

## Weekly One Liners 18th to 24th August, 2025

### Ambanis Lead 2025 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List

India's family-owned business dynasties continue to dominate the economic landscape, with the Ambani family topping the 2025 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list for the second year in a row. With a staggering valuation of ₹28.2 lakh crore, nearly one-twelfth of India's GDP, the Ambanis remain far ahead of their peers in both scale and influence.

The Birla and Jindal families followed in second and third positions, highlighting the enduring power of legacy-driven enterprises in India's rapidly evolving economy.

#### Ambanis at the Helm with ₹28.2 Lakh Crore

Led by Mukesh Ambani, the Reliance Industries empire continues to dominate across energy, telecom, retail, and digital platforms. Founded in 1957, Reliance remains at the heart of India's industrial might. The Ambanis' wealth rose 10% year-on-year, underscoring consistent growth even amid global uncertainties.

Birlas and Jindals Secure the Next Spots

#### Kumar Mangalam Birla Family – ₹6.5 Lakh Crore

Rising to second place, the Aditya Birla Group, a fourth-generation conglomerate, expanded its valuation by ₹1.1 lakh crore this year. With roots tracing back to the 1850s, the group's legacy spans cement, telecom, aluminium, and financial services.

#### Jindal Family – ₹5.7 Lakh Crore

Spearheaded by Sajjan Jindal, JSW Steel helped the Jindals jump to the third spot. Their 21% growth this year reflects the booming metals and mining sector, essential to India's infrastructure surge.

#### Top 10 Indian Family Businesses in 2025

The combined valuation of the top three families—Ambani, Birla, and Jindal—is ₹40.4 lakh crore, equivalent to the GDP of the Philippines.

Rank	Family Name	Company	Valuation (In Crore)	Leader	Sector
1	Ambani	Reliance Industries	28,23,100	Mukesh Ambani	Energy
2	Birla	Aditya Birla Group	6,47,700	Kumar Mangalam Birla	Cement
3	Jindal	JSW Steel	5,70,900	Sajjan Jindal	Metals
4	Bajaj	Bajaj Group	5,64,200	Sanjiv Bajaj	Financial Services
5	Mahindra	Mahindra & Mahindra	5,43,800	Anand Mahindra	Automobiles
6	Nadar	HCL Technologies	4,68,900	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	IT Services
7	Murugappa	Cholamandalam Finance	2,92,400	Vellayan Subbiah	Finance
8	Premji	Wipro	2,78,600	Rishad Premji	IT Services
9	Anil Agarwal	Hindustan Zinc	2,55,000	Anil Agarwal	Metals
10	Dani-Choksi-Vakil	Asian Paints	2,20,900	R. Seshasayee	Chemicals

#### Trends and Insights

- The threshold to enter the Top 10 jumped by ₹18,700 crore, signaling intense value creation
- The Anil Agarwal family (Hindustan Zinc) saw a 79% rise, marking the highest growth in 2025
- Energy, financial services, and software remain the dominant wealth engines
- Several families operate in multi-generational leadership structures, reflecting long-term governance stability

### RBI's FREE-AI Framework: Shaping Ethical AI in the Indian Financial Sector

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rewiring financial services, from **fraud detection** to **credit underwriting**, but without clear guardrails, it can magnify risks. To steer this transition, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** set up a committee in **December 2024** to craft the **Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of AI (FREE-AI)** for the financial sector. The goal is simple but ambitious: **enable innovation while protecting trust, fairness, and stability**.

#### Committee, Mandate, and Methodology

Chaired by **Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya (IIT Bombay)** with members spanning policy, industry and academia, the Committee was tasked to assess adoption, review global approaches, identify risks, and recommend a governance framework tailored to India. It used a **four-pronged method**: wide **stakeholder engagements**, two **national surveys** (DoS and FTD) across banks/NBFCs/FinTechs, a scan of **global standards and laws**, and a gap analysis of **existing RBI guidelines** (IT, cybersecurity, outsourcing, digital lending, and consumer protection).

#### The Opportunity: Where AI Adds Value

AI promises **productivity gains** via process automation, **personalised customer experience** (multilingual chat/voice), sharper **risk analytics**, and **financial inclusion** using alternative data. India's diversity argues for **multilingual, domain-tuned models** (including efficient **SLMs** and LTD "trinity" models), and a **GenAI innovation sandbox** to speed safe experimentation.

## The Risk Landscape: What Can Go Wrong

The report flags model and operational risks—**bias, opacity, hallucinations, model drift, data poisoning**, adversarial prompts, and **third-party concentration**. It notes systemic concerns (herding, **procyclicality**) and cybersecurity threats (automated phishing, deepfakes). Liability in non-deterministic systems is complex, and **consumer protection** requires clear disclosures and contestability of AI-led decisions.

## Global Policy Context and India's Stance

Approaches vary: the **EU AI Act** uses horizontal, risk-tiered rules; **Singapore** blends toolkits (FEAT/Veritas) with guidance; **UK/US** lean principle-based; **China** regulates by AI type. India's line is **pro-innovation with safeguards**, backed by the **IndiaAI Mission (₹10,372 crore)** and the **AI Safety Institute (AISi)** to evaluate models and promote **safe, trusted AI**.

## Seven Sutras (Core Principles) and Six Strategic Pillars

The Committee crystallises adoption around seven Sutras: **Trust, People First, Innovation over Restraint, Fairness & Equity, Accountability, Understandable by Design, and Safety, Resilience & Sustainability**. These are operationalised through six Pillars that pair **enablement** with **risk control**:

- **Infrastructure:** shared **data/compute, AI Innovation Sandbox**, sector models.
- **Policy:** proportional, risk-based guidance; clarity on outsourcing and vendor AI.
- **Capacity:** board to frontline **AI literacy**, Centers of Excellence, shared playbooks.
- **Governance:** board-approved **AI policy**, lifecycle controls, documentation.
- **Protection:** consumer **disclosures**, fairness testing, human-in-the-loop.
- **Assurance:** **cybersecurity** augmentation, incident reporting, independent audits.

## Twenty-Six Recommendations: What RBI Wants Done (Essentials)

The report clusters actionable steps, notably: create **shared compute/data rails**; launch a **GenAI sandbox**; encourage **indigenous financial-grade models**; require **board-approved AI policies**; extend **product approval** and **audit** scopes to cover AI; strengthen **AI-specific cybersecurity** and **incident reporting**; ensure customers are **told when engaging with AI**; share sector **best practices**; and allow **lighter compliance** for clearly **low-risk** uses to spur inclusion.

## Survey Insights: Current Adoption and Gaps

Adoption remains shallow: only **20.8%** (127/612) supervised entities use or are developing AI. **Tier-1 UCBs: 0%**; Tier-2/3 UCBs <**10%**; among **NBFCs, 27%** report usage; **ARCs: 0%**. Typical production/POC use cases: **customer support (15.6%), credit underwriting (13.7%), sales/marketing (11.8%), cybersecurity (10.6%)**. **35%** favour the **public cloud** for scalability. Governance maturity is low: only **~1/3** have **board-level oversight**; **~1/4** have

formal **incident handling**. On tooling and controls: **SHAP/LIME 15%, audit logs 18%, bias validation 35%** (mostly pre-deployment), **periodic retraining 37%, drift monitoring 21%, real-time monitoring 14%**. Barriers cited: **talent gaps, costs/compute, data quality, and legal uncertainty**.

**What these numbers mean:** India risks a two-speed AI economy where large banks move ahead and smaller UCBs/NBFCs lag—precisely why **shared infra, clear guidance, and capacity building** are central to FREE-AI.

## How FREE-AI Interlocks with Existing RBI Rules

The report clarifies fitment with **outsourcing** (vendor AI still needs RE accountability, with AI-specific clauses), **IT/cybersecurity** (extend controls to models, data pipelines, access/audit trails), **digital lending** (auditable, explainable credit models; **data minimisation/consent**), and **consumer protection** (disclosures, grievance redress against AI outcomes). It also proposes model registers, lineage, and traceability to aid supervision.

## Way Forward (Exam-Ready Pointers)

Priorities include: operationalising the **AI Sandbox**; issuing a **board-policy template** and **incident reporting format**; promoting **multilingual inclusion models**; scaling **sector training** (boards, risk, audit, tech); and enabling **transparent, auditable AI** with **bias checks** and **human appeal** routes. For low-risk use (e.g., FAQ chat), a **proportional compliance** path can accelerate adoption without diluting safety.

## Online Gaming Bill 2025 Passed: E-Sports Encouraged, Real Money Gaming Banned

Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, marking a transformative moment for India's digital entertainment landscape. The Bill aims to promote e-sports and online social games, while prohibiting harmful online money gaming platforms that have been linked to addiction, financial ruin, and even suicides. This legislation establishes a central regulatory framework to guide the development of the sector while protecting vulnerable users, particularly the youth.



## Key Features of the Online Gaming Bill

### Three Broad Categories

- The Bill divides online gaming into three major segments:
- E-sports, which are skill-based, competitive digital games played professionally.
- Online social games, played for recreation without monetary rewards.
- Online money games, involving stakes or deposits promising financial returns.

### Encouragement and Regulation

- E-sports and social gaming are actively promoted, with the Bill calling for the creation of an Online Gaming Authority.
- The authority will provide policy coordination, regulatory oversight, and strategic development, including support for game developers and infrastructure building.

### Strict Ban on Online Money Games

- A complete ban is placed on offering, operating, or facilitating real money online games, including games like Rummy, Poker, and other card-based gambling apps.
- These platforms often manipulate users with promises of easy money and are now associated with growing instances of suicide, financial distress, and fraud.

### Penalties and Enforcement Mechanism

#### Criminal Liability

- Violation of the online money gaming provisions can result in up to three years imprisonment, a fine of ₹1 crore, or both.
- Repeat offences will invite harsher penalties — including three to five years' imprisonment and fines up to ₹2 crores.

#### National-Level Legal Framework

- The Bill establishes a uniform national framework, ending the legal ambiguity that previously allowed such platforms to proliferate.
- It empowers the central government to regulate and restrict online money games in the public interest and in alignment with national security objectives.

### Why This Bill Was Necessary

#### Explosive Growth with Little Regulation

- The past decade of digital expansion has seen a surge in online gaming platforms, many offering real money-based games under the guise of skill gaming.
- The lack of a legal framework led to unregulated growth, creating psychological and financial harm for users.

#### Social Consequences

- 32 suicides in the last 31 months have been directly linked to financial losses in real money games.
- Families across the country have reported bankruptcy, debt, and mental health disorders due to these platforms.

## Economic and Security Risks

- Investigations revealed the use of online money gaming platforms in money laundering and even terror financing, triggering national security alarms.

### Government's Vision and Support

- Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasized that this Bill aligns with the vision of a Digital India that is safe, innovative, and responsible. He noted:
- The rise of start-ups in digital gaming must be supported with a robust regulatory environment.
- The Bill ensures that creativity and entrepreneurship in digital entertainment are encouraged without compromising public welfare.

### Speaker's Endorsement

- Speaker Om Birla underlined the urgency of the law, highlighting public demands for action against online gaming abuse and urging cooperation from all parties to support this critical legislation.

## National Affairs

- In **July**, *ten States* and the **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)** achieved a **case disposal rate exceeding 100%**, meaning more consumer complaints were resolved than filed. The **NCDRC** led with a **122% disposal rate**, while **Tamil Nadu (277%)**, **Rajasthan (214%)**, and **Telangana (158%)** were top performers among states. Platforms like **e-Jagriti**, which saw over **2 lakh users** (including **NRIs**) and **85,531 cases** filed this year, have supported this improvement in consumer grievance redressal. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated three new sections—**Plumeria Garden**, **Banyan Grove**, and **Babbling Brook**—within the **Amrit Udyan** at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, enhancing its **ecological**, **aesthetic**, and **wellness** appeal. These additions promote **sustainability**, **public health**, and **cultural enrichment**, with features like **reflexology paths**, **Panchtatva trails**, and **natural water cascades**. Open to the public until **14 September 2025**, the initiative reflects a push toward **inclusive**, **eco-conscious heritage spaces**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic first**, the **Indian Tricolour** was hoisted at **Seattle's iconic 605-foot-tall Space Needle** to mark **India's 79th Independence Day**, making it the **first foreign flag** ever raised at this landmark. The event, attended by **Consul General Prakash Gupta**, **Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell**, and other dignitaries, symbolized a moment of **diplomatic and cultural recognition** for India at one of America's most renowned sites. ([Click here to read article](#))



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated two major highway projects—the **Alipur-Dichaon Kalan stretch of Urban Extension Road-II** and the **Delhi section of Dwarka Expressway**—aimed at **declogging Delhi traffic** and enhancing connectivity in the **Delhi-NCR** region. Together costing **Rs 11,000 crore**, these projects will **reduce travel time by 40-60%** from Indira Gandhi International Airport to southwest and northwest Delhi and are expected to cut traffic jams by **50%**. The initiatives reflect a focus on **world-class infrastructure, seamless mobility, and environmental sustainability** through waste recycling and tree transplantation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**, under the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**, has launched a new **Medical Application Portal** for laboratories applying under **ISO 15189:2022**. Announced during a virtual event titled **“GOING LIVE”**, the portal aims to enhance **ease, efficiency, and transparency** in the **accreditation process**. Key features include a **restructured application flow, standardized templates, a pre-registration checklist, intuitive interface, and multi-user access**, significantly reducing processing time. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Centre has implemented the **“Anna-Chakra” Supply Chain Optimisation Tool** in **30 out of 31 targeted States/UTs** under the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**, excluding **Manipur**. This tool enhances **route optimisation**, leading to an **estimated annual saving of ₹250 crore in transportation costs**. It also supports **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction**, aligning with India’s **climate change commitments**. The information was shared by **Union Minister Smt. Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya** in the **Rajya Sabha**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**, launched by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, is envisioned as the **world’s largest tribal grassroots leadership programme** to promote **responsive governance, tribal empowerment, and inclusive development**. Aligned with **Viksit Bharat 2047** and the spirit of **“Sewa, Sankalp, Samarpan”**, it aims to mobilize **20 lakh change leaders** across **1 lakh tribal villages** in **550 districts and 30 States/UTs**. Key initiatives include **Adi Sewa Kendras, Governance Lab Workshops, the Tribal Village Vision 2030, and training for Adi Sahyogi and Adi Saathi volunteers**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Press Registrar General of India (PRGI)**, **Yogesh Baweja**, launched the **‘Press Sewa’ portal** as a **single-window solution** to simplify the registration process for **newspapers and periodicals**. The portal aims to enhance **transparency, speed up approvals, and improve the ease of doing business** for publishers by resolving their registration issues. Since March last year, the entire registration process has shifted **online**, with applications deemed approved if there is no response within **60 days**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India passed the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025**, to **liberalise mining**, boost **domestic production** of critical minerals like **lithium and rare earths**, expand the role of the **National Mineral Exploration and Development Trust**, allow greater **lease flexibility**, remove **sale caps** on captive mining, and introduce **mineral exchanges** for transparent trading, all aimed at reducing **import dependency**, promoting **sustainability**, and strengthening India’s **strategic mineral security**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has introduced **28 major initiatives** in six months to enhance **transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity** in the electoral process. Key reforms focus on **stakeholder engagement, cleaning electoral rolls, technology adoption** through platforms like **ECINET**, improved **voting ease**, and extensive **capacity building** of officials. Measures include **delisting inactive parties, photo ID cards for Booth Level Officers, 100% webcasting**, and automatic updates of voter lists linked to death databases, aiming to ensure **accountability, fairness, and voter convenience** nationwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian Railways has commissioned India’s **first removable solar panel system** installed between railway tracks at Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi—a 70-metre setup with 28 panels generating 15 KWp, marking a key step towards **green and sustainable rail transport**. Additionally, it expanded freight operations by flagging off the first industrial salt rake from Sanosara to Dahej, boosting regional industry and logistics. Western Railway also launched India’s first **2x25 kV Electric Traction System** using Scott Transformer technology on the Nagda-Khachrod section, enhancing railway electrification efficiency. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Online Gaming Bill**, which seeks to **regulate e-sports**, promote **online social games**, and **criminalize online betting**. The Bill proposes to **prohibit advertisements, fund transfers, and participation in online money games**, while establishing or designating an authority to oversee the sector. It prescribes **punishments for violations**, including stricter penalties for repeat offenders, and empowers authorities to **block, investigate, and seize** assets related to illegal gaming activities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **130th Constitution Amendment Bill** was introduced in **Lok Sabha** by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, proposing **automatic removal** of the **Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and ministers** if detained for **30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges**. It amends **Articles 75, 164, and 239AA**, mandating resignation or cessation from office without **conviction**, with **reappointment allowed** post-release. The bill aims to promote **clean governance and public trust**, but faces criticism over potential **political misuse**, violation of **presumption of innocence**, and undermining of **federal principles**. It has been referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee** for review. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India Post** has launched **IT 2.0 – Advanced Postal Technology (APT)** as part of its **nationwide digital transformation**, aligning with the **Digital India** mission. Developed **indigenously** by the **Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology**, the system operates on the **MeghRaj 2.0 cloud** and leverages **BSNL's nationwide connectivity**. Key features include a **unified interface**, **QR-code-based payments**, **OTP-based delivery**, and a **10-digit alphanumeric DIGIPIN** to enhance delivery accuracy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NCERT** has launched educational modules titled **"Operation Sindoor – A Saga of Valour"** (for Classes 3-8) and **"Operation Sindoor – A Mission of Honour and Bravery"** (for Classes 9-12), portraying Operation Sindoor as a **military success, technological breakthrough, and political message**. The modules aim to educate students on courage, patriotism, and national security. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **EPFO** records an **all-time high net addition of 21.89 lakh members in June 2025**, marking its strongest monthly payroll growth since April 2018. This reflects a **9.14% rise from May 2025** and a **13.46% year-on-year increase** over June 2024. Over **10.62 lakh new subscribers** joined, dominated by the **18–25 age group** (6.39 lakh new entrants). Re-enrolments rose to **16.93 lakh**, showing more members opting to transfer savings instead of withdrawing. Female participation grew significantly, with **3.02 lakh new women subscribers** and a net addition of **4.72 lakh females**. Maharashtra led state-wise additions with over 20% share. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The government has launched **SabhaSaar**, an **AI-powered tool** that auto-generates **structured minutes** from **Gram Sabha** video/audio recordings, ensuring **transparency** and **uniformity** across panchayats. Built on the **BHASHINI** platform, it supports transcription in multiple **Indian languages**. Linked with **e-GramSwaraj** and monitored through the **Panchayat NIRNAY** portal, SabhaSaar promotes **digital governance** and enhances **participatory democracy** under the **Panchayati Raj system**, a key part of the **73rd Constitutional Amendment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **six-day Indian cinema festival** began at the **Trincomalee campus of Eastern University**, Sri Lanka, showcasing **six Indian films** in multiple languages. The event was inaugurated by **Governor Prof. Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera**. Prof. **Ankuran Dutta**, Director of the **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre**, highlighted Indian cinema's rich diversity and growth over 111 years. The festival aims to **strengthen cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka** through the art of cinema. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The newly inaugurated **Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II)** is a major infrastructure project aimed at **decongesting Delhi** and improving **regional connectivity** in the **Delhi-NCR** region. It connects **NH-44**, **NH-09**, and the **Dwarka Expressway**, reducing travel time and easing movement across states like **Haryana**, **Punjab**, **J&K**, and **Uttarakhand**. Key features include multiple **six-lane** and **four-lane**

**highway packages**, major **interchanges**, **RoBs**, and links to **Sonipat** and **Bahadurgarh bypasses**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- To advance **next-generation reforms** and the **Viksit Bharat** vision, the **Centre has set up two high-powered committees** led by **Rajiv Gauba**, comprising top **secretaries**, **economists**, and **industry leaders**. One panel targets **Viksit Bharat goals**, while the other focuses on **regulatory reforms in the non-financial sector**. These panels will work alongside ministerial groups chaired by **Amit Shah** and **Rajnath Singh**, and coordinate with a **state-level deregulation panel** led by **Cabinet Secretary TVS Swaminathan**, following PM Modi's call for reform in his **Independence Day speech**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Kerala** has been declared **India's first fully digitally literate state**, completing **Phase I of the Digi Kerala project**, which trained over **21.87 lakh people** in basic digital skills, including senior citizens. Through a **grassroots, inclusive model**, the state bridged the **digital divide**, empowering citizens for **e-governance**, **digital democracy**, and **socio-economic resilience**, and set a **model for Digital India** by prioritizing **people-centric digital empowerment** over infrastructure alone. ([Click here to read article](#))

### States in the News

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the development of a **Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi (Rajasthan)** at an estimated cost of **₹1507 crore**. The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** will develop the airport on **440.06 hectares** of land provided by the **Government of Rajasthan**, with facilities to support **A-321 aircraft**, a **20,000 sqm terminal**, and capacity for **2 million passengers per annum (MPPA)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Lok Sabha** has passed the **Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, which seeks to establish a new **IIM at Guwahati, Assam** — a key educational hub in the **North-Eastern region**. **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** announced a **financial grant of ₹550 crore** for the institute, fulfilling a **long-standing regional demand**. He also highlighted that **21 IIMs** currently operate in India and are gaining international recognition, with an **IIM Dubai campus** set to launch next month. The bill was passed **without discussion** due to **opposition uproar over the SIR issue**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Centre has approved** the renaming of **Uttar Pradesh's Jalalabad town** to **Parashurampuri**, as announced by Union Minister **Jitin Prasada**. Locals viewed the old name as a symbol of **"slavery"** ("ghulami") and welcomed the change to reflect **Sanatan traditions**. The renaming is seen as part of a wider government effort to replace names associated with historical oppression. The official gazette notification for the change is expected soon. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple **development projects worth over ₹5,200 crore** in **Kolkata**, focusing on **modern transport infrastructure** and **urban connectivity**. Key highlights included the launch of **13.61 km of new metro lines**, connecting areas like **Noapara, Jai Hind Airport, Sealdah, and Hemanta Mukhopadhyay**, as well as the **foundation stone** for the **6-lane elevated Kona Expressway**. These developments aim to enhance the **Ease of Living, port connectivity, and economic growth** in **West Bengal**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth **₹12,000 crore** in **Gaya, Bihar** on **22 August 2025**, focusing on **connectivity, energy, healthcare, urban development, and tourism**. Major highlights include the **Aunta-Simaria Bridge** and **Bakhtiyarpur-Mokama highway upgrade**, the **₹6,880 crore Buxar Thermal Power Plant**, the **Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital** in **Muzaffarpur**, **Namami Gange projects**, and new **Amrit Bharat Express** and **Buddhist Circuit Trains**. Additionally, housing for over **16,000 PMAY beneficiaries** was delivered. ([Click here to read article](#))

### International Affairs

- Dubai has launched the **"One Freezone Passport,"** a unified business licensing system allowing companies to operate across all Dubai free zones with a **single license**, eliminating the need for multiple permits. This initiative, announced by the Dubai Free Zones Council, reduces costs and simplifies operations, supporting the **Dubai Economic Agenda D33** to double GDP by 2033. It offers benefits like **tax exemptions, full foreign ownership**, and faster market entry, attracting global firms and startups while boosting Dubai's position as a competitive **global business hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Saudi Arabia have agreed to **deepen maritime relations** by forming a **Joint Working Group (JWG)** focused on cooperation in **shipping and logistics**. This strategic partnership builds on their strong **economic and socio-cultural ties** and aligns with India's **Maritime India Vision 2030**, Saudi Arabia's **Vision 2030**, and India's **Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**. The collaboration aims to boost investment in India's **port and shipping ecosystem**, including projects like **Vadhavan Port** and the **Outer Harbour Project** at **VO Chidambaram Port**, leveraging a **USD 3 billion Maritime Development Fund**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** — comprising **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia** — signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** in **Moscow** to initiate **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** negotiations. The ToR, signed by officials from both sides, aims to **boost exports**, support **MSMEs**, and **diversify market access**. In **2024**, **India-EAEU trade** reached **\$69 billion**, a **7% increase** over 2023. The agreement is expected to unlock **untapped trade potential**, attract **investments**,

and create a **long-term trade partnership**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Fiji Prime Minister **Sitiveni Rabuka** will visit **India** from **August 24–26, 2025**, accompanied by his wife and key officials, including **Health Minister Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu**. During the visit, he will hold **bilateral talks** with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, who will also host an **official lunch** in his honour, and call on **President Droupadi Murmu**. Rabuka is also scheduled to deliver a lecture titled **'Ocean of Peace'** at the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**. The visit aims to **strengthen bilateral cooperation** and expand **people-to-people ties** between **India and Fiji**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Iran has launched a two-day missile drill titled **"Sustainable Power 1404"** in the **Gulf of Oman** and **northern Indian Ocean**, marking its **first major military exercise** since the **12-day war in June**. The drills showcased **cruise missiles** like **Nasir** and **Qadir**, and involved **surface/subsurface warships, air units, and electronic warfare brigades**. Iran's **IRIS Sabalan** and **IRIS Ganaveh** warships successfully hit sea targets. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Over **500 humanoid robots** from **16 countries** competed at the **World Humanoid Robot Games** in **Beijing**. The four-day event featured **26 competitions** including **track and field, soccer, dancing, and kickboxing**. Highlights included a robot completing the **100-meter sprint in 21.5 seconds** and impressive agility in kickboxing. However, some challenges surfaced, such as robots collapsing during soccer and relay races, highlighting both the **progress and limitations** in humanoid robotics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Dubai International Airport (DXB) has launched an **AI-powered passenger corridor** that enables travelers to clear immigration in seconds without showing documents, using **facial recognition** and **pre-registered biometric data**. Part of the **"Travel Without Borders"** initiative, this system can process up to **10 passengers simultaneously** in just **14 seconds**, eliminating traditional passport controls. Initially deployed in **Terminal 3's First and Business Class lounges**, it builds on Dubai's 2020 **"smart tunnel"** and aims to create a **frictionless, secure travel experience**. ([Click here to read article](#))





**Agreements/MoUs Signed**

- UIDAI has onboarded **Starlink Satellite Communication Pvt Ltd** to use **Aadhaar Authentication** for seamless, secure, and paperless **customer verification**. This partnership enables quick onboarding with compliance to **KYC norms**, combining India's trusted **digital identity system** with Starlink's global **satellite internet** technology. The move underscores Aadhaar's scalability, reliability, and role in driving **digital innovation** and ease of doing business in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Haryana and Rajasthan** signed an **MoU** to jointly prepare a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** for the **Yamuna Water Pipeline Project**, aiming to transfer **577 MCM** of water from **Hathnikund** to **Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu**, and other **Rajasthan districts** via **underground pipelines** during **July to October**, after Haryana utilizes the full capacity of the **Western Yamuna Canal (24,000 cusec)**. Both states have formed a **Task Force**, and **Rajasthan has hired a consultant** for the DPR preparation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Assam Rifles** signed an **MoU** with **IIIT Manipur** to promote **drone technology** for defence and security applications. The collaboration, formalised at **Mantripukhri**, includes launching an **Advanced Drone Training and Refresher Course** for Assam Rifles personnel, focusing on **flight operations, maintenance, and DGCA-certified training**. The initiative enhances capabilities in **surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics**, and strengthens **defence-academia cooperation**, with over **80 participants** from the armed forces and academia attending the event. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

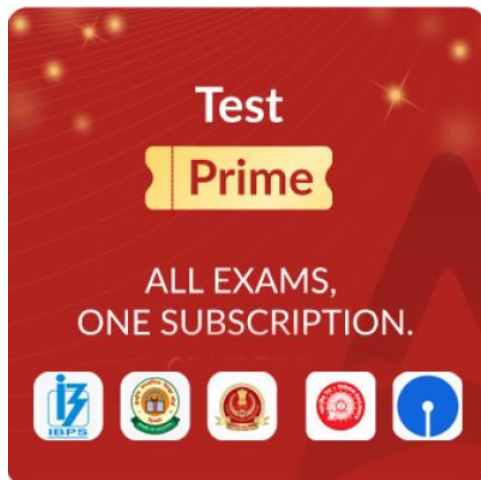
- **S&P Global Ratings** upgraded the **long-term credit ratings of 10 Indian financial institutions**—seven banks and three finance companies—following India's **first sovereign rating upgrade in 18 years** to **'BBB/Stable/A-2'**. Citing India's **strong economic growth, improved inflation management, and structural reforms** like the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, S&P highlighted enhanced **credit culture, faster bad loan recovery, and reduced systemic risk**. India's GDP growth averaged **8.8% (2022-24)**, with projections of **6.8% annually** for the next three years, supporting a positive outlook for the financial sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To combat rising **UPI fraud**, the **NPCI** has directed all banks and apps to **discontinue peer-to-peer (P2P) 'collect requests'** on UPI by **October 1, 2025**. This change, affecting platforms like **PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm**, will ensure **all P2P transactions are payer-initiated**, eliminating a high-risk feature often exploited in scams. With **Rs 2,000 per transaction caps** proving insufficient to curb fraud, this move enhances **user control, security, and transparency** in India's digital payment ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** will begin imposing **nominal charges on IMPS online transfers above ₹25,000** from **August 15, 2025**, ranging from **₹2 to ₹10 plus GST**, depending on the amount. While **branch-based IMPS** remains unaffected, **salary package account holders and select current account types** are exempt. **Corporate account holders** will see revised charges from **September 8, 2025**. This move reflects SBI's effort to balance service delivery with cost management while maintaining **waivers for key customer segments**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Foxconn** has begun **iPhone 17 production** at its newly operational **Bengaluru factory**, making it the company's **second-largest iPhone manufacturing unit** globally after China. The **Devanahalli-based facility**, built with a **\$2.8 billion (₹25,000 crore)** investment, is now producing devices on a **small scale**, supplementing output from Foxconn's **Chennai unit**. This marks a major boost for **India's electronics manufacturing** and Apple's **diversification beyond China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's WPI inflation remained in the negative zone for the second consecutive month**, registering **-0.58% in July**, largely due to falling prices of **food articles, mineral oils, crude petroleum, and basic metals**, as per the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. The **WPI food index** dropped by **-2.15%**, while **deflation in primary articles and fuel & power** stood at **-4.95%** and **-2.43%** respectively. However, **manufactured products saw inflation rise to 2.05%**. The drop aligns with a cooling **retail inflation (CPI)**, which also hit an **eight-year low of 1.55%** in July. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's electronics exports surged 47% in Q1 of FY 2025-26**, reaching **\$12.4 billion**, driven by the **'Make in India'** initiative, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced. Electronics production soared from **\$31 billion to \$133 billion** since **2014-15**, with **mobile phone manufacturing** playing a central role—**99.2% of phones sold in India are now made domestically**, up from just **26% in 2014**. India now hosts **300+ mobile factories**, transforming from an importer to the **world's second-largest phone maker**, with **exports rising eightfold to ₹3.27 lakh crore** in 2024-25. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's GDP growth** is projected at **6.7% in Q1 FY2026**, surpassing the RBI's target of **6.5%**, according to ICRA. While overall growth slows from **7.4% in Q4 FY2025**, the **services sector** leads with an **8.3% rise**, offsetting declines in **industry (4.0%)** and **agriculture (4.5%)**. Strong **government spending**, including a **52% surge in central capital expenditure** and rising state outlays, along with robust **project activity**, support the growth. Improved **monetary transmission** and potential **GST rationalisation** are expected to boost urban consumption ahead. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) market** is set to **grow 3.5 times from \$73 billion in FY2025 to \$258 billion by 2030**, driven by rising investments from institutional investors, pension and insurance funds, foreign participation, and greater retail awareness, according to Knight Frank. The rapid expansion in infrastructure spending—central government outlay rising from \$12 billion in FY2015 to \$75 billion in FY2025—is fueling this surge. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **eight core industries** grew by **2% in July 2025** compared to last year, driven by higher production of **steel (12.8%), cement (11.7%), fertilisers (2%), and electricity (0.5%)**, according to the **Commerce and Industry Ministry**. These industries, including **coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products**, together form **40.27%** of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. While **coal (-12.3%), crude oil (-1.3%), natural gas (-3.2%), and petroleum refinery output (-1%)** declined due to monsoon effects, the overall steady growth reflects robust demand from **infrastructure projects** and a good **kharif sowing season**. Cumulative growth for April-July 2025 stood at **1.6%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **marine fish production** surged to **44.95 lakh tonnes** in 2023-24, growing at **8.9% annually**, with **91.1% sustainable fish stocks** reported by ICAR-CMFRI. The government's **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** drives **climate-resilient strategies**, funding **fishing harbours, cold storage, and post-harvest facilities**. Research under **NICRA** and training via **MPEDA's NETFISH** program support sustainable fishing, improve seafood quality, and boost fisher incomes, strengthening India's marine fisheries sector amid climate challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **growth momentum** remains strong despite **US tariff hikes**, says **S&P Global Ratings**, which upgraded India's **sovereign credit rating to "BBB" with a stable outlook** — the first upgrade in **18 years**. Citing **robust domestic demand, fiscal consolidation, and infrastructure reforms**, S&P projects **6.8% average GDP growth** over the next three years. India's **low trade dependence** shields it from global shocks. The upgrade also raised ratings for major **banks and NBFCs**, reflecting broad economic **resilience and policy continuity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** has imposed a **₹10 lakh penalty** on **Rapido**, operated by **Roppen Transportation Services Pvt. Ltd.**, for **misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices** related to its **"AUTO IN 5 MIN OR GET ₹50"** offer. The CCPA found the claim **false and deceptive**, with compensation given as **Rapido coins** instead of real money, and not guaranteed. The **advertisements have been ordered to stop immediately**, and **Rapido must reimburse affected consumers**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Government** has raised **₹1.42 lakh crore** through **asset monetisation** till FY25, using key models like **Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT), and securitisation** to boost infrastructure funding without increasing public debt. This strategic move enables long-term **private investment** in public assets, with a FY25 target of **₹30,000 crore**, promoting efficient **capital recycling** and expansion of highways and other infrastructure projects. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India suspends 11% cotton import duty** until September 30, signaling willingness to address **U.S. tariff hike** on Indian goods. The move aims to ease pressure on India's **garment industry**, which faces nearly **60% tariffs** on exports to the U.S., and helps maintain competitiveness against **China and Bangladesh**. The waiver may be extended depending on future negotiations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **unemployment rate** dropped to **5.2% in July 2025**, with **rural India** driving the majority of **job growth**, according to the latest **Government survey (PLFS)**. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** was higher in rural areas at **57.1%** compared to **50.6%** in urban regions. **Self-employment** dominates in rural sectors, while **regular wage jobs** prevail in urban areas. **Agriculture** remains the largest employer in rural India, whereas the **services sector** leads in urban employment. The revamped PLFS methodology now offers **monthly, quarterly, and annual labour data** for better policy planning. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In August 2025, **foreign investors** infused **₹4,469 crore** into **Indian debt markets**, while **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** withdrew **₹20,975 crore** from **Indian equity markets** between August 1-15. This follows July's trend where FPIs pulled out **₹17,741 crore** from equities, after notable investments of **₹14,590 crore** in June and **₹19,860 crore** in May—the best-performing month of 2025 so far. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On the occasion of the **79th Independence Day**, **SBI** launched a **collateral-free personal loan scheme** for **Agniveers** enrolled under the **Agnipath scheme**, offering loans up to **₹4 lakh** with **zero processing fees** and a **flat 10.50% interest rate** valid till **September 30, 2025**. The **repayment tenure** aligns with the Agnipath service period. Additionally, **SBI** has revised **IMPS charges** for online fund transfers above **₹25,000**, now ranging from **₹2 to ₹10 plus GST**, effective **August 15, 2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's private sector economy hit a record high in August 2025, with the **HSBC Flash India Composite PMI** soaring to **65.2**, driven by a historic surge in **services (65.6)** and strong growth in **manufacturing (59.8)**—the fastest since 2008. This growth was fueled by robust **new business orders**, especially from exports across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the US. Despite rising **input costs** like wages and raw materials, firms enjoyed improved **margins** due to higher **output prices** and showed strong **employment growth** for the 27th month. Optimism among businesses reached its highest level since March, reflecting confidence in sustained demand. ([Click here to read article](#))



- India's **interest payments** on government debt are projected to **reach ₹12.76 trillion in FY26**, nearly tripling from a decade ago, driven by **high borrowing costs**, especially from **pandemic-era loans**. While **bond yields have eased** since FY24, repayments on earlier bonds are pushing costs higher. The **total government debt** surged from **₹71 trillion (51.5% of GDP) in FY16** to a projected **₹200 trillion (56.1% of GDP) by FY26**. The government is using **buybacks and bond switches** to smooth out repayments and reduce rollover risks. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **forex reserves** rose by **\$1.48 billion** to **\$695.10 billion** for the week ending **August 15, 2025**, as per RBI data. This increase was largely due to a **\$1.92 billion rise in foreign currency assets**, while **gold reserves declined by \$2.16 billion** to **\$86.16 billion**. Additionally, India's **reserve position with the IMF** went up by **\$15 million** to **\$4.75 billion**. The RBI actively intervenes in forex markets to **prevent excessive rupee volatility** and ensure **market stability**, rather than targeting specific exchange rates. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To **boost agricultural exports**, **APEDA** is opening **new regional offices** in **Patna, Raipur, and Dehradun**, expanding its presence beyond the current **16 regional offices** across India. These new offices aim to **support agri-exporters** through assistance in **export facilitation, exporter registration, standard setting, packaging improvements, and marketing support**, enhancing India's **agri-export ecosystem** under the **Commerce Ministry**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's economy is projected to grow at a **robust 6.7% in Q1 FY26**, driven by **strong government capital expenditure** (up **52% YoY**), **reviving rural demand**, and a **resilient services sector** including **finance, IT, and transport**. While **construction and agriculture** showed solid performance, concerns persist due to **slower industrial output** (IIP growth at **2%**) and **climate/trade disruptions**. Despite these headwinds, the **RBI's 6.5% growth forecast** suggests steady momentum, with official **NSO GDP data due on August 29** expected to confirm this trend. ([Click here to read article](#))



## Appointments/Resignations

- Following the **demise of Nagaland Governor La Ganesan**, the **President of India** has appointed **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**, the **Governor of Manipur**, to take **additional charge as Nagaland Governor**. Ganesan, aged 80, passed away while under treatment in **Chennai**, creating the vacancy now temporarily filled by Bhalla. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At **Tata Sons'** annual general meeting, shareholders **unanimously approved six resolutions**, including the appointment of **Noel N Tata** as director following **Ratan Tata's passing**. The **Shapoorji Pallonji Group** supported all resolutions, which also included the **reappointment of Venu Srinivasan** and **Anita Marangoly George** as directors. **Tata Trusts**, holding **66% equity**, remain the dominant shareholder, while the AGM also approved **dividends for 2024-25**, reflecting strong confidence in the group's future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Satish Golcha**, a **1992-batch IPS officer** of the **AGMUT cadre**, has been appointed as the new **Commissioner of Police, Delhi**, succeeding **Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh**, who held interim charge after **Sanjay Arora's** retirement. Golcha, who previously served as **Director General (Prisons), Delhi**, brings experience from roles in **CBI, Delhi Police**, and as **DGP of Arunachal Pradesh**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Srinivasan K Swamy**, Executive Group Chairman of **R K Swamy Ltd**, has been **re-elected as President of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)** for **2025-26**, marking his **fourth term** after previously serving from **2004 to 2007**. His appointment coincides with AAAI's **80th anniversary**, reaffirming industry confidence in his leadership. **Jaideep Gandhi** was elected Vice-President, with prominent industry leaders like **Anupriya Acharya** and **Sam Balsara** joining the board. Established in **1945**, AAAI is India's **apex body** for advertising agencies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- RBI** has appointed **Indranil Bhattacharyya**, Executive Director of the Monetary Policy Department, as a new **ex officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**, replacing **Rajiv Ranjan** ahead of the **October 2025 policy meeting**. With over **28 years of central banking experience**, Bhattacharyya brings deep expertise in **monetary policy**, making him well-suited for influencing **interest rate decisions, inflation targeting, and economic stability** through the MPC's crucial policymaking role. ([Click here to read article](#))

## Defence News

- India has cleared a **₹62,000 crore deal** for **97 Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, significantly boosting **indigenous defence manufacturing** under the **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** missions. The jets, with **over 65% indigenous components**, will **replace ageing MiG-21s**, raising the total IAF Tejas Mark 1A fleet to **180 aircraft**. Developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, the aircraft features **advanced avionics and radar systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India successfully test-fired the **Agni-5 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** on **August 20, 2025** from **Chandipur, Odisha**, under the **Strategic Forces Command**, validating its **operational readiness** and enhancing India's **nuclear deterrence**. The **three-stage, solid-fuelled, canisterised** missile has a range of **over 5,000 km** and can carry **nuclear or conventional warheads**, reinforcing India's **No First Use (NFU)** policy and strengthening its **nuclear triad**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is partnering with France's **Safran** to domestically manufacture advanced **jet engines** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, a fifth-generation fighter jet designed indigenously. Announced by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**, this collaboration aims to develop a new engine with a powerful **110 Kilo Newton thrust**, surpassing current global standards. The project, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security and backed by **DRDO**, is a decade-long effort and part of the Rs 15,000-crore plan to boost India's defense technology and self-reliance in aerospace manufacturing. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- Manika Vishwakarma**, a model from **Ganganagar, Rajasthan**, has been crowned **Miss Universe India 2025** at the national pageant held in **Jaipur**. Previously titled **Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024**, she will now **represent India** at the **74th Miss Universe** competition in **Thailand**. Currently modeling in **Delhi**, Manika expressed gratitude for her journey and those who supported her. The event saw appreciation from **jury member Urvashi Rautela** and **former titleholder Riya Singha**, who praised Manika's performance among **50 contestants**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate **SEMICON India 2025** on **2 September** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**, marking the **4th edition** of India's largest **semiconductor and electronics show**. Under the theme "**Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse**", the event will host **350+ exhibitors**, **50+ global CXOs**, and **33 participating nations**. Organized by **SEMI** and **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** under **MeitY**, it will showcase India's expanding **semiconductor ecosystem**, including advances in **Fabs, packaging, AI, smart manufacturing, and design innovation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has been elected as the **Chairman of the Executive Board of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** at the **23rd General Conference** held in **Phuket, Thailand**. This election marks a significant milestone, reinforcing India's leadership role within AIBD, which it last held in 2016. Founded in 1977 under **UNESCO**, AIBD comprises over **92 member organizations from 45 countries**. As a **founding member**, India's leadership will now further influence regional broadcasting policies, cooperation, and media development aligned with the

theme "**Media for People, Peace & Prosperity**." ([Click here to read article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **IAMAI**, released the report "**Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways**," offering a strategic roadmap to unlock the potential of **homestays and BnBs** in India's tourism sector. The report emphasizes **cultural immersion, local entrepreneurship, employment generation**, and calls for **light-touch regulations** to ensure **tourist safety, heritage protection, and sustainable growth**. It highlights the role of **digital integration, flexible policies, and public-private collaboration** to build a resilient and inclusive **homestay ecosystem**, especially in **rural and semi-urban areas**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Sports News

- For the **first time**, **India** will host the **Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025** from **August 20-23** at **Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun**. Over **11 Asian countries**, including **China, Japan, Singapore**, and others, will compete in **9 events** ranging from **222-meter sprints to 5000-meter relays**, marking a major milestone for India's winter sports landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))
- German Grandmaster **Vincent Keymer** won the **Quantbox Chennai Grand Masters 2025** with a round to spare, becoming the event's **first sole champion**. At just 20, Keymer's strong performance, including a draw with Dutch GM **Jorden van Foreest**, pushed him into the **world's Top 10 live ratings**. The fight for second place remains open, with Indian players **Arjun Erigaisi** and **Karthikeyan Murali** contending. In the Challengers, GM **Pranesh M** leads, followed closely by GMs **Abhimanyu Puranik** and **Leon Luke Mendonca**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Liverpool's Mohamed Salah** has won the **PFA Player of the Year** award for an **unprecedented third time**, becoming the **first player ever** to achieve the feat. The **33-year-old** scored **29 goals** and provided **18 assists** last season, leading Liverpool to the **Premier League title**. He also claimed the **Golden Boot, Playmaker Award, and Premier League Player of the Season**, making him the **first player to win all three** in a single season. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Ahmedabad** is set to host **three major international sports events in 2025** — the **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship** (Aug 24–30), the **Asian Aquatics Championship** (Sept–Oct), and the **AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers** (Nov 22–30), attracting elite athletes from **29+ countries**. Events will take place at **Naranpura Sports Complex** and **The Arena by TransStadia**. These competitions mark Gujarat's growing profile as a **global sports hub**, backed by modern infrastructure and the **Sports Policy 2022–27**. Ahmedabad is also set to host the **2030 Commonwealth Games** and other major events in coming years. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Iga Świątek sent a strong warning to her U.S. Open rivals by winning the **2025 Cincinnati Open**, defeating **Jasmine Paolini** 7-5, 6-4 in the final. With this victory — her **first hard court title since Indian Wells 2024** and **24th career title overall** — Świątek climbs back to **World No. 2** and regains momentum after recent struggles. She has now won **two titles in the past two months**, including **Wimbledon**, and enters the **U.S. Open** as a top contender. Her performance showed renewed **mental resilience, variety, and defensive strength**, signaling she's back at her best. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Carlos Alcaraz** won the **2025 Cincinnati Open**, claiming his **sixth title of the year** and **eighth ATP Masters 1000 crown**, after **Jannik Sinner** was forced to retire early in the final due to illness. Alcaraz now leads the **PIF ATP Live Race to Turin** by **1,890 points**, boosting his chances of ending the year as **World No. 1**. The victory also ended Sinner's **26-match hard court winning streak**, while Alcaraz improved to a **9-5 head-to-head** lead over Sinner. This marks his **third Masters 1000 title** this year after **Monte-Carlo** and **Rome**, extending his **Masters-level win streak to 17**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- Since its **launch in April 2016**, the **Stand-Up India Scheme** has seen **Rs 62,791 crore** sanctioned to **2.75 lakh beneficiaries**, supporting **SC/ST and women entrepreneurs** through loans for **greenfield enterprises** in **trading, manufacturing, services, and agriculture-allied sectors**. Additionally, **Rs 17,811.72 crore** was disbursed under the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)** in 2024–25 for **short-term crop loans**. **Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending** is regulated by the **RBI** to ensure **fair practices and borrower protection**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Shramshree Scheme**, launched on **18 August 2025** by **West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee**, is a **rehabilitation initiative** for **Bengali migrant workers** returning to the state after facing **harassment or discrimination** in other states due to speaking **Bengali**. Under this scheme, the **Labour Department** will provide **₹5,000/month financial aid for one year**, or until employment is secured. Additionally, the scheme offers **skill training, job cards**, and access to **self-employment loans** to help workers rebuild their lives in West Bengal. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Fortified Rice Scheme** has been **extended to 2028** with full **₹17,082 crore** government funding to combat **malnutrition and anaemia**, particularly through the **Anemia Mukh Bharat** initiative. Under the **PM POSHAN Scheme**, all **States and UTs** use **fortified rice, double fortified salt**, and **fortified edible oil** in school meals. The **NDDB's Gift Milk Program** has supplied **7.1 lakh litres of fortified milk** to **41,700 children** in **11 states**. These efforts aim to address **micronutrient deficiencies** and promote **healthy development** among children and women. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Under the **SASCI scheme (Special Assistance to the States for Capital Investment)**, the **Ministry of Tourism** has sanctioned **40 projects** worth **₹3,295.76 crore** with **100% central funding** to promote **lesser-known tourist destinations**. The initiative aims to deliver a complete **end-to-end tourist experience** with emphasis on **responsible tourism, sustainability, and local economic growth**. Projects were selected via a **challenge method** based on parameters like **connectivity, carrying capacity, impact, and tourism potential**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- **India set a national record in deep-sea exploration** as **aquanaut Jatinder Pal Singh** descended to a depth of **5,002 metres** in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, marking the **deepest human dive** under India's **Deep Ocean Mission**. Conducted in partnership with **France** using the **Nautile submersible**, this milestone supports India's goal of developing an **indigenous human-rated submersible**, the **Matsya 6000**, set for trials by **December 2027**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **August 21, 2025**, the government outlined its **roadmap for 6G technology rollout by 2030**, based on the **ITU-R M.2160 recommendation** and the **Bharat 6G Vision Document**. The plan envisions **AI-native, low-latency, and high-speed networks** with **seamless terrestrial and non-terrestrial coverage**. Key initiatives include establishing **100 5G labs**, launching the **TTDF Scheme** funding **104 projects worth ₹275.88 Cr**, creating the **Bharat 6G Alliance**, and setting up a **Technology Innovation Hub** at **IIIT Bangalore** focused on advanced communication systems like **RIS** and **O-RAN Massive MIMO**. The goal is to make **India a global 6G leader**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan** announced that the **first test flight of Gaganyaan**, India's maiden **manned space mission**, will take place in **December 2025**. So far, **80% of tests (7,700 out of 10,000)** have been completed, with the rest to finish by **March 2026**. ISRO has achieved **196 milestones** this year, including **GLEX-2025**, a **high-thrust electric propulsion system**, and the planned launch of a **6,500 kg US communication satellite**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Russia plans to launch the Venera-D mission** to **Venus** between **2034 and 2036**. The mission will feature a **lander, a balloon probe, and an orbital spacecraft**. Preliminary design work starts in **January 2026** under Russia's new national space programme, with a two-year design phase led by the **Space Research Institute (IKI)** in collaboration with the **Lavochkin Association**. The exact launch date will be finalized post-design. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** reaffirmed the government's goal to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035** and launch a **crewed Indian mission to the Moon by 2040**, aligning with the vision of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**. Speaking in the **Lok Sabha**, he praised **IAF Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla** for his historic mission aboard the **International Space Station**, calling it a proud moment for India. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Parag Agrawal**, former **Twitter CEO**, has launched **Parallel Web Systems**, an **AI startup** aiming to build a “web for machines.” Parallel’s platform provides **low-level search tools** and **deep research APIs** designed specifically for **AI agents**, enabling them to perform complex web-based tasks—like research and data verification—in minutes. Its APIs have reportedly **outperformed OpenAI’s GPT-5** in benchmarks like **BrowseComp** and **DeepResearch Bench**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Important Days News

- **World Mosquito Day**, observed every **August 20**, marks the discovery by **Sir Ronald Ross** in **1897** that **malaria** is transmitted by the **female Anopheles mosquito**. This day raises awareness of **mosquito-borne diseases** like **dengue**, **malaria**, **chikungunya**, **Japanese encephalitis**, and **Zika virus**, which remain major **public health threats**, especially during the **monsoon**. These diseases strain healthcare systems, cause social and economic disruption, and lack universal vaccines. India faces recurring outbreaks, especially in urban and rural regions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Entrepreneurs’ Day 2025**, celebrated on **August 21**, honors the **vision**, **innovation**, and **resilience** of **entrepreneurs** who drive **economic growth**, create **jobs**, and spark **societal progress**. Observed in **170+ countries**, the day raises awareness about **entrepreneurship**, promotes **education**, and encourages **support for startups** through **events**, **campaigns**, and **networking initiatives**. It highlights the vital role entrepreneurs play in **diversification**, **employment generation**, and **technological advancement**, while inspiring the next generation of business leaders. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Senior Citizens’ Day 2025**, observed on **August 21**, honors the **wisdom**, **resilience**, and **contributions** of the elderly, while raising awareness of challenges like **health issues**, **social isolation**, and **financial insecurity**. First proclaimed by **Ronald Reagan** in **1988**, the day promotes **respect**, **dignity**, and **inclusion** for older adults. The 2025 theme, “**Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future**,” urges active participation of seniors in policy-making. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2025** is observed on **August 21**, marking its **eighth anniversary** since being established by the **UN General Assembly** in **2017**. The 2025 theme, “**United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism**,” highlights the **solidarity**, **strength**, and **resilience** of victims and survivors. It encourages global communities to support victims, promote **human rights**, and foster a more **inclusive** and **peaceful future**, as emphasized by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Madras Day** is celebrated annually on **August 22** to mark the founding of **Madras (now Chennai)** in **1639** by the **British East India Company**. The day honors the city’s rich **history**, **culture**, and **legacy**—from a small fishing village to a bustling metropolitan hub. Celebrations include **heritage walks**, **lectures**, **cultural performances**, and efforts in **heritage preservation** and **community bonding**. Chennai is notable as the **fourth largest city in India**, known as the ‘**Detroit of India**’, and home to India’s **oldest public zoo** and one of the **world’s oldest English newspapers**. Madras Day fosters **civic pride** and promotes **local art**, **tourism**, and **education**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief**, observed annually on **22 August**, was established by **UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/296** to honour individuals and communities who have suffered violence due to their **religion or belief**. The day reinforces the importance of **freedom of religion**, **expression**, and **peaceful assembly**, as enshrined in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Humanitarian Day 2025**, observed on **August 19**, honours the **courage** and **dedication** of **humanitarian workers** worldwide. This year’s **theme** — “**Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities**” — emphasizes the importance of **local participation** in **global aid efforts**. Established in memory of the **2003 UN Baghdad bombing**, the day raises awareness about **global crises**, promotes **unity** and **compassion**, and inspires **action** through **UN initiatives**, **community events**, and **digital campaigns** that spotlight **real stories** and encourage **personal involvement**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Photography Day 2025**, celebrated on **August 19**, marks the invention of the **Daguerreotype process** in **1839** and celebrates the **art**, **history**, and **impact of photography**. This year’s **theme** is “**MY FAVORITE PHOTO**”, encouraging people to share their most meaningful image and its story using hashtags like **#WorldPhotographyDay2025**. The week-long celebration (**August 12–26**) as **World Photography Week** highlights personal photo journeys. ([Click here to read article](#))



- India celebrates **National Space Day 2025** on **August 23** to mark the second anniversary of **Chandrayaan-3's historic soft landing** near the Moon's **South Pole**. Declared by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, the day honors ISRO's remarkable achievements—from **Aryabhata** to the upcoming **Gaganyaan** mission—highlighting India's journey in **space exploration, scientific innovation**, and inspiring youth towards **STEM** careers. The theme, "**Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities**," reflects India's blend of ancient astronomy and modern technology as the nation aims for future milestones like an **Indian space station by 2035** and **crew missions to the Moon by 2040**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Obituaries News

- Former **Australia captain and coach Bob Simpson** passed away at **89** in Sydney. A versatile cricketer, Simpson played **62 Tests** between 1957-1978, scoring **4,869 runs** with **10 centuries** and taking **71 wickets**. He led Australia to significant victories in the **Ashes, World Cup, and West Indies series**. Honored as a **Member** and later **Officer of the Order of Australia**, he was also inducted into the **Sport Australia Hall of Fame** and **Australian Cricket Hall of Fame**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Judge **Frank Caprio**, the beloved star of 'Caught in Providence', died at **88** after a **battle with pancreatic cancer**. Known for his **compassionate and humorous courtroom demeanor**, Caprio served nearly **40 years** on the **Providence Municipal Court**, retiring in **2023**. The show, which aired nationally starting in **2018**, made him a **social media sensation**, earning him the title "**Nicest Judge in the World**." His death prompted tributes, including from **Gov. Dan McKee**, who called him a "**Rhode Island treasure**." Caprio's **legacy of kindness and justice** touched millions worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Renowned Punjabi comedian and actor Jaswinder Bhalla** passed away at the age of **65** on **22 August 2025** in **Mohali**,

leaving behind a rich legacy in **Punjabi cinema**. Known for his **sharp wit, comic timing**, and **social satire**, Bhalla became a household name with films like **Carry On Jatta**, **Gaddi Chaldi Hai Chhalla Maarke**, **Band Baaje**, and **Jind Jaan**. Widely regarded as a **cultural icon**, his contributions have shaped the landscape of Punjabi comedy, inspiring generations with laughter and meaning. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Veteran actor Achyut Potdar** passed away at the age of **91** on **August 18, 2025**, at **Jupiter Hospital, Thane**, leaving behind a **remarkable legacy** in **Hindi and Marathi cinema**. Known for his iconic line "**Kehna kya chahte ho?**" from **3 Idiots**, his career spanned **125+ films** over **four decades**, including **Aakrosh, Tezaab, Rangeela, Lage Raho Munna Bhai**, and **Ventilator**. A **former professor** and **Indian Oil employee**, Potdar transitioned from **Marathi theatre** to cinema in the **late 1970s**, earning love for his **versatile performances**. His death sparked **widespread tribute and mourning**, though the **cause remains undisclosed**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- M.S. Swaminathan**, known as the "**Man who fed India**," played a pivotal role in India's **Green Revolution**, transforming the country from **food dependency** under **PL 480** imports to self-sufficiency by introducing **dwarf wheat varieties** with seeds from **Norman Borlaug**. Despite **bureaucratic delays** and **political opposition**, strong leadership by **Prime Ministers Shastri and Indira Gandhi** backed his efforts, leading to a major increase in wheat production by **1968**. His legacy highlights the critical importance of **scientific innovation, political will**, and **institutional support**. Today, challenges like **climate change, low R&D funding**, and **lack of institutional autonomy** threaten progress, emphasizing the need for closer engagement between **scientists and policymakers** to secure India's agricultural future. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	ISRO	<b>Chairman</b> - V Narayanan
2	RBI	<b>Governor</b> - Sanjay Malhotra
3	SBI	<b>Chairman</b> - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
4	Rapido	<b>CEO</b> - Aravind Sanka
5	Iran	<b>Head</b> - Khamenei <b>Capital</b> - Tehran
6	Saudi Arabia	<b>President</b> - Mohammed Bin Salman <b>Capital</b> - Riyadh
7	Russia	<b>President</b> - Vladimir Putin <b>Capital</b> - Moscow
8	Japan	<b>President</b> - Igeru Ishiba

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
		<b>Capital</b> - Tokyo
9	France	<b>President</b> - Emmanuel Macron <b>Capital</b> - Paris
10	USA	<b>President</b> - Donald Trump <b>Capital</b> - Washington D.C.
11	UAE	<b>President</b> - Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan <b>Capital</b> - Abu Dhabi
12	Kerala	<b>Governor</b> - V Arlekar <b>CM</b> - Pinarayi Vijayan
13	Bihar	<b>Governor</b> - Arif Khan <b>CM</b> - Nitish Kumar
14	West Bengal	<b>Governor</b> - CV Ananda Bose <b>CM</b> - Mamata Banerjee
15	Delhi	<b>Governor</b> - Vinai Saxena <b>CM</b> - Rekha Gupta
16	Gujarat	<b>Governor</b> - Acharya Devvrat <b>CM</b> - Bhupendra Patel

