

THE HINDU REVIEW

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(हिन्दी)

NEPAL FLOODS

Rescue • Relief • Support

- ✓ Monthly capsule
- ✓ Current Affairs



Economy



Appointment



Awards



Ranking



Government Scheme



Summit



Partnership



GDP



Banking & Financial



Defence



Sports



Book and Author



Science and technology



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The Hindu Review (August 2026)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
Assumed charge as the General Manager (GM) of Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	Manish Agarwal (Updated 1 August)
The Central Government has extended the tenure as the Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	K. Rajaraman (Updated 2 August)
Assumed charge as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF)	Air Marshal Tejpal Singh (Updated 4 August)
Assumed charge as the 54th Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI)	Varsha Ashok Aglawe (Updated 4 August)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed as Executive Director (ED)	Monisha Chakraborty (Updated 5 August)
Assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo, India's largest airline	Willie Walsh (Updated 6 August)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a one-year extension in the tenure as Cabinet Secretary	Dr. T.V. Somanathan (Updated 7 August)
The Board of Directors of Air India has appointed as the airline's Chief	Tewolde Gebremariam (Updated 7 August)

Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD)	
Appointed as the Managing Director of Muthoot Finance	Alexander George (Updated 7 August)
Taken charge as the Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	A.S. Rajeev (Updated 8 August)
Granted a one-year extension as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)	Rahul Navin (Updated 10 August)
Appointed as the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Gyanesh Bharti (Updated 11 August)
LIC International has appointed as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director	Veena Khan (Updated 11 August)
Appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation (AIPSI), Mauritius	Dr Bhooma VG (IRPS Retd.) (Updated 13 August)
Indriya, Aditya Birla Group's jewellery brand has appointed actor as its Brand Ambassador for southern markets	Krithi Shetty (Updated 14 August)
Stepped down as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited	Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Updated 15 August)
Taken charge as the new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog for a two-year term About NITI Aayog Established: January 1, 2015	Senior IAS officer Anurag Jain (Updated 18 August)

• Chairperson: The Prime Minister of India. • Focus Areas: Sustainable growth, economic reforms, innovation, monitoring government programs, and cooperative federalism	
Airtel Payment bank names as new Chairperson	Shabnam Sinha (Updated 20 August)
Steps down as Non-Executive Chairman of Airtel Payments Bank	Sunil Bharti Mittal (Updated 20 August)
The Indian government appointed and re-appointed as part-time, non-official directors on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Board	Somanath Sreedhara Panicker and Anand Mahindra (Updated 23 August)
Noida International Airport has appointed as the interim CEO	Nitu Sarma (Updated 27 August)
TVS Motor Company has appointed as its next Director and CEO	Peyman Kargar (Updated 30 August)

(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
Appointed as India's next Ambassador to Mexico	Ngulkham Jathom Gangte (Updated 1 August)
Appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran <i>About Iran</i> • <i>Capital – Tehran</i>	Vishwesh Negi (Updated 5 August)

• <i>Currency – Rial</i> • <i>Supreme Leader - Mojtaba Khamenei</i>	
Appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Zambia	Justice Abha Nayar Patel (Updated 10 August)
Zambia's President has been re-elected for a second five-year term About Zambia • Capital: Lusaka • Currency: Zambian Kwacha	Hakainde Hichilema (Updated 20 August)
Elected as the Bangladesh's 23rd President Note: Bangladesh • Capital: Dhaka • Currency: Bangladeshi Taka • Prime minister: Tarique Rahman	Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir (Updated 21 August)
The World Bank Group announced the appointment as Vice President and Auditor General	Yuko Keicho (Japanese national) (Updated 28 August)

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The prestigious INAE Young Engineer Award 2026	Dr Akanksha Tyagi	The award, conferred by the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), recognises her outstanding engineering

		contributions, professional excellence and potential as a young engineer.
UT Ladakh State Award 2025	Dr. Padma Gurmet	She received the award under the Literature, Art and Craft category for her contribution to preserving and promoting Ladakh's rich cultural heritage
The Gaj Gaurav Award 2026	Seven frontline mahouts and forest staff from West Bengal's Jaldapara Wildlife Division	For their extraordinary bravery during severe North Bengal floods
The 47th Sarala Puraskar	Dr. Ashutosh Parida, an Odia poet, essayist, and former CSIR-IMMT scientist	For his poetry collection Bishwas De Pruthwi
Miss Universe India 2026	Kerala's 19-year-old Kaziah Liz Mejo	-
Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards 2026	Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka	-

(International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026	Annapurni Subramaniam	She became the first Indian woman and the fourth Indian to

		receive this prestigious medal
The 2026 Dirac Medal by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)	Indian physicist Deepak Dhar	He shared the award with Bernard Derrida (France), Marc Mézard (Italy), and Haim Sompolsky (Israel and the United States) for their contributions to theoretical physics .
Honorary Rank of General of Nepali Army	Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth	The conferral of the honorary rank continues a long tradition that started in 1950, under which Nepal and India confer the honorary rank of general on each other's army chiefs.
The prestigious UN medal	210 Indian peacekeepers, including 6 women and 7 Staff Officers	For their exceptional service.
Pakistan's highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz	Two doctors - a physician and a radiologist - of Mumbai's Parsi community	For keeping secret Muhammad Ali Jinnah's terminal illness , according to a federal minister.
Uzbekistan's highest honour for foreign leaders, the 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	He dedicated to the "enduring" bond between New Delhi and Tashkent.

Awards 2026: Complete winners list

President Murmu to Confer Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024-25 on Over 115 Artists

- President Droupadi Murmu will confer the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 on over 115 artists** at a special investiture ceremony in New Delhi.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952. The Akademi Fellowship carries ₹3 lakh, while the Akademi Award carries ₹1 lakh, along with a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

National Sports Awards 2025

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the official winners of the **National Sports Awards 2025**. A selection committee led by retired Supreme Court Justice **Arun Kumar Mishra** finalized the awardees.

Arjuna Award

A total of **17 sportspersons** have been selected for the Arjuna Award for outstanding performance over the last four years.

- **Athletics:** Tejaswin Shankar, Muhammed Ajmal V, Priyanka Goswami
- **Badminton:** Treesa Jolly, Pullela Gayatri Gopichand
- **Boxing:** Narender
- **Chess:** Vidit Santosh Gujrathi, Divya Jitendra Deshmukh
- **Hockey:** Lalremsiami Hmarzote, Rajkumar Pal
- **Kabaddi:** Surjeet, Pooja
- **Para-Athletics:** Ekta Bhyan
- **Para-Shooting:** Rudransh Khandelwal
- **Deaf Shooting:** Dhanush Srikanth
- **Rowing:** Arvind Singh
- **Shooting:** Akhil Sheoran
- **Football (Lifetime):** I Arumainayagam

Dronacharya Award

- **Athletics:** Parveer Singh
- **Boxing:** Chhote Lal Yadav

- Shooting: Neha Nandkumar Chavan
- Dronacharya Life time Award : Dharmendra Singh Yadav (Boxing), Virender Kumar (Wrestling)

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

- **Winner:** Army Paralympic Node, Pune (Reason: Honoured for its visible role and contributions to the promotion and grassroots development of sports.)

Kerala's Kaziah Liz Mejo Crowned Miss Universe India 2026

- **Kerala's 19-year-old Kaziah Liz Mejo was crowned the prestigious Miss Universe India 2026** at the grand finale held at Zee Studios in Jaipur on 24th August.
- Mejo beat 52 finalists from across the country to win the title. During the grand finale, Miss Universe India **2025 Manika Vishwakarma crowned her successor.**
- Kaziah will now represent India at the **75th Miss Universe pageant**, which will be held in **Puerto Rico in November.**
- **1st Runner-up / Miss International India 2026 is Vaishnavi Gannesh (Tamil Nadu) and 2nd Runner-up is Anushri Satavlekar (Gujarat).**

Alcaraz, Sabalenka Named Laureus Sports Persons of the Year; PSG Wins Best Team Award

- Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year at the Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 held in Madrid.
- Paris Saint-Germain won the Laureus World Team of the Year after securing their first UEFA Champions League title in the 2024–25 season.
- Nadia Comaneci received the Lifetime Achievement Award and is known for scoring the first perfect 10.0 in Olympic gymnastics.

Award Category	Winner
Laureus World Sportsman of the Year	Carlos Alcaraz
Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year	Aryna Sabalenka
Laureus World Team of the Year	Paris Saint-Germain
Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year	Lando Norris
Laureus World Comeback of the Year	Rory McIlroy
Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability	Gabriel Araújo
Laureus World Action Sportsperson of the Year	Chloe Kim
Laureus World Young Sportsperson of the Year	Lamine Yamal
Laureus Sporting Inspiration Award	Toni Kroos
Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award	Nadia Comăneci

Laureus Sport for Good Award

Fútbol Más

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
The Vidyarthi Sahayahasta scheme (Karnataka)	To improve access to professional education for students from rural backgrounds.
"Bidesh Sikhyabruti" scholarship scheme (Odisha)	The Odisha government on 24th August launched the "Bidesh Sikhyabruti" scholarship scheme to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students aspiring to pursue higher education at top-ranked global universities.
'Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra' (Uttar Pradesh)	Aimed: Making the journey of women more convenient and dignified and strengthening their self-reliance.

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The GI and Beyond 2.0 Summit	New Delhi	The event featured displays of more than 100 GI-registered handloom and handicraft products , along with thematic exhibitions and live demonstrations of weaving and handicraft techniques
The 11th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting	Bhopal	Representatives from 14 countries—10 BRICS members and 4 partner countries— discussed cultural and creative industries,

		opportunities for artists, digital platforms, and protection of cultural heritage.
A CEO Round Table at the India Medical Device Conference 2026	New Delhi	The round table focused on strengthening innovation, regulatory excellence, domestic manufacturing, value chains, market access and exports to position India as a global hub for quality medical devices.
The 8th BRICS Working Group on Oceanic and Polar Science and Technology (OPST)	Goa	The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) , under the Ministry of Earth Sciences , is hosting the three-day meeting to discuss scientific cooperation and future programmes in ocean and polar research.
The Meeting of Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities	Udaipur, Rajasthan	The event focused on fair competition in renewable energy and digital markets, concluding with a formal joint statement.
The virtual Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit	India	Theme- “सर्वेषां ऊर्जम्” (Energy for All) , and youth-led green technology innovation
The 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting	Pune, Maharashtra	ICT Track Theme: “Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future” India's BRICS Chairship Theme: “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”
The 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit	Bishkek	Visit would focus on strengthening India's strategic partnerships in Central Asia and deepening its ties with the region.
The inaugural meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC)	New Delhi	During the meeting, both countries agreed to further strengthen the bilateral defence cooperation across a wide range of areas, including training, military exercises, military medicine, staff talks, defence industry, and Research and Development

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
IBM and Indian AI startup Sarvam have partnered	To accelerate the development and adoption of Sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions for the Government of India and regulated enterprises.
The Odisha Government signed a tripartite agreement with Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and BSNL	To implement the ₹3,384.82-crore amended BharatNet Programme .
Indonesia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology has partnered with the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation (IITM Global)	To strengthen collaboration in higher education, research and innovation
SBI Life Insurance has entered into a strategic corporate agency tie-up with J & K Bank	To expand access to life insurance solutions across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh
Vietnam's VinSpace has signed a contract with SpaceX	To launch its first satellites into orbit in 2027
The MoUs were signed during the first-ever "Vettri Tamil Nadu Investors Conclave 2026", covering sectors such as automotive, renewable energy, life sciences, electronics, R&D and data centres	The Tamil Nadu government signed 97 fresh MoUs in Chennai
Wizzmon Financial Services Ltd and Oman Air have partnered	To launch the co-branded Wizz Voyager Multi-Currency Card, an AI-powered travel card supporting multiple global currencies.

Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Bhutan's flag carrier Drukair-Royal Bhutan Airlines	To offer seamless travel across their networks and strengthen air connectivity between India and Bhutan
India and Uzbekistan announced to elevate their mutual Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership level	The Central Asian country also agreed to establish a framework for long-term supply of uranium to India and discuss the sites of the mining for rare earth minerals .

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
The India Celebrity Brand Valuation Report India's most valued celebrity brand in 2025	Global financial and risk advisory firm Kroll	-	Shah Rukh Khan Brand Value (USD Million) 177.9
India's most valuable and strongest tyre brand in 2026	The Brand Finance India 100 report	-	MRF Tyres

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	USD 850 million loan	Government of India	To support the Government of India's Prime Minister Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSG-MBY)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A \$230 million loan	Chennai	To upgrade Chennai water system
Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)	₹13,615 crore	Telangana	For taking over the Hyderabad Metro Rail project
Export-Import Bank of India	\$100 million (approx ₹830 crore)	The Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)	The loan will support development of critical infrastructure and industrial projects across Africa

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
E-PRAAPTI' Portal	The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	To help members identify, track, link, and activate old EPF accounts
The 'Gramin Gyan Setu' app	Union Home Minister Amit Shah	Around 63 village libraries have already been established, while 752 libraries are connected through the app; four libraries with nearly 2.8 lakh books have also been linked to rural libraries.

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to enhance urban development and smart mobility initiatives in Visakhapatnam	Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and the Government of Moscow
Sign MoU to promote AI-Driven Innovation in Traditional Medicine	Ministry of Ayush and IndiaAI

Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on defence projects involving Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Location Intelligence, and GeoAI	Esri India with Navratna CPSE Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
Signed strategic MoUs to strengthen India's startup ecosystem	DPIIT with five organisations— Cashfree Payments, Darwin Dynamics, Vultr India, Cars24, and Council for Startup India (CSI)
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in defence research, development, innovation and joint production, as New Delhi seeks to deepen its defence partnership with the South Caucasus nation	India and Armenia
Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share insights from PhonePe PulsePro, its enterprise data intelligence platform, to support the PM GatiShakti mission for national infrastructure planning, economic analysis, and holistic urban and rural development	PhonePe with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in areas including investment, industry, innovation, employment and skill development	The Government of Maharashtra and the German State of Hesse
Signed an exclusive memorandum of understanding and this partnership will offer two specialised credit cards for Army personnel	Punjab National Bank and the Indian Army

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

Ind-Ra raises India's FY27 GDP growth estimate to 6.8%

- **India Ratings and Research Pvt. Ltd. (Ind-Ra)** on 19 August estimated India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to moderate to 6.8% in

2026-27 due to higher fuel and food inflation stemming from the war in West Asia, a weak currency, and the likely impact of El Niño on agriculture.

- Though slower than the **National Statistical Office's (NSO)** provisional **estimates of 7.6%** GDP growth for FY26, the agency's FY27 projection is higher than its May forecast of 6.7%.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

Chhattisgarh Government Launches 'DWEEPTI Yojana' for Women-Led Solar Entrepreneurship.

- The Government of Chhattisgarh launched the DWEEPTI (Decentralised Women Empowerment on Energy and Policy for Transformative Inclusion) Yojana in July 2026 to promote women-led solar entrepreneurship across the state.
- DWEEPTI Yojana is India's first women-led distributed renewable energy policy, designed to empower Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as solar entrepreneurs while promoting clean energy adoption and women's economic empowerment.

PM Modi Inaugurates Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh, and dedicated development projects worth over ₹17,900 crore to the nation.
- The Greenfield airport has been developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at a cost of over ₹5,640 crore and has an annual passenger handling capacity of 6 million.

Union Cabinet Approves ₹5,070 Crore Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) with a total outlay of ₹5,070 crore to promote floating solar photovoltaic (PV) projects with Energy Storage Systems (ESS).
- The scheme aims to develop 5,000 MW of floating solar capacity with co-located energy storage of at least 2 hours, totalling 10,000 MWh, over a five-year period.

Cabinet Approves Extension of PM-KISAN Till 2030-31; Clears ₹84,084 Crore Samudra Manthan Scheme

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a total financial outlay of ₹3.15 lakh crore.
- The Cabinet also approved the National Offshore Exploration Scheme – Samudra Manthan with an outlay of ₹84,084 crore for implementation up

to FY 2030–31, aimed at strengthening India's offshore exploration ecosystem.

Australia's UNSW Sydney Inaugurates First International Campus in India

- The **University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney)**, Australia, has inaugurated its **first international campus in India at Embassy Manyata Business Park**, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- UNSW Sydney received the Letter of Approval from the University Grants Commission (UGC), enabling it to establish and operate its campus in India under the UGC's regulations.

Glaw Lake Becomes India's 101st Ramsar Site, First for Arunachal Pradesh

- **Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh** has been designated as **India's 101st Ramsar Site**, making it the **first Ramsar Site in Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The pristine freshwater lake, located within Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, is a biodiversity hotspot with over 150 tree species and 49 orchid species.

President Murmu Inaugurates Jagadguru Kripalu University in Odisha

- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated **Jagadguru Kripalu University** in **Cuttack** district, Odisha, marking the establishment of a new higher education institution in the state.
- The university is situated at Banara in Damapada tehsil, near Cuttack, and aims to strengthen educational opportunities in the region.

Department of Posts Releases Commemorative Stamp Honouring Satish Gujral's Birth Centenary

- The **Department of Posts** released a **commemorative postage stamp** on 3 August 2026 to mark the **birth centenary of Satish Gujral**, which was unveiled by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia at Bikaner House, New Delhi.
- Satish Gujral (1925–2020) was a renowned Indian painter, sculptor, muralist, and architect, regarded as one of the leading figures of modern Indian art.

Giriraj Singh Inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology at IIT Delhi

- **Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh** inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology (CoE-HT)** at **IIT Delhi** to modernise India's handloom sector through technology, innovation, and research.
- CoE-HT will serve as a hub for research, skill development, and collaboration among academia, industry, government, startups, designers, and weavers to strengthen the handloom ecosystem.

Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 to Be Celebrated from 9–17 August Across India

- Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 campaign** to be observed from **9–17 August 2026** across India and among the Indian diaspora.
- The **2026 campaign** coincides with the **150th anniversary of India's National Song, "Vande Mataram,"** composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

Cabinet Approves GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **GOBARdhan (National Circular Bioenergy Scheme)** with a **total outlay of ₹23,731 crore**, to be implemented from **2026–27 to 2035–36**.
- The scheme aims to increase domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production nearly ten-fold, establish CBG as a key pillar of India's energy mix, and create 1.5 lakh jobs.

Ministry of Tourism Launches 'As Seen on Netflix' Initiative on Incredible India Platform

- The **Ministry of Tourism**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture and Netflix**, organised a special event at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, to mark **10 years of Netflix in India**.
- The Ministry of Tourism has integrated the 'As Seen on Netflix' section with the Incredible India digital platform.

Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission Recognised as WHO-SEARN Regional Centre of Excellence

- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** participated in the **10th Anniversary Meeting of the South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN)** held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that the IPC has been recognised as the WHO-SEARN Regional Centre of Excellence in Pharmacovigilance.

Odisha to Launch India's First Rail-Tech Park in Khordha

- **Odisha** is set to launch **India's first Rail-Tech Park at the Sahaspur Industrial Estate** in Khordha district.
- The park will create a dedicated ecosystem for manufacturers of railway equipment, components and specialised engineering products.

India to Host First Global South Film Festival Next Year

- **India** will host the **first Global South Film Festival next year**, as announced on the sidelines of the BRICS WAVES Bazaar in Mumbai.
- The NFDC and NFAI signed agreements, exchanged Letters of Intent, and held discussions with institutions from Brazil, Russia and Vietnam, including exploring opportunities for film co-production.

HAL Introduces India's First Satellite-Guided Precision Navigation System for Helicopters

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has introduced India's first satellite-guided precision navigation system for helicopters at its airport in Bengaluru.
- The system, called Required Navigation Performance – Category H (RNP CAT H), enables faster and more precise take-off and landing of helicopters.

India Crosses 300 GW of Installed Non-Fossil Fuel-Based Power Capacity

- India has crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity, marking a major milestone in its clean energy journey.
- India's renewable energy capacity has surged by 400% over the last 12 years, reflecting rapid growth in the clean energy sector.

Amit Shah Inaugurates NUCFDC Office in Mumbai

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the new office complex of the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Mumbai's Fort area and launched several related services.
- NUCFDC and the National Forensic Sciences University signed an MoU to strengthen cybersecurity, technological capabilities and institutional capacity in the Urban Cooperative Banking sector.

West Bengal Announces ₹10,000 Monthly Pension for 325 Emergency-Era Protesters

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Suvendu Adhikari** announced a monthly pension of ₹10,000 for 325 people who were jailed for participating in protests during the Emergency (1975–77).
- The beneficiaries will be honoured under the 'Paschim Banga Loktantra Senani Samman' scheme for their sacrifices in defending democracy during the Emergency.

India Makes First-Ever Sea Export of GI-Tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia

- India completed its first-ever sea export of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia in August 2026.
- Mithila Makhana is a GI-tagged agricultural product associated with the Mithila region of Bihar. GI registration in India is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

C. P. Radhakrishnan Launches 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands by hoisting the National Flag at Flag Point, Sri Vijaya Puram on August Kranti Diwas.
- He recalled Mahatma Gandhi's "Do or Die" call of 8 August 1942, which inspired millions of Indians and strengthened the Quit India Movement.

India to Celebrate 80th Independence Day with Focus on 'Vande Mataram' & Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047

- India will celebrate its 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026, with a special focus on the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram'.
- The theme of the celebrations will be "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047", highlighting the role of India's youth in achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047.

Centre Introduces Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to Rename State as 'Keralam'

- The Union Government introduced the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, proposing to officially change the name of the state from "Kerala" to "Keralam."
- The alteration process is governed by Article 3 of the Constitution of India, which empowers Parliament to alter the name, area or boundaries of existing states, subject to the prescribed constitutional procedure.

TRAI Begins Rollout of 1601-Series Numbers for Trusted Service Calls

- TRAI has initiated the phase-wise implementation of the 1601-series numbering system for service and transactional voice calls by entities outside the BFSI and government sectors.
- In the first phase, the 1601-series will cover entities in the utilities, courier and logistics sectors, including electricity, water, LPG and parcel delivery services.

India Donates Five Peacocks, Including Rare White Peacock, to UN Office in Geneva

- India has donated five peacocks, including one rare white-feathered male, to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), reviving a decades-old tradition.
- This is the second time India has presented peacocks to UNOG; the first donation was made in 1981, when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sent a breeding pair from the Delhi Zoo.

Bhawana Kanth Becomes First Woman to Graduate from IAF's Elite Fighter Combat Leader Course

- Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth has become the first woman to graduate from the Indian Air Force's (IAF) elite Fighter Combat Leader course after completing 20 weeks of advanced combat flying training.
- The 33-year-old pilot is now among the select officers qualified from the IAF's prestigious "Top Gun" school, which trains pilots for complex combat operations.

Kavach 4.0 Approved for 660 Route Km in Izzatnagar Division at ₹295 Crore

- Kavach Version 4.0 has been approved for 660 route kilometres of the Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway.
- The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of ₹295 crore under the umbrella work for providing Kavach with an LTE communication backbone.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches NSP Initiative to Provide Monthly Scholarships to Agriculture Students

- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the scholarship and fellowship fund disbursement for agriculture students through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) at ICAR-IARI, Pusa.
- A total of ₹21.35 crore was transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to more than 6,000 agriculture students across the country.

CZA Approves Asia's First Desert-Themed Drive-Through Night Safari in Gujarat

- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved the Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari at Deesa, Banaskantha, Gujarat, spread over 103 hectares with an estimated cost of ₹542.14 crore.
- The project will feature Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari, with a day zoo and five dedicated night safari enclosures.

Ladakh Hosts First-Ever Black-necked Crane Festival to Promote Conservation

- Ladakh is hosting its first-ever Black-necked Crane Festival to raise awareness about the conservation of the endangered species and highlight Ladakh's role in protecting its habitat.
- Changthang Cold Wildlife Sanctuary is the only breeding ground of the Black-necked Crane in India, with key breeding wetlands including Tsokar and Hanle, located at elevations of 2,500–5,000 metres.

Ministry of Textiles to Organise 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom' to Honour Women Weavers

- The Ministry of Textiles will organise 'Srijan: Voices from the Loom' in New Delhi to celebrate women weavers and recognise their contribution to India's rich handloom heritage.

- More than 100 women weavers from six handloom clusters will participate and share their stories of resilience, creativity and preservation of India's weaving traditions.

Giriraj Singh Inaugurates IIHT SUTRA 2026, First National Conclave of Handloom Technology Institutes

- **Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh** inaugurated **IIHT SUTRA 2026**, the first national conclave of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTs), in New Delhi to strengthen technical education, research, innovation and industry collaboration.
- Organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms), Ministry of Textiles, the conclave was held under the theme "IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate. Transform."

Parliament Monsoon Session 2026 Concludes After 19 Sitzings; 12 Bills Passed by Both Houses

- The **Monsoon Session 2026 of Parliament**, which began on 20 July 2026, was adjourned sine die on 13 August 2026, **after 19 sittings over 25 days**.
- Two Bills were passed to replace earlier ordinances, including the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance and the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, while the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was referred to a Joint Committee.
- 12 Bill are -
 1. Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026
 2. Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026
 3. Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026
 4. Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026
 5. Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2026
 6. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026
 7. Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026
 8. Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026
 9. Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026
 10. National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026
 11. Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026
 12. Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

Dr Jitendra Singh Inaugurates India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Jammu.
- The new centre will strengthen weather forecasting, disaster preparedness and climate services for Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh through region-specific forecasts and early-warning systems.

Chandigarh Becomes First UT to Launch CBDC-Based DBT for PMGKAY Food Subsidy

- Chandigarh will launch CBDC (Digital Rupee – e₹)-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for food subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).
- Chandigarh will become the first Union Territory in India to undertake a full-fledged CBDC-based DBT rollout for food subsidy to PMGKAY beneficiaries.

L&T Secures Mega Order to Build India's Largest Single-Cluster AI Infrastructure in Chennai

- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured a "Mega" order to build what it describes as India's largest single-cluster AI infrastructure, marking its entry into the AI Factory business.
- The AI Factory will be established at Vyoma's data-centre campus in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, with a capacity to support 10,000 NVIDIA B300 GPUs.

Delhi Approves 20% Horizontal Reservation for Ex-Agniveers in Fire Services and Prison Department Posts

- The Delhi government has approved 20% horizontal reservation for ex-Agniveers in direct recruitment for Fire Operator posts in Delhi Fire Services and Warder/Matron posts in the Prison Department.
- The order issued by the Home Department also provides age relaxation for eligible ex-Agniveer candidates.

DRDO Receives GeM Award for Maximum Order Value to Micro & Small Enterprises

- DRDO has received the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Award for the Maximum Number of Orders Value to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal presented the award to Dr. Ravindra Singh, DG (RM), DRDO, during an event marking the 10th anniversary of GeM.

India Celebrates 80th Independence Day on 15th August 2026

- India marked its 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026, celebrating 79 years of freedom from British rule. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

hoisted the national flag and addressed the nation from the historic Red Fort, with celebrations **themed around 150 years of Vande Mataram and Yuva Shakti.**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered his 13th consecutive Independence Day** speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2026.

Karnataka CM announces India's first government-driven AI University

- Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar today announced that **India's first government-driven Artificial Intelligence (AI) University** will come up in the state.
- He also announced that Government will set up an AI Hub as an incubation centre for research and development in AI by start-ups, companies and others.

Karnataka Cabinet Approves Sandhya Kiran Scheme Offering Rs 5 Lakh Cashless Healthcare Cover to Pensioners

- Karnataka Cabinet approved the **Sandhya Kiran scheme**, a contributory cashless healthcare **initiative under Ayushman Bharat–Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK)** for state pensioners **below 70 years and their families in Bengaluru, Karnataka.**
- The scheme will cover around 4.93 lakh beneficiaries, including 3.11 lakh state pensioners and their dependents, with Rs.5 lakh annual family health cover and standardised treatment packages and rates.

India launches first guide to grasslands, other open natural ecosystems at COP17

- India has launched its **first ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** at the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ulaanbaatar, **Mongolia.**
- The ONEs of India encompass a variety of landscapes, including Himalayan and Terai grasslands, the Thar and Banni landscapes, Deccan savannas, rocky plateaus, ravines, scrublands, coastal ecosystems and desert environments.

UP Yuva Swarojgar Yojana 2026: Rs 25 Lakh Loan for Young Entrepreneurs

- The **UP Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana** provides educated youth in Uttar Pradesh with bank loans up to **₹25 lakh for industrial units and ₹10 lakh for service sectors**, backed by a 25% state margin money subsidy.

- Applicants must be permanent state residents aged 18 to 40 with at least a Class 10 qualification.

Vizhinjam Port begins export-import operations

- **Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala has started full-fledged export-import (EXIM) operations**, marking a major shift in its role from a transshipment hub to a direct gateway for Indian goods entering and leaving global markets.
- The move is expected to give businesses in South India easier access to international shipping routes, reduce dependence on **foreign transshipment ports and improve the efficiency of India's supply chains**.

PM CARES donations fall 30%, but fund balance hits record ₹8,452 crore

- The **PM CARES Fund balance reached a record high of ₹8,452.06 crore** as of March 31, 2025, according to newly released audited financial statements.
- Roughly 93% of this corpus—about ₹7,846.65 crore—is parked in fixed deposits, which generated substantial interest income to grow the reserve despite lower fresh donations.

Tata Power and IIT Bombay collaborate to accelerate innovation in clean energy and advanced power technologies

- **Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies, and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)**, one of the country's premier institutions for science, engineering and technology research, signed a Master Research Agreement (MRA) marking the beginning of a long-term strategic partnership for accelerating scaling up and commercialization of lab scale innovations in next generation energy technologies and advanced clean energy solutions.
- **Aims:** To accelerate the translation of cutting-edge research into scalable, industry-ready technologies that contribute to India's clean energy transition, energy security, and sustainable development.

First Kaushal Mahotsav 2026 Held in West Bengal

- **West Bengal hosted its inaugural Kaushal Mahotsav on August 18, 2026**, at Balurghat Stadium in the **Dakshin Dinajpur district**, marking a significant milestone for the state's efforts to foster job creation and skill development.

- The event, the **11th edition of Kaushal Mahotsav** in India, was organized through collaboration between the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the National Skill Development Corporation, and the Government of West Bengal.

Vice President inaugurates 'MALHAR 2026', celebrates India's rich classical music heritage

- **The Vice President, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated 'MALHAR 2026', a youth-centric, monsoon-themed celebration of Indian classical music by Antar Hriday Connect, in New Delhi.**
- Vice President appreciated Antar Hriday Connect for creating opportunities for young people to experience and engage with India's rich classical music heritage, particularly through free classical music concerts.

CCIC Launches 'Soul Threads' Heritage Collection Showcasing India's Artisanal Excellence

- **Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India (CCIC) launched its first heritage designer collection "Soul Threads" under the Ministry of Textiles, highlighting India's rich artisanal legacy.**
- The exhibition is being held from April 24 to May 10, 2026 at CCIC's flagship showroom in Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, featuring sarees, designer wear, jewellery, and home furnishings.

Gujarat launches first state-level sports genomics programme

- **Gujarat has launched a pioneering sports genomics programme for athletes. This initiative aims to understand genetic and physiological characteristics for better development.** Scientific athlete profiling will support national and international competition readiness.
- The programme is significant for **Gujarat's 2030 Commonwealth Games preparations.** It introduces a new scientific dimension to athlete training and potential.

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

Pacific Island Nation Nauru Officially Renamed as the Republic of Naoero

- The Pacific Island nation of Nauru has officially changed its name to the **Republic of Naoero**, aligning with the spelling and pronunciation in its national language.
- Naoero is the world's third-smallest country by population (around 12,000 people), after Tuvalu and Vatican City, and gained independence from Australia in 1968.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia & Türkiye Sign Mecca Joint Defence Agreement

- **Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, marking a major step in trilateral defence cooperation.**
- The agreement establishes a collective-defence principle, under which an armed attack against any one of the three countries will be treated as an attack against all three.

Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service based on PosTransfer powered by UPI

- The **Qatar-India remittance service based on PosTransfer powered by UPI** is now available, enabling customers in Qatar to send funds directly to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India through Qatar Post outlets.
- The service has been developed through the collaboration of Qatar Post, India Post, the **Universal Postal Union's Interconnection Platform (UPU-IP)**, and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).

India, Japan sign maritime security pact, deepen defence cooperation

- **India and Japan on 19 August agreed to further deepen defence and maritime security cooperation, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart Shinjiro Koizumi signing a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation in New Delhi.**
- The agreement provides a framework for strengthening cooperation between the **Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force**, including information sharing on Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Search and Rescue (SAR), and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).

India, Mauritius Sign Five-Year Agreement for Petroleum Product Supply

- **India and Mauritius signed a broad government-to-government oil and gas MoU alongside a five-year sales and purchase agreement.** Under this pact, Indian Oil Corporation will fulfill the entire import needs of Mauritius for petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel to ensure energy security and stable pricing.
- The MoU between the two countries institutionalizes the longstanding energy partnership between the two countries, **covering petroleum products supply, training and capacity building for Mauritian officials and biofuels cooperation.**

EAM Jaishankar to meet Lavrov in Moscow, co-chair India-Russia trade commission

- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will undertake a two-day official visit** to Moscow beginning on 23rd August to hold talks with his

Russian counterparts on a range of issues, including bilateral trade and investment ties.

- **Jaishankar will co-chair the 27th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)** alongside Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

US Launches Operation Economic Outcast Against Iran

- **Six months into the West Asia war**, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has launched “**Operation Economic Outcast**”, a sustained campaign aimed at **cutting off Iran’s financial lifelines**.
- The new sectoral sanctions target digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping, while more than 60 entities, individuals and vessels accused of helping Tehran generate oil revenue, procure nuclear and missile technology and conduct cyber operations have also been sanctioned.

Five African countries mark end of polio outbreak: WHO

- **The World Health Organization (WHO)** Regional Office for Africa confirmed the end of poliovirus type 2 outbreaks in **Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Congo and Uganda** following Independent Outbreak Response Assessment (OBRA) conducted between January and June 2026.
- The assessments examined disease surveillance, laboratory and epidemiological evidence, population immunity and vaccination campaign performance.

IFC Targets \$10 Billion Annual Investment in India by 2030

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the private-sector arm of the World Bank Group, aims to increase its **annual investments in India to \$10 billion by 2030**.
- Currently, IFC’s annual investment in India stands at around \$5.4 billion (2024–25), indicating a significant planned expansion.

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

Delhi High Court Orders Winding-Up of Paytm Payments Bank After RBI Cancels Licence

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) on 24 April 2026 over persistent regulatory

non-compliance and concerns that its operations were detrimental to the interests of depositors.

- The Delhi High Court subsequently ordered the winding-up of Paytm Payments Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Companies Act, 2013, acting on RBI's application.

Google Pay and SBI Card Launch 'Google Pay Flex SBI Card' with Rewards up to ₹18,000 Annually

- Google Pay and SBI Card have launched the Google Pay Flex SBI Card, a co-branded credit card that offers rewards worth up to ₹18,000 annually, flexible bill repayment options, and complete in-app credit card management through Google Pay.
- The card is designed to reward everyday spending on categories such as groceries, utility bill payments, travel, and shopping, enhancing value for frequent digital payment users.

IRDAI Grants Licence to ProTec General Insurance, Approves Fourth Insurance Company in 2026

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted a Certificate of Registration to ProTec General Insurance Ltd., a joint venture between the M Pallonji Group and True North's Divya Sehgal, enabling it to commence general insurance business.
- IRDAI stated that the approvals reflect strong investor confidence in India's insurance sector and the impact of reforms under the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (SBSR) Act, including the provision allowing 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector.

Bajaj Finserv Approves Entry into India's Reinsurance Business

- Bajaj Finserv has approved its entry into the reinsurance business, subject to approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- With this move, Bajaj Finserv becomes the third private player in about a year to announce plans to enter India's domestic reinsurance market, following Valueattics Re and Allianz-Jio Reinsurance.

GST Collections Rise 15.4% to ₹2.11 Lakh Crore in July 2026

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached ₹2,11,205 crore in July 2026, registering a 15.4% year-on-year growth from ₹1,83,065 crore in July 2025.
- Gross domestic GST revenue stood at ₹1,44,695 crore, reflecting a 10.1% increase compared to the corresponding month last year.

Centre Releases Additional ₹1.09 Lakh Crore as Tax Devolution to States

- The Union Government released an **additional tax devolution instalment of ₹1,09,019 crore to State Governments**, over and above the regular monthly transfer scheduled for 10 August.
- Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation of ₹19,208 crore, followed by Bihar (₹10,845 crore) and Madhya Pradesh (₹8,010 crore).

Maldives Launches Real-Time Fund Transfers to India via UPI

- The **Maldives** has **launched real-time cross-border fund transfers** to India by integrating its Favara instant payment system with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- Under the new facility, users can send money in Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR), which is credited directly in Indian Rupees (INR) to UPI-enabled bank accounts in India.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank Enters Affordable Housing Finance with ₹109 Crore ManiBhavnam Merger

- **Shivalik Small Finance Bank** has completed the **acquisition and merger of ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd.** in a deal valued at **around ₹109 crore**.
- The transaction includes 20% cash payment and the remaining amount through a share swap, with the merger receiving approval from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

SEBI Imposes ₹1.48 Crore Penalty on ZEEL, Bars Subhash Chandra and Punit Goenka for One Year

- SEBI imposed **penalties totaling ₹1.48 crore on Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL)** and its promoters for violations of securities laws and corporate governance norms.
- Subhash Chandra and Punit Goenka have been barred from accessing or dealing in the securities market for one year as part of SEBI's enforcement action.

HDFC Bank Launches 'Max for Seniors' and 'Max for Her' Savings Accounts

- **HDFC Bank** has launched **two new savings account variants under its Savings Max portfolio** — **'Max for Seniors'** and **'Max for Her'**, designed specifically for senior citizens and women.
- The launch aligns with growing financial inclusion, as India's senior citizen population is projected to reach 230 million by 2036, while women hold 39.2% of bank accounts and contribute 39.7% of total bank deposits.

Karnataka Bank Launches 'KBL Finsurance' Digital Insurance Portal

- **Karnataka Bank** has launched **'KBL Finsurance'**, a comprehensive digital insurance portal to streamline the creation, tracking, and monitoring of insurance business leads across its branch network.

- The platform is powered by SprintMoney, a fintech company that provides white-labelled digital solutions to banks and financial institutions.

Government Launches LIC OFS to Sell Up to 6.54% Stake, Aims to Raise Over ₹31,000 Crore

- The **Government of India** has announced the **sale of up to 6.54% stake in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through the Offer for Sale (OFS) route**, expected to raise over ₹31,000 crore, making it the largest OFS proceeds to date.
- The OFS includes 2.5% equity with an additional 4% green shoe option, while 50 lakh shares (0.04%) have been reserved for eligible LIC employees. The floor price has been fixed at ₹382 per share.

RBI MPC Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.25%, Retains Neutral Stance

- The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%, after a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments and the outlook.
- The MPC also decided to continue with the neutral stance.

RBI Proposes Fresh Licensing of Urban Co-operative Banks After 20 Years

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed to **resume issuing fresh licences for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** after a **gap of 20 years**, following an 'on tap' licensing approach.
- Only existing multi-state Credit Co-operative Societies (CCSs) with at least 10 years of operations, ₹10,000 crore in deposits, and a minimum net worth of ₹300 crore will be eligible to apply.

India's Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.4% in April-June 2026: PLFS

- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**, India's **unemployment rate** for persons aged 15 years and **above rose to 5.4% in the April-June 2026 quarter**, up from 5.0% in the previous quarter.
- The rural unemployment rate increased to 4.8%, while the urban unemployment rate edged up to 6.7% during the April-June 2026 quarter.

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 4.45% in July 2026

- India's **retail inflation (CPI)** increased to **4.45% in July 2026**, up from 4.38% in June 2026, according to data released by MoSPI.
- Compared with June, rural inflation rose from 4.74% to 4.84%, while urban inflation increased slightly from 3.93% to 3.96%.

India Post Achieves Record First-Quarter Revenue Growth in FY2026-27

- India Post achieved its highest-ever **first-quarter revenue of ₹4,009 crore** for Q1 FY2026-27 (April-June 2026), marking a historic 22% year-

on-year growth. Announced by Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, this milestone reflects strong growth across parcel delivery, mail, citizen services, and postal savings.

- **Revenue Milestone:** Crossed ₹4,000 crore in Q1 for the first time ever, adding about ₹728 crore over the previous year.

RBI Imposes Rs. 59.20 Lakh Monetary Penalty on IndusInd Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- On August 14, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹59.20 lakh on IndusInd Bank for non-compliance with regulatory directions regarding 'Interest Rate on Deposits' and 'Securitisation of Standard Assets' under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

YES Bank Launches 'YES Essence', Women-focused Credit Card

- YES Bank launched the YES Essence Credit Card, a lifestyle-focused credit card designed for women. It normally carries a regular joining and annual fee of ₹799 plus GST, but it is being made available as a lifetime-free card under a limited-period offer.

RBI Imposes ₹41.8 Lakh Penalty on Bandhan Bank for KYC and Compliance Violations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ₹41.8 lakh on Bandhan Bank for non-compliance with regulatory norms, including Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines.
- The bank was found guilty of failing to review risk categorisation of accounts and sanctioning loans related to directors, violating RBI directives.

RBI Imposes ₹80,000 Penalty on Muthoot Housing Finance for Fair Practice Code Violations

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of ₹80,000 on Muthoot Housing Finance Company for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines.
- The penalty was due to violations of RBI's 'Fair Practice Code', which ensures transparency and fairness in lending practices.

Chapter 15: Committee

Chapter 16: Defence News

Indian Navy Receives Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun' from Hindustan Shipyard Limited

- 'Nipun', the second indigenously built Diving Support Vessel (DSV), was delivered to the **Indian Navy by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) at Visakhapatnam**. The first DSV, 'Nistar', was commissioned into the Navy in July 2025.
- Built in accordance with the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules, Nipun has around 75% indigenous content, reinforcing the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in defence shipbuilding.

Army Launches Indigenous Xtreme Weather Grade Diesel for High-Altitude Operations

- **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth** launched the indigenously developed **Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel** in New Delhi, developed jointly by the Indian Army and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
- XWG Diesel is designed to enhance the mobility, safety, and operational readiness of combat and logistics vehicles in extreme weather and high-altitude conditions, reducing the need for special measures to keep vehicles operational during severe winters.

Cochin Shipyard delivers third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft to Indian Navy

- **Kochi-based Cochin Shipyard Limited** has delivered the third **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, Mangrol, to the Indian Navy**.
- The Defence Ministry said that the ship comprises over 80 per cent indigenous content. The ship is equipped for underwater surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare operations in coastal waters, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations, along with mine warfare capabilities.

India Test-Fires First 100% Indigenous AK-203 'Sher' Rifle In Amethi

- **India successfully test-fired its first 100% indigenous AK-203 assault rifle, named 'Sher'**, built entirely with domestic components and input materials at the Korwa Ordnance Facility in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

Indian Navy Receives First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel 'Samarthak'

- **The Indian Navy has taken delivery of Samarthak, its first locally built Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)**, constructed by **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** at its Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai.
- The vessel was delivered on August 27. More than 75% of the vessel's components are made in India. It will mainly be **used to test and evaluate new naval weapons, sensors and other systems**.

DRDO Successfully Tests Military Combat Parachute System at 22,000 Feet in Ladakh

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested its indigenous **Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS)** at the **Nyoma-Mudh** drop zone in Ladakh from an altitude of 22,000 feet.

INS Nireekshak Visits Sri Lanka for Joint Naval Training

- INS Nireekshak arrived at Colombo, Sri Lanka, for an operational turnaround and training visit to strengthen **India–Sri Lanka maritime cooperation**.
- INS Nireekshak is a diving support and submarine rescue vessel, used for underwater operations, salvage missions, and specialized naval diving tasks.

India Signs Javelin Missile Deal with United States

- The Indian Army has signed a **US Foreign Military Sales Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LoA)** to procure nearly **100 FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems** worth **\$93 million**.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
Exercise ROTOR CLAP III	Indian Air Force	The exercise focused on the theme "Counter-UAS", aimed at enhancing capabilities to detect, track, and neutralise Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)/drones .
The Indian Navy–US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026	India and US	The five-day exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen professional cooperation between the specialist diving and EOD teams of the Indian and US Navies.

The bilateral air exercise Udara Shakti 2026	The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)	The five-day exercise, focusing on joint training, operational coordination and professional exchange between the two air forces
The eighth edition of the India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026	India-US	The bilateral exercise featured intensive professional interactions, exchange of best practices and demonstrations by EOD teams from both navies.
Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026	India and Thailand	Aim of Exercise MAITREE is to foster Military Cooperation between India and Thailand.

Chapter 17: Sports News

Ajinkya Rahane Announces Retirement from International Cricket Across All Formats

- Former India Test captain Ajinkya Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket across Tests, ODIs, and T20Is, ending a distinguished international career in which he scored 8,414 runs.
- His greatest captaincy achievement came in the 2020–21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, when he guided India to a historic 2–1 series victory in Australia after the team had lost the opening Test at Adelaide.

Cabinet Approves ₹36,441 Crore for Expanded Khelo India Scheme and Sports Development

- The Union Cabinet has approved an expanded Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSFs) with a combined outlay of ₹36,441 crore for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- The initiative aims to strengthen sports infrastructure and athlete development from the grassroots level to the Target Olympic Podium

Scheme (TOPS), providing a clear pathway for talented youth to achieve excellence in sports.

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth Win Bonn Open 2026

Doubles Title

- **Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won the doubles title at the Bonn Open 2026 by defeating Scott Duncan (England) and Adam Heinonen (Sweden) in the final.**
- The victory marked Ramkumar Ramanathan's 13th ATP Challenger title and his second ATP Challenger doubles trophy of 2026 after winning the Texas Spine and Joint Challenger Men's Championship in June.

Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh Win India's First-Ever Judo Gold Medals at Commonwealth Games 2026

- **Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh created history by winning India's first-ever judo gold medals at the Commonwealth Games 2026 held in Glasgow, Scotland.**
- Asmita Dey won the women's 48kg judo gold medal by defeating Canada's Heidi Quach 2-1 in a golden score contest, becoming the first Indian judoka to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal.

Tanvi Sharma Clinches Maiden BWF World Tour Title, Becomes Youngest Taipei Open Champion

- **India's 17-year-old Tanvi Sharma won her maiden BWF World Tour title by defeating Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy Linh 21-16, 21-16 in the Taipei Open Super 300 women's singles final.**
- Tanvi became the youngest-ever Taipei Open champion, surpassing Tai Tzu Ying, and the first Indian woman since Saina Nehwal (2008) to win the Taipei Open women's singles title.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Silver, Yash Vir Singh Bags Bronze in Commonwealth Games 2026 Javelin Throw

- **Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw at the Commonwealth Games 2026, registering his season's best throw of 85.83 metres.**
- Yash Vir Singh secured the bronze medal with a personal best throw of 85.41 metres on his final attempt, achieving the feat at the age of 24.

Ahmedabad Receives Commonwealth Games Flag, Set to Host Centenary Edition in 2030

- **Ahmedabad officially received the Commonwealth Games Flag and the Host Baton during the closing ceremony of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, marking the handover of hosting responsibilities.**

- Ahmedabad 2030 will become the second Commonwealth Games hosted by India, following the successful hosting of the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Harshita Jakhar Becomes First Indian Woman to Feature at Tour de France Femmes

- **Harshita Jakhar of Rajasthan** became the **first Indian woman cyclist** to feature at the prestigious Tour de France Femmes, creating a historic milestone for Indian cycling.
- She participated in the ceremonial start of Stage 2 of the Tour de France Femmes at Aigle, Switzerland, marking India's first-ever women's representation at the event.

India Finishes 4th at 2026 Commonwealth Games with 39 Medals, Including 13 Gold

- **India finished 4th in the 2026 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow**, winning a total of 39 medals — 13 Gold, 17 Silver, and 9 Bronze.
- India's 13 gold medals came from Weightlifting (1), Para-athletics (2), Judo (2), and Boxing (7), highlighting the country's dominance in combat sports and para-events.

Top 10 Nations Final Standings – Commonwealth Games 2026

Rank	Team / 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	13	12	35
7	Nigeria	10	7	7	24
8	Jamaica	10	4	5	19
9	Wales	9	10	12	31
10	Malaysia	8	3	5	16

Gold Medal Winners (13 Gold)		
S.No.	Athlete	Sport/Event
1	Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting – Women's 48kg
2	Sharmila Dhankar	Para-Athletics – Women's Shot Put F57
3	Dilip Gavitt	Para-Athletics – Men's 100m T47
4	Asmita Dey	Judo – Women's 48kg
5	Harsh Singh	Judo – Men's 60kg

Gold Medal Winners (13 Gold)		
S.No.	Athlete	Sport/Event
6	Soman Rana	Para-Athletics – Men's Shot Put F57
7	Preeti Pawar	Boxing – Women's Category
8	Jaismine Lamboria	Boxing – Women's Category
9	Sakshi Chaudhary	Boxing – Women's Category
10	Priya Ghanghas	Boxing – Women's Category
11	Arundhati Choudhary	Boxing – Women's Category
12	Sachin Siwach	Boxing – Men's Category
13	Ankush Panghal	Boxing – Men's Category
Silver Medal Winners (17 Silver)		
S.No.	Athlete	Sport/Event
1	Neeraj Chopra	Athletics – Men's Javelin Throw
2	Murali Sreeshankar	Athletics – Men's Long Jump
3	Praveen Chithravel	Athletics – Men's Triple Jump
4	Sarvesh Anil Kushare	Athletics – Men's High Jump
5	Gulveer Singh	Athletics – Men's 10,000m
6	Rishikanta Singh	Weightlifting – Men's 60kg
7	Muthupandi Raja	Weightlifting – Men's 65kg
8	Gyaneshwari Yadav	Weightlifting – Women's 53kg
9	Valluri Ajaya Babu	Weightlifting – Men's 79kg
10	Harjinder Kaur	Weightlifting – Women's 69kg
11	Lovepreet Singh	Weightlifting – Men's +110kg
12	Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing – Women's 75kg
13	Narender Berwal	Boxing – Men's 90+kg
14	Jadumani Singh	Boxing – Men's 55kg
15	Yamini Mourya	Judo – Women's 57kg
16	Mohammed Basil	Para-Athletics – Men's 100m T47
17	Shubham Juyal	Para-Athletics – Men's Shot Put F57
Bronze Medal Winners (9 Bronze)		
S.No.	Athlete	Sport/Event
1	Yashvir Singh	Athletics – Men's Javelin Throw
2	Selva Prabhu Thirumaran	Athletics – Men's Triple Jump
3	Gulveer Singh	Athletics – Men's 5000m
4	Tejaswin Shankar	Athletics – Men's Decathlon
5	Seema Kaliramna	Athletics – Women's Discus Throw
6	Bindyarani Devi	Weightlifting – Women's 58kg

Gold Medal Winners (13 Gold)		
S.No.	Athlete	Sport/Event
7	Jhandu Kumar	Para Powerlifting – Men's Heavyweight
8	Shilpa Shyla	Para-Athletics – Women's Shot Put F57
9	Unnati Sharma	Judo – Women's -64kg

R. Praggnanandhaa Wins Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid & Blitz Title

- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won the **Grand Chess Tour St. Louis Rapid & Blitz** title in the **United States**, securing the championship after drawing against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in the penultimate round.
- This victory adds another major title to Praggnanandhaa's impressive 2026 season, following his triumph at the Norway Chess 2026 tournament in Oslo in June.

Mohammed Ashfaq Breaks India's U20 National Record in Men's 400m

- India's Mohammed Ashfaq broke the **Under-20 National Record** in the men's 400 metres at the **World Athletics U20 Championships** in Eugene, United States.
- He clocked 45.81 seconds in the first-round Heat 5. He improved upon his own previous national record of 46.05 seconds.

Titli Maji Wins Silver in Women's 45kg at Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships

- Indian weightlifter **Titli Maji** won the **silver** medal in the women's 45 kg category at the **Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- She recorded a total lift of 145 kg, including 65 kg in snatch and 80 kg in clean & jerk. Parishmita Gogoi finished fourth in the same event.

Ashmita Chaliha Becomes First Indian to Win Korea Masters

- Indian badminton player **Ashmita Chaliha** won the **women's singles title** at the **Korea Masters**, becoming the first Indian to win the tournament.
- Chaliha secured her maiden BWF World Tour Super 300 title in Asan, South Korea, defeating China's fourth seed Han Qian Xi in the final.

Maharajan Arumugapandian Wins Silver in 65kg Category at Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships

- Indian weightlifter **Maharajan Arumugapandian** won the **silver** medal in the men's 65 kg category at the **Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- Maharajan recorded a personal best total of 285 kg, lifting 128 kg in the snatch and 157 kg in the clean and jerk.

Indian-Origin Chess Players Bodhana Sivanandan & Shreyas Royal Win Major Titles at 2026 British Chess Championships

- **Bodhana Sivanandan and Shreyas Royal**, both Indian-origin chess players, won major titles at the **2026 British Chess Championships held at the University of Warwick, Coventry, England**.
- 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan became Britain's youngest-ever Women's Chess Champion, defeating Irish Women Grandmaster Trisha Kanyamarala in a rapid playoff.

India Crowned Overall Champions at Commonwealth Fencing Championship with 35 Medals

- **India** emerged as the overall champions at the **Commonwealth Fencing Championship** held in **Lagos, Nigeria**, winning a total of 35 medals—13 gold, 8 silver and 14 bronze.
- **India also won the Wilkinson Sword Trophy**, awarded by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation for the best overall performance, marking the country's first Commonwealth Overall Championship title.

Iga Swiatek, Ben Shelton Win Canadian Open Singles Titles in Toronto and Montreal

- **Iga Swiatek of Poland** defeated second seed **Elena Rybakina** 6–2, 6–3 to win the **Women's Singles title at the Canadian Open in Toronto**, securing her first title of the 2026 season.
- In the **Men's Singles**, **American Ben Shelton** defeated compatriot **Brandon Nakashima** 6–3, 7–6(4) in **Montreal** to successfully defend his Canadian Open title.

IN-Space Approved India's First Fully Commercial Earth Observation Sat Constellation

- Union Minister of State (MoS) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Department of Space (DoS), informed the Lok Sabha (House of Peoples) that Indian Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), DoS, has approved and signed an agreement for the country's first indigenous, fully commercial Earth Observation (EO) constellation under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model with a private consortium named **Allied Orbits Private Limited**.
- The PPP framework enables Non-Government Entities (NGEs) to develop and operate Earth Observation (EO) constellations, strengthening India's space capabilities and self-reliant ecosystem.

Magnus Carlsen wins Esports World Cup Chess Title 2026 for Second Consecutive Year

- World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen won the 2026 Esports World Cup (EWC) chess title in Paris, France, on August 15, 2026, defending his crown for the second consecutive year.
- Representing Team Liquid, Carlsen went completely undefeated through the tournament, defeating Belarusian Grandmaster Denis Lazavik 2-0 in the grand final.

East Bengal lift Durand Cup for record 17th time, defeating arch-rivals Mohun Bagan

- *East Bengal FC recently defeated arch-rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giant 4-1* to claim their record-equalling 17th title in the prestigious Durand Cup on August 23, 2026.

Lando Norris Won the Dutch Grand Prix 2026

- **Lando Norris won the 2026 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort.** The victory marked his second consecutive Formula 1 win. **Kimi Antonelli** finished second, while **George Russell** secured third place.
- Lando Norris is a **British racing driver** who competes in Formula One for McLaren.

India's Grandmaster Pranesh M wins Chess Kanizsa Open title in Hungary

- **India's 19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M (from Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu)** emerged as the champion in the prestigious **Kanizsa Open 2026** in **Nagykanizsa, Hungary**, securing the Group A title with a superb performance.
- In the ninth and final round of the tournament, Pranesh defeated Vadim Petrovskiy of Germany with white pieces. Pranesh has a rating of 2673 and is ranked 44th in the latest FIDE Rankings of August 2026.

India Open 2028 shifted to Guwahati

- **India Open Super 750 tournament will be shifted to Guwahati for the 2028 edition** due to clash with Republic Day in New Delhi, Badminton Association of India secretary Sanjay confirmed on 24th August.
- The tournament, usually held at the IG Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, will move to the **National Center of Excellence of Badminton in Guwahati** for one season due to the dates clashing with the celebration of the Republic Day in the capital city.

Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian Grand Chess Tour Champion

- **R. Praggnanandhaa has made history by becoming the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour** after defeating the U.S. defending champion Fabiano Caruana 15–13 in the final **held in St. Louis**.
- The Grand Chess Tour is an elite circuit spanning Classical, Rapid and Blitz events with the world's best players and a total prize pool of \$2 million.

India Selected by FIFA for Women's Development Programme 2026 to Boost Women's Football

- India has been selected among 12 nations by FIFA for the Women's Development Programme (Commercial Strategy 2026), boosting women's football.
- Under this initiative, FIFA will provide customised training and guidance to stakeholders to strengthen women's football development in the country.

Velavan Senthilkumar wins PSA Budapest Squash Open title in Hungary

- **India's Velavan Senthilkumar won the PSA Budapest Squash Open title in Hungary** after defeating home favourite Balazs Farkas 3-0 in the final.
- He had an impressive run to the title, beating World No. 18 and Asian Games gold medallist Eain Yow Ng 3-0 in the quarterfinals before overcoming fellow Indian Veer Chotrani 3-2 in a thrilling semifinal. Senthilkumar capped his remarkable week with a dominant performance in the final.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
The book "Cementing Legacies: The Life of SNN Sankaralinga Iyer – A Pioneering Polymath"	Authored by veteran journalist K. Balakumar
Bringing the Cheetah Back to India	Authored by Prashant Agrawal
Book 'Africa Before America'	Launched his new book Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri
The biographical novel 'Kaho Kalidasa!'	Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the biographical novel

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 August	World Wide Web Day	The World Wide Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989, revolutionizing communication, education, and access to information.
1 August	National Mountain Climbing Day	The day commemorates the achievements of Bobby Matthews and his friend Josh Madigan , who climbed the 46 High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains (New York, USA)
1-7 August	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme 2026 : Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works
3 August	Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day	CLOVES stands for Congenital Lipomatous Overgrowth, Vascular Malformations, Epidermal Nevi, and Skeletal/Spinal Abnormalities , describing the key features of the syndrome.
3 August	National Watermelon Day	The day promotes the nutritional and health benefits of watermelon, which is rich in water, vitamins A and C, antioxidants, and lycopene , helping support hydration and overall health.
6 August	81st Anniversary of Hiroshima Atomic Bombing	The bombing of Hiroshima (6 August 1945) was followed by the bombing of Nagasaki (9 August 1945) with the "Fat Man" atomic bomb.
6 August	International Day of Awareness of the Special Development Needs	The day highlights issues such as lack of direct access to the sea,

	and Challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries	high transport and trade costs, geographical isolation, and limited connectivity , which hinder sustainable economic growth and development.
7 August	National Handloom Day	The day commemorates the Swadeshi Movement, which was launched on 7 August 1905 , encouraging the use of indigenous products, including handwoven textiles.
7 August	National Javelin Day	It aims to promote javelin throw and athletics among Indian youth and inspire budding athletes to take up the sport.
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Theme 2026 - Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being
10 August	World Lion Day	The day highlights threats to lion populations, including habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and poaching .
10 August	International Biodiesel Day	The day commemorates Rudolf Diesel, who demonstrated the use of peanut oil as fuel in his engine in 1893.
11 August	World Steelpan Day	The steelpan originated in Trinidad and Tobago and is recognized as an important symbol of the country's cultural identity .
13 August	International Left-Handers Day	It aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by left-handers in a predominantly right-handed world and promote inclusivity and understanding .

13 August	World Organ Donation Day	The day encourages people to pledge their organs and highlights how organ donation can save and transform the lives of patients suffering from organ failure.
14 August	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	It aims to remember the victims, honour their resilience, and promote unity and social harmony by recalling the tragic consequences of Partition
14 August	World Lizard Day	The day highlights the ecological significance of lizards, particularly their role in controlling insect and other pest populations.
19 August	World Humanitarian Day	The 2026 theme is " Honouring fallen humanitarians and calling for greater protection of health care. "
19 August	World Photography Day	The 2026 theme is " home, " focusing on personal spaces, memories and cultural roots
19 August	World Liver Day	Theme 2026- Solid Habits, Strong Liver
20 August	Sadbhavana Diwas, or Harmony Day	" Sadbhavana " translates to goodwill and harmony . The day commemorates the 82nd birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi , encouraging national integration and peaceful resolution of differences.
20 August	Indian Akshay Urja Day	It promotes renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydro, and biomass across India

20 August	World Mosquito Day	The day raises global awareness about life-threatening, mosquito-borne illnesses like dengue, malaria, Zika, and chikungunya , while promoting prevention and community action.
20 August	World Senior Citizens Day	To honor older adults, recognize their life achievements , and raise awareness about issues affecting them, such as health decline, financial insecurity, and elder abuse .
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade	The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated annually on August 23 by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade and honor the victims and freedom fighters.
23 August	3rd National Space Day	Theme 2026- " Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership. "
24 August	National Panchayati Raj Day	Theme 2026 - Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas " (Empowered Panchayats, Holistic Development)
24 August	World Day for Animals in Laboratories	It highlights the need for ethical practices and stricter regulations in scientific experiments involving animals .
26 August	Women's Equality Day	Theme 2026: " Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future "

26 August	Happy Onam	It is celebrated during the month of Chingam according to the Malayalam solar calendar , which corresponds to August-September . The festival marks a period of abundance, unity, and cultural pride , bringing people together from all walks of life.
28 August	World Sanskrit Day	Designated by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 1969 to encourage the revival and maintenance of Sanskrit.
28 August	National Sports Day in India (honoring Major Dhyan Chand)	To mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand
29 August	International Day Against Nuclear Tests 2026	The theme highlighted for the International Day Against Nuclear Tests focuses on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and choosing restraint over ruin.

Chapter 20: Science & Technology

Astrobase Unveils India's First Privately Built 800 kN FFSC Rocket Engine 'EVEREST'

- Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies has unveiled EVEREST, India's first privately developed 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX-Methane rocket engine.
- With the development of EVEREST, India has become the fourth country to achieve FFSC engine technology, after Russia, the U.S. and China.

S301 Becomes Milky Way's Fastest Securely Orbiting Star

- Astronomers discovered **S301**, the fastest known securely orbiting star in the Milky Way. It zooms around Sagittarius A*, the galaxy's central supermassive black hole, at an incredible speed of 25,000 kilometers per second—about 8% the speed of light.

ISRO set to resume launches after 7-month pause with GISAT-1A in September

- After a seven-month hiatus, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to **launch the GISAT-1A (EOS-05) Earth observation satellite aboard the GSLV-F17** rocket in September 2026.
- **About:** GISAT-1A (designated as EOS-05) is a state-of-the-art, agile Geo-Imaging Satellite designed to operate from a Geostationary Orbit (~36,000 km altitude). Unlike conventional remote sensing satellites operating in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), GISAT-1A remains stationed over the Indian subcontinent, enabling continuous, near real-time optical surveillance and environmental monitoring.

India aims to establish space station by 2035, first Bharatiya Antariksha Station module

- **India is working to establish its own space station by 2035**, with the first module of the proposed **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS)** already approved, **ISRO Chairman Dr V Narayanan said on 24th August**.
- Speaking at the third National Space Day celebrations in Ahmedabad, Narayanan said India's space programme has expanded significantly since its launch 64 years ago, with space-based applications now being used across more than 50 areas that directly benefit citizens.

Sophie Adenot Becomes First French Woman to Walk in Space

- **European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot** has officially made history as the **first French woman to walk in space**.
- During U.S. Spacewalk 97 outside the International Space Station, Adenot spent over six hours performing maintenance, marking a major milestone for European spaceflight.

DRDO Hands Over AI-Based 'Prajna' System to Boost Internal Security

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** received an indigenous **AI-based satellite imaging system**, 'Prajna', developed by DRDO, to enhance real-time decision-making for security agencies.
- Separately, DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully tested the Air Droppable Container (ADC-150), capable of delivering 150 kg payload to assist naval operations and emergency support at sea.

NASA Unveils Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope to Explore Exoplanets and Map the Universe

- **NASA** has unveiled the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**, a next-generation observatory aimed at studying exoplanets, dark matter, and dark energy.
- The telescope is expected to discover tens of thousands of exoplanets and map billions of galaxies, stars, and cosmic structures across the universe.

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Renowned Mountaineer Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja	In 2019, he created history by climbing all 14 peaks above 8,000 metres in just 6 months and 6 days under his Project Possible mission
Former Army Chief General Vishwa Nath Sharma	He served as the 14th Chief of the Army Staff from 1 May 1988 to 30 June 1990.
Former Liberhan Commission Chief Justice M.S. Liberhan	He was appointed head of the one-man Liberhan Commission on 16 December 1992 to investigate the circumstances leading to the Babri Masjid demolition in Ayodhya.
Former Bihar and Tripura Governor Dr. D.Y. Patil	He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1991 for his contributions to social work and had earlier served as Mayor of Kolhapur (1957–1962) and as a Congress MLA (1967–1978).
Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji	Zhu played a major role in China's economic reforms, including restructuring state-owned enterprises, controlling inflation, centralising tax powers, and introducing housing ownership reforms.
Veteran Bengali filmmaker Raja Sen	Raja Sen began his feature filmmaking journey with Damu in 1996. The film, which focused on a young boy and his bond with an elephant, earned the National Film Award for Best Children's Film and

	established him as a notable voice in Bengali cinema.
National award-winning veteran sculptor and master craftsman Chandrashekhar Y. Shilpi	He was widely celebrated for preserving traditional Indian temple architecture and intricate wood and stone carving heritage.
Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar	He was serving multiple life sentences after his conviction in cases linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi.
Legendary Actor Sowcar Janaki	She has worked in over 400 films since her debut in the Telugu film Shavukaru directed by LV Prasad. This film earned her the title ' Sowcar Janaki '
Yayoi Kusama, the Japanese artist	Kusama was born in Matsumoto, Japan , on March 22, 1929. She became famous for polka dots, pumpkin sculptures and Infinity Mirror Rooms
Norway's King Harald	King Harald remained monarch during decades of economic growth largely driven by Norway's oil and gas sector.
Uganda's King Oyo Nyimba	Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV became king of Tooro in western Uganda at just three years old in 1995 after the death of his father.