's three-year appointment has been approved by the **Board and RBI**. She currently serves as an independent director and chairs the Special Committee for Monitoring Frauds. With over three decades of experience, including at the **World Bank**, she specialises in financial services, governance, risk management and digital transformation. Airtel Payments Bank has over **121 million monthly active users** and nearly **30 million account customers**.
18	**SEBI Launches Cybersecurity Portals**	**SEBI** launched the **Incident Reporting Portal** and **Cyber Suraksha Portal** to strengthen cybersecurity across India's securities-market ecosystem. The Incident Reporting Portal aims to make reporting by market intermediaries more structured and timely while aligning with the **Financial Stability Board** format. Cyber Suraksha will act as a central platform for cybersecurity knowledge, vulnerability warnings, policy measures and incident information. SEBI Chairman **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** stressed ecosystem-wide resilience because threats can spread through vendors, technology platforms and third parties. SEBI is also promoting continuous **vulnerability management** and preparing for emerging **AI and quantum-computing threats**, including through **post-quantum cryptography**.
19	**S. Somanath and Anand Mahindra Appointed to RBI Central Board**	The **Reserve Bank of India** appointed former **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** and reappointed **Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra** as part-time, non-official directors on its Central Board. Both appointments are for **four years from August 20, 2026**, or until further orders, whichever comes earlier. Somanath retired from ISRO in January 2025 after extensive contributions to India's **space programme and aerospace engineering**. Anand Mahindra continues his association with the RBI board. The Central Board currently has **11 members**, including Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** and four Deputy Governors. It oversees the central bank's affairs under the **RBI Act**.
20	**India-ADB Sign $230 Million Loan Agreement**	India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **$230 million loan agreement** on August 21, 2026, for the **Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project**. The initiative will benefit approximately **4.5 million residents** across Greater Chennai. It includes over **170 km of water supply and sewer pipelines**, upgrades to seven water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations, digital network monitoring and mechanised sewer inspection. A key feature is a **closed-loop ring-main water supply system** designed to balance pressure and improve resilience against natural hazards. The project aligns with **AMRUT 2.0** and the **Urban Challenge Fund**.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
21	**SEBI Proposes Advertisement Code for OBPPs**	**SEBI** proposed an **advertisement code for Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)** to improve investor awareness and expand bond investment. OBPPs are SEBI-registered digital platforms facilitating bond transactions between issuers and investors. Investors can compare bonds using **credit ratings, yield, maturity, interest rates and issuer information**, with investments starting from around **₹10,000**. After completing **Demat account and KYC requirements**, investors place orders routed through recognised stock exchanges' **Request for Quote (RFQ)** platform. Settlement takes place through recognised clearing corporations, after which bonds are credited to investors' Demat accounts.
22	**Three New RBI Central Board Directors**	The Government of India has appointed **Syed Akbaruddin, Annie George Mathew and Janmejaya Kumar Sinha** as **part-time, non-official directors** on the **Reserve Bank of India's Central Board**. The appointments were approved on **August 22, 2026**, by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, with each receiving a **four-year tenure** under Section 8(1)(c) of the **RBI Act, 1934**. Akbaruddin is a former Indian Permanent Representative to the **United Nations**, Mathew is an Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer and Sixteenth Finance Commission member, while Sinha is an economist and former BCG Asia-Pacific chairman. Board strength increased from **11 to 14 members**.
23	**UPI Completes 10 Years**	**UPI** completed **10 years** on August 25, 2026, marking a major milestone in India's digital payments transformation. Launched in **2016 by NPCI** under **RBI oversight**, UPI grew from 1.78 crore transactions in FY2016-17 to more than **24,162 crore transactions in FY2025-26**. Transaction value increased from ₹0.07 lakh crore to nearly **₹314 lakh crore** during the same period. In July 2026 alone, UPI recorded a monthly high of **2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.88 lakh crore**. The platform now includes **741 participating banks**, handles around 84% of India's digital payments and operates in **11 countries**.
24	**RBI Conducts VRRR Auctions**	The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted two **Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR)** auctions on August 24, 2026, absorbing a combined **₹1.41 trillion** from the banking system to manage surplus liquidity. In the seven-day auction, ₹91,980 crore was accepted at a cut-off and weighted average rate of **5.24%**, against ₹2.5 trillion notified. The overnight auction absorbed ₹49,206 crore at the same rate. Another two-day VRRR auction worth ₹1.75 trillion was announced. Banking-system liquidity remained at a surplus of **₹3.4 trillion**, while the **Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)** stood at 5.19%.
25	**SEBI Introduces Information Technology Resilience Index**	**SEBI** has introduced an **Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI)** for **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**, including stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations. The index aims to improve oversight of **IT resilience** and identify vulnerabilities early. ITRI will assess nine parameters, including availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability, monitoring, business continuity, modularity, flexibility and scalability. **Availability and security** carry the highest weightage of 20% each. MIIs must calculate the index **half-yearly within 60 days** after each period and submit comparative analysis. They must also establish an **Early Warning System** to detect deterioration and potential technological disruptions.
26	**RRBs Record All-Time High Profit**	**Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** recorded an all-time high consolidated net profit of **₹10,176 crore in FY2025-26**, up from ₹6,820 crore the previous year. Their combined business crossed **₹13.5 lakh crore**, highlighting their growing role in rural banking. India currently has **28 RRBs**, operating through 22,273 branches across 26 States and three Union Territories and covering nearly 700 districts. Gross NPAs and net NPAs fell to record lows of **5.3% and 2.1%**, respectively. RRBs also opened more than **54.98 lakh PMJDY accounts**, while their credit-deposit ratio reached a record **75.2%**.
27	**Ketan Merchant's Tenure Extended**	**Fino Payments Bank** has approved another **three-month extension** for **Ketan Merchant**, who continues as interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The extension begins on **August 27, 2026**, subject to **RBI approval**. Merchant's earlier three-month tenure began on May 27 and was scheduled to end on August 26. He became interim CEO following the arrest of former MD and CEO **Rishi Gupta** by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence over alleged GST violations. Before assuming the interim leadership role, Merchant served as **Chief Financial Officer** of Fino Payments Bank. His extension continues during the bank's leadership transition.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
28	**Forex Reserves Hit Record $729.3 Billion**	India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **$12.4 billion to a record $729.3 billion** during the week ended August 21, according to RBI data. The rise was driven mainly by capital inflows through the central bank's **concessional swap window** and revaluation gains. **Foreign currency assets** increased by $9.48 billion to $591.33 billion, while gold reserves climbed $2.8 billion to $114.22 billion. The reserves have risen by **$62.4 billion over eight weeks**, recovering from $666.9 billion in June. The RBI swap facility had mobilised $72.8 billion by August 21. India's reserves now cover more than **11 months of goods imports** and 94% of external debt.
29	**Jio Platforms IPO Gets SEBI Observations**	The proposed **Jio Platforms IPO** has received **SEBI's observations**, clearing a major regulatory hurdle for a potential record-breaking public issue. The offering is expected to exceed **₹37,000 crore**, potentially surpassing Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,870-crore IPO record. Jio Platforms has proposed a fresh issue of up to **27 crore equity shares** and currently has no offer-for-sale component. Up to **₹27,500 crore** of the proceeds could be used to repay or prepay borrowings by Reliance Jio Infocomm. The IPO could provide public-market investors with direct exposure to Jio's **telecom and digital businesses** while helping Reliance unlock value from its expanding digital ecosystem.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS NEWS

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
1	**Willie Walsh Takes Charge as IndiGo CEO**	**Willie Walsh** took charge as **IndiGo's Chief Executive Officer** on August 3, 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers. The aviation veteran held leadership roles at Aer Lingus, British Airways, IAG, and IATA. He will oversee international expansion, operational efficiency, customer experience, and growth. IndiGo operates more than **430 aircraft** and 2,200 daily flights, remaining India's largest airline by market share. Managing Director **Rahul Bhatia** backed the appointment. Investors responded positively, with IndiGo shares rising **3.72% to ₹5,363.35** on the BSE, signalling confidence in the airline's growth strategy.
2	**HSBC India Manufacturing PMI**	India's manufacturing sector expanded in July 2026, but at its slowest pace in five years, as **HSBC India Manufacturing PMI** declined to **53.5** from 54.2 in June. The index remained above 50, indicating expansion, although weaker demand slowed new orders, hiring, and purchasing. Factory output recorded one of the weakest growth rates since mid-2022. Employment increased for the **29th consecutive month**. Export orders remained strong, supported by Canada, UAE, South Africa, and Indonesia. Easing input-cost inflation, supplier deliveries, and inventory rebuilding supported business confidence despite risks.
3	**DGFT Cross-Border E-Commerce Export Framework**	The **DGFT** has introduced a new framework for **inventory-based cross-border e-commerce exports**, effective August 5, 2026, under the **Foreign Trade Policy 2023**. The **Exporter-on-Record (EOR)** model permits eligible e-commerce companies to maintain inventory only against confirmed export orders while prohibiting domestic retail sales. EORs must register with DGFT, maintain digital inventory records, ensure product traceability, manage customs and logistics, and provide reverse logistics. The framework also requires timely seller payments, transparent transfer of export benefits and caps administrative charges at **10% of export rebates**, supporting MSMEs and digital exporters.
4	**HSBC Services PMI**	India's **HSBC Services PMI** declined to **53.3 in July 2026** from 57.4 in June, indicating continued expansion but slower services-sector growth. The moderation reflected weaker domestic demand, stronger competition and fewer customer enquiries. However, robust export demand from the **UAE, UK and US** supported business activity, while continued hiring indicated confidence in future prospects. Input-cost inflation reached a **six-month low**, helping companies improve margins through higher selling prices. India's **Composite PMI** stood at 54.3, confirming continued private-sector expansion and highlighting economic resilience amid global uncertainties.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
5	**Tewolde Gebremariam Appointed Air India CEO**	**Air India** has appointed **Tewolde Gebremariam**, former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, as its new Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Campbell Wilson. Gebremariam is known for transforming Ethiopian Airlines through **fleet modernization, international expansion, route development, MRO capabilities, aviation training and operational excellence**. At Air India, he is expected to focus on service quality, international connectivity, aircraft integration, maintenance infrastructure and strengthening India's position as a global aviation hub. The appointment comes during the Tata Group's continuing airline transformation following fleet upgrades, digital initiatives and the **Vistara merger**, with ambitions to build a world-class full-service carrier.
6	**Google Tops India's Most Attractive Employer Brand Ranking**	**Google** has topped India's **Most Attractive Employer Brand** ranking in the **Randstad Employer Brand Research 2026**, followed by **Tata Group** and **Amazon**. The survey covered more than **1.75 lakh respondents across 34 countries**, including nearly 3,500 participants from India. Key factors influencing employer preference were **work-life balance, equal opportunities, career growth, competitive salaries and company reputation**. The report found that 46% of Indian employees plan to change jobs within six months, while 32% changed employers recently. The findings highlight the growing importance of balanced, flexible and employee-focused workplace cultures.
7	**Microsoft's Fourth Cloud Region in India**	Microsoft's **India South Central cloud region in Hyderabad** became available on August 6, becoming the company's **fourth cloud region in India**, after Pune, Chennai and Mumbai. The facility expands hyperscale cloud infrastructure for enterprise computing, AI and mission-critical workloads. It includes **three availability zones**, improving fault tolerance, disaster recovery, continuity and reliability. The expansion responds to rising demand for cloud and AI infrastructure while supporting organisations seeking stronger **data-location and regulatory compliance** capabilities in India. Hyderabad therefore strengthens Microsoft's cloud footprint. It expands local cloud and AI capacity.
8	**Sarla Aviation Receives DGCA Approval**	Bengaluru-based **Sarla Aviation** received **Design Organisation Approval (DOA)** from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, marking an important step in India's emerging **electric air-taxi** sector. The approval supports development of **electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL)** aircraft for urban mobility. Sarla became India's **third eVTOL DOA holder in 2026**. Its planned aircraft can carry **six passengers and one pilot** and uses seven electric motors. The company completed flight testing of its half-scale **Sylla technology demonstrator** in July 2026. India aims to introduce operational electric air taxis in **Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi by 2028**, subject to certification, testing and infrastructure development.
9	**N Chandrasekaran to Step Down as Tata Sons Chairman**	**N Chandrasekaran** has announced that he will step down as **Tata Sons Chairman** after his current term ends in February 2027 and will not seek reappointment. His decision followed a proposed five-year extension that reportedly lacked unanimous support from the Tata Sons Board. Chandrasekaran has asked the board to begin **succession planning** ahead of the company's Annual General Meeting. The development comes amid reported differences between **Tata Sons and Tata Trusts** over governance and strategic issues. Following the announcement, shares of major Tata Group companies, including **TCS, Tata Power and Tata Steel**, witnessed declines.
10	**India's Retail Inflation at 4.45%**	India's **retail inflation** increased marginally to **4.45% in July 2026**, compared with 4.38% in June, according to MoSPI data based on the new CPI series with 2024 as the base year. Food prices were the main driver, with **Consumer Food Price Index inflation** rising to 5.52%. Rural food inflation reached 5.79%, while urban food inflation stood at 5.05%. Rural retail inflation rose to 4.84%, against 3.96% in urban areas. Ginger, garlic and onions recorded sharp price increases, while potato prices declined. **Telangana** recorded the highest inflation among major states at 6.32%.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
11	**Google Announces Three Undersea Cable Systems**	**Google** announced three new **undersea cable systems** connecting Panama, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Bermuda and Florida to strengthen digital connectivity across the Americas. The **Alisios cable** will connect Chile, Panama and the Dominican Republic, while Canoa will link the Dominican Republic with Bermuda and OlaLuz will connect the Dominican Republic with Florida. The projects support Chile's ambition to become a **regional digital hub**, backed by fibre-optic infrastructure and renewable energy. Google is also supporting the **Humboldt cable** connecting Chile and Australia. Officials said the projects could boost businesses, economic growth and regional digital integration.
12	**Vijay Singh Steps Down from Sir Ratan Tata Trust**	**Vijay Singh**, vice-chairman of Tata Trusts, has stepped down as a trustee of the **Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT)** and will not seek renewal after his term expired on August 14, 2026. He will continue serving as a trustee of the **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)**. His departure comes amid reported differences among SRTT trustees. The Maharashtra State Charity Commissioner has barred SRTT from holding board meetings pending an inquiry into alleged **board-composition violations**. SRTT has sought removal of the restriction, citing possible implications for the Tata Sons AGM. Singh and Venu Srinivasan support Tata Sons listing.
13	**India Could Become $20 Trillion Economy by 2036**	**Equirus Securities** has estimated that India could potentially become a **$20 trillion economy by 2036** if the rupee strengthens and economic growth accelerates. The projection assumes approximately **14.2% annual growth** in the rupee-denominated economy, supported by measures strengthening India's external balance. A stronger rupee would reduce the rupee value required to reach the dollar-denominated target while improving India's global economic position. Achieving the projection would require sustained **economic expansion, productivity gains, investment and macroeconomic stability**, alongside continued structural reforms. Strong performance across **manufacturing, services, infrastructure and other productive sectors** would be crucial.
14	**Reliance-Rolls-Royce AMCA Engine Proposal**	**Reliance Industries** plans to partner with Britain's **Rolls-Royce** to develop and manufacture an advanced combat aircraft engine for India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** programme. The proposal includes establishing a dedicated **aerospace gas-turbine complex in India**. The AMCA prototype is expected to roll out in **2028** and become a major element of India's future air-combat capability. The partnership could strengthen domestic **aero-engine manufacturing** and reduce dependence on imported propulsion technology. Rolls-Royce would contribute advanced propulsion expertise, while Reliance would provide technology, manufacturing capabilities and scale. The proposal competes with **Safran's** separate engine partnership plans.
15	**ONGC Secures US Treasury OFAC Licence**	State-owned **ONGC** has secured a **US Treasury OFAC licence** allowing it to resume fuller operations in Venezuela after years of sanctions-related restrictions. **ONGC Videsh** holds a **40% stake in the San Cristobal project** and an **11% stake in Carabobo**. The licence could enable financial management, recovery of more than **$500 million in pending dividends**, increased investment and potentially operatorship from Venezuela's **PDVSA**. San Cristobal produced about **0.265 million tonnes of oil equivalent in FY26**, well below potential. Venezuela holds the world's largest proven crude reserves, estimated at around **303 billion barrels**, supporting India's energy diversification strategy.
16	**Ind-Ra Raises FY27 GDP Forecast**	**India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has raised India's **FY27 real GDP growth forecast to 6.8%**, from its earlier 6.7% estimate, mainly due to lower crude oil prices. The agency reduced its FY27 crude oil assumption from **$95 to $85 per barrel**, estimating that every $10 decline could boost growth by about **44 basis points**. However, risks include **El Niño, inflation, West Asia tensions, rupee depreciation, weaker global trade and potential US tariffs** linked to Russian crude purchases. Agriculture GVA growth is expected at **2%**, CPI inflation at **4.9%**, private consumption at **7.2%**, while the current account deficit may widen to **1.5% of GDP**.

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
17	**PhonePe and MeitY Sign MoU**	**PhonePe and MeitY** signed an MoU on August 20, 2026, to integrate PhonePe's **PulsePro** enterprise data-intelligence platform with the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** portal. The integration is being coordinated with **BISAG-N** for geospatial applications. PulsePro uses aggregated and anonymised transaction data from more than **700 million registered users and 50 million merchants**, covering nearly **99% of India's postal codes**. The information can generate near-real-time market insights supporting infrastructure planning, urban-rural development and market analysis while protecting individual identities. **PM GatiShakti** enables integrated geospatial infrastructure planning.
18	**Reliance Proposes ₹2.73 Lakh Crore UCG Investment**	**Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has proposed an estimated **₹2.73 lakh crore investment over 30 years** for India's first integrated **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** complex in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district. The project will utilise deep coal reserves from the **Chintalapudi and Recherla blocks**, estimated at 3,130.61 million tonnes at depths exceeding 600 metres. UCG converts coal underground into combustible **syngas** without conventional mining. Syngas can produce **hydrogen, methanol, urea, ammonia and synthetic fuels**. The project has pilot, development and production stages, with the pilot phase planned from **Q3 2026 to Q4 2027**.
19	**Duty-Free Raw Sugar Imports**	The government allowed **duty-free imports of up to 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar** until **October 31, 2026**, to improve domestic availability and contain rising prices. The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** amended the policy under the **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)**. Domestic ex-mill sugar prices reached around **₹5,400–5,500 per quintal**, compared with ₹3,900 a year earlier, while retail prices rose approximately **13% to ₹52.30 per kg**. Separately, stockholding limits apply to bulk consumers using over 10 tonnes monthly, restricting inventories to **15 days from September 1 to November 30**.
20	**India's Finished Steel Production**	India's **finished steel production** increased **4.7% year-on-year to 54.7 million tonnes** during April-July 2026, while consumption grew faster by **7.9% to 56 million tonnes**, reflecting strong domestic demand. **Crude steel production** rose 2.4% to 56.2 million tonnes and hot metal output increased 2.7% to 31.9 million tonnes. Finished steel imports surged **36.6% to 2.77 million tonnes**, while exports rose 35% to 2.29 million tonnes, leaving India a net importer. Alloy steel production grew **26.7%**, while stainless steel output declined 4.2% despite consumption increasing 25%, indicating mixed trends across segments.
21	**Industrial Production Growth at 6.7%**	India's **industrial production growth** moderated to **6.7% in July**, compared with 7.3% in June, mainly because of weaker mining activity. Data from the **National Statistical Office** showed mining and quarrying output contracted **0.9%**, while manufacturing grew 7.3% and electricity and gas supply expanded 8.7%. Manufacturing growth remained broad-based, with **19 of 23 industry groups** reporting expansion. Electrical equipment, motor vehicles and transport equipment performed strongly. **Consumer durables** grew 10.5%, while passenger vehicle and tractor sales also increased. During April-July, **IIP growth reached 6.3%**, compared with 4% a year earlier. Economists expect some moderation ahead.
22	**Peyman Kargar Appointed TVS Motor CEO**	**TVS Motor Company** has appointed **Peyman Kargar** as its new director and chief executive officer, effective **January 27, 2027**. He will succeed **K N Radhakrishnan**, who has led the company since 2008 and will continue through the transition before becoming a non-executive director. Kargar currently serves as president for international business and brings more than **three decades of global automotive experience**. Under his leadership, international operations became increasingly important, contributing 29% of sales volume. TVS Motor recorded **5.9 million global vehicle sales** and 30% revenue growth in FY26. Kargar is expected to focus on **technology, AI, quality, premiumisation and international expansion**.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS NEWS

- The **DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** signed a **Transfer of Technology agreement with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for indigenous production of the **Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD)**. The system protects submarines from incoming **torpedoes** by deploying decoys capable of misleading hostile weapons. NSTL developed the technology, while BDL will undertake large-scale production. The agreement strengthens India's **underwater warfare and countermeasure capabilities** and reduces dependence on foreign suppliers. SFD complements India's indigenous underwater defence ecosystem involving **torpedoes, sonar and related systems**, while supporting **MSMEs and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing.
- **HAL** and France's **Safran Helicopter Engines**, through their 50:50 **SAFHAL Helicopter Engines** joint venture, signed an agreement to develop the **3,500–4,000 shaft horsepower Aravalli helicopter engine**. The engine will power India's planned **13-tonne Indian Multi-Role Helicopter** and **12.5-tonne Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter** for the Navy. The partnership covers design, development, manufacturing, supply and lifecycle support, with production planned at **HAL's Tumakuru facility**. Development responsibilities will be equally shared. The agreement strengthens **India-France aerospace cooperation** and supports India's objective of achieving greater self-reliance in advanced **aero-engine technology**.
- **India and Kuwait** conducted the inaugural meeting of their **Joint Defence Committee** in New Delhi on August 28, strengthening bilateral military cooperation. Discussions covered **military training, exercises, military medicine, staff talks, defence industry and research and development**. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary **Amitabh Prasad** and Kuwait's Brigadier General **Raed Alsakran**. The committee aims to implement objectives outlined in the **India-Kuwait defence cooperation agreement**, signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuwait in December 2024. The Kuwaiti delegation also visited the **National War Memorial** and interacted with Indian defence industry representatives to explore potential areas of future cooperation.
- **IIT Madras Global Research Foundation** and Indonesia's **Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology** signed a landmark **MoU** to expand cooperation in higher education, research, innovation, deep technology, entrepreneurship and talent development. The agreement aims to establish collaborative research ecosystems, accelerate **deep-tech commercialisation** and strengthen the India-Indonesia South-South Strategic Partnership. Indonesian Minister Prof Brian Yuliarto, IIT Madras Director Prof V. Kamakoti and Indian Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty attended the signing. Indonesian universities are expected to participate in joint research, technology commercialisation, innovation and talent-development programmes. The partnership follows recent discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Prabowo Subianto.
- Indian space startup **Skyroot Aerospace** signed a Multi-Launch Agreement with Thiruvananthapuram-based **HEX20** for three dedicated missions involving Earth-observation and payload demonstration. The launches are scheduled to begin in the **fourth quarter of 2027** using Skyroot's Vikram-series rockets. The agreement follows the successful maiden orbital flight of **Vikram-1 on July 18, 2026**, from Sriharikota, making it India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle to deploy customer payloads into Low Earth Orbit. Skyroot plans another Vikram-1 test mission in late 2026 and aims for a long-term production capacity of **12 launches annually**, strengthening India's private space sector.
- Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will establish **political and military coordination mechanisms** under the **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement**, signed on August 7, 2026. The agreement states that an armed attack against one member would be treated as an attack against all, creating a collective-defence arrangement broadly comparable to **NATO's Article 5** principle. Defence ministers, foreign ministers and military chiefs will participate in coordination mechanisms. The countries also plan **joint military exercises**, while cooperation may expand to defence-industry joint production and technology sharing. The pact seeks greater military interoperability and strategic coordination amid regional security concerns.
- **Iran and Oman** have agreed on a new **shipping route map for the Strait of Hormuz** after weeks of technical negotiations. The discussions followed a **June 18, 2026 memorandum** aimed at establishing safer navigation routes. Iran said the agreement involved coordination among **diplomatic, defence, security and environmental authorities**. Some issues, including wording of a joint statement, remain unresolved. Tehran stressed that the arrangement concerns navigation and does not affect either country's sovereignty. Iran also maintains that full restoration of security and normal commercial shipping depends on the end of **US actions** and fulfilment of June memorandum commitments.

- **India and Armenia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in Yerevan on August 17, 2026, to strengthen cooperation in **defence research, development, innovation and joint production**. Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh** signed the agreement during his two-day Armenian visit. He held discussions with High Tech Industry Minister **Davit Tadevosyan**, Defence Minister **Suren Papikyan** and Chief of General Staff **Lt Gen Edvard Asryan**. Since 2020, India-Armenia defence contracts have reached nearly **US$2 billion**. Armenia has acquired or ordered India's **Akash, Pinaka, Swathi radar and ATAGS** systems. The partnership supports Armenia's supplier diversification and India's defence-export ambitions.
- **India and Japan** signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation** in New Delhi on August 20, 2026. The agreement creates a framework for cooperation between the **Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force** in Maritime Domain Awareness, search and rescue, HADR, naval visits, exercises and personnel exchanges. It also covers **reciprocal logistics support, mine countermeasures and ship repair**. Both sides discussed possible naval shipbuilding and design cooperation by combining Japanese expertise with Indian manufacturing capabilities. The agreement supports a **Free and Open Indo-Pacific** and broader maritime stability. Both countries are **Quad** members.
- **India and Mauritius** have signed a **five-year fuel supply agreement** under which **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** will meet Mauritius' complete import requirements for **petrol, high-speed diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)**. The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri's** visit to Mauritius on August 20–21, 2026. A separate government-to-government MoU covers **oil and gas cooperation, biofuels, training and knowledge exchange**. **Indian Oil (Mauritius) Ltd** is also developing a **27,500-tonne marine bunker fuel facility** at Mer Rouge with a $25-million investment. The partnership strengthens Mauritius' **energy security** and India's strategic presence.
- **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan** have signed the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)** at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah, creating a new **trilateral security framework**. A central provision states that an **armed attack on one member will be treated as an attack on all three**, strengthening collective deterrence. The agreement builds upon the **Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement of 2025**, with Türkiye joining the framework in 2026. It aims to enhance **military coordination, intelligence sharing, training and interoperability**. The pact reflects growing regional security concerns and efforts by the three countries to strengthen **strategic autonomy and cooperation**.
- **India and China** have agreed to continue dialogue and work towards a **fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement** of their long-standing boundary dispute. The understanding followed talks in Beijing between Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** and India's National Security Adviser **Ajit Doval** on August 25, 2026. Both sides discussed bilateral relations, border affairs and maintaining peace along the frontier. Relations have gradually improved following the **2020 border clash** and military disengagement agreement reached in October 2024. The countries also agreed to hold the **next round of boundary talks in India in 2027**, maintaining communication despite unresolved territorial differences.
- India and **Morocco** agreed to double bilateral trade over the next five years and establish a **Joint Working Group** to explore new trade opportunities and a possible preferential trade agreement. Bilateral trade was approximately **$4 billion in 2025**. The group will examine tariff and non-tariff barriers and improve market access. Potential growth sectors include **fertilisers, chemicals, minerals, machinery, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism and renewable energy**. Both countries also signed an MoU on **food safety** and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 2026–2030. Cooperation in **AI, digital transformation, investment and fertiliser supply chains** was also strengthened.
- US President **Donald Trump** has announced a major oil arrangement involving **Venezuela**, describing it as the "biggest oil deal in world history." The proposed agreement would reportedly give the United States majority control of **65 billion barrels of proven Venezuelan petroleum reserves**, while Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** said it could attract nearly **$100 billion in private investment**. Trump said the arrangement could strengthen US-Venezuela relations and potentially reduce American gasoline prices. However, the Venezuelan government had not immediately confirmed the deal. US companies are expected to participate in developing oil fields, although **infrastructure and nationalisation concerns** remain significant.
- The **Ministry of Culture** and **Ministry of Tourism**, in collaboration with **Netflix India**, have launched the **"As Seen on Netflix"** section on the **Incredible India portal** to promote film-induced tourism. Introduced on August 5, the feature allows visitors to discover real-life destinations appearing in Netflix films and series, along with their **culture, heritage, cuisine, festivals and attractions**. The initiative was launched at the **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi**, and coincided with Netflix's 10 years in India. A non-commercial MoU aims to promote Indian destinations globally through storytelling. **Incredible India** was launched in 2002.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS NEWS

- India appointed **Vishwesh Negi**, a 2002-batch **Indian Foreign Service** officer, as its next Ambassador to Iran on August 3, 2026. Serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Negi will oversee bilateral relations, trade, cooperation, and consular affairs after taking charge in Tehran. His priorities include strengthening political and economic ties, promoting regional connectivity, and protecting Indian interests. The appointment highlights **Iran's importance**, particularly the **Chabahar Port** project, which provides access to Afghanistan and Central Asia and supports India's West Asia policy objectives.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved one-year extensions for **Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan** and **Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan**. Somanathan, a 1987-batch **Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer**, will continue as Cabinet Secretary until **August 30, 2027**. Govind Mohan, a 1989-batch **Sikkim cadre IAS officer**, will remain Home Secretary until **August 22, 2027**. His extension involves relaxation of applicable service rules. The decisions aim to ensure **administrative continuity and stability** amid a wider bureaucratic reshuffle involving several senior Union secretaries.
- **Anand Prakash**, a **2009-batch Indian Foreign Service officer**, has been appointed India's next High Commissioner to the **Kingdom of Eswatini**. He is currently serving as a Director in the Ministry of External Affairs. In his new assignment, he will represent India and strengthen bilateral cooperation in political, economic, development, education, capacity-building and people-to-people areas. Eswatini is a **landlocked southern African country** bordered by South Africa and Mozambique. Formerly known as Swaziland, it officially adopted the name Eswatini in **2018**. The appointment reflects India's continuing diplomatic and development engagement with African countries.
- The Government extended **Enforcement Directorate Director Rahul Navin's** tenure by one year until **13 August 2027**. The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved the extension from 13 August 2026. Rahul Navin is a **1993-batch Indian Revenue Service officer** who was earlier scheduled to complete his tenure on 13 August 2026. His extension continues beyond his scheduled retirement date of **31 July 2027**. As head of the **Enforcement Directorate**, he oversees investigations into **money laundering, foreign exchange violations and fugitive economic offences** under laws including the **PMLA, FEMA and FEOA**. The decision provides continuity in leadership of India's specialised financial investigation agency.
- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, in its resolution dated **6 August 2026**, recommended **Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge** and **Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi** as Chief Justices of the **Calcutta and Bombay High Courts**, respectively. Justice Ghuge, currently **Acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court**, has nearly 13 years of judicial experience and was elevated in **June 2013**. Justice Tripathi, a senior **Allahabad High Court** judge elevated in 2013, has been recommended as the **50th Chief Justice of Bombay High Court**. He has extensive civil-law experience and previously served as **Additional Standing Counsel for Uttar Pradesh**. Both recommendations require **Central Government approval** and formal notification.
- **Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala**, an eminent oceanographer and distinguished scientist, assumed charge as Secretary of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**. He brings over three decades of experience in **remote sensing, satellite oceanography, coastal hazards and disaster management**. After the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**, he served as Project Manager for establishing India's advanced **Tsunami Early Warning System at INCOIS**. As Director of INCOIS, he expanded ocean services including **fishing advisories, coral reef alerts and multi-hazard vulnerability mapping**. He also headed the **Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System Secretariat** under UNESCO-IOC. His awards include the **National Geoscience Award 2010** and **Indian National Geospatial Award 2008**.
- **Deepti Gaur Mukerjee**, a **1993-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer**, was appointed Secretary of the **Department of Higher Education** under the Ministry of Education on **10 August 2026**. The appointment formed part of a senior bureaucratic reshuffle by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**. She replaced **Vineet Joshi**, who moved to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Mukerjee previously served as Secretary of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** from August 2024. The Department of Higher Education manages **universities, colleges, technical education and central higher education policy**. Other appointments included **Pallavi Jain Govil** as Corporate Affairs Secretary and **Sunil Paliwal** as Youth Affairs Secretary.
- Senior **Indian Foreign Service officer Soumendu Bagchi**, a **1993-batch diplomat**, has been appointed India's next **Ambassador to Switzerland**. The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment on August 17, 2026. Bagchi is currently India's Ambassador to **Iraq** and is expected to assume his new assignment in Bern shortly. His career spans over three decades, including postings in **Brussels, Dhaka and San Francisco**. He previously served as Deputy and Acting Director General of the **Indian Council of World Affairs**. His expertise covers **counter-terrorism, energy security, investment, technology, SAARC, BIMSTEC** and India's relations with Southeast Asia and West Africa. He holds degrees from **IIT Delhi, IIM Calcutta and JNU**.

- **Ajay A Kumar**, a **2001-batch Indian Foreign Service officer**, has been appointed India's next **Ambassador to Iraq** by the Ministry of External Affairs. Kumar was serving as **Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs** before receiving the new assignment and is expected to take charge shortly. His appointment comes as India maintains important **political, economic, energy and people-to-people relations with Iraq**. His experience in West Asian affairs is expected to support India's engagement with Baghdad. The appointment forms part of a wider diplomatic reshuffle following current Ambassador **Soumendu Bagchi's appointment as Ambassador to Switzerland**. Kumar will represent India in Baghdad and work to deepen bilateral cooperation.
- Former Bombay High Court Judge **Justice Sunil Balkrishna Shukre** has been sworn in as Chairman of the **Maharashtra Lokayukta Institution**. Maharashtra Governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** administered the oath at Lok Bhavan in Mumbai. Shukre's appointment under the **Maharashtra Lokayukta Act, 2023**, carries a five-year term or until he turns 70, whichever comes earlier. He graduated from Pune University in 1980 and completed his LL.B. in 1983. Joining the judiciary as a Direct District Judge in 2000, he later served as **Principal District Judge, Registrar General of the Bombay High Court and Joint Director of the Maharashtra Judicial Academy** before becoming a High Court judge.
- Senior IPS officer and former **Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha** has been appointed **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the Directorate of Home Guards. According to the Delhi government Home Department, he will serve as OSD until **September 30, 2026**, when he will assume charge as **Director General of Home Guards from October 1**. Golcha was removed as Delhi Police Commissioner on July 17 and subsequently attached to the Lieutenant Governor's office. **Anurag Kumar**, a Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau, replaced him as Delhi Police chief. Golcha has previously served as **Director General (Prisons)** and Special Commissioner (Law and Order).

AWARDS NEWS

- Indian astrophysicist **Dr. Annapurni Subramaniam** received the **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026** at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence on August 3. She became the **first Indian woman scientist**, fourth Indian, and third woman globally to receive the honour. Jointly awarded by **COSPAR and ISRO**, the medal recognises outstanding space research contributions from developing countries. As Director of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, Bengaluru, she is known for research on stellar populations, star clusters, and galaxy evolution. The award strengthens India's global standing in astrophysics and space science.
- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** conferred the **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** on 12 rat miners for exceptional courage during the **Silkyara Tunnel Rescue Operation**. The ceremony recognised their selfless work in dangerous conditions to rescue trapped workers. Gadkari praised their bravery and noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi closely monitored the operation and mobilised resources. The Jeevan Raksha Padak honours life-saving acts during fires, drowning, electrocution, natural disasters and mining accidents. Categories are **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak**. The honour recognises specialised rescue expertise, courage, teamwork and public service during complex emergencies, highlighting the value of life-saving skills
- **President Droupadi Murmu** attended the 12th National Handloom Day celebrations in New Delhi and presented the **Sant Kabir Handloom Awards** and **National Handloom Awards 2025**. Four commemorative postage stamps showcasing India's diverse weaving traditions were also released. Murmu highlighted handloom's importance for **employment, women's empowerment, cultural preservation, self-reliance and environmental sustainability**. She recalled the beginning of the **Swadeshi Movement on August 7, 1905**, and noted that National Handloom Day has been observed on this date since 2015. She encouraged technology, e-commerce, modern training, young entrepreneurs and startups to connect traditional crafts with global markets.
- Indian theoretical physicist **Deepak Dhar** was named a recipient of the **2026 Dirac Medal** by the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** on **8 August 2026** in Trieste, Italy. He shares the honour with **Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard and Haim Sompolinsky**. The award recognises contributions to **equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence**. Dhar is particularly known for research on the **sandpile model and self-organised criticality**, explaining how complex systems naturally reach critical states. Established by ICTP in **1985**, the **Dirac Medal** is awarded annually and carries a **US$5,000 prize**.
- **NABARD** announced winners of the **National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge** on **10 August 2026**, organised with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and **Dalberg Advisors** under the **Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)** framework. **SatSure Analytics India** won first prize of **₹15 lakh** for a climate vulnerability index ranking villages by weather exposure. **EXPERIQS** received second prize of ₹10 lakh for drought monitoring and crop-cycle forecasting, while **VARSAPRADAYA** won third prize of ₹5 lakh for hazard scoring and irrigation planning. More than **150 applications** were received, producing 20 prototypes and 11 finalists. The initiative promotes **climate-resilient agriculture and rural credit-risk assessment**.

- India won **four medals** at the **23rd International Linguistics Olympiad 2026** in Bucharest, Romania, including **one gold and three bronze medals**. **Shrilakshmi Venkatraman** won gold with a score of 70.0, while **Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan and Advay Misra** secured bronze medals. **Soham Amit Pednekar** received an Honourable Mention. The competition featured **255 participants from more than 40 countries** and tests **logic, grammar, language analysis and pattern recognition**. India's cumulative individual medal tally since first participating in 2009 reached **37 medals**, including **6 gold, 9 silver and 22 bronze**. The **Panini Linguistics Olympiad** selects Indian participants.
- Indian theoretical physicist **Deepak Dhar** was awarded the prestigious **2026 Dirac Medal** by the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** for major contributions to statistical mechanics and complex systems. Announced on **8 August 2026** in Trieste, Italy, the honour is shared with **Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard and Haim Sompolinsky**. Dhar is renowned for research on **sandpile models and self-organised criticality**, with wider applications in **optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence**. Established by ICTP in **1985**, the Dirac Medal is presented annually on **8 August**, the birth anniversary of physicist **Paul Dirac**, and carries a **US$5,000 prize**.
- India won **four medals** at the **23rd International Linguistics Olympiad 2026** in Bucharest, Romania, comprising one gold and three bronze medals. **Shrilakshmi Venkatraman** won individual gold, while Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan and Advay Misra secured bronze medals. Soham Amit Pednekar received an Honourable Mention. The competition tests **logical reasoning, grammar, language analysis and pattern recognition** rather than memorised knowledge. India, which first participated in 2009, has now accumulated **37 medals**, including six gold, nine silver and 22 bronze. The team was selected through the **Panini Linguistics Olympiad** and trained at IIIT Hyderabad.
- A total of **301 Gallantry Medals** were awarded to Police and Fire Service personnel as part of the **Independence Day 2026 honours**, comprising 272 police and 29 fire service personnel. The awards recognise exceptional bravery in saving lives and property, preventing crime and apprehending criminals. **197 awards** went to personnel from Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 51 to Jammu & Kashmir, 12 to the Northeast and 41 to other regions. Overall, **1,057 personnel** from Police, Fire Services, Home Guard, Civil Defence and Correctional Services received Gallantry and Service Medals. Additionally, 92 received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service, while 664 received Medals for Meritorious Service.
- The **Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026** were presented on August 13 during World Elephant Day celebrations in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised the event, with Minister of State **Kirti Vardhan Singh** presenting the awards. Seven mahouts from **Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal**, were honoured for flood-rescue efforts involving elephants and rhinoceroses. The Ministry released **"30 Giant Steps"**, highlighting 30 Project Elephant achievements between 2020 and 2026. A regional action plan for human-elephant conflict in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was launched with **₹500 crore** government support. Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan also introduced the **H.A.N.U.M.A.N.** wildlife monitoring initiative.
- **POWERGRID** received the **PMIS Recognition of Partner Company Award** in the category of **Innovation in Exit Pathways** on August 14, 2026. The award was presented by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power participated in the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)** as a pan-India partner and provided **6,265 internship opportunities** during Pilot Rounds 1 and 2 between December 2024 and December 2025. Its award-winning practice involved uploading intern training details onto the **Rozgaar portal of Power Sector Skill Council**, supporting skill-based employment. **Mahindra & Mahindra** was named Overall Industry Champion.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** announced the **National Sports Awards 2025** on August 18, 2026, honouring **17 sportspersons with Arjuna Awards**. Recipients include chess champion **Divya Deshmukh**, badminton players **Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly**, Grandmaster **Vidit Gujrathi**, athlete **Tejaswin Shankar**, boxer **Narender** and deaf rifle shooter **Dhanush Srikanth**. No recipient was named for the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** this year. Footballer **I Arumainayagam**, a 1962 Asian Games gold medallist, received the Arjuna Award for Lifetime Achievement. **Parveer Singh, Chhote Lal Yadav and Neha Nandkumar Chavan** received Dronacharya Awards, while **Army Paralympic Node, Pune** won the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.

- More than **200 Indian peacekeepers** serving with the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** received prestigious **UN medals** for exceptional service. In Juba, **210 Indian peacekeepers**, including six women and seven staff officers, were recognised for contributions during crises, medical emergencies and life-saving operations. India remains the **second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel** to UN peacekeeping, with more than **4,200 military and police personnel**, including 155 women, deployed across multiple missions. These include South Sudan, Lebanon, Congo, Somalia, Cyprus, Abyei, Central African Republic and Western Sahara. As of April 2026, India was the **largest troop contributor to UNMISS**, with **1,775 personnel**.
- Pakistan has proposed Mumbai-based Parsi doctors **Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel and Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo** for the **Nishan-e-Imtiaz**, its highest civilian honour. The doctors were associated with Bombay in 1946 and became historically linked with the medical examination of **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**. Historical accounts say they examined Jinnah's X-rays and diagnosed terminal tuberculosis, reportedly estimating his life expectancy at one to two years. Their decision to preserve **medical confidentiality** became part of the historical narrative surrounding Jinnah's final years. The honours are expected to be presented in **March 2027**.
- Odia poet, essayist and former **CSIR-IMMT scientist Ashutosh Parida** has been selected for the **Sarala Puraskar 2026** for his poetry collection **Bishwas De Pruthwi**. Presented annually by the **Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust**, the award recognises outstanding literary achievement. Parida will receive a **citation, copper plaque and ₹7 lakh cash prize** at a ceremony in Bhubaneswar on October 25. The **Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman 2026** will honour **Odissi maestro Guru Durga Charan Ranbir** and sculptor-art educator **Damodar Behera**, with ₹2.5 lakh each. Seven books were shortlisted before Parida's selection.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the **National Teachers' Awards 2026** on **48 outstanding school teachers** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on **September 5, Teachers' Day**. The Ministry of Education selected **26 male and 22 female teachers** representing **27 States, seven Union Territories and six Central Government organisations**. Selection followed a three-stage process involving **District/Regional, State/Organisation and National-level evaluation**, followed by an Independent National Jury. The awards recognise **excellence, innovation, dedication and leadership** in school education. Teachers from **PM SHRI schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, EMRS and Sainik Schools** are included.
- The **Publications Division** of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting received **seven honours** at the **Federation of Indian Publishers Awards for Excellence in Book Production 2026**. The awards were presented during the 46th FIP Awards ceremony on August 24. The division secured **four Second Prizes and three Third Prizes** across multiple categories. The Hindi July 2026 edition of **Yojana**, themed Viksit Bharat@2047, and the English edition of **Kurukshetra** won Second Prizes. **Bharat 2026** in Hindi and *Wings to Our Hopes – Vol. 2* in English also received Second Prizes. Third Prizes went to **Dharti Ki Sehat, Rangoli Roop Sur Lay Ki and Ajkal Urdu**.
- **Kaziah Liz Mejo**, a 19-year-old from Kerala, was crowned **Miss Universe India 2026** in Jaipur on August 23. She emerged victorious among **52 finalists** at the grand finale held at Zee Studios and was crowned by Miss Universe India 2025 **Manika Vishwakarma**. Mejo will represent India at the **75th Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico in November 2026**. **Vaishnavi Gannesh** became first runner-up and Miss International India 2026, followed by Anushri Satavlekar, Tejaswini Shrivastava and Anubha Vashist Chaudhary. The judging panel included **Sushmita Sen, Urvashi Rautela, Rhea Singha, Pragya Kapoor and Celina Jaitly**.

DEFENCE

- The **Indian Air Force** conducted **Exercise ROTOR CLAP III** at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, on August 1–2, 2026, focusing on **Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems**. The exercise enhanced capabilities to detect, track, and neutralise hostile drones. Attack helicopters, including **AH-64 Apache, Mi-25/35 gunships, and HAL Prachand**, operated alongside CH-47 Chinook, Mi-17, and HAL Dhruv transport helicopters. Live missile and rocket firing, precision engagement, and coordinated multi-platform operations were conducted. The exercise validated operational concepts and strengthened combat readiness against evolving drone threats in modern warfare.
- The **Indian Army** introduced developed **Xtreme Weather Grade diesel** for temperatures as low as **-42°C**, improving mobility in high-altitude areas along LAC and LoC. Developed with oil marketing companies, **BS-VI compliant fuel** prevents freezing and clogging without requiring vehicles to remain running continuously. It is compatible with **T-90 and T-72 tanks, BMP-2K vehicles, K-9 Vajra howitzers**, and logistics platforms without modifications. High-altitude maintenance facilities at **Nyoma and Daulat Beg Oldie** support readiness. The fuel may benefit civilian transport in snow-bound Himalayan regions during severe winters.

- The **4th Tri-Services Future Warfare Course** began at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on August 3, 2026, under Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and coordinated by **CENJOWS**. The four-week programme brings together military officers, policymakers, scientists, industry experts, and thinkers. Its curriculum covers **artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, cyber warfare, cognitive warfare, autonomous systems, multi-domain operations, space warfare**, and trends. Expert lectures and discussions aim to strengthen joint planning among Army, Navy, and Air Force, promote defence innovation, and improve preparedness for technology-driven and hybrid warfare in security environments.
- Indian astrophysicist **Dr. Annapurni Subramaniam** received the **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026** at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence on August 3. She became the **first Indian woman scientist**, fourth Indian, and third woman globally to receive the honour. Jointly awarded by **COSPAR and ISRO**, the medal recognises outstanding space research contributions from developing countries. As Director of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, Bengaluru, she is known for research on stellar populations, star clusters, and galaxy evolution. The award strengthens India's global standing in astrophysics and space science.
- India successfully test-launched the **Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile** at Chandipur, Odisha, on August 6. The **Strategic Forces Command** conducted the launch under the **DRDO**-led indigenous missile programme. The Ministry of Defence stated that all operational and technical parameters were successfully validated. Agni-4 is a **road-mobile, surface-to-surface ballistic missile** designed to strengthen India's strategic deterrence. It incorporates advanced navigation, guidance and composite-material technologies. The successful test demonstrates India's continuing progress in developing reliable strategic missile systems and strategic deterrence. The test reinforces strategic readiness and technological self-reliance.
- **Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth** became the first woman fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force to complete the **Fighter Combat Leader course** at TACDE, Gwalior. The intensive 20-week programme trains selected pilots in advanced air-combat tactics, mission planning, tactical decisions, combat leadership and operations. Kanth joined the IAF in June 2016 alongside **Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh**. She became the first Indian woman cleared for daytime fighter combat missions in 2019. Her achievement highlights women's growing role in combat aviation and leadership. Expands women's combat opportunities.
- The **India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026** began on **10 August** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, and continued until 14 August. The five-day bilateral exercise focused on strengthening **interoperability, operational coordination and professional cooperation** between specialist diving and EOD teams. Activities included **Subject Matter Expert exchanges, cross-training, equipment demonstrations** and practical exercises based on simulated operational scenarios. EOD specialists are trained to identify, handle and neutralise explosive threats, making their capabilities important for **maritime security, naval operations and underwater infrastructure protection**. The exercise enabled both navies to exchange technical expertise and operational practices, further strengthening **India-US defence cooperation**.
- **Exercise Talisman Sabre 2027** will be conducted from **9 to 22 August 2027**, making it a **14-day multinational military exercise** led by **Australia and the United States**. The upcoming edition is expected to involve Australia, the US and **24 additional partner nations**. India is set to enhance participation, reflecting stronger **India-Australia defence ties** and expanding **Indo-Pacific engagement**. The decision was welcomed during the **India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** on 1 June 2026, co-chaired by **Rajnath Singh and Richard Marles**. Around **800 personnel** are involved in planning. The exercise aims to improve **interoperability, joint operational capabilities, multinational planning and readiness**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has restarted production of **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** at its Nashik facility in Maharashtra, strengthening India's domestic defence manufacturing. The revived line will manufacture **12 new Su-30MKI fighters** for the Indian Air Force under an order signed in December 2024 to replace aircraft lost in accidents. The first aircraft is expected in **2027-28**, with deliveries completed by 2029. HAL's Nashik facility previously produced **222 Su-30MKI aircraft** under licence from Russia. The new fighters are expected to contain around **50%–62.6% indigenous content**. India is separately preparing a **₹60,000-crore modernisation programme** covering avionics, indigenous radar and electronic warfare.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** launched *Shruti*, the Indian Navy's second **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**, in Kolkata on August 11, 2026. Designated Yard 3037, the vessel was launched less than three months after the first NGOPV, *Sanghmitra*, which was launched on May 20. GRSE is constructing **four NGOPVs** under an 11-ship programme, with the remaining vessels expected to be launched by the end of the financial year. The project strengthens India's **maritime surveillance, coastal security and indigenous naval shipbuilding** capabilities while supporting the Navy's expanding operational requirements.

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and Royal Malaysian Air Force began the **Udara Shakti 2026** bilateral exercise on August 10 at Subang Air Base, Malaysia. The five-day exercise involved **83 personnel** and focused on complex air-combat manoeuvring, **air-to-air refuelling and strategic airlift operations**. India deployed four Rafale fighters from No. 101 Squadron and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, while Malaysia deployed two Su-30MKM fighters, two F/A-18D fighters and one A400M transport aircraft. Joint field training and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges were also conducted to strengthen **interoperability, operational coordination and mutual understanding** between the two air forces.
- The **eighth India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026** concluded at **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, on August 14. The bilateral exercise enabled Indian and US Navy teams to exchange professional expertise, best practices and specialised demonstrations. Subject Matter Expert Exchanges covered **IED threats, render-safe procedures, mine neutralisation and unmanned underwater systems**. Cross-training included diving operations such as wreck location and salvage, specialist equipment use and slithering operations. The exercise strengthened specialised diving capabilities, professional competence and **interoperability** between both navies. Its successful conclusion further reinforced **India-US naval cooperation** and operational synergy in specialised maritime security operations.
- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a ₹1,943 crore contract with **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI)** to lease two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian** High-Altitude Long-Endurance remotely piloted aircraft systems for the Indian Navy. Signed on **August 17, 2026**, in New Delhi, the **30-month contract** provides advanced sensors and sophisticated payloads for maritime surveillance. The systems will significantly strengthen India's **Maritime Domain Awareness** by providing persistent **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)** coverage across large areas. Their deployment is particularly important for monitoring the **Indian Ocean Region**, tracking maritime activity and improving the Navy's ability to respond to emerging security situations.
- **Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth** received the honorary rank of **General of the Nepali Army** from Nepal President **Ram Chandra Paudel** during his official visit from August 17–19, 2026. The visit aimed to strengthen longstanding **India-Nepal defence ties**. Seth received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Nepali Army Headquarters and laid a wreath at **Tundikhel**. The honorary-rank tradition dates to **1950**, with the Army chiefs of both countries receiving honorary ranks in each other's forces. Seth was also scheduled to meet Nepal Army Chief **General Ashok Raj Sigdel** and address officers at **Shivapuri**.
- **India and Thailand** began **Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026**, the 15th edition of their bilateral military exercise, to strengthen cooperation in **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations**. The Indian Army contingent departed for Thailand on August 17, with exercises scheduled from **August 18–31** at **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani**. Both armies are participating with **85 personnel each**. India is represented mainly by the **9 Gorkha Rifles**, while Thailand fields troops from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division. Training covers challenging **jungle and semi-urban environments**, UN Chapter VII operations, tactical discussions, technology demonstrations and a final validation exercise.
- The **Department of Defence Production** has notified the sixth **Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** containing **405 strategically important defence items**, with estimated business potential of **₹3,070 crore**. The list includes **16 Indian Coast Guard items and 389 DPSU items**, covering aircraft, armoured vehicles, warships, missiles, defence electronics, ammunition, components, spares and raw materials. Platforms include **Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Combat Aircraft, Su-30MKI, T-72, T-90 and BMP-II**, while missile systems include **Konkurs-M, Invar and MRSAM**. Items will be indigenised through Make procedures and in-house development with industry and MSME participation. The **SRIJAN Portal** has facilitated over 33,000 items, with more than **15,700 already indigenised**.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited** delivered **Mangrol**, the third of eight indigenously designed **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC)**, to the Indian Navy in Kochi on August 21. The **78-metre vessel** is designed for coastal and shallow-water operations, including **anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, mine-laying and search and rescue**. It uses **Diesel Engine-Waterjet Propulsion** and carries shallow-water sonars, lightweight torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets and mine-laying equipment. Built under Det Norske Veritas classification rules, Mangrol is named after **Mangrol in Gujarat**. Five remaining vessels in the eight-ship series are currently under construction.
- The **Indian Navy** received **Mangrol**, the third indigenously built **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**, from Cochin Shipyard on August 21. The vessel contains over **80% indigenous content** and is designed for underwater surveillance, coastal anti-submarine warfare, low-intensity maritime operations and **mine warfare**. It is powered by **waterjets** and equipped with advanced torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, radars and sonars. Named after the coastal town and minor port of **Mangrol in Gujarat's Junagadh district**, the vessel also carries the legacy of the former **INS Mangrol minesweeper** and supports India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** defence manufacturing mission.

- **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)** has manufactured and test-fired the first **fully indigenous AK-203 assault rifle**, named **Sher**, at its Korwa facility in **Amethi**. The rifle incorporates **Indian-made components and input materials**, representing a major milestone for **Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India** in defence manufacturing. IRRPL CEO and MD **Maj Gen S K Sharma** said the rifle successfully completed firing tests, including burst firing, with encouraging initial results. The company plans to produce prototypes for **Indian Army trials in September 2026**. IRRPL targets production of one rifle every **100 seconds** and plans to deliver approximately **six lakh rifles**.
- **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** unveiled three indigenous micro and small gas turbine engines—**NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100**—in New Delhi on August 25, 2026. The engines provide thrust ratings of **5 kg, 50 kg and 100 kg** respectively and are intended for defence applications such as tactical **UAVs, drone interceptors and compact missile systems**. They operate on the **Brayton cycle**, using compressed air and fuel expansion through a turbine to generate thrust or shaft power. NJ-100 builds on data from the NJ-5 technology demonstrator. The initiative supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and greater participation by Indian aerospace industries and startups.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** approved the transfer of technology for all conventional **missile systems developed by DRDO** to Indian defence industries on August 25, 2026. The decision aims to move missile technologies from development stages to **large-scale domestic production**. Eligible Indian companies can manufacture the systems after meeting qualification, certification and regulatory requirements. The move is expected to increase **domestic value addition**, strengthen indigenous manufacturing and reduce dependence on defence imports. It will also create opportunities for **MSMEs and technology partners** in components, subsystems, fabrication, testing and maintenance, supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and strengthening India's defence industrial ecosystem.
- **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** unveiled three indigenous **Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines** on August 25, 2026. The **NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100** provide thrust ratings of 5 kg, 50 kg and 100 kg respectively. They are designed for potential defence applications including **tactical UAVs, drone interceptors and compact missile systems**. Development involved advances in high-RPM turbomachinery and high-temperature combustion technologies. CSIR Director General **N. Kalaiselvi** described the development as an important milestone for **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, while Air Marshal **Tejinder Singh** highlighted the strategic importance of indigenous aerospace propulsion capabilities for national security.
- The **Indian Navy** will commission **Nipun**, its second indigenous **Diving Support Vessel (DSV)** of the Nistar class, on **August 31, 2026**, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. Designed and constructed by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**, the vessel was delivered to the Navy on July 30 after completing outfitting and trials. Nipun is designed for **deep-sea diving and underwater operations**, featuring modern diving systems, underwater intervention capabilities, navigation equipment, platform management and precise station-keeping facilities. The vessel will also strengthen India's **submarine rescue capabilities**, highlighting the expanding capacity of indigenous defence shipbuilding for specialised naval platforms.
- The **DRDO** successfully tested its indigenous **Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS)** at the Nyoma-Mudh drop zone in Ladakh, one of the world's highest-altitude drop zones. Test jumpers from **ADRDE, Agra**, jumped from 22,000 feet in temperatures of -15°C. The parachute deployed at 20,000 feet, and the team landed safely at 13,700 feet. Developed by **ADRDE and DEBEL**, MCPS offers improved steering, lower descent rates and **NavIC compatibility**. The trial demonstrated India's ability to develop specialised high-altitude airborne systems domestically. The achievement strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and India's indigenous defence technology capabilities.
- The **Indian Coast Guard** received **ICGS Ajit**, a Fast Patrol Vessel constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited**, on August 25. The vessel is the seventh **Adamya-class** patrol ship built by the yard and contains more than **65% indigenous content**. Measuring 51.43 metres, it has a displacement of 330 tonnes and can exceed 27 knots. Its twin marine diesel engines feature **controllable pitch propellers**, a first for this class in India. With an operational range of 1,500 nautical miles, ICGS Ajit will perform **coastal surveillance, EEZ protection, fisheries enforcement, search and rescue, anti-smuggling and anti-piracy operations**.
- **Rolls-Royce** has offered India **100% technology transfer and complete intellectual property rights** for jointly developing an engine for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**. The proposed engine is expected to deliver more than **120 kN thrust**, with future upgrades targeting 145 kN. India is particularly seeking advanced capabilities such as **single-crystal turbine blade manufacturing**. Rolls-Royce, partnering with Reliance Industries, is competing with France's **Safran**, which is collaborating with DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment. The proposed engine could be rolled out by 2034 and support India's ambition to develop an indigenous **fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft**.

- The **Indian Navy** received **Samarthak**, its first indigenous **Multi-Purpose Vessel**, on August 27, 2026. Built by **Larsen & Toubro** at Kattupalli, the vessel contains more than **75% indigenous content**. Designed as a versatile trial and evaluation platform, Samarthak can support **maritime surveillance, reconnaissance, offshore patrolling and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations**. Its name means "The Proponent," reflecting its role as an operational enabler. The vessel's delivery represents another milestone in India's **indigenous naval shipbuilding** capabilities and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** objective of developing sophisticated maritime platforms domestically.
- The **Indian Army** has signed its first contract for the American **FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missile**, ending a 17-year effort to acquire the weapon. The purchase is being processed through the **Foreign Military Sales route** under emergency procurement provisions, with limited quantities initially involved. Javelin uses an **imaging infrared seeker**, enabling operators to lock onto targets before launch and quickly reposition. Its **top-attack capability** targets the weaker upper armour of tanks, while its tandem warhead is designed to defeat explosive reactive armour. India had explored procurement since 2009, but previous efforts did not materialise. The latest purchase could potentially support future **co-production in India**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Alibaba launched **Qwen3.8-Max** on August 3, 2026, describing it as its advanced artificial intelligence model, with **2.4 trillion parameters** and a **Mixture-of-Experts** architecture activating 95 billion parameters per query. The multimodal model processes text, images, and videos and supports a **one-million-token context window** for software engineering, document analysis, and enterprise applications. Available through Alibaba Cloud's Model Studio, it strengthens China's AI competition. Qwen3.8-Max reportedly ranks highest among Chinese text AI models and second worldwide for image understanding on **Arena.AI**, highlighting China's push toward efficient, high-performance models.
- The WHO's **International Agency for Research on Cancer** classified **hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole, and tacrolimus** as Group 1 carcinogens, indicating sufficient evidence that they can cause cancer in humans. The assessment links hydrochlorothiazide with skin and lip cancers, voriconazole with increased cancer risk in certain circumstances, and tacrolimus with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder. The classification identifies a potential cancer hazard, not a recommendation to stop treatment. Patients using these medicines should **consult doctors before making changes**, ensuring treatment decisions remain medically supervised and based on individual risks.
- **ICAR** developed India's first indigenous **African Swine Fever vaccine**, a live attenuated Genotype II vaccine based on the MA-104 cell line. Developed by **ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal**, it was launched during ICAR Foundation Day 2026 after clearing safety, efficacy, and field testing. Recommended for pigs above eight weeks, the vaccine uses a **1 mL intramuscular dose** followed by a booster after 14 days. African Swine Fever has caused major livestock losses since India's first detection in 2020, particularly in the Northeast. The vaccine strengthens veterinary self-reliance and supports affordable disease control nationwide.
- **ICAR** developed India's first fully annotated **telomere-to-telomere reference genome** of pigeonpea variety 'Asha', a major agricultural biotechnology achievement. The genome contains **752.65 million base pairs, 92 contigs, all 11 chromosomes, 11 centromeres, 22 telomeres, and 36,557 genes**, and has been accepted as a global reference in NCBI. The resource will accelerate molecular breeding and genome editing for high-yielding, climate-resilient, nutrient-rich varieties. It supports the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**, targeting 35 million tonnes of production by 2030–31, lower imports, higher farmer incomes, and improved food security.
- The **Chhattisgarh Cabinet** has approved the **Chhattisgarh State Artificial Intelligence Mission** with a **₹500 crore** outlay for five years. The mission will promote AI in **governance, education, research and innovation** and aligns with the national **IndiaAI Mission**. Plans include establishing **100 AI Data Labs, five Centres of Excellence**, training **6 lakh students and 1.5 lakh government employees**, supporting more than **300 AI start-ups**, and deploying over 50 AI-powered government services. The national IndiaAI Mission, approved in 2024, has an overall outlay of **₹10,371.92 crore**.
- A spent **SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage** is believed to have crashed into the **Moon near Einstein Crater on August 5, 2026**, after its trajectory was altered by gravitational forces and solar activity. Scientists estimate that the approximately **four-tonne rocket stage** struck the lunar surface at around 8,690 km/h, potentially creating a new crater. The impact poses no danger to Earth but could provide useful information about **lunar geology and impact dynamics**. NASA's **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter** and South Korea's **Danuri** spacecraft may study the site, while the event renews concerns about space debris.

- Indian-origin NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** completed his maiden spacewalk outside the **ISS** on August 6. Designated US Spacewalk 96, the activity lasted **6 hours and 27 minutes**. Menon worked with NASA astronaut **Jessica Meir** on Starboard 6. They installed mounting hardware, routed electrical cables and added insulation to prepare the **Roll-Out Solar Array** system. Menon, selected in NASA's 2021 astronaut class, previously worked as a physician and SpaceX medical director. Meir completed her sixth spacewalk. The mission adds valuable spaceflight experience.
- India's **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** has advanced with testing of human-rated systems. Jitendra Singh said the first uncrewed flight carrying **Vyommitra**, ISRO's humanoid robot, is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2026, followed by two more uncrewed missions in 2027 before the crewed flight. Tests have covered launch-vehicle propulsion, Crew and Service Module systems, **Environmental Control and Life Support System, Thermal Protection System, Crew Escape System and parachute recovery**. The **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** is planned for 2035. The programme targets safe human missions in orbit.
- **IIT Guwahati** has developed **E-Eye**, a portable and low-cost optical sensing device for rapidly detecting toxicants and cancer-causing heavy metals in water and biological samples. The device uses the **Beer-Lambert law** to convert chemical colour intensity into digital readings. It costs around **₹3,500**, with individual tests costing approximately ₹2. Validation covered more than **2,700 samples**, detecting arsenic, lead, iron, chromium, fluoride and *E. coli*. The research involved IIT Guwahati, KIIT Bhubaneswar and Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Kolkata. Findings were published in the **IEEE Sensors Journal** with MeitY-linked funding support.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Param Pragya**, an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility, at IIT Delhi's Sonipat Campus on August 8, 2026. The inauguration took place during the institute's **57th Convocation**, where Modi was chief guest. The facility is designed to support **artificial intelligence, data science, advanced computing and interdisciplinary research**. More than 3,000 students graduated, including **587 doctoral scholars**, while major academic honours were presented. The graduating batches included the first students of B.Des., Executive MBA, M.Sc. Biological Sciences and MA in Culture, Society, Thought. IIT Delhi operates under the **Institutes of Technology Act, 1961**.
- **NASA** has invited **ISRO** to participate in its Moon Base programme, expanding India-US cooperation under the **Artemis Accords**. The invitation was discussed during the ninth India-US Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting in Bengaluru on August 5–6, 2026. Discussions covered lunar cooperation, scientific data sharing and the **US-India TRUST Initiative**. India signed the Artemis Accords in June 2023, supporting peaceful and responsible space exploration. The cooperation builds on the successful **NISAR mission** and could involve future lunar activities connected with the Artemis architecture, including the **Orion spacecraft, Gateway lunar station and human lunar missions**.
- **IIT Guwahati** has developed a two-stage microalgae cultivation process for **CO_2 capture, biomass production and bioenergy generation**. Led by Professor Kaustubha Mohanty and research scholar Deepesh Singh Chauhan, the research was published in Renewable Energy. The first stage uses 15% CO_2 for rapid microalgal growth, while the second lowers CO_2 to 5% and adds calcium and phosphorus. Experiments produced **25.7% higher biomass**, 35.4% greater CO_2 fixation, 1.86-times higher lipid productivity and 37.65% improved intracellular bioenergy efficiency. Calcium-assisted self-flocculation achieved a **98.46% harvesting recovery rate**, potentially reducing energy-intensive biomass recovery.
- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** has helped researchers identify a possible **"black hole star"**, designated MoM-BH-1*, in the constellation Cetus, existing around **660 million years after the Big Bang**. Researchers describe it as a possible object containing a central black hole surrounded by extremely hot and dense gas. Its brightness may result from **gas falling toward the black hole**, rather than nuclear fusion like ordinary stars. The object is reportedly around the scale of the Solar System and exceptionally bright. Its study could help explain the rapid growth of **supermassive black holes** and provide clues about early black-hole seeds.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, released **SraVaani** on August 13, 2026, an open-source multilingual speech-recognition model developed by the SPIRE Lab with ARTPARK and Google support. It converts speech into text across **65 Indian languages and dialects**, including 20 scheduled and 45 regional languages. The model supports 10 scripts and automatic language identification. Available on **Hugging Face under the MIT licence**, it permits free use and modification. SraVaani was trained through Project Vaani using more than **31,000 hours of conversational speech** collected from 156,000 people across 165 districts in 28 states. For Garo, it achieved a 9.5% word error rate.
- Union Minister of State for Law and Justice **Arjun Ram Meghwal** launched the revamped **India Code Portal** at Kartavya Bhavan 2, New Delhi. The upgraded platform uses **AI-assisted interaction, semantic search, speech-based search and multilingual access** to make legislation easier to understand and locate. Users can access amendments, legislative history and links between Acts and subordinate legislation, with integration into the e-Gazette ecosystem. The portal also offers improved document viewing, QR-enabled access and citizen feedback. A major feature is **AI-assisted access to laws in all 22 languages** listed in the Eighth Schedule. India Code serves as a unified repository of Central, State and Union Territory legislation.

- **ISRO** is strengthening efforts to reduce **space debris**, particularly from satellite constellations operating in Low Earth Orbit. Its strategy includes the **Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM), Active Debris Removal (ADR), post-mission disposal and orbital decay norms**. Space debris includes defunct satellites, spent rocket stages and collision fragments that can threaten operational spacecraft. ISRO has begun precursor on-orbit demonstrations for ADR, although no operational launch date for a full debris-removal system has been announced. Indian space missions follow recognised disposal practices under the **Indian Space Policy and IN-SPACe norms**, including a five-year orbital-decay guideline for certain missions. The LVM3-M5 upper stage re-entered over the Atlantic on July 30, 2026.
- **SpaceX** launched two **Falcon 9 rockets only 38 minutes apart** on August 15, 2026, setting a new company record for the shortest interval between orbital missions. The first launched from **Cape Canaveral at 9:12 PM EDT**, carrying eight **Globalstar satellites**. The second lifted off from **Vandenberg at 9:50 PM EDT**, carrying classified **USSF-366** for the US Space Force. Both first-stage boosters were successfully recovered after completing their **14th and 18th flights**. Booster **B1088's landing marked SpaceX's 650th successful Falcon booster landing**. The missions raised the total number of **2026 Falcon 9 flights to 96**.
- Indian-origin astrophysicist **Dr. Rohan Naidu** has gained global attention for research into a rare cosmic object described as a **"Black Hole Star."** Published in **Nature in August 2026**, the research could explain how some of the earliest **supermassive black holes** formed and grew rapidly. Using the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**, Naidu's team studied **MoM-BH-1**, which appears as a massive red star but may contain a black hole nearly **100,000 times the Sun's mass**. Surrounded by dense hydrogen, the object could explain JWST's mysterious **"little red dots"** and offer insights into the early universe. Naidu's career journey spans Hyderabad, Harvard, MIT and the University of Hawaii.
- **H1N1 influenza cases** have risen sharply in Delhi, with **1,449 cases reported by August 12, 2026**, compared with 229 during the same period last year. H1N1 is an **Influenza A virus** carrying H1 and N1 surface proteins. Influenza viruses evolve through **antigenic drift and antigenic shift**, influencing seasonal outbreaks and potentially causing major changes in viral characteristics. Symptoms include **fever, cough, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, chills and sweating**. Elderly people, children, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses face greater risks. Early antiviral treatment such as **oseltamivir** may help, while annual vaccination provides protection against circulating strains.
- China's private space company **LandSpace** successfully recovered the first-stage booster of its **Zhuque-3 Y2 rocket** on August 19, 2026, marking an important reusable-launch milestone. The **66-metre rocket** lifted off at 7:35 AM Beijing time from the Dongfeng Commercial Space Innovation Pilot Zone and placed the **Honghu-3 commercial internet satellite** into orbit. Its booster completed a vertical landing in **Minqin County, Gansu**, around 390 km away. Powered by **liquid oxygen and methane**, Zhuque-3 can carry up to **14.2 tonnes to low Earth orbit** and is designed for up to **20 reuses**. LandSpace became the fourth entity globally to recover an orbital-class booster after **SpaceX, Blue Origin and China's state space sector**.
- **Morocco's fog-harvesting project** at **Mount Boutmezguida** is converting atmospheric fog into usable water for communities in the Aït Baamrane region. Located in the **Anti-Atlas Mountains near the Sahara**, the project uses **CloudFisher black polymer mesh nets** to capture tiny water droplets carried by Atlantic fog. The system requires **no electricity** and sends collected water through gravity-fed pipelines to nearby homes. Women-led nonprofit **Dar Si Hmad** manages the initiative and began testing fog collection in 2006. Depending on the installation and period, the system has reportedly collected between **6,300 and 37,000 litres daily**, supporting villages and demonstrating an innovative solution for water-scarce areas.
- Scientists have identified **S301** as the fastest star with a securely determined orbit in the **Milky Way**. Announced on August 19, 2026, in *Nature*, the star reaches around **25,000 km/s**, nearly 8% of the speed of light. It follows a highly elliptical orbit around **Sagittarius A***, the supermassive black hole at the galaxy's centre. S301 completes an orbit in about **8.7 years** and approaches within roughly **12 astronomical units**. Researchers used the **European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer** and archival observations from 2017, offering insights into extreme gravity and stellar dynamics.

- **S301** has also been highlighted as the fastest securely orbiting star currently known in the Milky Way, reaching approximately **25,000 km/s**. Its highly elliptical **8.7-year orbit** takes it around **Sagittarius A***, the galaxy's central supermassive black hole. At closest approach, it comes within about **12 astronomical units**, nearly 1.8 billion kilometres. Researchers combined observations from the **Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLTI)** with archival data dating to 2017. The discovery provides an important natural laboratory for studying **extreme gravity and Einstein's general relativity**, while earlier measurements
- **European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot** became the **first French woman and second European woman to conduct a spacewalk** on August 18, 2026. She performed **U.S. Spacewalk 97** with NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** outside the International Space Station. The extravehicular activity lasted **6 hours and 23 minutes**, beginning at 8:29 a.m. EDT. Their primary task was replacing a failed **Space-to-Ground Antenna** on the ISS Z1 truss, which supports high-speed Mission Control communications. Stuck bolts and electrical cables caused delays. **Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway** supported them inside, making it the ISS's **282nd spacewalk**.
- China plans to launch the **Chang'e-7 lunar mission** on **August 24, 2026**, from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan using the **Long March 5 Y14** rocket. The mission will explore the Moon's **south pole** through a four-part system comprising an **orbiter, lander, rover and hopping probe**. The lander is expected near **Shackleton Crater**, while instruments will search for **water ice** in permanently shadowed craters. The hopping probe will analyse water molecules in difficult terrain. Chang'e-7 will carry **six international scientific payloads** and communicate via the **Queqiao-2 relay satellite**.
- India plans to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) by 2035**, expanding its ambitions in human spaceflight. **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan** announced the target during the third **National Space Day** celebrations in Ahmedabad on August 23, 2026, stating that the station's **first module has already been approved**. The project builds upon technologies being developed through the **Gaganyaan programme** and aims to enable long-duration human activities in space. The station could support **scientific research, technology testing and extended space missions**. Growing participation by private companies in satellite manufacturing, payloads and launches is also expected to strengthen India's space ecosystem.
- India has launched its first indigenous **non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid**, marking progress towards agricultural self-reliance. Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched the hybrid at Musunuru in **Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh**, on August 24, 2026. The new seed is expected to reduce dependence on imported hybrid technology for premium popcorn maize and strengthen domestic seed development. More than **17,500 farmers across eight States**, cultivating nearly **40,000 acres**, are associated with the Gourmet Popcornica ecosystem. The initiative brings together **farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs** to strengthen agricultural value chains, processing and market access while supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

SPORTS

- India won **four of five gold medals** at the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. **Ankur Bhattacharjee** captured the men's singles title after defeating Payas Jain in a seven-game final, while **Yashaswini Ghorpade** won women's singles against Sreeja Akula. India secured women's doubles through **Sreeja Akula and Syndrela Das** and mixed doubles through **Manav Thakkar and Taneesha Kotecha**. Malaysia won the men's doubles title, with **Shen Qi Wong and Javen Choong** defeating Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah. The performance demonstrated India's depth and dominance across Commonwealth table tennis.
- India finished fourth at the **Commonwealth Games** in Glasgow with **39 medals**: 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze. Competing with 122 athletes, India improved on its 2022 tally of 30 medals. **Gulveer Singh** was the double medallist, while boxing led with seven golds and three silvers. India won its first Commonwealth Games judo gold medals. During the closing ceremony, Glasgow handed the **Games flag** to Ahmedabad, which will host centenary edition in 2030, making India the second nation after Australia to host Games twice.
- Ahmedabad became the **host city of the 2030 Commonwealth Games** after handover of the Commonwealth Games Flag and Host Baton during Glasgow 2026's closing ceremony. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister **Harsh Sanghavi** received the flag, beginning preparations for the centenary edition. India will host the Games for a second time after **New Delhi 2010**, becoming the second nation after Australia to do so. A cultural showcase presented Indian heritage, achievements, and **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, featuring Shankar Mahadevan, Rishab Sharma, and Bhoomi Trivedi. Boxer **Jaismine Lamboria** carried India's flag during the athlete parade.

- The **FIH Hockey World Cup 2026** will be hosted by **Belgium and the Netherlands** from August 15–30, featuring 32 teams in men's and women's competitions. India's men begin against Wales on August 15 under captain **Harmanpreet Singh**, while women face China on August 16 under **Salima Tete**. Matches will take place at Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen and Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre. The format introduces two group stages before semi-finals, guaranteeing matches. India's men face England, Pakistan, Wales, while women meet China, England, South Africa.
- **ICC Chairman Jay Shah** inaugurated the **Tanzania Cricket Arena** in Dodoma on August 4, 2026, marking Tanzania's first **ICC-approved international cricket venue**. Built to international standards, the arena will allow Tanzania to host official ICC matches and regional tournaments. It is expected to strengthen grassroots cricket, coaching, player development, and youth participation. The facility can also attract international competitions and establish Tanzania as an emerging cricket destination in **East Africa**. The inauguration supports the ICC's broader strategy of expanding cricket beyond traditional strongholds through improved infrastructure, development programmes, and wider global participation.
- England wicketkeeper-batter **Jos Buttler** became the highest run-scorer in **T20 cricket history**, surpassing Kieron Pollard's previous record of 14,803 runs. Buttler scored an unbeaten **51 off 20 balls** for Manchester Super Giants against Welsh Fire in **The Hundred 2026**, taking his career tally to **14,833 runs in 522 matches**. He has also recorded nine T20 centuries and 106 half-centuries and captained England to the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022** title. **Chris Gayle** continues to hold the record for most T20 centuries, with 22 hundreds.
- **Boleng**, in Arunachal Pradesh's **Siang district**, will host the **Asian Rafting Championships 2026** from October 5 to 9 on the **Simang River**, a Class III+ tributary of the Siang. The international event will attract leading rafting teams from across Asia and promote **adventure tourism, eco-tourism and sports development** in the region. Competitions will include **Sprint, Raft Cross and Slalom**, testing speed, teamwork, endurance and technical ability. The Siang is the upper course of the **Brahmaputra River** and is renowned for challenging rapids. The **International Rafting Federation** governs competitive white-water rafting globally.
- Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** won his first **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026** title. The 20-year-old scored **23.5 points out of 36**, finishing 1.5 points ahead of Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov. He led throughout and secured the championship with one round remaining after drawing against Sindarov in the penultimate blitz round. Praggnanandhaa finished with another draw against Levon Aronian. In nine blitz rounds, he recorded three wins, five draws and one loss. The victory earned him **$50,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points**, strengthening his finals position. The victory strengthens international standing.
- Indian squash player **Suraj Kumar Chand** became the first Indian to win the **FISU World University Squash Championship** title. He defeated Hungary's **Takács Benedek 3–2** in a closely contested final to secure India's historic gold medal. The achievement represents a major breakthrough for Indian university-level squash and strengthens the country's international presence in the sport. Chand demonstrated considerable competitive resilience while overcoming a strong opponent in the championship match. His victory is expected to increase recognition and participation in university squash across India. The historic gold also provides an important milestone for the development of India's squash talent pipeline.
- Indian athlete **Ashish Yadav** won silver in the men's javelin throw at the **World Athletics U20 Championships 2026** in Eugene, Oregon. His best effort measured **74.09 metres**, recorded during his third attempt. South Africa's Jan-Hendrik Heymans won gold with 80.50 metres, while Dominica's Addison James took bronze with 73.89 metres. Ashish became India's **second U20 men's javelin medallist** and the country's first silver medallist in the event. He competed at age 19 despite a recent knee injury. **Neeraj Chopra** remains India's previous U20 javelin champion, having won gold in 2016.
- Indian gymnast **Ariha Pangambam** of Imphal, Manipur, created history by winning India's **first senior gold medal in individual women's aerobic gymnastics** at the Asian Championships. Held in Tagaytay City, Philippines, from August 4 to 7, the competition featured over **400 athletes and officials from 11 countries**. Pangambam won with a score of **19.100**, comprising 8.650 in artistry, 7.600 in execution and 2.850 in difficulty. She trains under coach Yumnam Ranjan Singh and studies sports leadership at AISTS India. After finishing fourth in the 2022 and 2024 editions, her 2026 victory marked a breakthrough.
- **Ashmita Chaliha** won the **Korea Masters 2026** in Asan, South Korea, on **9 August**, defeating China's fourth-seeded **Han Qian Xi** 14-21, 21-14, 21-14. After losing the opening game, the Indian left-hander fought back strongly to level the contest before dominating the deciding game. The victory secured her **maiden BWF World Tour title** and represented the biggest achievement of her career. The **26-year-old World No. 50** also earned a major ranking boost. Her triumph marked a remarkable comeback following a serious **knee injury**, surgery and rehabilitation after the Korea Open two years earlier, highlighting her resilience and competitive return.

- Indian high jumper **Basant Kumar Meghwal** won the **silver medal** at the **World Athletics U20 Championships**, clearing a **personal-best 2.21 metres**. The 19-year-old athlete from **Anupgarh, Rajasthan**, achieved the mark on the fourth day of competition. Algeria's **Younes Ayachi** won gold and Britain's **Otis Poole** claimed bronze, with all three athletes clearing 2.21m. The final positions were decided by the **countback rule**, as none cleared 2.24m. Ayachi cleared 2.21m on his first attempt, Meghwal on his second and Poole on his third. Meghwal's silver took India's medal tally to **two**, following **Ashish Yadav's javelin silver**.
- India won **17 medals** on the opening day of the **U-23 Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026** in Lagos, Nigeria, comprising **4 gold, 4 silver and 9 bronze medals** across foil, epee and sabre. **Nikhil Wagh** won gold in Men's Sabre, while **Joys Ashita, Prachi Lohan and Jeferlin** secured gold in Women's Foil, Women's Epee and Women's Sabre respectively. Several other Indian fencers earned silver and bronze medals. The championship began on **9 August** and continued until 14 August 2026. The U-23 event features athletes below 23 years and includes all three Olympic fencing disciplines: **foil, epee and sabre**.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports suspended recognition of the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** on August 12, 2026, citing governance shortcomings. The federation reportedly failed to conduct organisational elections within the prescribed period and did not provide a satisfactory response to a show-cause notice. The ministry directed the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to establish an ad-hoc committee to manage table tennis administration temporarily. The arrangement will remain until a compliant federation structure is restored, with coordination involving the **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)**. The action highlights the importance of transparent elections, eligibility requirements and proper governance in Indian sports bodies.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** will host the **Irani Cup 2026** at Sher-I-Kashmir Stadium, Srinagar, from October 1 to 5. The five-day first-class match will feature J&K against the **Rest of India** after the team won its maiden **Ranji Trophy title in 2025–26**. J&K defeated Karnataka in the final through a first-innings lead. The stadium will require additional facilities for media, commentary, live broadcasting and spectators. **Paras Dogra** is expected to captain J&K, while swing bowler **Auqib Nabi Dar** enters the contest after taking 60 Ranji wickets. BCCI restored JKCA's hosting rights in July 2024 following a six-year suspension.
- Indian para-cyclists secured **12 medals** at the UCI Parasport Denmark Grand Prix in Odense from August 7–10, 2026. India won **two gold, five silver and five bronze medals** in the track cycling competition. Andhra Pradesh's **Arshad Shaikh** was the standout performer, winning six medals in the MC2 category, including two golds. Gujarat's 17-year-old **Vishwa Vasani** won four bronze medals in the WC3 category across multiple events. Maharashtra's 16-year-old **Anshuman Dhumal** added two silver medals. The strong performance demonstrated India's growing strength in **para-cycling** and provided valuable international competition ahead of future major para-sport events.
- Indian chess players **Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi** won gold medals in the **Open and Girls' sections** respectively at the **Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship** on August 17, 2026. The tournament was held at **ITC Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai**, under the Maharashtra Chess Association. Open section 23rd seed **Vermula** won on tie-break after finishing level on points. **Sharnarthi Viresh** and **Nandish V S** secured second and third places, while **Akshay Borgaonkar** and **Madhavendra Pratap Sharma** finished fourth and fifth. In the Girls' event, ninth seed **Saranya Devi** took gold, followed by **Prishita Gupta** and **Shanmathi Sree** with silver and bronze respectively.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** achieved a historic Test cricket milestone by becoming only the **fourth cricketer** to score at least **4,000 runs and take 350 wickets**. He reached his 350th Test wicket during India's first Test against **Sri Lanka in Galle**, dismissing **Keshara Nuwantha**. Jadeja already had **4,108 Test runs from 90 matches**. He joined legendary all-rounders **Kapil Dev, Ian Botham and Daniel Vettori** in the elite club. Jadeja is also the **fifth Indian** to reach 350 Test wickets after Kumble, Ashwin, Kapil and Harbhajan. Among left-arm spinners, he ranks third behind **Rangana Herath and Daniel Vettori**.
- **Rishabh Pant** created Test cricket history during India's first Test against **Sri Lanka in Galle** on August 18, 2026, becoming the **fourth player to hit 100 Test sixes** and the fastest to reach the milestone. Pant achieved 100 sixes in only his **89th innings**, surpassing **Adam Gilchrist's previous record of 130 innings**. He joined **Ben Stokes, Brendon McCullum and Gilchrist** in the 100-six club and became the **first Indian batter** to reach the mark. Pant achieved the record while completing his fifty against **Lahiru Kumara** and eventually scored **66 runs from 69 balls** in India's second innings.
- The **65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026** began in New Delhi on August 18, featuring **108 teams** across three categories. The opening ceremony was held at **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium**, with Air Marshal S Sivakumar as chief guest and weightlifter Lovepreet Singh as guest of honour. Competitions include **Junior Girls U-17, Junior Boys U-17 and Sub-Junior Boys U-15** categories. Teams are divided into eight groups, with group winners advancing to knockouts. **Meghalaya defeated Chandigarh** in the opening girls' match. The tournament promotes grassroots football and provides young players national-level competitive exposure.

- **FIFA** released the complete **64-match schedule for the 2027 Women's World Cup**, which Brazil will host from **June 24 to July 25, 2027**. The tournament features **32 national teams** and will be the competition's 10th edition. Matches will be staged across eight cities: **Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo**. Each host city will stage at least seven matches, including a knockout game. **Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro** will host both the opening match and final. The 2027 tournament is the last under the 32-team format before expansion to **48 teams in 2031**.
- Indian badminton pair **Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand** reached the **women's doubles semifinals of the BWF World Championships 2026** in New Delhi, guaranteeing India a medal. The unseeded pair defeated fourth-seeded Chinese players **Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian** in a 69-minute quarterfinal on August 21. They became only the **second Indian women's doubles pair** to win a World Championships medal after **Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's 2011 bronze**. The achievement extends India's streak of winning at least one World Championships medal to **12 consecutive editions since 2011**. Treesa is the **first Malayali player** to achieve this since H.S. Prannoy's 2023 bronze.
- Indian women wrestlers secured **three additional medals** at the **U20 World Championships in Slovakia**. **Mansi Lather** won silver in the **68kg category** after losing 1-2 to China's Chenling Song in the final. **Tanvi Gundesh Magdum** claimed bronze in the 57kg category after defeating Canada's Agnia Krakovska **10-4**, while **Komal** won bronze in the 59kg category by defeating Hungary's Eda Balazs **5-2**. Earlier, **Kajal Dhochak** had won gold in the 76kg category, while **Tanu Sharma and Savita** secured silver medals. India will next compete in the remaining **men's freestyle categories**.
- India's **19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M** won the **Group A title at the Kanizsa Open 2026** in Nagykanizsa, Hungary. He defeated Germany's **Vadim Petrovskiy** in the ninth and final round to finish with **seven points from nine rounds**. Four players shared the same score, but Pranesh won the championship on a superior **tiebreak**. Israel's Or Bronstein, Ukraine's Andrei Volokitin and India's Karthik Venkataraman finished second, third and fourth respectively. Pranesh, from **Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu**, has a rating of **2673** and was ranked 44th in the August 2026 FIDE rankings. The tournament featured **226 players**.
- Australian fast bowler **Mitchell Starc** became the leading wicket-taker in **ICC World Test Championship history** during Australia's second Test against Bangladesh at Mackay. Starc delivered a match-winning performance, taking **10 wickets**, including figures of **6/12 and 4/39**. He moved to **234 WTC wickets**, surpassing teammates **Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon**, who have 228 each. Starc also reached **445 Test wickets**, entering the all-time top
- Australia defeated Bangladesh by an **innings and 51 runs** after bowling them out for **64 and 95**, highlighting Starc's dominant performance.
- **Lando Norris** won the dramatic **2026 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort**, securing his **second consecutive Formula 1 victory**. He finished **11.536 seconds** ahead of Mercedes driver **Kimi Antonelli**, while George Russell took third. The race was red-flagged after home favourite **Max Verstappen** crashed into the wall on the opening lap but escaped injury. Norris regained the lead from Antonelli during the closing stages and held on despite late strategic pressure. **Lewis Hamilton** finished fourth, followed by Charles Leclerc and Oscar Piastri. The race was notable as the **final F1 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort**.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** became the first Indian and Asian cricketer to play **50 World Test Championship matches** during India's second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on August 23, 2026. Across four WTC cycles, Jadeja has scored **2,632 runs and taken 160 wickets**. He played 11 matches in 2019-21, 13 in 2021-23, 15 in 2023-25 and 11 in the ongoing 2025-27 cycle. **Mohammed Siraj** follows among Indian players with 47 appearances, while **Virat Kohli** has 46. England's **Joe Root** holds the overall record with **78 WTC appearances**.
- India has announced its **12-member men's kabaddi squad** for the **2026 Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Star raiders **Ayan Lohchab and Devank Dalal** will lead the attack, supported by Arjun Deshwal and Ashu Malik. Experienced defender **Sunil Kumar** will spearhead the defence with Sumit Sangwan, while **Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar** have been selected as all-rounders. Only four members of India's **gold-winning Hangzhou 2023 team** have retained their places: Arjun Deshwal, Sunil Kumar, Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar. Kabaddi will be played from **September 21 to 26**.
- **Saransh Jain** made his India Test debut aged **33 years and 145 days** during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on August 23, 2026. The off-spinner became the **oldest Indian Test debutant of the 21st century** and the oldest since **Robin Singh**, who debuted at 35 years and 23 days in 1998. Jain replaced **Kuldeep Yadav**, who was unavailable due to viral illness. He has taken **188 wickets in 54 first-class matches**, including 10 five-wicket hauls, and scored 2,223 runs. During the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, he scored **518 runs and took 30 wickets**.
- **East Bengal** defeated arch-rivals **Mohun Bagan 4-1** in the **Durand Cup final**, winning their **17th title** and equalling Mohun Bagan's record. **Edmund Lalrindika** was the standout performer, scoring a memorable **hat-trick**. Bipin Singh opened the scoring in the 10th minute before Lalrindika struck in the 12th and 22nd minutes. Mohun Bagan's **Manvir Singh** reduced the deficit in the 33rd minute, but Lalrindika completed his hat-trick before half-time. East Bengal controlled the second half and secured a decisive victory, also avenging their **0-1 defeat to Mohun Bagan in the 2023 final**.

- **Apoorv Kamble**, aged 17, won a FIDE-rated rapid chess tournament in Bengaluru after scoring an impressive **8.5 points from nine rounds**. More than **700 players** participated in the Swiss-format competition, which offered a ₹4 lakh prize pool and used a 10-minute time control with a five-second increment. Kamble entered at the last moment after returning from the Asian Junior Championship and defeated notable opponents including **Sameer Shetty and top seed Vishak Enna**. Sammed Jaykumar Shete finished second and Vaidyanathan Kannan third. The event formed part of the **Road2GCL initiative**, ahead of Global Chess League Season 4 in Bengaluru.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** approved a 15-member Indian **esports contingent** for the **2026 Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Esports competitions will take place from September 23 to October 2. India will participate in four titles: **League of Legends, Pokémon UNITE, eFootball and Puyo Puyo Champions**. Six-player teams will compete in League of Legends and Pokémon UNITE, while **Chinmay Sahoo and Danial Shakeel Patel** will represent India in eFootball. **Paritosh from Haryana** will compete in Puyo Puyo Champions. The selection marks India's participation in the expanding competitive esports programme at the Asian Games.
- Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** became the **first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour** after defeating American Grandmaster **Fabiano Caruana 15–13** in a dramatic final at the Saint Louis Chess Club. The 21-year-old Chennai player began the final day six points behind but produced a remarkable comeback by winning both rapid games. He maintained his advantage during the blitz segment and secured the title after a final-game draw. Praggnanandhaa earned a **USD 200,000 prize** and secured qualification for next year's Grand Chess Tour alongside Caruana and Wesley So. His triumph represents a landmark achievement for **Indian chess** on the global stage.
- Indian squash player **Velavan Senthilkumar** won the **PSA Budapest Squash Open** in Hungary after defeating home favourite **Balazs Farkas 3-0** in the final. Senthilkumar delivered an impressive campaign throughout the tournament, defeating strong opponents before reaching the championship match. In the quarterfinal, he defeated **World No. 18 and Asian Games gold medallist Eain Yow Ng** by 3-0. He then overcame fellow Indian **Veer Chotrani 3-2** in a closely contested semifinal. Senthilkumar maintained his momentum in the final, completing another 3-0 victory. The title adds to his growing international reputation and represents another significant achievement in his **professional squash career**.
- India finished **eighth in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** after Belgium defeated them **4-3 in a shootout** following a dramatic 3-3 draw in regulation time. **Abhishek** gave India an early advantage before Belgium responded with two goals. **Harmanpreet Singh** restored parity, but Nicolas de Kerpel again put Belgium ahead in the fourth quarter. Harmanpreet scored in the dying moments to make it 3-3 and force a shootout. India converted attempts through **Shilanand Lakra, Dilpreet Singh and Abhishek**, but Belgium held its nerve. Belgium finished seventh, while India ended its campaign in **eighth place**.
- **Spain and Germany** have reached the men's **Hockey World Cup final** after winning their respective semifinals. Spain defeated co-hosts **Netherlands 4-3** in a dramatic match at Amstelveen, while Germany overcame **Argentina 2-1** in Wavre, Belgium. Spain initially fell behind before **José Basterra** equalised and later completed a hat-trick. **Pepe Cunill** also scored from a penalty corner as Spain took control, despite late Netherlands goals from Jip Janssen and Joep de Mol. Germany's goals came from **Justus Weigand and Paul-Philipp Kaufmann**, while Argentina scored through Tomas Domene. Spain and Germany will now compete for the **world championship title**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **PM Modi Releases Ram Nath Kovind's Autobiography**: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released former President **Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography**, *Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles*, at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on August 12, 2026. Modi described the book as an important account of **Indian democracy, public service and resilience**. He highlighted Kovind's difficult childhood, including his mother's death in a house fire, and praised his father's efforts in raising the family. The Prime Minister also discussed Kovind's journey from limited resources to the **Presidency of India** and his continuing involvement in the **One Nation, One Election** initiative, encouraging young people to read the book.
- **Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched and participated in a discussion on the book **'Kaho Kalidasa!'**, authored by **Yugul Joshi** and published by **Manjul Publishing House**. The event was organised by the **Kala Nidhi Division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** at the **Samvet Auditorium, New Delhi**.
- **Arindam Chaudhuri**, management thinker, author and education entrepreneur, launched his new book **'Africa Before America'**, focusing on **African history, civilisations, economic development and global inequality**. The book follows his 2022 work **'2047: A Roadmap to Beating USA & China'**, which was written to mark **75 years of Indian Independence**. With '2047', Chaudhuri completed his **trilogy of books on Indian economic development**, which began with **'Planning India' (1997)**, followed by **'The Great Indian Dream'**, and concluded with '2047'.

- **Prashant Agrawal,** a 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has authored the book "Bringing the Cheetah Back to India: How Diplomacy Made Conservation's Big Mission Possible." The book, published by Hachette India, documents the diplomatic, logistical and ecological efforts involved in the reintroduction of cheetahs in India under Project Cheetah.

OBITUARY

- Former **Bihar and Tripura Governor Dr. D. Y. Patil** died aged 90, leaving a major legacy in education and public service. After political involvement with the Maharashtra Congress and serving as Governor, he established one of India's largest private education networks through the **D. Y. Patil Group**. The organisation expanded institutions in medicine, engineering, dentistry, management, nursing, agriculture, pharmacy, biotechnology, and sports sciences. His contribution strengthened private higher education through modern infrastructure, research, and professional learning. Leaders and academic institutions paid tribute to his role in expanding access to quality education.
- Renowned mountaineer **Nirmal "Nims" Purja** died in an avalanche on **Broad Peak**, Pakistan, on August 1, 2026. The Nepal-born climber became internationally famous through **Project Possible 2019**, completing all 14 mountains above 8,000 metres in just **6 months and 6 days**, breaking the previous record. He also contributed to the first winter ascent of **K2** in 2021 and inspired audiences through the Netflix documentary *14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible*. A former **British Army Gurkha and Special Boat Service member**, Purja leaves a remarkable legacy in high-altitude mountaineering.
- Former **Chief Justice M.S. Liberhan** died on August 2, 2026, aged 87, after a distinguished judicial career. He began practising at the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** in 1964 and later served as Chief Justice of the Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts. He became nationally prominent for heading the **Liberhan Commission**, established on December 16, 1992, to investigate the Babri Masjid demolition. After nearly 17 years and 48 extensions, the commission submitted its report on June 30, 2009. Justice Liberhan is remembered for significant contributions to constitutional law and judicial service.
- Veteran actor **Pradeep Rawat** died on August 4, 2026, aged 74, after battling blood cancer. His acting career spanned more than four decades across Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and other regional cinema. He gained early recognition as **Ashwatthama in B.R. Chopra's Mahabharat** and made his Hindi film debut with *Meri Jung* in 1985. He later became known for roles in *Sarfarosh, Lagaan, Ghajini, The Hero, Grand Masti, Singh Is Bliing,* and *Chhaava*. Celebrated for powerful villainous and character performances, Rawat leaves a lasting legacy in Indian cinema.
- Renowned **nuclear scientist, science communicator and Marxist theorist M.P. Parameswaran** died on August 11, 2026, aged 92, at his residence in Thrissur, Kerala. Born in 1935, he studied engineering at the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram and earned a **PhD in Nuclear Engineering** from Moscow Power Institute in 1965. He worked at **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** from 1957 to 1975 before focusing on science popularisation, grassroots education and public activism. He was associated with **Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad** and helped establish the All India People's Science Network. He also contributed to Malayalam language technology and received the **Kerala Sree Award in 2022**.
- Prominent modern Indian historian **Sumit Sarkar** died in New Delhi on August 13, 2026, aged 87, following prolonged age-related illness. Born in **1939 in Calcutta**, he belonged to an academic Bengali family associated with historian Susobhan Chandra Sarkar and statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. Sarkar became known for **Marxist scholarship**, nationalism, colonialism and social history. His major works include *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903–1908* and *Modern India: 1885–1947*, which emphasised **"history from below"** and the experiences of peasants, workers, tribal groups and other non-elite communities. He taught at Delhi University from 1974 to 2004 and received the **Rabindra Puraskar in 2004**.
- India celebrated its **80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026**, marking 79 years since independence from British colonial rule in 1947. The occasion honours the sacrifices of freedom fighters and celebrates India's journey as an independent, democratic and sovereign nation. The main ceremony takes place at the **Red Fort in New Delhi**, where the Prime Minister hoists the national flag and addresses the nation. The 2026 theme, **"Yuva Shakti" or Youth Power**, highlights young Indians' role in innovation, entrepreneurship, science, sports and national development. It aligns with the broader **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision of transforming India into a developed nation by its centenary of independence.
- Veteran Bengali filmmaker **Raja Sen** died in **Kolkata at age 71** after multiple health complications. He was receiving treatment at **SSKM Hospital** and had been placed on ventilator support as complications affected his **lungs, heart and kidneys**. Sen made his feature-film debut with **Damu in 1996**, which won the **National Film Award for Best Children's Film**. His career spanned feature films, television serials and documentaries. Notable works included **Atmiyo Swajan, Desh, Debipaksha, Krishnakant er Will, Laboratory and Maya Mridanga**. His 2002 film **Desh** starred Jaya Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan. His death is a major loss for Bengali cinema and television.

- Former Congress MP **Sajjan Kumar** died aged **80** on August 20, 2026, while serving a life sentence in cases connected with the **1984 anti-Sikh riots**. He represented the **Outer Delhi Lok Sabha constituency** in 1980, 1991 and 2004. The Delhi High Court sentenced him to life imprisonment in December 2018 for a case involving the killing of five Sikhs and the burning of a gurdwara in Raj Nagar, Delhi Cantonment. In February 2025, another Delhi court imposed a concurrent life sentence. Kumar was taken from **Tihar Jail to Safdarjung Hospital**, where he was declared brought dead.
- Veteran actor **Sowcar Janaki** died on **August 21, 2026**, aged **94**, following brief hospitalisation in Chennai. **Nadigar Sangam President Nassar** confirmed her death after admission to Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet, for age-related health issues. Her career spanned over **seven decades** across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam cinema. She made her Telugu debut with **Shavukaru (1950)** and appeared in numerous landmark productions. Her television work included Doordarshan's **Oorarinda Rahasyam**, while later films included **Anni Manchi Sakunamule**. Recognising her contribution to Indian cinema, the Government of India honoured her with the **Padma Shri in 2022**.
- Renowned Sri Lankan singer and musician **Nanda Malini** died on **August 20, 2026**, aged **82**, after a career spanning nearly seven decades. She was among the most influential figures in **Sinhala music**, known for playback and stage singing and culturally significant musical works. During her career, she received **11 Sarasaviya Awards** and **eight Presidential Awards for Best Female Singer**. The Sri Lankan government announced **three days of national mourning from August 21 to 23**, while Parliament observed a one-minute silence. Public homage began at her residence and music academy, with final rites scheduled at **Borella Cemetery, Colombo**.
- **Dolly Parton**, the legendary country music singer and songwriter, died at the age of **80**, leaving behind a career spanning nearly six decades. Born in Tennessee in 1946, she became one of the world's best-selling female artists, with more than **100 million records sold**. Her celebrated songs include **"Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors" and "I Will Always Love You."** Parton won **11 Grammy Awards**, including a Lifetime Achievement Award, and entered the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2022**. She also acted in films such as *9 to 5* and *Steel Magnolias* and supported literacy, scholarships and vaccine research through philanthropy.
- Veteran Bollywood filmmaker **Avtar "Kuku" Kohli** died in Mumbai on **August 25, 2026**, aged **77**. Reports said he suffered a massive heart attack and died at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Andheri. Kohli began his career as an assistant director under legendary filmmaker **Raj Kapoor** before moving into direction. His directorial debut, **Phool Aur Kaante (1991)**, marked **Ajay Devgn's debut as a lead actor** in Hindi cinema. Kohli subsequently directed films including **Suhaag, Haqeeqat, Anari No. 1 and Woh Tera Naam Tha**. He was married to veteran actress **Aruna Irani** and is survived by his wife and two daughters.
- British actor **Tim Curry** died peacefully at his Los Angeles home on August 25, 2026, aged **80**. He became internationally famous for portraying **Dr. Frank-N-Furter** in *The Rocky Horror Show* and its 1975 film adaptation, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. His extensive career included films such as *Clue, It, The Shadow, Home Alone 2, Muppet Treasure Island* and *Charlie's Angels*. Curry was also an acclaimed stage performer, earning **three Tony Award nominations**, including one for *Monty Python's Spamalot*. He won a **Daytime Emmy** in 1991 for voice work. His career demonstrated remarkable versatility across film, television, theatre and voice acting.
- Japanese avant-garde artist **Yayoi Kusama** died at the age of **97** in Tokyo on August 14, with her death announced on August 27. Born in Matsumoto in 1929, Kusama became globally recognised for her distinctive **polka dots, repetitive patterns, pumpkin sculptures and Infinity Mirror Rooms**. She moved to New York in 1957 and became associated with the **avant-garde and pop art movements** during the 1960s. Returning to Japan in the 1970s, she continued roducing art while voluntarily living in a psychiatric hospital in Tokyo from 1977. Her work transformed contemporary art through immersive installations and highly recognisable visual motifs, earning worldwide cultural influence.
- According to the supplied report, **Norway's King Harald V** has died at the age of **89**. He became king in **1991** after the death of his father, King Olav V, and served during decades of economic development largely associated with Norway's oil and gas sector. Harald was regarded as a modernising monarch who maintained the largely **symbolic constitutional role** of the Norwegian royal family. Born in **1937 near Oslo**, he spent part of his childhood in exile in the United States during the Nazi occupation of Norway. The report states that his son automatically succeeds him as **King Haakon VIII**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 1–7	**World Breastfeeding Week 2026**	• Observed from **August 1 to 7** under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**. • Promotes breastfeeding and child nutrition. • Encourages breastfeeding within the **first hour after birth**. • Recommends exclusive breastfeeding for six months and continued breastfeeding with complementary foods up to two years or beyond. • **2026 Theme:** "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works." • Highlights stronger support systems for mothers. • Focuses on the first **1,000 days**, colostrum, immunity, brain development and healthy growth. • Nationwide programmes involve Anganwadi centres and healthcare workers.
August 2	**Friendship Day 2026**	• Celebrated in India on **August 2**, the first Sunday of August. • Honours friendship through messages, gifts, friendship bands and shared time. • The **United Nations** observes International Day of Friendship on July 30, while India follows a different date shaped by social customs and culture. • Encourages **trust, compassion, mutual respect and peace**. • Origins are linked to **Dr. Ramón Artemio Bracho's 1958 initiative in Paraguay**. • Encourages reconnecting with old friends and valuing relationships beyond social media and material gifts.
August 4	**International Clouded Leopard Day**	• Observed annually on **August 4**. • Promotes conservation of the elusive clouded leopard. • Established in **2018 by The Aspinall Foundation**. • Highlights Mainland and Sunda clouded leopards, both classified as **Vulnerable by the IUCN**. • Major threats include habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, poaching and human-wildlife conflict. • Around **34% of mainland habitat disappeared between 2000 and 2018**. • India's **Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan** focuses on habitat protection, scientific monitoring, anti-poaching, corridors, climate resilience and community participation across **Northeast India**.
August 5	**Alaboi Ron Smriti Divas 2026**	• Observed on August 5 at **Amingaon, Kamrup district, Assam**. • Commemorated the **357th martyrdom anniversary** of Ahom warriors. • They sacrificed their lives in the **Battle of Alaboi in 1669**. • Observance at Alaboi Ron Smriti Soudh included floral tributes, ceremonial lamp lighting, cultural programmes and public addresses. • Government departments and local organizations highlighted preservation of Assam's historical heritage and education about the Ahom legacy. • The **Ahom Kingdom** ruled significant parts of Assam for nearly **600 years, from 1228 to 1826**.
August 6	**Hiroshima Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 6**. • Marks the **81st anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II. • **2026 Theme:** "Remembrance, Responsibility, and Resilience." • Honours victims and survivors while promoting peace and nuclear disarmament. • On August 6, 1945, the US B-29 **Enola Gay** dropped the uranium bomb **Little Boy** on Hiroshima. • Around **70,000–80,000 people died immediately**. • Deaths reached nearly **140,000 by the end of 1945**. • The Nagasaki bombing followed on August 9, contributing to Japan's surrender and the end of World War II.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 7	**National Handloom Day**	• Observed on **August 7** to honour India's handloom heritage and weavers. • Commemorates the **Swadeshi Movement**, launched on August 7, 1905, at Calcutta Town Hall. • The movement promoted indigenous products and rejected foreign goods. • First National Handloom Day was observed in **2015**. • Highlights traditional skills, sustainable textiles, rural employment and women's empowerment. • Encourages support for authentic Indian handloom under **Vocal for Local**. • Major traditions include Banarasi, Kanchipuram, Jamdani, Sambalpuri, Pochampally, Paithani, Muga Silk and Gujarat's Bandhani. • Government support includes **NHDP and Weaver MUDRA**. • It supports artisans.
June 8	**World Brain Tumour Day**	• Observed annually on **June 8**. • Promotes awareness about brain tumours, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and patient support. • Initiated by Germany's **Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.**, or German Brain Tumour Association. • Has been marked globally since **2000**. • Brain tumours involve abnormal tissue growth in the brain or surrounding structures and may be benign or malignant. • Warning signs can include persistent headaches, seizures, speech difficulties, behavioural changes, weakness, balance problems, blurred vision, hearing loss, facial numbness, vomiting and confusion. • Awareness encourages timely medical evaluation and stronger patient support.
June 8	**World Oceans Day**	• Observed annually on **June 8**. • Promotes ocean conservation and sustainable use. • Origins trace to June 8, 1992, when Oceans Day was declared at the Global Forum during the **Rio Earth Summit**. • UN General Assembly officially designated June 8 through **Resolution 63/111** in 2008. • First UN observance was held in **2009**. • **2026 Theme:** "Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean." • Oceans cover more than **70% of Earth**. • They produce at least **50% of oxygen** and support biodiversity, food security and livelihoods.
August 9	**Nagasaki Day**	• Observed on **August 9**. • Remembers victims of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945. • Highlights the humanitarian consequences of nuclear warfare. • The United States dropped the plutonium-based **Fat Man** bomb from the B-29 **Bockscar**. • Weather had prevented the intended attack on Kokura. • The approximately **21-kiloton explosion** caused massive destruction, tens of thousands of deaths and long-term radiation effects. • Survivors are known as **Hibakusha**. • Global efforts include the **NPT, CTBT, TPNW, IAEA safeguards** and arms-control agreements. • Japan announced surrender on August 15, 1945.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 9	**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**	• Observed on **9 August**. • Recognises **Indigenous Peoples' rights, cultures, traditions and contributions**. • The **UN General Assembly** proclaimed the day in **1994**. • Recalls the first session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held on 9 August 1982. • **2026 Theme:** "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being." • Highlights traditional knowledge related to pregnancy, childbirth, motherhood and community health. • Promotes self-determination, cultural preservation, language rights, traditional knowledge, land rights, equality, healthcare and education. • Draws attention to displacement, discrimination, climate change, deforestation and limited access to essential services.
August 10	**World Lion Day**	• Observed annually on **10 August**. • Raises awareness about lion conservation and threats facing wild populations. • Lions are **apex predators** that regulate prey populations and maintain ecosystem balance. • Major threats include habitat loss, fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, declining prey, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, disease and climate change. • India is the **only country with a wild population of Asiatic lions**. • They are concentrated mainly in Gujarat's **Gir landscape**. • **Project Lion**, launched in 2020, focuses on habitat management, population monitoring, research, technology-based surveillance and conflict mitigation across the **Greater Gir landscape**.
August 12	**International Youth Day**	• Observed on August 12, 2026. • **Theme:** "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations." • Highlights that young people may face different social, economic and geographical circumstances while sharing aspirations for **dignity, opportunity, education, decent employment and a better future**. • The United Nations first observed the day on August 12, 2000, following the General Assembly's 1999 designation. • Focuses on youth participation in decision-making, digital inclusion, employment, education, well-being and climate action. • Recognises young people as essential partners in **development, innovation and social transformation**.
August 12	**World Elephant Day**	• Observed on August 12, 2026. • Promotes global action for protecting African and Asian elephants. • **2026 Message:** "Bringing the world together to help elephants." • Major threats include habitat loss, fragmented migration corridors, poaching, illegal ivory trade, human-elephant conflict and captive-elephant mistreatment. • Began in 2012 through an initiative involving the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation and filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark. • India holds more than **60% of the global wild Asian elephant population**. • **Project Elephant**, launched in 1992, supports habitat protection and conflict mitigation.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 13	**World Organ Donation Day**	• Observed on **August 13**. • Raises awareness about organ donation, addresses misconceptions and encourages people to donate organs after death. • Major transplantable organs include **kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas and intestines**. • Living donors can donate one kidney or parts of the liver and certain other organs. • **Ronald Lee Herrick** became the first successful living kidney donor in 1954 by donating to his twin brother. • Surgeon Joseph Murray later received the **1990 Nobel Prize** for transplantation advances. • India's National Organ Donation Day began in 2010 and shifted to **August 3 in 2023**.
August 14	**Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas)**	• Observed on **August 14, 2026**. • Remembers victims and survivors of the **1947 Partition of India**. • Government of India declared the day in **2021**. • Partition resulted in massive displacement, communal violence, loss of lives, property and livelihoods, and separation of families. • Particularly affected **Punjab and Bengal**. • It followed the **June 3 Plan of Lord Mountbatten**. • Boundaries were drawn by the **Radcliffe Commission**. • The day preserves memories through exhibitions, photographs, documents and oral histories while promoting harmony, unity, tolerance and national reconciliation.
August 18	**Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary 2026**	• Observed on **August 18**. • Marks 81 years since his reported death in 1945. • Popularly known as **Netaji**. • Born on **January 23, 1897, in Cuttack**. • Cleared the **Indian Civil Services examination** but resigned to join the freedom struggle. • Later became Congress president and founded the **Forward Bloc**. • In 1943, Bose led the **Indian National Army** and established the Provisional Government of Free India. • His famous **"Delhi Chalo"** call inspired the freedom movement. • He was reportedly killed in a plane crash on August 18, 1945, though circumstances surrounding his death remain disputed.
August 19	**World Humanitarian Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 19**. • Honours humanitarian workers and highlights challenges faced by people affected by conflicts, disasters and other crises. • **2026 Theme:** "Honouring fallen humanitarians and calling for greater protection of health care." • Calls for stronger protection of **medical personnel, patients, healthcare facilities and medical transport**. • August 19 commemorates the **2003 Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad**. • The attack killed 22 humanitarian workers, including UN representative **Sergio Vieira de Mello**. • UN General Assembly designated August 19 as World Humanitarian Day in **2008**.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 19	**World Photography Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 19**. • **Theme:** "home." • Highlights photography's ability to preserve personal spaces, memories, cultural roots and everyday experiences. • Commemorates **August 19, 1839**, when the French government declared the **Daguerreotype process** freely available to the world without copyright restrictions. • Photography's history goes back to **Joseph Nicéphore Niépce's first permanent photograph in 1826**. • Modern World Photography Day was proposed by the **World Photography Organisation in 2009**. • First global online gallery followed in 2010. • The theme coincides with France marking the **200th anniversary of photography during 2026–27**.
August 20	**Sadbhavana Diwas 2026**	• Observed on **August 20** to mark former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary**. • Promotes national harmony, peace and unity. • Rajiv Gandhi became India's **sixth Prime Minister** on October 31, 1984. • He became the youngest PM at **40 years**. • His government introduced initiatives in **technology, education and governance**. • Major initiatives included the 1984 Computer Policy, 1986 Software Policy, **C-DOT, C-DAC and National Technology Missions**. • **National Policy on Education 1986** was another significant initiative. • The **61st Amendment** reduced the voting age from 21 to 18. • The **52nd Amendment** introduced the anti-defection law.
August 20	**Indian Akshay Urja Day**	• Observed annually on **August 20**. • Raises awareness about renewable and sustainable energy. • **Akshay Urja** means inexhaustible energy. • Includes solar, wind, hydropower, biomass and geothermal sources. • Highlights renewable energy's importance in combating climate change, reducing fossil-fuel dependence and strengthening energy security. • **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** coordinates awareness activities with states and institutions. • Events include exhibitions, seminars, workshops, rallies and demonstrations. • Encourages households, industries and institutions to adopt cleaner energy technologies and solutions.
August 20	**World Mosquito Day**	• Observed every year on **August 20**. • Commemorates Sir **Ronald Ross's 1897 discovery** that malaria is transmitted through infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. • Promotes awareness of mosquito-borne diseases, especially during monsoon periods. • Major diseases include **dengue, malaria, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and Zika**. • Prevention involves eliminating stagnant water, covering water containers, cleaning drains and maintaining hygienic surroundings. • Individuals can reduce exposure through repellents and protective clothing. • Symptoms can include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, rash, vomiting and fatigue. • Severe cases may cause bleeding or neurological complications.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 20	**Sadbhavana Diwas**	• Observed annually on **August 20**. • Commemorates former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary**. • Promotes peace, goodwill, national unity and communal harmony. • Born in 1944, Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1984 at age **40**, becoming India's youngest Prime Minister. • His tenure emphasised **computerisation, telecommunications, software development and technology missions**. • His government introduced the **National Policy on Education, 1986**. • The **61st Constitutional Amendment** lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. • The **52nd Amendment Act, 1985** introduced the anti-defection law.
August 21	**World Senior Citizens Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 21**. • Recognises older adults and highlights their contributions, wisdom and experiences. • Promotes **dignity, healthy ageing, social inclusion, healthcare access, emotional well-being, financial security and elder rights**. • Encourages families and communities to address loneliness, accessibility, safety and social isolation. • Students can observe the day through speeches, posters, storytelling sessions, gratitude walls and discussions on ageing and elder care. • Official **2026 theme was not confirmed** in the provided material, so an unverified theme should be avoided. • Reinforces shared responsibility toward older people.
August 22	**Madras Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 22**. • Commemorates the **1639 land grant** that enabled the English East India Company to establish a settlement at Madraspatnam. • Marks the **23rd anniversary of Madras Day** and **387th anniversary of Madras's founding**. • Annual observance began in **2004**. • Celebrates Chennai's history, heritage and transformation into a major cultural and commercial centre. • Events include heritage walks, lectures, exhibitions, quizzes and cultural programmes. • **Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969**. • Also popularly called **Chennai Day**.
August 23	**National Space Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 23**. • Commemorates India's historic **Chandrayaan-3 Moon landing** on August 23, 2023. • The **Vikram lander** successfully achieved a soft landing near the Moon's southern polar region. • India became the **fourth country to achieve a soft lunar landing**. • India also became the first to reach the **lunar south polar region**. • **2026 Theme:** "Towards Viksit Bharat – Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring Global Space Leadership." • Celebrates **ISRO's achievements**, promotes STEM education and highlights startups and private space companies.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 26	**Eid Milad-un-Nabi 2026**	• Observed in India on **August 26**. • Commemorates the birth anniversary of **Prophet Muhammad**. • Also called **Mawlid or Eid-e-Milad**. • Observed on the 12th day of **Rabi' ul-Awwal**, the third month of the Islamic calendar. • Prophet Muhammad was born around **570 AD**. • Observances include **religious gatherings, prayers, lectures, poetry and readings** about his life and teachings. • Mosques, homes and streets are often decorated with lights. • Processions and community programmes are organised in various regions.
August 26	**Onam 2026**	• Celebrated across Kerala with **Pookalam, Onam Sadhya, cultural programmes and community gatherings**. • Ten-day festival begins with **Atham**. • Culminates in **Thiruvonam on August 26, 2026**. • Traditionally associated with the annual return of **King Mahabali**. • Represents **prosperity, equality, unity and Kerala's cultural heritage**. • Major traditions include floral decorations, **Vallamkali or snake boat races**, traditional clothing and temple visits. • **Onam Sadhya** is a grand vegetarian feast served on banana leaves.
August 27	**World Lake Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 27**. • Highlights the ecological, economic and social importance of **lakes**. • Lakes provide freshwater, support biodiversity, sustain livelihoods and contribute to food and water security. • The **United Nations** established the observance through **Resolution 79/142 in December 2024**. • August 27 commemorates the first World Lake Conference in Japan in 1984. • First UN-recognised World Lake Day was observed in **2025**. • Major threats include pollution, excessive water extraction, climate change, agricultural runoff, habitat degradation and biodiversity loss. • Promotes restoration and sustainable freshwater management.
August 28	**World Sanskrit Day 2026**	• Observed on **August 28**, coinciding with **Shravana Purnima**. • Also known as **Sanskrit Diwas**. • Celebrates the heritage and continued relevance of Sanskrit. • Promotes Sanskrit through shloka recitations, debates, seminars and educational activities. • India's official observance began in **1969** following Union Education Ministry notifications. • Sanskrit has influenced Indian **literature, philosophy, religion and traditional knowledge**. • Major works include the Vedas, Ramayana, Mahabharata and writings of Kalidasa. • Under **NEP 2020**, scholarships, institutional support and preservation initiatives encourage Sanskrit education and research.

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
August 28	**Raksha Bandhan 2026**	• Celebrated on **Friday, August 28**. • Marks the traditional bond between brothers and sisters. • Falls on **Shravana Purnima**. • Purnima tithi extends from August 27 into August 28. • Traditional Panchang calculations favour August 28 for celebration. • Timing is significant because of **Bhadra**, which is traditionally avoided for tying rakhi. • In 2026, Bhadra ends before sunrise on August 28, making the morning suitable for **Rakhi rituals and ceremonies**. • Families celebrate by tying sacred threads, exchanging gifts and expressing affection.
August 29	**National Sports Day 2026**	• Observed every year on **August 29**. • Honours hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand** on his birth anniversary. • Known as the **"Wizard of Hockey."** • Helped India win Olympic gold medals in **1928, 1932 and 1936**. • National Sports Day was first observed in **1995**. • **Fit India Movement** was launched on August 29, 2019. • In 2026, celebrations are being held from **August 28 to 30**. • **2026 Theme:** "Tribute, Play, and Move." • Encourages physical activity and sporting participation.

Static Takeaways

Category	State / Country / Organisation / Position	Chief Minister / Leader / Office Holder	Governor / Additional Details	Capital / Important Fact
Indian State	Uttar Pradesh	Yogi Adityanath	Governor: Anandiben Patel	Lucknow
Indian State	West Bengal	Shuvendu Adhikari	Governor: R. N. Ravi	Kolkata
Indian State	Uttarakhand	Pushkar Dhami	Governor: Gurmit Singh	Dehradun (Winter)
Indian State	Karnataka	D. K. Shivakumar	Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot	Bengaluru
Indian State	Rajasthan	Bhajanlal Sharma	Governor: Haribhau Bagade	Jaipur
Indian State	Gujarat	Bhupendra Patel	Governor: Aacharya Devvrat	Gandhinagar
Indian State	Andhra Pradesh	Chandrababu Naidu	Governor: Abdur Nazeer	Amravati
Indian State	Assam	Hemanta Sarma	Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya	Itanagar
Indian State	Maharashtra	Devendra Fadnavis	Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma	Mumbai
Indian State	Chattisgarh	Mohan Majhi	Governor: Ramen Deka	Raipur
Indian State	Tamil Nadu	Joseph Vijay	Governor: R. Arlekar	Chennai
Country	USA	President: Donald Trump	—	—

Category	State / Country / Organisation / Position	Chief Minister / Leader / Office Holder	Governor / Additional Details	Capital / Important Fact
Country	Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodriguez	—	—
Country	Russia	President: Vladimir Putin	—	—
Country	Nepal	PM: Balen Shah	—	—
Organisation	RBI	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra	—	—
Organisation	DBS Bank	CMD & MD: Rajat Verma	—	—
Organisation	ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah	—	—
Union Government	Home Minister	Amit Shah	—	—
Union Government	Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh	—	—
Union Government	Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman	—	—
Ramsar Site	Glaw Lake	—	State: Arunachal Pradesh	101st Ramsar Site; First Ramsar Site of the State