

## Weekly One Liners 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2026

### Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Tally: India Finishes 4<sup>th</sup> with 39 Medals; Complete List of Winners and Sport-wise Breakdown

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

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

#### India Finishes Fourth in the Commonwealth Games Medal Table for 2026

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

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

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

#### India's Medal Tally by Sport

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

#### Complete List of India's Medal Winners

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

| No. | Athlete             | Sport          | Event                | Medal  |
|-----|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------|
| 8   | Sarvesh Kushare     | Athletics      | Men's High Jump      | Silver |
| 9   | Shilpa K Shyla      | Para Athletics | Women's Shot Put F57 | Bronze |
| 10  | Valluri Ajaya Babu  | Weightlifting  | Men's 79kg           | Silver |
| 11  | Harjinder Kaur      | Weightlifting  | Women's 69kg         | Silver |
| 12  | Gulveer Singh       | Athletics      | Men's 10,000m        | Silver |
| 13  | Murali Sreeshankar  | Athletics      | Men's Long Jump      | Silver |
| 14  | Dilip Gavit         | Para Athletics | Men's 100m T47       | Gold   |
| 15  | Mohammed Basil      | Para Athletics | Men's 100m T47       | Silver |
| 16  | Lovepreet Singh     | Weightlifting  | Men's +110kg         | Silver |
| 17  | Seema Kaliramna     | Athletics      | Women's Discus Throw | Bronze |
| 18  | Asmita Dey          | Judo           | Women's -48kg        | Gold   |
| 19  | Harsh Singh         | Judo           | Men's -60kg          | Gold   |
| 20  | Yamini Mourya       | Judo           | Women's -57kg        | Silver |
| 21  | Tejaswin Shankar    | Athletics      | Men's Decathlon      | Bronze |
| 22  | Yash Vir Singh      | Athletics      | Men's Javelin Throw  | Bronze |
| 23  | Neeraj Chopra       | Athletics      | Men's Javelin Throw  | Silver |
| 24  | Preeti Pawar        | Boxing         | Women's 54kg         | Gold   |
| 25  | Pravreen Chithravel | Athletics      | Men's Triple Jump    | Silver |
| 26  | Selva Prabhu        | Athletics      | Men's Triple Jump    | Bronze |
| 27  | Jaismine Lamboria   | Boxing         | Women's 57kg         | Gold   |
| 28  | Jadumani Singh      | Boxing         | Men's 55kg           | Silver |
| 29  | Shubham Juyal       | Para Athletics | Men's Shot Put F57   | Silver |
| 30  | Soman Rana          | Para Athletics | Men's Shot Put F57   | Gold   |
| 31  | Unnati Sharma       | Judo           | Women's -63kg        | Bronze |
| 32  | Sakshi Chaudhary    | Boxing         | Women's 51kg         | Gold   |
| 33  | Priya Ghanghas      | Boxing         | Women's 60kg         | Gold   |
| 34  | Arundhati Choudhary | Boxing         | Women's 70kg         | Gold   |
| 35  | Lovlina Borgohain   | Boxing         | Women's 75kg         | Silver |
| 36  | Sachin Siwach       | Boxing         | Men's 60kg           | Gold   |
| 37  | Ankush Panghal      | Boxing         | Men's 80kg           | Gold   |
| 38  | Narender Berwal     | Boxing         | Men's +90kg          | Silver |
| 39  | Gulveer Singh       | Athletics      | Men's 5,000m         | Bronze |

### India's Major Highlights

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



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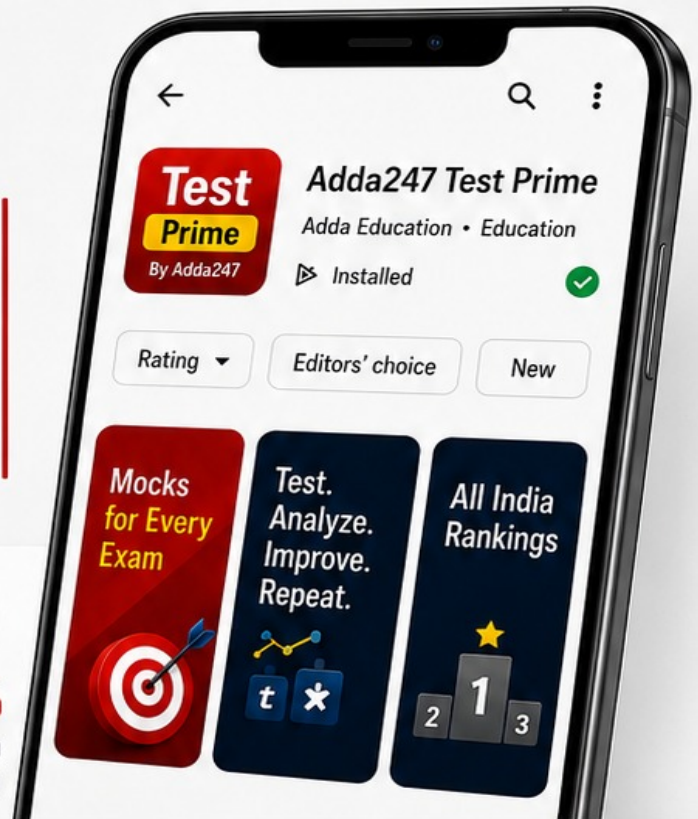


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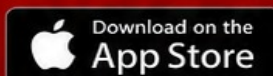


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**Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026: Meena Bindra Tops Rankings, Avani Lekhara Becomes Youngest in Top 10**

The 2026 Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List recognizes some notable women achievers in multiple sectors such as business, economic entrepreneurship, and sports. The publication provides information on how women have contributed in a major way through various types of leadership and excellent innovations.

This year, the list comprises of 117 women from 12 sectors, with the owner of BIBA, Meena Bindra, coming first in the list. The youngest female Paralympic medal winner Avani Lekhara made an impression among the top ten winners of the list, which showcases the growing number of talented young personalities among the leaders of India.

**What is the Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List?**

The Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List serves as an annual compilation prepared by Hurun India that is meant to honour exceptional female leaders from different sectors.

In preparing the ranking, several objective criteria are used. This entails assessing the companies' performance based on the following criteria,

- Valuation of the company
- The yearly revenue of the company
- The successes of the businesswoman
- The successes in the field of sport
- The extent of influence in the digital world
- The effect on society of their work

The number of women leaders included in the list of 2026 is 117, while they cover 12 fields and the majority of them work in New Delhi or Mumbai.

**Meena Bindra Secures First Place in the Rankings**

Seasoned businesswoman Meena Bindra, an entrepreneur and founder of BIBA, has taken the top spot in the rankings.

She has been recognized for creating one of the most popular ethnic wear brands in the country and is a role model in women's entrepreneurship and business leadership.

**Avani Lekhara the Youngest Woman in the Rankings**

Young paralympic gold medalist Avani Lekhara has bagged the 6th position in the rankings, making her the youngest girl in the top 10 at the age of just 24 years.

She has been included in the rankings because this reflects the growing recognition of sporting excellence along with performances in the business arena.

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

| Rank | Name                 | Organization/Association | Age |
|------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 1    | Meena Bindra         | BIBA                     | 83  |
| 2    | Tushara Shankar      | Lupin                    | 46  |
| 3    | Rajni Bector Bectors | Food Specialities        | 86  |
| 4    | Vaishali Nigam Sinha | ReNew Power              | 56  |

| Rank | Name                          | Organization/Association               | Age     |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------|
| 5    | Suneeta Reddy & Preetha Reddy | Apollo Hospitals Enterprise            | 67 & 68 |
| 6    | Avani Lekhara                 | Paralympic Medallist                   | 24      |
| 7    | Sudha Murthy                  | Author                                 | 75      |
| 8    | Ananya Birla                  | Entrepreneur & Social Media Influencer | 32      |
| 9    | Faye D'Souza                  | Journalist Independent                 | 44      |
| 10   | Kanika Gupta Shori            | Square Yards                           | ---     |

**Youngest Women Leaders List 2026**

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

**Oldest Women Leaders Across Categories**

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

**Key Highlights in the 2026 Rankings**

The Candere Hurun India Women Leaders List reveals exemplary leadership in a variety of domains like health sector, renewable energy, literature, journalism, sports, and business.

Some of the major highlights are,

- Meena Bindra got top spot in the list.
- The youngest one to get a place in overall top 10 was Avani Lekhara.
- As many as 117 women leaders were awarded in 12 sectors.

- Major sectors included--business, healthcare, media, literature, sports and clean energy.
- More women honourees were from Mumbai and New Delhi as compared to other places.

**Cabinet Approves GOBARDhan Scheme: India's ₹23,731 Crore Push for Compressed Biogas and Circular Bioenergy**

The Cabinet of the Union Government, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the GOBARDhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with an allocation of ₹23,731 crore. This scheme was announced on 6th of August 2026 with an objective to convert the agricultural residue, cattle dung, urban organic waste, press mud, and biomass of other nature into Compressed Biogas (CBG), organic manure, and rural incomes. It is anticipated that the scheme, which will be implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, will go a long way in enhancing India's clean energy infrastructure and reducing India's dependence on imports of fossil fuel-based energy.

**What is the GOBARDhan Scheme?**

The GOBARDhan Scheme is India's comprehensive national plan to boost the generation and consumption of Compressed Biogas (CBG) through a circular bioeconomy model.

The scheme aims at converting organic waste into valuable sources of energy through an ecosystem that supports CBG generation, transportation, finance, and market. Managed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the scheme encompasses several existing bioenergy schemes to hasten India's shift towards renewable gaseous fuels.

The vision behind the GOBARDhan Scheme is simple and revolutionary,

- Waste to wealth
- Boosts farmers income
- Improves India's energy security
- Fosters sustainable rural development.

**Objectives of the GOBARDhan Scheme**

The following are the strategic objectives of this scheme,

- Increase domestic production of CBG nearly ten times.
- Decrease reliance on imports of natural gas and other fossil fuels.
- Scientific management of agriculture and municipal solid waste.
- Private sector involvement in the bio-energy industry.
- Creation of jobs in rural areas.
- Achieve India's climate targets by decreasing greenhouse gases emissions.
- Enhance the circular economy through utilization of biomass.

Through creation of a stable policy regime, the government will ensure that CBG becomes a significant part of the country's energy mix in the coming future.

**Six Major Components of the GOBARDhan Scheme****1. Assured CBG Offtake**

The government will create a procurement system to guarantee a ready market for CBG producers.

CBG will be purchased by CGD operators to fulfill the blending targets as per notifications,

- 3% in FY 2026-27
- 4% in FY 2027-28
- 5% from FY 2028-29 onwards

Guaranteed offtake of CBG will enhance the project viability and will attract investment.

**2. Stable Pricing System**

In order to give a stable return to the investors, a price cap of ₹2,110 has been set per Metric Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU).

This pricing structure provides the following benefits,

- Stable long-term returns.
- Investor confidence.
- Predictable project revenues.
- Affordable price for customers.

The pricing structure will be valid for at least ten years.

**3. Financing of Capital**

Financial assistance is provided for setting up of new CBG units.

Financial support available shall include Up to ₹2 crore per TPD capacity of installed CBG unit.

Financial support includes,

- Aggregation of feedstocks.
- Processing of organic manures.
- Value addition infrastructure.

Expansion projects are also eligible for financial support under the scheme.

**4. Development of Pipeline Infrastructure**

In order to enhance market connectivity, the GOBARDhan scheme provides funding for development of pipeline infrastructure connecting CBG plants with,

- Trunk gas pipelines.
- City Gas Distribution (CGD) Networks.

Market connectivity shall help reduce transportation costs, improved utilization of plants and distribution of domestically produced biogas.

**5. Credit Guarantee Scheme**

Credit Guarantee scheme has been launched especially for MSMEs undertaking CBG projects.

The scheme seeks to,

- Enhance access to institutional financing.
- Reduce collateral requirement.
- Encourage financial institutions to lend.
- Provide finance to women entrepreneurs and first timers.

#### 6. CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund

Under this scheme, a special Challenge Fund shall be established for district level implementation.

The Challenge Fund shall provide support in,

- Mapping of feedstock resources.
- Infrastructure for aggregation of biomass.
- Adoption of technology.
- Capacity Building.
- Value addition of organic manure.
- Stakeholder awareness programs.

#### GOBAR dhan Scheme as an Extension of Other Government Schemes

The GOBARdhan Scheme is an extension of many other schemes which form the bedrock of the CBG industry in India such as,

- SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) scheme.
- MDA (Market Development Assistance) Scheme for Organic Manure.
- Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme.
- Development of Pipeline Infrastructure (DPI) Scheme.
- National Bioenergy Programme - CFA (Central Financial Assistance).

These schemes have already resulted in the setting up of more than 200 CBG plants across the country.

#### Impact of the Scheme Expected by the Government

As per the government, GOBARdhan Scheme will help to create multiple economic, environmental and social advantages.

##### Energy Security

- Ten times higher production of CBG in India.
- Dependence on natural gas imports would come down.

##### Rural Prosperity

- Revenue for farmers through biomass supply.
- Creation of employment for entrepreneurs and cooperatives in rural areas and MSMEs.

##### Environmental Benefits

- Management of agricultural residue and organic waste in scientific manner.
- Low carbon footprint.
- Reduction in stubble burning and waste dumping.

##### Circular Economy

- Increase in organic manure production.
- Better utilization of biomass resources.
- Encouragement of sustainable agriculture.

##### Investment

- Viability of projects.
- Increased participation from the private sector.
- Availability of credit due to pricing stability.

#### National Affairs

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has granted assent to the **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026**, completing the requirement before implementation. The law becomes effective only after the Maharashtra Government issues an official notification. Passed in March 2026, it prohibits conversions through **coercion, fraud, misrepresentation, allurement, or marriage promises**, while permitting voluntary conversions. It requires **60-day prior notice** to the District Magistrate and allows complaints by close relatives. The Act places the burden of proving voluntariness on the person conducting conversion, strengthening safeguards against unlawful religious conversions.
- The Union Government released an **additional ₹1.09 lakh crore** as advance tax devolution to states, before the scheduled August 10 transfer. The untied funds will support **infrastructure, welfare schemes, public services, and capital expenditure** while improving liquidity and reducing borrowing. Under Finance Commission recommendations, states receive **41% of the Centre's divisible tax pool**. Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation of **₹19,208 crore**, followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal. The advance release is expected to boost public investment, growth, development programmes, and cooperative federalism nationwide.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the strength of the Supreme Court from **34 to 38 judges**, including the Chief Justice of India. Passed on August 3, the Bill replaces an ordinance and enables appointments to address the case backlog, which stood at **92,101** on January 1, 2026. The amendment under **Article 124** aims to improve judicial efficiency, accelerate disposal, and strengthen access to justice. Introduced by Union Law Minister **Arjun Ram Meghwal**, it was passed without debate.
- The Union Health Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** chaired a meeting reviewing expansion of **Project SARATHI**, which deploys youth volunteers in hospitals. At **PGIMER Chandigarh**, over 2,500 volunteers contributed **1.5 lakh service hours** and reduced patient navigation time by 26%. Volunteers provide navigation, wheelchair and stretcher assistance, diagnostic guidance, and **ABHA ID** creation without clinical duties. The initiative is being integrated with **MY Bharat** for training and monitoring. Discussions focused on a scalable framework across Central Government hospitals to improve patient experience, healthcare delivery, and community participation.

- India will implement a **₹45,000 crore railway infrastructure upgrade** across border states adjoining China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to strengthen connectivity, development, and strategic logistics. The project includes new railway lines, station expansion, track modernisation, and all-weather infrastructure. States such as **Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam**, and northeastern states are covered. The initiative supports civilian movement and military logistics, especially the **Siliguri Corridor**, or Chicken's Neck. The rail links will accelerate passenger and freight movement, defence deployment, and national security in frontier regions.
- Indian Railways provides an **Emergency Quota** facility to help eligible cancer patients secure confirmed train tickets for urgent medical treatment. The quota can cover attendants, subject to documentation and berth availability. Applicants must approach a **Passenger Reservation System** counter with a concession certificate from a government-recognised hospital, medical records, and valid identification. Railway authorities verify requests before confirmation. Twelve Emergency Quota berths are reserved on trains across **First Class, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC Chair Car, and Sleeper Class**, helping patients travel without delays during medical emergencies.
- Glaw Lake** in **Arunachal Pradesh** has become India's **101st Ramsar Site**, announced by Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** on August 3, 2026. It is the **first Ramsar Site in Arunachal Pradesh** and lies within **Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary**. The freshwater wetland is fed by perennial mountain streams and supports over **150 tree species and 49 orchid species**. Ramsar recognition will strengthen wetland conservation, biodiversity protection, climate resilience, water security, research, eco-tourism, and sustainable livelihoods in the fragile **Eastern Himalayan ecosystem**.
- The Central Government has introduced **UPSC and SSC recruitment reforms** to make examinations faster, transparent, secure, and technology-driven. **SSC** has reduced its recruitment cycle from **15–18 months to 6–8 months**, introduced **e-Dossier**, a Sliding Mechanism Framework, and online publication of answer keys, results, and marks. **UPSC** has reduced recruitment timelines to around **13 months**, launched a Modular Online Application Portal, adopted **AI-based attempt verification**, and introduced face authentication. UPSC will also release **provisional answer keys** for candidate feedback, improving examination transparency and recruitment efficiency.
- India has extended **anti-dumping duties** on four imported products and imposed a new five-year duty on **low-ash metallurgical coke** from Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, and Russia. The measure follows recommendations by the **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** to protect domestic industries from unfair imports. Duties on metallurgical coke range from **USD 42.95 to USD 128.83 per tonne**. Existing duties cover untreated fumed silica, arylides, seamless tubes, pipes, hollow profiles, and normal butanol. The measures support fair competition, domestic production, and WTO-compliant trade practices.
- The **Department of Posts** released a commemorative postage stamp marking the **birth centenary of Satish Gujral**, celebrated artist, sculptor, muralist, and architect. Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** unveiled the stamp on August 3, 2026, at Bikaner House, New Delhi. It features Gujral's **2010 self-portrait**, one of only four self-portraits created by him. Designed by **Anuj Kumar**, the issue followed a proposal from Raseel Gujral Ansal. A special exhibition and limited-edition collectible sets will accompany the release, celebrating Gujral's contribution to modern Indian art and architecture.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has proposed mandatory **Vehicle-to-Vehicle communication** for newly manufactured **L, M, and N category vehicles** from October 1, 2028, under **AIS-230** and Central Motor Vehicles Rules. The technology enables vehicles to exchange real-time information on **speed, location, direction, braking, and traffic movement**, helping prevent collisions. Vehicles voluntarily equipped from October 1, 2027, must follow AIS-230. Mandatory implementation from 2028 is expected to improve **road safety, connected mobility, traffic management**, and prepare India for intelligent and autonomous transportation systems.
- The **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO)** has launched a real-time **National Organ Transplant Portal and Mobile App** to digitally transform organ transplantation. The platform provides a unified national waiting list, transparent allocation, donor-recipient matching, and post-transplant monitoring. It also enables **Aadhaar-linked donation pledges**, transplant-centre registration, licence renewals, and approvals. Importantly, **paired kidney swap transplantation** can now expand nationally rather than remain limited to individual hospitals. Connecting NOTTO, ROTTOS, SOTTOS, hospitals, donors, and recipients will improve **transparency, efficiency, organ utilisation**, and equitable access to transplantation.
- India will invest **₹45,000 crore** to modernise railway infrastructure across border states adjoining **China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh**. Planned over **18–24 months**, the project includes new tracks, station expansion, line upgrades, and resilient all-weather networks. States including **Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam**, and northeastern states will benefit. The initiative creates **dual-use infrastructure** supporting civilian transport and rapid military movement. Special attention will be given to the strategically important **Siliguri Corridor**, or **Chicken's Neck**, strengthening mainland connectivity with the Northeast and enhancing strategic mobility.





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- The **Supreme Court** extended compulsory third-party insurance for new private vehicles, requiring **four years for cars** and **six years for two-wheelers**, replacing the earlier three- and five-year periods. The Court directed **IRDAI** to implement the revised norms immediately, submit compliance affidavits by August 14, and listed August 18 for the next hearing. It also proposed a **four-layer insurance framework**, a **"No Insurance, No Fuel" pilot**, and integration of **ANPR, VAHAN, and Insurance Information Bureau** databases to identify uninsured vehicles and protect accident victims.
- **TRAI** launched a revamped **TRAI MyCall app** on August 3, 2026, to strengthen consumer participation in voice-quality monitoring. Users can rate calls from **one to five stars**, report call drops, echo, delays, voice breaking, and one-way audio, and conduct signal-coverage tests. Automatic post-call prompts and interactive feedback maps are also available. By combining consumer responses with technical network data, the platform helps telecom operators identify problems and improve performance. TRAI expects stronger **evidence-based regulation** and improved **Quality of Experience** for India's telecom subscribers.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** proposed draft rules recognizing **two-wheeled ambulances** as a separate emergency-vehicle category under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. **L2-category bike ambulances** manufactured from October 1, 2027, would follow **AIS-209** standards and carry prescribed emergency equipment. Classified as transport vehicles, they would require registration and periodic fitness certification. The initiative targets faster emergency response in **rural, hilly, disaster-prone, and congested areas**, reducing last-mile healthcare delays. Bike ambulances will complement conventional ambulances through quicker first-response services during emergencies.
- India plans to raise installed power capacity to **874 GW by 2031-32** from 548.86 GW as of June 30, 2026, responding to rising electricity demand and strengthening energy security. **Non-fossil sources** already account for 54.18% of installed capacity, exceeding the 2030 NDC target of 50%. The roadmap includes **80 GW coal capacity**, expanded hydropower and nuclear generation, **15,870 MW pumped-storage projects**, and **15,754 MW battery storage**. It also proposes 191,474 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and 1,274 GVA transformation capacity for reliable power.
- The **Supreme Court** ordered a **10-kilometre mining buffer** around all notified wetland conservation reserves nationwide, extending an earlier direction limited to Uttarakhand's Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve. The August 4 order seeks to protect fragile wetlands from mining and environmentally damaging activities. The direction also covers the **Himalayan region** unless an expert committee establishes that a state has no notified wetland reserves. Wetlands support **groundwater recharge, flood control, carbon storage, and biodiversity conservation**. The ruling strengthens environmental safeguards and promotes sustainable management of sensitive wetland ecosystems.
- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** proposes tighter oversight of foreign funding received by NGOs, associations, and individuals. It creates a **Designated Authority** to manage assets when FCRA registration expires, is cancelled, or surrendered, while requiring time-bound utilisation of contributions and restricting asset transfers during suspension. The Bill expands key-functionary definitions, requires **Central Government approval** before investigations, and reduces maximum imprisonment for violations from five years to one year. Supporters cite transparency and national security, while critics raise concerns about executive control, NGO autonomy, and property rights.
- The **Supreme Court** issued nationwide directions to strengthen action against **digital arrest scams and cyber financial fraud**. RBI must prepare an SOP within four weeks for identifying, freezing, and investigating **mule accounts** used in cybercrime. States and Union Territories must operationalise the **Cyber Fraud Grievance Redressal and Money Restoration Modules** and implement **e-Zero FIR** with I4C support. MeitY, DoT, and I4C will examine a technological **"kill switch"** for suspiciously long scam video calls. An Inter-Departmental Committee will explore **shared liability and victim compensation** frameworks for cyber-fraud victims.
- **Massachusetts** and the **City of Boston** have officially declared **August 15 as India Day** to commemorate India's **79th Independence Day** and recognize the contributions of the Indian-American community. Governor **Maura Healey** and Mayor **Michelle Wu** issued separate proclamations highlighting India-US relations, the new Indian Consulate, and INS Sudarshini's participation in SAILBOSTON-250. The declarations also celebrated Indian-American achievements in **healthcare, science, education, business, innovation and public service**. More than **36 million people of Indian origin** live worldwide, making the Indian diaspora one of the largest globally.
- **Parliament** has passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from **33 to 37**, excluding the **Chief Justice of India**. Consequently, the Court's total strength will rise from **34 to 38 judges**, enabling more benches and helping reduce case pendency. The legislation amends the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956**, and replaces the ordinance issued by President **Droupadi Murmu** in May 2026. The Supreme Court was established on **26 January 1950** under Article 124.

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals will organize the **9th India Medical Device 2026** conference on **August 7–8** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, with **FICCI**. The event aims to strengthen India's position as a global hub for **quality medical devices**, encouraging innovation, investment, self-reliance and international partnerships. Its theme is **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Advancing India as a Global Hub for Quality Medical Devices."** **Anupriya Patel** will inaugurate the event, while **J.P. Nadda** will deliver the keynote address. India's medical devices sector is targeted to reach **US\$50 billion by 2030**.
- The **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026** campaign was launched by Union Culture Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** in New Delhi on August 6, with nationwide participation scheduled from August 9 to 17. The fifth edition, launched in 2022, focuses on the **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram**. The **Suryapath Tiranga** initiative will involve Indian missions in 54 countries, while **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** will be observed on August 14. Citizens can display the national flag and upload photographs through **Selfie with Tiranga**, which crossed 10 crore selfies previously.
- The **Bharat International Rice Conference 2026**, organised by the **Indian Rice Exporters' Federation**, will be held from October 23 to 25 at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. The edition is expected to attract participants from more than 120 countries, including exporters, importers, buyers and policymakers. Over 30,000 delegates are expected, with registrations exceeding 19,193 by August 3. Discussions will cover global rice trade, price discovery, supply chains, market access and future trends. **India**, the world's largest rice exporter, ships over 20 million tonnes annually to more than 170 countries. The event strengthens rice trade.
- India's **IT Rules 2026** strengthen obligations for digital platforms by reducing the deadline for removing unlawful content after a valid court order or government notice from 36 hours to **3 hours**. Notified by the **Ministry of**
- **Electronics and Information Technology**, the amendments also introduce **Synthetically Generated Information**, covering AI-generated content and deepfakes more explicitly. Platforms must provide prominent labelling and traceable metadata for such material. The changes aim to accelerate removal of unlawful content while increasing compliance responsibilities for social media platforms and online marketplaces. The rules improve platform accountability.
- Union Ayush Minister **Prataprao Jadhav** chaired the 27th Governing Body meeting of **CCRAS** on August 6 and launched several research and digital initiatives. Infrastructure projects were inaugurated at Pune and Ranikhet, while groundwork began for a 50-bedded hospital in Nagpur. **CCRAS-PARAMPARA** will document and scientifically validate local health traditions and traditional veterinary knowledge. The **National Research Recognitions portal** promotes postgraduate Ayurveda research, while **Ayur-dict** integrates multiple Ayurveda dictionaries. The initiatives emphasise **AI, innovation, startups, translational research and global collaboration** to strengthen evidence-based Ayurveda. These initiatives support scientific validation of Ayurveda and modernise traditional knowledge for acceptance.
- The Union government told the Supreme Court that the **creamy layer principle** should not be extended to **SCs and STs**, arguing that their reservation addresses historical and social disadvantage, caste, tribal identity and representation rather than income alone. Any income-based exclusion, it said, would require comprehensive review and empirical evidence. The issue follows the Court's **2024 6:1 judgment** allowing evidence-based sub-classification within SCs and STs. The principle originated in the **1992 Indra Sawhney judgment** for OBCs. Key constitutional provisions include Articles **14, 15(4), 16, 16(4A), 335 and 341**.
- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **MSME Development Amendment Bill, 2026** on August 7 amid opposition protests, after the Rajya Sabha approved it on August 3. The legislation aims to address **delayed payments** through faster dispute resolution, recovery of settlement agreements and improved liquidity. Courts may direct payment of at least **50% of the awarded amount** when challenges remain pending beyond six months. MSMEs contribute about **31% of GDP, 36% of manufacturing and 41% of exports**. Outstanding MSME credit has risen from **₹10 trillion** in 2014-15 to over **₹38.35 trillion**.
- The **Scan and Register Service** under the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** has crossed **25 crore OPD registrations**, strengthening India's digital healthcare system. Launched in October 2022, the QR-based facility enables patients to register quickly at hospitals while automatically retrieving details through their **ABHA accounts**. It operates across **30,800 healthcare facilities**, covering all 36 States and Union Territories and 756 districts. Nearly **4 lakh patients** use it daily. Bihar leads with more than **7.30 crore transactions**, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. AIIMS New Delhi records the highest government-facility registrations.
- India completed its **first sea shipment of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana** from Bihar to Australia in August 2026. The consignment originated from farmers in **Darbhangha**, travelled by rail from Bihta to Kolkata and was shipped in seven containers. It underwent scientific testing, irradiation and international-standard packaging, with **APEDA** supporting the export process. Sea transportation is expected to lower costs compared with air freight and improve export competitiveness. Local cultivators reportedly earned around **18% higher profit margins** than prevailing market rates. Bihar remains India's leading makhana-producing state, with Darbhanga an important cultivation centre.

### States in the News

- Andhra Pradesh and Australia signed **four Memoranda of Understanding** in Amaravati on August 2, 2026, covering clean energy, manufacturing, inclusive education, student mental health, and skill development. Partners include **UNSW Sydney, IIT Tirupati, APSCHE, APSSDC, Samagra Shiksha**, and Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam. A **Centre of Excellence for Solar Manufacturing** will support solar PV manufacturing, recycling, and research. Another agreement focuses on neurodiverse students through teacher training. A pilot mental health initiative will provide counselling, while the fourth MoU strengthens vocational education, certification, and employment opportunities.
- The **Assam Government** released around **₹160 crore** in flood relief through Direct Benefit Transfer to 75,000 affected families. Announced on August 3, each family received **₹15,000** into bank accounts in districts including Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat, and Golaghat. The package includes **₹9 lakh ex-gratia compensation** for flood-related deaths and **₹10,000** for displaced families unable to return home by August 9. Students will receive book grants of **₹1,000** to **₹5,000**, plus textbooks and uniforms. Around **1.35 lakh people** remained affected across five districts, with **85 deaths** recorded.
- The **Karnataka Government** expanded its Council of Ministers on August 3, 2026, with **19 MLAs** taking oath at Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru. Governor **Thaawarchand Gehlot** administered the oath, increasing ministry strength to **33**, leaving one vacancy within the constitutional limit of 34. Although 20 names were approved, **Gayathri Shanthegowda** did not take oath, leaving no woman minister. **S. S. Mallikarjun** replaced Mankala Vaidya at the last moment. Several senior leaders, including Dinesh Gundu Rao, H. K. Patil, Mahadevappa, and Laxmi Hebbalkar, were excluded.
- India recorded **20,138 organ transplants in 2025**, the highest ever, according to the **NOTTO Annual Report 2025–26**. **Tamil Nadu** led deceased organ donation with **266 donors** and ranked second nationally in transplants with 2,796 procedures. It has **172 transplant centres**, the country's largest network, and leads several organ categories. Nationwide, kidneys accounted for **62.03%** of transplants. Women represented 68% of living donors, while men formed 78% of recipients. The **Jug Jug Jiyo Abhiyaan**, NOTTO app, and new guidelines aim to increase awareness and donation.
- Kerala** has unveiled an AI-led governance overhaul combining **artificial intelligence, digital governance, and process re-engineering** to improve public-service delivery. The initiative aims to simplify procedures, reduce bureaucratic delays, increase transparency, and strengthen coordination across departments. AI-assisted decision-making will analyse administrative data for policy

formulation, while digital platforms will support faster applications, online approvals, and grievance redressal. Automation of routine work and data-driven monitoring will streamline workflows and improve resource allocation. The reforms seek to reinforce Kerala's position in **technology-driven administration** and provide faster, citizen-centric government services.

- Uttar Pradesh** presented a supplementary budget of **₹59,019.54 crore** for 2026-27, with **₹41,620.04 crore**, or over 70%, earmarked for **capital expenditure**. Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna highlighted allocations for industries, infrastructure, rural development, energy, healthcare, education, agriculture, and local governance. Major provisions include **₹20,905.88 crore for industries and infrastructure**, **₹14,184.72 crore** for rural development, and **₹7,422.27 crore** for energy. Added to the **₹9.12 lakh crore** annual budget, the package targets asset creation, employment, infrastructure growth, and improved public services before the 2027 Assembly elections.
- Maharashtra** imposed a one-year statewide ban on **analogue paneer** from July 30, 2026, under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The prohibition covers manufacturing, storage, distribution, transportation, and sale of non-dairy paneer by hotels, restaurants, caterers, and cloud kitchens. Since May 1, businesses had to disclose analogue-paneer use on menus, boards, and bills. Violations can attract imprisonment of up to **six months** and fines up to **₹1 lakh**. The measure aims to prevent misleading sales, protect consumers, and strengthen food safety standards throughout Maharashtra.
- The **Himalayan Serow** was recorded in Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie catchment forests after nearly **20 years**, with footage captured near **Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary** on August 4, 2026. The sighting confirms the continued presence of this elusive goat-antelope in the Western Himalayas. Classified as **Near Threatened by the IUCN**, the species faces habitat loss, fragmentation, poaching, and human encroachment. The rediscovery highlights the value of forest monitoring and conservation efforts and reinforces the need to protect Himalayan habitats and ecological corridors supporting rare mountain wildlife and regional biodiversity.
- The **Gujarat Government** has imposed a statewide ban on the production, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of **unstandardised analogue paneer, cheese and butter** under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**. Announced on August 5, the decision followed inspections by the **Food and Drugs Control Administration**, which identified several substandard products. Analogue dairy products often contain **vegetable oils, starches, emulsifiers and stabilizers** instead of milk. The measure protects consumers from misleading products while supporting Gujarat's dairy sector. **Amul**, India's largest dairy cooperative, is headquartered in Gujarat.



- **Telangana Police** has launched the **NextGen Dial-112 Emergency Response Support System** at the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre in Hyderabad. The platform integrates **18 emergency services** under one helpline, covering police, ambulance, fire, women and child safety, and disaster response. AI features include **intelligent call filtering, incident prioritisation, smart routing and voice-to-text transcription**, reducing average call processing time from 190 to 133 seconds. Telangana also became the first state to pilot **AI-enabled drones** with Dial-112, improving emergency assessment, surveillance and response during accidents and disasters.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has unveiled a **₹9.5 lakh crore** development plan for the **Visakhapatnam Economic Region**, covering eight districts across north coastal Andhra Pradesh. The initiative targets a **US\$120 billion regional economy by 2032** and aims to generate **20–24 lakh jobs**. Investment will focus on **AI data centres, green hydrogen, clean energy, IT, ports, logistics, steel, healthcare, tourism and agriculture**. The **Bay City Project** provides an integrated planning framework, while the **CII Partnership Summit 2026** in Visakhapatnam is expected to attract global investors and accelerate regional development.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet**, chaired by **N. Chandrababu Naidu**, approved the **PPP Policy-2026** and **Ease of Doing Business Act-2026** on August 6. The PPP policy covers transport, ports, healthcare, education and energy, with **₹1,500 crore in Viability Gap Funding**. The Ease of Doing Business Act proposes time-bound approvals. The Cabinet also approved a **Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy**, **₹1,002.49 crore** for Quantum Valley Twin Towers, and an aquaculture subsidy. The measures aim to attract investment, improve infrastructure and make approvals more predictable for businesses.
- **Karnataka** is exploring an artificial intelligence partnership with **Anthropic**, the developer of Claude, to expand AI skilling and improve public services. Chief Minister **D.K. Shivakumar** met an Anthropic delegation in Bengaluru on August 6 to discuss certification, governance, healthcare, education, cybersecurity and startups. A proposal would introduce **Claude-focused certification** through the NIPUNA initiative, creating a large pool of AI-trained talent. Discussions also covered AI-based fraud reduction, administrative efficiency, question-paper security, **data privacy, data sovereignty and AI**. The partnership could benefit Karnataka's students and officials.
- **Ladakh** has approved India's first high-altitude wildlife safari to promote regulated tourism and conservation. The decision was taken at the first meeting of the **Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature Conservation Society**, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena. Safaris will cover **Hemis National Park, Changthang, Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, Nubra, Zaskar, Sham, Kargil and Drass**, focusing on snow-leopard sightings and bird watching. Specially designed open-back jeeps will use trained local guides and drivers. Ladakh is estimated to host **477 of India's 718 snow leopards**. It supports conservation.
- **Andhra Pradesh** unveiled a **₹9.5 lakh crore Visakhapatnam Economic Region** plan covering eight districts. The initiative targets a **US\$120 billion regional economy by 2032** and aims to generate 20–24 lakh jobs. Investment will focus on AI data centres, green hydrogen, clean energy, IT, ports, logistics, steel, healthcare, tourism, agriculture and food processing. Based on the **Bay City Project** planning model, it promotes sustainable infrastructure and industrial growth. The **CII Partnership Summit** in Visakhapatnam on November 12–13 is expected to attract investors. The plan targets connectivity.
- **Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains** said the state secured the top position in the **NITI Aayog School Education Quality Index 2026**, overtaking Kerala. He cited improvements in government-school infrastructure, textbook distribution and inspections since 2022. The **Mission Samarth** foundational learning programme covers nearly **12 lakh students and 70,000 teachers** annually, grouping learners by achievement levels. Punjab has also introduced **Artificial Intelligence as a core subject from Class 1 to 12**. Government-school NEET qualifiers increased from **80 in 2021 to 882 in 2026**, supported by the **PACE initiative**.
- The **India Meteorological Department** plans to commission an **X-Band Doppler Weather Radar** at Pulpally in Kerala's **Wayanad district** by December 2026. The radar will provide high-resolution observations within a **100-km radius**, improving monitoring of rainfall, cloudbursts and severe weather. X-Band systems operate at higher frequencies than S-Band and C-Band radars, making them suitable for detailed short-range observations. The project is particularly important for Wayanad's **Western Ghats** terrain, which is vulnerable to heavy rainfall and landslides. Land has been provided by Pazhassi Raja College, with disaster-management support from Kerala authorities.
- **Andhra Pradesh** notified the **Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy, 2026** on August 7, following Cabinet approval. The framework covers urban, rural and fringe areas and mandates safer, obstruction-free pedestrian infrastructure. It requires a minimum **two-metre clear walking zone**, slip-resistant surfaces, tactile indicators, wheelchair ramps, Braille and audible signals. The policy follows directions associated with the Supreme Court's **S. Rajasekaran judgment**, recognising safe footpaths under **Article 21**. Authorities will prioritise **15–20 high-fatality blackspots** and conduct road-safety audits covering at least **20% of roads** during the first year.

- **HAL Airport, Bengaluru**, became India's first airport to operationalise the **RNP CAT H helicopter approach procedure** on August 7, 2026. Developed by the **Airports Authority of India** and validated through flight trials by HAL test pilots, the satellite-guided system received **DGCA approval**. Required Navigation Performance uses satellite guidance and onboard avionics to maintain precise flight paths, while CAT H applies specifically to helicopter operations. The procedure improves navigation in adverse weather, urban environments and terrain-constrained areas. It reduces approach time from approximately **12 minutes to four minutes** and supports nearly **50 daily helicopter movements**.
- **Bengaluru City Police** launched **Operation Mukta** on August 8 to identify and verify suspected illegal immigrants, particularly suspected Bangladeshi nationals. More than **500 police personnel** conducted early-morning raids across over 30 locations within six police-station jurisdictions in the Whitefield division. Teams checked identity documents, including Aadhaar and Voter IDs, across Whitefield, Kadugodi, Marathahalli, Bellandur, Varthur, Mahadevapura and Electronic City. Around **40 people** were detained for verification, with four allegedly identified as Bangladeshi nationals after foreign documents were recovered. Police planned coordination with the **FRRO** for further legal action and deportation.

### International Affairs

- India is hosting the **Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices of BRICS countries** in Lucknow on August 3–4, 2026, under its **BRICS Chairship**. Organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the meeting seeks cooperation, data quality, innovation, and harmonised statistical standards. Representatives from **ten BRICS members** are participating under the theme "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change." Discussions cover Statistical Publications, data dissemination, administrative data, and **artificial intelligence**. The meeting aims to develop statistical systems supporting evidence-based policymaking and development across BRICS countries.
- India will host the **Second BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting and Expert Network on Asset Recovery Meeting in Hyderabad** on August 4–5, 2026, under its **BRICS Presidency 2026**. Organised by **DoPT**, the meetings will strengthen cooperation against corruption, focusing on **asset recovery, cross-border corruption, transparency, accountability, information sharing, fugitive offenders**, and risks involving FinTech and digital assets. Under the theme "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**," discussions will also highlight technology-driven governance. The event marks the final ACWG meeting under India's BRICS Presidency.
- The Pacific island nation formerly called **Nauru** has officially adopted the name **Republic of Naoero**, restoring its indigenous spelling and pronunciation. President **David Adeang** announced the change after parliamentary approval

without a referendum. The international country code has changed from **NRU to NRO**, while citizens will be called **dei-Naoero**. The **UN, Australia, and New Zealand** have updated official records. Located in the South Pacific, Naoero has around 12,000 people and gained independence in **1968**. The renaming seeks to preserve cultural identity amid climate and economic challenges.

- American engineering instructor **Nathan Thomas** became the world's **youngest male professor**, according to Guinness World Records, at **18 years and 346 days** after joining Miami Dade College. He surpassed Scottish mathematician **Colin Maclaurin**, who became professor at 19. Thomas entered college at age 10, later studied at Florida International University, and completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering with honours. Inspired by his engineering family, he is now pursuing a **Juris Doctor** at the University of Miami School of Law, combining academic achievement with continued interests in STEM and mathematics.
- India and **Uzbekistan** aim to raise bilateral trade to **US\$3 billion within three years**, following the India-Uzbekistan Business Forum in New Delhi on August 3, 2026. Both countries are also exploring a **Free Trade Agreement**. Bilateral trade increased 30% in the previous year to over **US\$1.32 billion**, with Indian exports reaching US\$1.15 billion. Priority sectors include **mining, rare earths, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, automobiles, IT, digital infrastructure, agriculture, and cotton**. Around 400 Indian companies operate in Uzbekistan, with joint projects exceeding US\$5 billion.
- The **Republic of Naoero**, formerly Nauru, launched the **Economic and Climate Resilience Citizenship Program**, a citizenship-by-investment scheme supporting climate adaptation. Eligible foreigners can contribute **US\$115,000**, reduced to US\$90,000 until December 31, 2026, after background checks. Funds will support relocating communities threatened by rising seas, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable development, with the first phase costing over US\$60 million. Successful applicants receive visa-friendly citizenship but cannot own land in Naoero. More than **120 citizenships** had reportedly been granted by August 2026, creating an innovative climate-finance model.
- The **13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting** and 3rd Senior Officials' Meeting are being held in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, from August 5–7, 2026. India's Education Minister **Prahlad Joshi** is participating in discussions with ministers and officials from BRICS countries. Key areas include **early childhood education, skill development, research and innovation, start-up ecosystems, digital learning, and academic collaboration**. The meetings seek greater knowledge-sharing, institutional partnerships, and student and faculty exchanges. They also aim to strengthen inclusive, future-ready education systems and deepen cooperation among emerging economies through coordinated educational development initiatives.

- **Iran and Oman** have reached an understanding on the geographic coordinates of a proposed **shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz**, with a joint statement expected after final consultations. The development marks progress in maritime cooperation, although it does not guarantee security in the strategically important waterway. The **Strait of Hormuz** carries nearly **one-fifth of global oil shipments** and serves as a crucial route for crude oil and LNG exports from Gulf countries. The proposed route could improve navigation coordination, strengthen maritime stability and reduce potential disruptions to global **energy supplies and international trade**.
- The **FAO Food Price Index** rose to **131.1 points in July 2026**, up from 130.3 in June and reaching its highest level since January 2023. The increase was driven by adverse weather and conflicts affecting agricultural markets. The **cereal index** climbed 3.4%, including a 5.8% rise in wheat prices amid Black Sea export concerns and heat damage. Vegetable oil prices increased 2%, reaching their highest level since June 2022, while sugar rose **5.6%**. Meat prices declined 2.8% and dairy prices fell 0.7%. The index remained **18.2% below its March 2022 peak**.
- **Abelardo de la Espriella** was sworn in as Colombia's **36th President** on August 7, beginning his 2026–2030 term after succeeding Gustavo Petro. He won the June 21 runoff with **49.66% of votes**, defeating Iván Cepeda, who received 48.70%. The inauguration took place at Santiago de Cali University in Cali, rather than Bogotá, with Senate President Honorio Henríquez administering the oath. De la Espriella adopted a hardline position against **drug trafficking** and said peace negotiations with armed groups had been exhausted. King Felipe VI, Javier Milei, Daniel Noboa and FIFA President Gianni Infantino attended.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Willie Walsh** took charge as **IndiGo's Chief Executive Officer** on August 3, 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers. The aviation veteran held leadership roles at Aer Lingus, British Airways, IAG, and IATA. He will oversee international expansion, operational efficiency, customer experience, and growth. IndiGo operates more than **430 aircraft** and 2,200 daily flights, remaining India's largest airline by market share. Managing Director **Rahul Bhatia** backed the appointment. Investors responded positively, with IndiGo shares rising **3.72% to ₹5,363.35** on the BSE, signalling confidence in the airline's growth strategy.
- India's manufacturing sector expanded in July 2026, but at its slowest pace in five years, as **HSBC India Manufacturing PMI** declined to **53.5** from 54.2 in June. The index remained above 50, indicating expansion, although weaker demand

slowed new orders, hiring, and purchasing. Factory output recorded one of the weakest growth rates since mid-2022. Employment increased for the **29th consecutive month**. Export orders remained strong, supported by Canada, UAE, South Africa, and Indonesia. Easing input-cost inflation, supplier deliveries, and inventory rebuilding supported business confidence despite risks.

- India has achieved **99.92% banking coverage** across inhabited villages, with **6,00,868 of 6,01,328 villages** having a banking outlet within five kilometres. Services are delivered through bank branches, **Business Correspondents**, and **India Post Payments Bank**. As of July 17, 2026, India had over **1.81 lakh bank branches**, 17.36 lakh BCs, and 1.65 lakh IPPB centres. **PMJDY** has 58.77 crore accounts holding over ₹3.12 lakh crore. RBI also requires 25% of new branches to serve unbanked rural areas, strengthening financial inclusion and rural access.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** appointed **Monisha Chakraborty** as Executive Director with effect from August 3, 2026. Previously Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the Department of Supervision, she has over **30 years of central banking experience**. She will oversee the **Foreign Exchange Department** and **Financial Markets Regulation Department**, covering FEMA, money markets, government securities, foreign exchange, and derivatives. Chakraborty has held important roles in banking supervision, foreign exchange, government accounts, and the Banking Ombudsman. She holds Economics and Business Economics degrees from the **University of Delhi**, strengthening RBI's regulatory leadership.
- More than **1.18 lakh Central Government employees** have opted for the **Unified Pension Scheme**, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. By mid-July 2026, **1,18,195 employees** had enrolled. Introduced under the National Pension System, UPS became effective on **April 1, 2025**. Employees completing at least 25 years receive an assured pension equal to **50% of average basic pay** during their final 12 months. Those completing at least 10 years receive a minimum **₹10,000 monthly pension**. The scheme combines NPS contributions with pension assurance for retirement security.
- The Government launched an **Offer for Sale** of Life Insurance Corporation of India shares, offering up to **6.5% stake** at a floor price of ₹382 per share. The transaction involves existing government-held shares, so LIC will not receive new capital. Full subscription could raise around **₹31,400 crore**, reducing government ownership from 96.5% to 90% and increasing public shareholding to 10%. The discounted offer increased selling pressure on LIC shares. **Retail investors** receive an additional ₹10 discount on the final cut-off price, potentially making the issue attractive to eligible investors.





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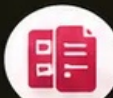


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- The **Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026** seeks to replace the 1891 law and modernise rules governing banking records in courts. It gives legal recognition to **electronic banking records** as admissible evidence when authentic, accurate, and untampered. The Bill retains protection for bank officials from unnecessary court appearances, defines "special cause" for requiring originals, and allows the Central Government to extend provisions to other financial institutions. By aligning law with **digital banking, UPI, internet banking, and electronic records**, it aims to simplify judicial procedures, strengthen confidence in digital transactions, and support India's evolving financial ecosystem.
- The Union Finance Ministry proposed amendments to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, allowing **Merchant Discount Rate** charges on select UPI transactions. The proposal removes the zero-MDR provision under Section 10A, potentially enabling banks and payment providers to charge eligible merchants. Large businesses with annual turnover above **₹50 crore** are expected to bear the charge, while smaller businesses up to ₹1.5 crore and consumers may remain exempt. Proposed MDR could be capped at **0.5% on transactions above ₹2,000**, supporting the financial sustainability of India's expanding digital payments ecosystem.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has proposed an **on-tap licensing framework for Urban Co-operative Banks**, allowing eligible credit co-operative societies to apply for banking licences anytime through the **PRAVAAH portal**. The framework is the first fresh UCB licensing initiative in nearly 22 years. Applicants must have at least **₹10,000 crore deposits, ₹300 crore net worth, 10 years of operations, 12% CRAR**, and net NPAs below 3%. The proposal also strengthens governance, business planning and regulatory scrutiny. **UCBs** remain regulated by RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- The **DGFT** has introduced a new framework for **inventory-based cross-border e-commerce exports**, effective August 5, 2026, under the **Foreign Trade Policy 2023**. The **Exporter-on-Record (EOR)** model permits eligible e-commerce companies to maintain inventory only against confirmed export orders while prohibiting domestic retail sales. EORs must register with DGFT, maintain digital inventory records, ensure product traceability, manage customs and logistics, and provide reverse logistics. The framework also requires timely seller payments, transparent transfer of export benefits and caps administrative charges at **10% of export rebates**, supporting MSMEs and digital exporters.
- India's **HSBC Services PMI** declined to **53.3 in July 2026** from 57.4 in June, indicating continued expansion but slower services-sector growth. The moderation reflected weaker domestic demand, stronger competition and fewer customer enquiries. However, robust export demand from the **UAE, UK and US** supported business activity, while continued hiring indicated confidence in future prospects. Input-cost inflation reached a **six-month low**, helping companies improve margins through higher selling prices. India's **Composite PMI** stood at 54.3, confirming continued private-sector expansion and highlighting economic resilience amid global uncertainties.
- **Air India** has appointed **Tewolde Gebremariam**, former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, as its new Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Campbell Wilson. Gebremariam is known for transforming Ethiopian Airlines through **fleet modernization, international expansion, route development, MRO capabilities, aviation training and operational excellence**. At Air India, he is expected to focus on service quality, international connectivity, aircraft integration, maintenance infrastructure and strengthening India's position as a global aviation hub. The appointment comes during the Tata Group's continuing airline transformation following fleet upgrades, digital initiatives and the **Vistara merger**, with ambitions to build a world-class full-service carrier.
- **Google** has topped India's **Most Attractive Employer Brand** ranking in the **Randstad Employer Brand Research 2026**, followed by **Tata Group** and **Amazon**. The survey covered more than **1.75 lakh respondents across 34 countries**, including nearly 3,500 participants from India. Key factors influencing employer preference were **work-life balance, equal opportunities, career growth, competitive salaries and company reputation**. The report found that 46% of Indian employees plan to change jobs within six months, while 32% changed employers recently. The findings highlight the growing importance of balanced, flexible and employee-focused workplace cultures.
- The **RBI** expanded the Upper Layer **NBFC-UL** list to 17 entities for FY 2026-27, compared with 15 previously. New entrants are **REC Ltd., Power Finance Corporation, IRFC and HUDCO**. The classification follows a review of the framework for large and systemically significant NBFCs. Entities with assets under management of at least **₹1 lakh crore** qualify for consideration. The Upper Layer falls under the RBI's scale-based framework and carries enhanced supervision and regulatory requirements. **Tata Sons Private Limited** remains included pending its NBFC de-registration application. The move strengthens regulatory oversight of large financial institutions.



- The **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026** creates a framework allowing charges on selected **UPI and digital payment transactions**. It does not impose charges immediately; future fees would require government notification. **Person-to-person transfers** are expected to remain free, while large retailers and online businesses could potentially face **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** charges. The framework could help banks, payment providers and fintech firms recover costs for infrastructure, cybersecurity, processing and support. The RBI would continue overseeing the digital payments ecosystem. Future rules will determine charges too.
- Microsoft's **India South Central cloud region in Hyderabad** became available on August 6, becoming the company's **fourth cloud region in India**, after Pune, Chennai and Mumbai. The facility expands hyperscale cloud infrastructure for enterprise computing, AI and mission-critical workloads. It includes **three availability zones**, improving fault tolerance, disaster recovery, continuity and reliability. The expansion responds to rising demand for cloud and AI infrastructure while supporting organisations seeking stronger **data-location and regulatory compliance** capabilities in India. Hyderabad therefore strengthens Microsoft's cloud footprint. It expands local cloud and AI capacity.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** issued nine circulars on August 6 introducing a unified framework for **loan recovery practices**, effective January 1, 2027. Recovery calls and physical visits will be allowed only between **8 AM and 7 PM**, while borrowers must receive at least one day's notice before a recovery agent's first physical visit. Lenders must record recovery calls and retain recordings for at least **six months**. Remote locking of financed devices is also regulated. Locking cannot begin before accounts become **30 days overdue**, while complete locking is allowed only after 60 days, preserving emergency and communication services.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **\$10.51 billion to \$692.87 billion** during the week ended July 31, 2026, according to RBI data. Foreign Currency Assets, the largest component, rose by **\$8.75 billion to \$564.68 billion**, while gold reserves increased by \$1.69 billion to **\$104.74 billion**. Special Drawing Rights rose by \$48 million to \$18.67 billion, and India's IMF reserve position increased by \$28 million to \$4.78 billion. The latest increase follows a \$6.1 billion rise in the previous week. India's record reserves stood at **\$728.494 billion** in February 2026.

### Appointments/Resignations

- India appointed **Vishwesh Negi**, a 2002-batch **Indian Foreign Service** officer, as its next Ambassador to Iran on August 3, 2026. Serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Negi will oversee bilateral relations, trade, cooperation, and consular affairs after taking charge in Tehran. His priorities include strengthening political and

economic ties, promoting regional connectivity, and protecting Indian interests. The appointment highlights **Iran's importance**, particularly the **Chabahar Port** project, which provides access to Afghanistan and Central Asia and supports India's West Asia policy objectives.

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has approved one-year extensions for **Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan** and **Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan**. Somanathan, a 1987-batch **Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer**, will continue as Cabinet Secretary until **August 30, 2027**. Govind Mohan, a 1989-batch **Sikkim cadre IAS officer**, will remain Home Secretary until **August 22, 2027**. His extension involves relaxation of applicable service rules. The decisions aim to ensure **administrative continuity and stability** amid a wider bureaucratic reshuffle involving several senior Union secretaries.
- **Anand Prakash**, a 2009-batch **Indian Foreign Service officer**, has been appointed India's next High Commissioner to the **Kingdom of Eswatini**. He is currently serving as a Director in the Ministry of External Affairs. In his new assignment, he will represent India and strengthen bilateral cooperation in political, economic, development, education, capacity-building and people-to-people areas. Eswatini is a **landlocked southern African country** bordered by South Africa and Mozambique. Formerly known as Swaziland, it officially adopted the name Eswatini in **2018**. The appointment reflects India's continuing diplomatic and development engagement with African countries.

### Defence News

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



- The **4th Tri-Services Future Warfare Course** began at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on August 3, 2026, under Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and coordinated by **CENJOWS**. The four-week programme brings together military officers, policymakers, scientists, industry experts, and thinkers. Its curriculum covers **artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, cyber warfare, cognitive warfare, autonomous systems, multi-domain operations, space warfare**, and trends. Expert lectures and discussions aim to strengthen joint planning among Army, Navy, and Air Force, promote defence innovation, and improve preparedness for technology-driven and hybrid warfare in security environments.
- Indian astrophysicist **Dr. Annapurni Subramaniam** received the **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026** at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence on August 3. She became the **first Indian woman scientist**, fourth Indian, and third woman globally to receive the honour. Jointly awarded by **COSPAR and ISRO**, the medal recognises outstanding space research contributions from developing countries. As Director of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, Bengaluru, she is known for research on stellar populations, star clusters, and galaxy evolution. The award strengthens India's global standing in astrophysics and space science.
- India successfully test-launched the **Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile** at Chandipur, Odisha, on August 6. The **Strategic Forces Command** conducted the launch under the **DRDO-led indigenous missile programme**. The Ministry of Defence stated that all operational and technical parameters were successfully validated. Agni-4 is a **road-mobile, surface-to-surface ballistic missile** designed to strengthen India's strategic deterrence. It incorporates advanced navigation, guidance and composite-material technologies. The successful test demonstrates India's continuing progress in developing reliable strategic missile systems and strategic deterrence. The test reinforces strategic readiness and technological self-reliance.
- **Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth** became the first woman fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force to complete the **Fighter Combat Leader course** at TACDE, Gwalior. The intensive 20-week programme trains selected pilots in advanced air-combat tactics, mission planning, tactical decisions, combat leadership and operations. Kanth joined the IAF in June 2016 alongside **Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh**. She became the first Indian woman cleared for daytime fighter combat missions in 2019. Her achievement highlights women's growing role in combat aviation and leadership. Expands women's combat opportunities.

## Awards and Recognitions

- Indian astrophysicist **Dr. Annapurni Subramaniam** received the **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026** at the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence on August 3. She became the **first Indian woman scientist**, fourth Indian, and third woman globally to receive the honour. Jointly awarded by **COSPAR and ISRO**, the medal recognises outstanding space research contributions from developing countries. As Director of the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**, Bengaluru, she is known for research on stellar populations, star clusters, and galaxy evolution. The award strengthens India's global standing in astrophysics and space science.
- Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** conferred the **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak** on 12 rat miners for exceptional courage during the **Silkara Tunnel Rescue Operation**. The ceremony recognised their selfless work in dangerous conditions to rescue trapped workers. Gadkari praised their bravery and noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi closely monitored the operation and mobilised resources. The Jeevan Raksha Padak honours life-saving acts during fires, drowning, electrocution, natural disasters and mining accidents. Categories are **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak**. The honour recognises specialised rescue expertise, courage, teamwork and public service during complex emergencies, highlighting the value of life-saving skills
- **President Droupadi Murmu** attended the 12th National Handloom Day celebrations in New Delhi and presented the **Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025**. Four commemorative postage stamps showcasing India's diverse weaving traditions were also released. Murmu highlighted handloom's importance for **employment, women's empowerment, cultural preservation, self-reliance and environmental sustainability**. She recalled the beginning of the **Swadeshi Movement on August 7, 1905**, and noted that National Handloom Day has been observed on this date since 2015. She encouraged technology, e-commerce, modern training, young entrepreneurs and startups to connect traditional crafts with global markets.

## Sports News

- India won **four of five gold medals** at the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. **Ankur Bhattacharjee** captured the men's singles title after defeating Payas Jain in a seven-game final, while **Yashaswini Ghorpade** won women's singles against Sreeja Akula. India secured women's doubles through **Sreeja Akula and Syndrela Das** and mixed doubles through **Manav Thakkar and Taneesha Kotecha**. Malaysia won the men's doubles title, with **Shen Qi Wong and Javen Choong** defeating Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah. The performance demonstrated India's depth and dominance across Commonwealth table tennis.

- India finished fourth at the **Commonwealth Games** in Glasgow with **39 medals**: 13 gold, 17 silver, and 9 bronze. Competing with 122 athletes, India improved on its 2022 tally of 30 medals. **Gulveer Singh** was the double medallist, while boxing led with seven golds and three silvers. India won its first Commonwealth Games judo gold medals. During the closing ceremony, Glasgow handed the **Games flag** to Ahmedabad, which will host centenary edition in 2030, making India the second nation after Australia to host Games twice.
- Ahmedabad became the **host city of the 2030 Commonwealth Games** after handover of the Commonwealth Games Flag and Host Baton during Glasgow 2026's closing ceremony. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister **Harsh Sanghavi** received the flag, beginning preparations for the centenary edition. India will host the Games for a second time after **New Delhi 2010**, becoming the second nation after Australia to do so. A cultural showcase presented Indian heritage, achievements, and **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, featuring Shankar Mahadevan, Rishab Sharma, and Bhoomi Trivedi. Boxer **Jaismine Lamboria** carried India's flag during the athlete parade.
- The **FIH Hockey World Cup 2026** will be hosted by **Belgium and the Netherlands** from August 15–30, featuring 32 teams in men's and women's competitions. India's men begin against Wales on August 15 under captain **Harmanpreet Singh**, while women face China on August 16 under **Salima Tete**. Matches will take place at Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen and Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre. The format introduces two group stages before semi-finals, guaranteeing matches. India's men face England, Pakistan, Wales, while women meet China, England, South Africa.
- ICC Chairman Jay Shah** inaugurated the **Tanzania Cricket Arena** in Dodoma on August 4, 2026, marking Tanzania's first **ICC-approved international cricket venue**. Built to international standards, the arena will allow Tanzania to host official ICC matches and regional tournaments. It is expected to strengthen grassroots cricket, coaching, player development, and youth participation. The facility can also attract international competitions and establish Tanzania as an emerging cricket destination in **East Africa**. The inauguration supports the ICC's broader strategy of expanding cricket beyond traditional strongholds through improved infrastructure, development programmes, and wider global participation.
- England wicketkeeper-batter **Jos Buttler** became the highest run-scorer in **T20 cricket history**, surpassing Kieron Pollard's previous record of 14,803 runs. Buttler scored an unbeaten **51 off 20 balls** for Manchester Super Giants against Welsh Fire in **The Hundred 2026**, taking his career tally to **14,833 runs in 522 matches**. He has also recorded nine T20 centuries and 106 half-centuries and captained England to the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022** title. **Chris Gayle** continues to hold the record for most T20 centuries, with 22 hundreds.
- Boleng**, in Arunachal Pradesh's **Siang district**, will host the **Asian Rafting Championships 2026** from October 5 to 9 on the **Simang River**, a Class III+ tributary of the Siang. The international event will attract leading rafting teams from across Asia and promote **adventure tourism, eco-tourism and sports development** in the region. Competitions will include **Sprint, Raft Cross and Slalom**, testing speed, teamwork, endurance and technical ability. The Siang is the upper course of the **Brahmaputra River** and is renowned for challenging rapids. The **International Rafting Federation** governs competitive white-water rafting globally.
- Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** won his first **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026** title. The 20-year-old scored **23.5 points out of 36**, finishing 1.5 points ahead of Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov. He led throughout and secured the championship with one round remaining after drawing against Sindarov in the penultimate blitz round. Praggnanandhaa finished with another draw against Levon Aronian. In nine blitz rounds, he recorded three wins, five draws and one loss. The victory earned him **\$50,000 and 13 Grand Chess Tour points**, strengthening his finals position. The victory strengthens international standing.
- Indian squash player **Suraj Kumar Chand** became the first Indian to win the **FISU World University Squash Championship** title. He defeated Hungary's **Takács Benedek 3–2** in a closely contested final to secure India's historic gold medal. The achievement represents a major breakthrough for Indian university-level squash and strengthens the country's international presence in the sport. Chand demonstrated considerable competitive resilience while overcoming a strong opponent in the championship match. His victory is expected to increase recognition and participation in university squash across India. The historic gold also provides an important milestone for the development of India's squash talent pipeline.
- Indian athlete **Ashish Yadav** won silver in the men's javelin throw at the **World Athletics U20 Championships 2026** in Eugene, Oregon. His best effort measured **74.09 metres**, recorded during his third attempt. South Africa's Jan-Hendrik Heymans won gold with 80.50 metres, while Dominica's Addison James took bronze with 73.89 metres. Ashish became India's **second U20 men's javelin medallist** and the country's first silver medallist in the event. He competed at age 19 despite a recent knee injury. **Neeraj Chopra** remains India's previous U20 javelin champion, having won gold in 2016.

- Indian gymnast **Ariha Pangambam** of Imphal, Manipur, created history by winning India's **first senior gold medal in individual women's aerobic gymnastics** at the Asian Championships. Held in Tagaytay City, Philippines, from August 4 to 7, the competition featured over **400 athletes and officials from 11 countries**. Pangambam won with a score of **19.100**, comprising 8.650 in artistry, 7.600 in execution and 2.850 in difficulty. She trains under coach Yumnam Ranjan Singh and studies sports leadership at AISTS India. After finishing fourth in the 2022 and 2024 editions, her 2026 victory marked a breakthrough.

### Schemes News

- Tamil Nadu launched the **Vetri Vaanmagal scheme** on August 6 to promote agricultural drone technology and create technology-based livelihoods for women farmers. The initiative will train **500 individuals, including 100 women**, in drone operations and support pilot licensing. The state allocated ₹1.50 crore for training through the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Remote Pilot Training Organisation. Another ₹2.50 crore will provide drones to **50 trained women at a 50% subsidy**. Agricultural drones can support crop monitoring, mapping, spraying, field surveys and precision agriculture, strengthening technology adoption and opportunities in farming. Creates jobs.
- The Assam government opened applications for the **Nijut Moina and Nijut Babu schemes** on August 6 to support students pursuing higher education. Eligibility expanded to include polytechnic girls and integrated postgraduate students. **Nijut Moina**, focused on girls' education and reducing child marriage, benefited about 1.6 lakh girls in 2024-25 and four lakh in 2025-26, targeting one lakh more this year. **Nijut Babu** supported 50,000 boys last year, with 70,000 planned additionally. The government also aided flood-affected schools and students. The schemes reduce barriers and encourage continued study.
- The Union Cabinet approved the **GOBARDhan-National Circular Bioenergy Scheme** with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore through 2035-36. It aims to convert farm residue, cattle dung, urban organic waste and biomass into **Compressed Biogas, organic manure and rural livelihoods**. The scheme provides assured CBG offtake, pricing capped at ₹2,110/MMBTU, financial support of up to ₹2 crore per TPD capacity and a Challenge Fund. It targets a tenfold increase in domestic CBG production, reduced fossil-fuel imports, investment and rural employment. Promotes circularity.

### Science and Technology News

- Alibaba launched **Qwen3.8-Max** on August 3, 2026, describing it as its advanced artificial intelligence model, with **2.4 trillion parameters** and a **Mixture-of-Experts** architecture activating 95 billion parameters per query. The multimodal model processes text, images, and videos and supports a **one-million-token context window** for software engineering, document analysis, and enterprise applications. Available through Alibaba Cloud's Model Studio, it strengthens China's AI competition. Qwen3.8-Max reportedly ranks highest among Chinese text AI models and second worldwide for image understanding on **Arena.AI**, highlighting China's push toward efficient, high-performance models.
- The WHO's **International Agency for Research on Cancer** classified **hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole, and tacrolimus** as Group 1 carcinogens, indicating sufficient evidence that they can cause cancer in humans. The assessment links hydrochlorothiazide with skin and lip cancers, voriconazole with increased cancer risk in certain circumstances, and tacrolimus with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder. The classification identifies a potential cancer hazard, not a recommendation to stop treatment. Patients using these medicines should **consult doctors before making changes**, ensuring treatment decisions remain medically supervised and based on individual risks.
- ICAR** developed India's first indigenous **African Swine Fever vaccine**, a live attenuated Genotype II vaccine based on the MA-104 cell line. Developed by **ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal**, it was launched during ICAR Foundation Day 2026 after clearing safety, efficacy, and field testing. Recommended for pigs above eight weeks, the vaccine uses a **1 mL intramuscular dose** followed by a booster after 14 days. African Swine Fever has caused major livestock losses since India's first detection in 2020, particularly in the Northeast. The vaccine strengthens veterinary self-reliance and supports affordable disease control nationwide.
- ICAR** developed India's first fully annotated **telomere-to-telomere reference genome** of pigeonpea variety 'Asha', a major agricultural biotechnology achievement. The genome contains **752.65 million base pairs, 92 contigs, all 11 chromosomes, 11 centromeres, 22 telomeres, and 36,557 genes**, and has been accepted as a global reference in NCBI. The resource will accelerate molecular breeding and genome editing for high-yielding, climate-resilient, nutrient-rich varieties. It supports the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses**, targeting 35 million tonnes of production by 2030–31, lower imports, higher farmer incomes, and improved food security.



- The **Chhattisgarh Cabinet** has approved the **Chhattisgarh State Artificial Intelligence Mission** with a ₹500 crore outlay for five years. The mission will promote AI in **governance, education, research and innovation** and aligns with the national **IndiaAI Mission**. Plans include establishing **100 AI Data Labs, five Centres of Excellence**, training **6 lakh students and 1.5 lakh government employees**, supporting more than **300 AI start-ups**, and deploying over 50 AI-powered government services. The national IndiaAI Mission, approved in 2024, has an overall outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore.
- A spent **SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage** is believed to have crashed into the **Moon near Einstein Crater on August 5, 2026**, after its trajectory was altered by gravitational forces and solar activity. Scientists estimate that the approximately **four-tonne rocket stage** struck the lunar surface at around 8,690 km/h, potentially creating a new crater. The impact poses no danger to Earth but could provide useful information about **lunar geology and impact dynamics**. NASA's **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter** and South Korea's **Danuri** spacecraft may study the site, while the event renews concerns about space debris.
- Indian-origin NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** completed his maiden spacewalk outside the **ISS** on August 6. Designated **US Spacewalk 96**, the activity lasted **6 hours and 27 minutes**. Menon worked with NASA astronaut **Jessica Meir** on Starboard 6. They installed mounting hardware, routed electrical cables and added insulation to prepare the **Roll-Out Solar Array** system. Menon, selected in NASA's 2021 astronaut class, previously worked as a physician and SpaceX medical director. Meir completed her sixth spacewalk. The mission adds valuable spaceflight experience.
- India's **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** has advanced with testing of human-rated systems. Jitendra Singh said the first uncrewed flight carrying **Vyommitra**, ISRO's humanoid robot, is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2026, followed by two more uncrewed missions in 2027 before the crewed flight. Tests have covered launch-vehicle propulsion, Crew and Service Module systems, **Environmental Control and Life Support System, Thermal Protection System, Crew Escape System and parachute recovery**. The **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** is planned for 2035. The programme targets safe human missions in orbit.
- **IIT Guwahati** has developed **E-Eye**, a portable and low-cost optical sensing device for rapidly detecting toxicants and cancer-causing heavy metals in water and biological samples. The device uses the **Beer-Lambert law** to convert chemical colour intensity into digital readings. It costs around ₹3,500, with individual tests costing approximately ₹2. Validation covered more than **2,700 samples**, detecting arsenic, lead, iron, chromium, fluoride and *E. coli*. The research involved IIT Guwahati, KIIT Bhubaneswar and Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Kolkata. Findings were published in the **IEEE Sensors Journal** with MeitY-linked funding support.
- **IIT Madras Global Research Foundation** and Indonesia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology signed a landmark **MoU** to expand cooperation in higher education, research, innovation, deep technology, entrepreneurship and talent development. The agreement aims to establish collaborative research ecosystems, accelerate **deep-tech commercialisation** and strengthen the India-Indonesia South-South Strategic Partnership. Indonesian Minister Prof Brian Yuliarto, IIT Madras Director Prof V. Kamakoti and Indian Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty attended the signing. Indonesian universities are expected to participate in joint research, technology commercialisation, innovation and talent-development programmes. The partnership follows recent discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Prabowo Subianto.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Param Pragma**, an AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility, at IIT Delhi's Sonipat Campus on August 8, 2026. The inauguration took place during the institute's **57th Convocation**, where Modi was chief guest. The facility is designed to support **artificial intelligence, data science, advanced computing and interdisciplinary research**. More than 3,000 students graduated, including **587 doctoral scholars**, while major academic honours were presented. The graduating batches included the first students of B.Des., Executive MBA, M.Sc. Biological Sciences and MA in Culture, Society, Thought. IIT Delhi operates under the **Institutes of Technology Act, 1961**.

### Important Days News

- **Friendship Day 2026** will be celebrated in India on August 2, the first Sunday of August, continuing the country's tradition of honouring friendship through messages, gifts, friendship bands, and shared time. The **United Nations** observes the International Day of Friendship on July 30, but India follows a different date shaped by social customs and culture. The occasion encourages **trust, compassion, mutual respect, and peace**. Its origins are linked to **Dr. Ramón Artemio Bracho's 1958 initiative in Paraguay**. The day encourages reconnecting with old friends and valuing relationships beyond social media and material gifts.
- **International Clouded Leopard Day** is observed annually on **August 4** to promote conservation of the elusive clouded leopard. Established in 2018 by **The Aspinall Foundation**, the day highlights Mainland and Sunda clouded leopards, both classified as **Vulnerable** by the IUCN. Threats include habitat loss, illegal wildlife trade, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. Around 34% of mainland habitat disappeared between 2000 and 2018. India's **Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan** focuses on habitat protection, scientific monitoring, anti-poaching, corridors, climate resilience, and community participation across **Northeast India**.

- **World Breastfeeding Week 2026** is observed from **August 1 to 7** under the **POSHAN Abhiyaan** to promote breastfeeding and child nutrition. The campaign encourages breastfeeding within the **first hour after birth**, exclusive breastfeeding for six months, and continued breastfeeding alongside complementary foods up to two years or beyond. The 2026 theme, **"Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works,"** emphasizes stronger support systems for mothers. The initiative highlights the first **1,000 days**, the nutritional value of colostrum, immunity, brain development and healthy growth through nationwide programmes involving Anganwadi centres and healthcare workers.
- **Alaboi Ron Smriti Divas 2026** was observed on August 5 at **Amingaon, Kamrup district, Assam**, commemorating the **357th martyrdom anniversary** of Ahom warriors who sacrificed their lives in the **Battle of Alaboi in 1669**. The observance at Alaboi Ron Smriti Soudh included floral tributes, ceremonial lamp lighting, cultural programmes and public addresses. Government departments and local organizations highlighted the importance of preserving Assam's historical heritage and educating younger generations about the Ahom legacy. The **Ahom Kingdom** ruled significant parts of Assam for nearly **600 years, from 1228 to 1826**, making it one of India's longest-lasting dynasties.
- **Hiroshima Day 2026** was observed on **August 6**, marking the **81st anniversary** of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II. The 2026 theme, **"Remembrance, Responsibility, and Resilience,"** honours victims and survivors while promoting peace and nuclear disarmament. On August 6, 1945, the US B-29 **Enola Gay** dropped the uranium bomb **Little Boy** on Hiroshima. Around 70,000–80,000 people died immediately, while deaths reached nearly **140,000 by the end of 1945**. The Nagasaki bombing followed on August 9, contributing to Japan's surrender and the end of World War II.
- **National Handloom Day** is observed on August 7 to honour India's handloom heritage and weavers. It commemorates the **Swadeshi Movement**, launched on August 7, 1905, at Calcutta Town Hall to promote indigenous products and reject foreign goods. The first National Handloom Day was observed in 2015. The occasion highlights traditional skills, sustainable textiles, rural employment and women's empowerment while encouraging support for authentic Indian handloom under **Vocal for Local**. Major traditions include Banarasi, Kanchipuram, Jamdani, Sambalpuri, Pochampally, Paithani, Muga Silk and Gujarat's Bandhani. Government support includes NHDP and Weaver MUDRA. It supports artisans.
- **World Brain Tumour Day** is observed annually on **June 8** to promote awareness about brain tumours, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and patient support. The observance was initiated by Germany's **Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe e.V.**, or German Brain Tumour Association, and has been marked globally since 2000. Brain tumours involve abnormal tissue growth in the brain or surrounding structures and may be benign or malignant. Warning signs can include persistent headaches, seizures, speech difficulties, behavioural changes, weakness, balance problems, blurred vision, hearing loss, facial numbness, vomiting and confusion. Awareness encourages timely medical evaluation and stronger patient support.
- **World Oceans Day** is observed annually on **June 8** to promote ocean conservation and sustainable use. Its origins trace to June 8, 1992, when Oceans Day was declared at the Global Forum during the **Rio Earth Summit**. The UN General Assembly officially designated June 8 through **Resolution 63/111** in 2008, with the first UN observance held in 2009. The **2026 theme** is "Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean." Oceans cover more than **70% of Earth**, produce at least 50% of oxygen and support biodiversity, food security and livelihoods.
- **Nagasaki Day** is observed on **August 9** to remember victims of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945 and highlight the humanitarian consequences of nuclear warfare. The United States dropped the plutonium-based **Fat Man** bomb from the B-29 **Bockscar** after weather prevented the intended attack on Kokura. The approximately **21-kiloton explosion** caused massive destruction, tens of thousands of deaths and long-term radiation effects. Survivors, known as **Hibakusha**, continue advocating nuclear disarmament. Global efforts include the **NPT, CTBT, TPNW, IAEA safeguards** and arms-control agreements. Japan announced surrender on August 15, 1945.

### Obituaries News

- Former **Bihar and Tripura Governor Dr. D. Y. Patil** died aged 90, leaving a major legacy in education and public service. After political involvement with the Maharashtra Congress and serving as Governor, he established one of India's largest private education networks through the **D. Y. Patil Group**. The organisation expanded institutions in medicine, engineering, dentistry, management, nursing, agriculture, pharmacy, biotechnology, and sports sciences. His contribution strengthened private higher education through modern infrastructure, research, and professional learning. Leaders and academic institutions paid tribute to his role in expanding access to quality education.

- Renowned mountaineer **Nirmal "Nims" Purja** died in an avalanche on **Broad Peak**, Pakistan, on August 1, 2026. The Nepal-born climber became internationally famous through **Project Possible 2019**, completing all 14 mountains above 8,000 metres in just **6 months and 6 days**, breaking the previous record. He also contributed to the first winter ascent of **K2** in 2021 and inspired audiences through the Netflix documentary *14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible*. A former **British Army Gurkha and Special Boat Service member**, Purja leaves a remarkable legacy in high-altitude mountaineering.
- Former **Chief Justice M.S. Liberhan** died on August 2, 2026, aged 87, after a distinguished judicial career. He began practising at the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** in 1964 and later served as Chief Justice of the Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts. He became nationally prominent for heading the **Liberhan Commission**, established on December 16, 1992, to investigate the Babri Masjid demolition. After nearly 17 years and 48 extensions, the commission submitted its report on June 30, 2009. Justice Liberhan is remembered for significant contributions to constitutional law and judicial service.
- Veteran actor **Pradeep Rawat** died on August 4, 2026, aged 74, after battling blood cancer. His acting career spanned

more than four decades across Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and other regional cinema. He gained early recognition as **Ashwatthama** in **B.R. Chopra's Mahabharat** and made his Hindi film debut with *Meri Jung* in 1985. He later became known for roles in *Sarfarosh*, *Lagaan*, *Ghajini*, *The Hero*, *Grand Masti*, *Singh Is Bliing*, and *Chhaava*. Celebrated for powerful villainous and character performances, Rawat leaves a lasting legacy in Indian cinema.

### Miscellaneous News

- The **Ministry of Culture** and **Ministry of Tourism**, in collaboration with **Netflix India**, have launched the "**As Seen on Netflix**" section on the **Incredible India** portal to promote film-induced tourism. Introduced on August 5, the feature allows visitors to discover real-life destinations appearing in Netflix films and series, along with their **culture, heritage, cuisine, festivals and attractions**. The initiative was launched at the **National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi**, and coincided with Netflix's 10 years in India. A non-commercial MoU aims to promote Indian destinations globally through storytelling. **Incredible India** was launched in 2002.

### Static Takeaways

| Aspect         | Details                                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Karnataka      | CM: D. K. Shivakumar, Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, Capital: Bengaluru             |
| Uttarakhand    | CM: Pushkar Dhami, Governor: Gurmit Singh, Capital: Dehradun (Winter)               |
| Rajasthan      | CM: Bhajanlal Sharma, Governor: Haribhau Bagade, Capital: Jaipur                    |
| Gujarat        | CM: Bhupendra Patel, Governor: Aacharya Devvrat, Capital: Gandhinagar               |
| Andhra Pradesh | CM: Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: Abdur Nazeer, Capital: Amravati                    |
| Assam          | CM: Hemanta Sarma, Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya, Capital: Itanagar               |
| Maharashtra    | CM: Devendra Fadnavis, Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma, Capital: Mumbai                  |
| Chhattisgarh   | CM: Mohan Majhi, Governor: Ramen Deka, Capital: Raipur                              |
| Tamil Nadu     | CM: Joseph Vijay, Governor: R Arlekar, Capital: Chennai                             |
| USA            | President: Donald Trump                                                             |
| Venezuela      | President: Delcy Rodriguez                                                          |
| Nepal          | PM: Balen Shah                                                                      |
| RBI            | Governor: Sanjay Malhotra                                                           |
| ICC            | Chairman: Jay Shah                                                                  |
| Glaw Lake      | 101 <sup>st</sup> Ramsar Site, State: Arunachal Pradesh, First Ramsar Site of State |



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