

Weekly One Liners 10th to 16th August, 2026

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

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

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

PM Modi Hoists Tricolour at Red Fort

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

150 Years of Vande Mataram

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

Viksit Bharat by 2047: The Core Objective of PM Modi

- PM Modi reaffirmed the goal of transforming India into a developed country by 2047 as the country will celebrate its 100 years of independence.
- He pointed out that this goal can only be met together by the more than 140 crore citizens of the country.

- The Prime Minister pointed out that India's development has already undergone some remarkable changes and the goals of the country must be raised further now.
- He further pointed out that determination of all sections of citizens including poor, middle-class, youth, etc., has helped India achieve its development.
- According to PM Modi, more than 25 crore people have been taken out of poverty, which he highlighted as one of the most significant achievements of India's development process.

Aatmanirbharta and "Vocal for Local"

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

Critical Minerals and Energy Security

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

India's Semiconductor Strategy

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

₹85,000 Crore Deep Sea Exploration

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

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

India's Nuclear Energy Target of 2047

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

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

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

Electrification of Railways and Hydrogen Train

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

FTA and MSME Opportunities

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

Saptadhara: Seven Streams for Viksit Bharat

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

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

The seven streams are,

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

India's International Corporate Aspirations

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

One Crore Youth to be Trained in AI

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

Free Coaching for Competitions

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

More Than ₹1 Lakh Crore Innovation Fund

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



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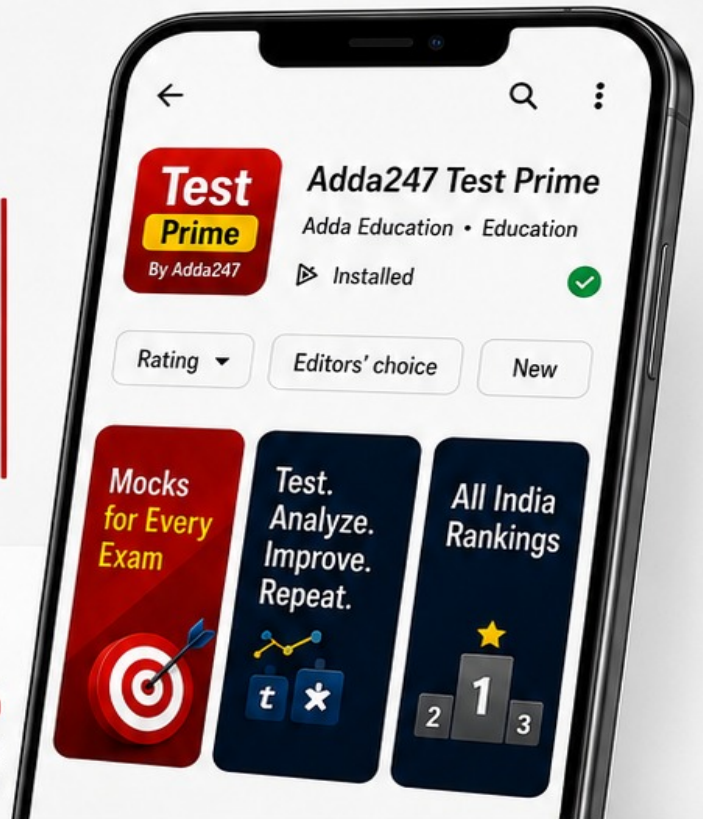


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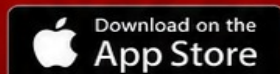
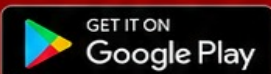


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2036 Olympics and 2030 Commonwealth Games

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

Naxalism and ‘Dimagi Naxal’

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

Civil Defence Network

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

Women’s Reservation and Nari Shakti

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

PM Modi appeals to youth for census

- At the end of the speech, PM Modi appealed to the youth to take part in the process of census.
- Crisis Management and the Spirit of “Nagrik Devo Bhava”
- Prime Minister mentioned challenges that India faced due to the situation following the pandemic, namely conflicts and global energy crisis.
- In particular, there were fears and rumours regarding shortages of vaccines, fuel, diesel and fertilisers.

- In accordance with the Prime Minister, measures were taken by the Government to make sure that citizens, as well as farmers, do not feel the whole brunt of these crises.
- “Prime Minister referred to the spirit of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhava’, with the citizen as the focal point of governance.”
- In addition, he gave the example of fertilisers being available to farmers at regulated prices despite their high costs internationally.

Reduction of Poverty in India

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

Transformation of Governance and Infrastructure Development

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

Atmanirbhar Bharat and Domestic Exploration of Resources

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

75 Minute Independence Day Address

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

Key Highlights of PM Modi’s Independence Day Speech 2026

- India celebrated its 80th Independence Day.
- The celebration also marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram.

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

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

For the India's performing arts in 2026, Honorable President of India is set to confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for the years 2024 and 2025 on August 13, 2026. A total of 115 artists have been selected for this prestigious recognition

which includes areas such as music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal arts, puppetry, instrumental making and other performing arts.

The awards are specially important as they showcase the India's cultural institutes, performing arts and national recognitions.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-25

The special award ceremony is set to take place on August 13th, 2026 at 11:30 AM at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi where the awards will be conferred by the President of India on the selected artists.

Union Ministers of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of State for Culture Rao Inderjit Singh, Secretary of Ministry of Culture Vivek Aggarwal and Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi Dr Sandhya Purecha are some of the dignitaries attending the ceremony.

115 awardees and fellows from various states and union territories have been chosen from India's varied performing arts.

What is the Sangeet Natak Akademi?

Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national institution of music, dance and drama. The awards are awarded for exceptional and distinguished work done in the field of performing arts.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi awards have been conferred from 1952 onwards. The Sangeet Natak Akademi awards include both classical music and dance along with theatre, folk and tribal traditions and other associated performing arts.

The highest award from the Sangeet Natak Akademi is called Akademi Fellowship or Akademi Ratna. A Fellow is given ₹3 lakh whereas an Akademi Award includes a prize money of ₹1 lakh and a Tamrapatra & Angavastram.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows — Akademi Ratna

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

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024

Music

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
1	Arun Nagesh Kashalkar	Hindustani Vocal
2	Nirmalya Dey	Hindustani Vocal - Dhrupad
3	Bharat Bhushan Goswami	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
4	Sanjay Mukherjee	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
5	Krishna Vageesh	Carnatic Vocal
6	N. Vijay Siva	Carnatic Vocal
7	A S Krishnan Carnatic	Instrumental – Morching

S. No.	Artist	Field / Discipline
8	Komanduri Seshadri Carnatic	Instrumental – Violin
9	Rakesh Chaurasia	Creative and Experimental – Flute
10	Prabhathi Mukherjee	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
11	Anand Bhate	Other Major Traditions of Music – Abhang
12	Samandar Khan Manganiar	Other Major Traditions of Music – Mand

Dance

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

Theatre

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

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

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

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

Overall & Others

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

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2025
Music

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

Dance

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

Theatre

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

Folk, Tribal, Puppet, Mask & Instrument Making

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

Overall & Others

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

301 Gallantry Medals Awarded to Police, Fire Service Personnel

Gallantry Medals have been awarded to 301 members of the Police Force and Fire Services in connection with the Independence Day 2026 awards for outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty. A large number of the awards went to those serving in LWE-affected areas. In all, 1,057 members of the Police Force, Fire, Home Guard and Civil Defence, and Correctional Services have been awarded Gallantry and Service Medals. The a

301 Gallantry Medals Given

Out of the total 301 Gallantry Medals, 272 medals have been awarded to police personnel and 29 to fire service personnel.

As per the government, the above medals have been given for outstanding acts of gallantry where there was involvement of life and property saving, prevention of crime, or apprehension of criminals. The risk involved is considered with reference to their official duties and responsibilities.

Regional-wise Distribution of Gallantry Medals

The total of 301 Gallantry Medals have been awarded to personnel of various regions,

- 197 personnel from Left Wing Extremism affected regions
- 51 personnel from Jammu & Kashmir region
- 12 personnel from North-East region
- 41 personnel from other regions

The high number of medals given to LWE affected region personnel indicates the challenging situation of working by security forces against violence of the extremists.

1,057 Personnel Awarded Medals

In addition to the Gallantry Medals, there are a range of other independence day awards given to 1,057 personnel from Police, Fire Service, Home Guard and Civil Defence, and Correctional Services.

The awards are split into different categories depending on bravery and service, where awards are made for both courageous acts and dedication to public service.

92 Receive President's Medal for Distinguished Service

There were also announcements from the Centre of the President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM) for 92 police and allied service personnel.

The distribution was,

- 83 Police Service personnel
- 4 Fire Service personnel
- 3 Civil Defence and Home Guard personnel
- 2 Correctional Service personnel

The President's Medal for Distinguished Service is awarded for an officer's special and distinguished record of service.

664 Medals for Meritorious Service Awarded

In addition, 664 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM) were also conferred. This medal honours meritorious service characterized by resourcefulness and dedication to duty.

These individuals include,

- 606 Individuals from the Police Force
- 28 Individuals from the Fire Services
- 18 Individuals from Civil Defense and Home Guard
- 12 Individuals from the Correctional Services

In conjunction with the Gallantry and President's Distinguished Service Medals, these honours emphasize the contributions of persons serving in India's internal security services, emergency services and correctional services.

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

Andhra Pradesh

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

Assam

- Shri Devojiyoti Mukherjee — Inspector General

Bihar

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

Chhattisgarh

- Shri Moti Lal Kotwani — Deputy Inspector General

NCT of Delhi

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

Gujarat

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

Haryana

- Smt. Sushila Kaushik — Sub Inspector

Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Gurdev Chand Sharma — Deputy Inspector General

Jharkhand

- Shri Shailendra Kumar Sinha — Inspector General

Karnataka

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

Kerala

- Shri Sasidharan Sankaran Ezhuthachan Kizhakkekara — Superintendent of Police

Madhya Pradesh

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

Maharashtra

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

Manipur

- Shri Lokhendro Singh Arambam — Armed Police Sub Inspector

Mizoram

- Smt. Meenu Choudhary — Additional Director General

Nagaland

- Shri Videlalie Zashumo — Inspector General

Odisha

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

Punjab

- Shri Baljit Singh — Inspector

Rajasthan

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

Tamil Nadu

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

Telangana

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

Uttar Pradesh

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

West Bengal

- Shri Ajay Nand — Commissioner of Police

Puducherry

- Shri Ranganathan B — Superintendent of Police

Jammu & Kashmir

- Shri Shoket Hussain Shah — Senior Superintendent

Central Armed Police Forces & Other Organisations

Assam Rifles

- Shri Pritam Lal — Subedar Major

Border Security Force (BSF)

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

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

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

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

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

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

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

National Security Guard (NSG)

- Shri Rakesh Sharma — Group Commander

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

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

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

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

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

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

Special Protection Group (SPG)

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

National Investigation Agency (NIA)

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

Department of Defence Production

- Shri Sajid Farid Shapoo — Additional Director General

Railway Protection Force (RPF)

- Shri Rajesh Lal — Assistant Security Commissioner

Fire Service

Goa

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

Odisha

- Shri Malaya Kumar Mohanty — Assistant Station Officer

Uttar Pradesh

- Shri Naimuddin — Leading Fireman

CISF

- Shri Mahendra Singh Kandari — Assistant Commandant

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- Shri Rajesh Kumar Pandey — Additional Commandant General

NCT of Delhi

- Shri Suresh Kumar Shokeen — Commandant

Himachal Pradesh

- Shri Prem Raj — Company Commander

Correctional Services

Maharashtra

- Shri Sanjiv Sakhamkar — Subhedar
- Shri Sanjay Rajaramji Talware — Havildar

National Affairs

- **Amit Shah** launched '**Bank in a Box**' and a dedicated **Security Operations Centre (SOC)** for **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** under the '**Sahkar Nav-Kranti**' programme in Mumbai. The integrated platform will provide **core banking, digital payments, cloud infrastructure, regulatory compliance, loan origination, Aadhaar-based services and AI-driven fraud prevention**. The SOC will provide **24x7 cybersecurity monitoring**, while **MuleHunter** will help identify suspicious transactions and mule accounts. **NUCFDC** has been capitalised with nearly **₹306 crore**, with around **650 UCBs** already joining. An MoU with **NFSU** will support cybersecurity training and digital forensics.
- India launched **E-Samudra** on **8 August 2026**, a comprehensive **digital maritime governance platform** providing single-window services to seafarers, shipping companies, ports and other stakeholders. The platform offers **online payments, real-time tracking, digital certificates** and streamlined workflows under **Digital First and Faceless Governance**. Supporting initiatives include **24x7 e-NAVIK grievance redressal**, the proposed **Seafarer Tracking Dashboard**, **Digital Seafarers Employment Agreement (d-SEA)** and enhanced welfare measures. India's active seafarers increased from **1.03 lakh in 2013 to over 3.23 lakh in 2025**, making India the **world's second-largest seafarer supplier**. The initiative supports **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
- **NeGD**, under **MeitY**, partnered with the **Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI)** to launch **AAERI Verify**, a digital authentication platform for Indian students seeking higher education in Australia. Launched at the **AAERI Annual Convention** in New Delhi on **7 August 2026**, it integrates with **DigiLocker** for secure, paperless and consent-based verification of academic, identity and financial documents. Its two-stage system verifies student credentials before applications and sponsor finances after admission offers. Digitally signed records can

be shared directly from authorised institutions, reducing paperwork, manual verification and fraud risks while accelerating **international university admissions** and strengthening document authenticity.

- **Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched the **Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** on **9 August 2026**, commemorating **August Kranti Diwas** and the **Quit India Movement of 1942**. He hoisted the National Flag at **Flag Point, Sri Vijaya Puram**, highlighting the islands' connection with India's freedom struggle and **Cellular Jail**. The event recalled **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's** historic Tricolour hoisting at Port Blair on **30 December 1943**. Radhakrishnan urged citizens to uphold **unity, patriotism and collective responsibility** while highlighting the **Great Nicobar Development Project**, connectivity, maritime capabilities and environmental conservation.
- India crossed the milestone of **300.50 GW installed non-fossil fuel capacity** as of **31 July 2026**, according to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**. **Solar power** led with **164.59 GW**, followed by **wind at 58.14 GW**, **hydropower at 57.24 GW**, **bio-power at 11.75 GW** and **nuclear power at 8.78 GW**. Non-fossil sources now represent over **54% of total installed capacity**, compared with approximately 552 GW overall. India added a record **55.29 GW** of non-fossil capacity during 2025-26. Renewable generation rose from **190.96 BU in 2014-15 to 477.79 BU in 2025-26**, supporting India's clean-energy transition.
- The **Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** is India's flagship digital platform for registering and monitoring government-service complaints. Developed by **DARPG**, it connects citizens with **Central ministries, State governments and Union Territories** through a unified platform. Citizens receive a unique registration ID for online tracking. CPGRAMS operates **24x7**, supports **22 scheduled Indian languages besides English**, and follows the "**One Nation—One Portal**" approach. The framework requires grievances to be resolved within a maximum of **21 days**, strengthening administrative accountability. An **appeal mechanism** provides an additional avenue for citizens dissatisfied with grievance resolution, promoting transparency and responsive governance.
- India's **Asiatic lion population** increased from **523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025**, representing a rise of **368 lions or nearly 70%**. Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** highlighted the achievement on **World Lion Day 2026**, crediting forest officials, conservationists and local communities. The species' geographical range expanded from around **30,000 sq km in 2020 to nearly 35,000 sq km**. **Project Lion**, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **2020**, supports habitat improvement, disease monitoring, veterinary care, scientific population assessment, technology-based conservation and community participation. **Greater Gir in Gujarat** remains the principal natural habitat of Asiatic lions in India.

- India celebrates its **80th Independence Day** on **15 August 2026** with the theme **“Yuva Shakti: Leading the journey to Viksit Bharat@2047.”** The theme highlights the contribution of **young Indians** to achieving developed-nation status by 2047. The **Red Fort** celebrations will also mark **150 years of Vande Mataram**, with the National Song being presented from the ramparts for the first time. Around **5,000 special guests**, including **19 International Olympiad medal winners**, will attend. Nearly **2,500 NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers** will participate. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will lead the ceremony and address the nation.
- The **80th Independence Day ceremony** at the **Red Fort** will feature **Vande Mataram** for the first time as part of the official programme. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will arrive at the ramparts, followed by the National Song while attendees stand. He will then **unfurl the National Flag**, followed by the **National Anthem**. Written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**, Vande Mataram is India's **National Song** and has deep links with the freedom movement. The 2026 celebrations emphasise **Yuva Shakti**, highlighting youth contributions to **education, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, sports and nation-building**. The **Leader of Opposition** has also been invited.
- India's **Asiatic lion population** increased from **523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025**, registering a rise of **368 lions**, or nearly **70%**. Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** credited forest officials, conservationists and local communities for the achievement. **Project Lion**, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **2020**, focuses on **disease surveillance, habitat management, veterinary care, scientific monitoring, technology-based conservation and community participation**. The geographical range of lions expanded from nearly **30,000 sq km in 2020 to around 35,000 sq km**. The **Greater Gir landscape of Gujarat** remains the principal habitat, with expanding connectivity strengthening long-term conservation.
- **Tripura** achieved an agricultural export milestone by sending its **first-ever mustard honey shipment to Dubai**. The **1-metric-tonne consignment** was exported by the **Dergang Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)** with assistance from **APEDA**. **Salt Range Foods Pvt. Ltd.** supported the FPO in strengthening bee production and developing an export-oriented supply chain. The initiative is expected to create better international market access for beekeepers and farmers, encourage **quality-focused production** and improve price realisation. Agriculture Minister **Ratan Lal Nath** highlighted the importance of **apiculture and organic agriculture**. The shipment demonstrates the potential of organised **farmer collectives** to enter international markets.
- India has identified **45 major Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS)** through the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** to strengthen forest ecosystem management. These invasive plants can compete with native vegetation for **water, nutrients, sunlight and space**, thereby affecting biodiversity and ecological processes. The **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** has prepared a state-wise inventory covering forest and non-forest areas for developing a **National Management Plan**. State governments and Union Territories are responsible for removal and ecological restoration. The **National Working Plan Code 2023** promotes invasive-species control, degraded-land restoration and regeneration using **indigenous and native species**.
- The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026**, proposing an independent **National Tribunals Commission (NTC)** to oversee appointments, administration and performance of tribunals. The proposed five-member Commission will comprise a **chairperson, two judicial members and two technical members**, with headquarters in New Delhi. It seeks to replace the **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021** and address concerns over tribunal independence and administration. The NTC would oversee **16 tribunals**, including the **National Green Tribunal, Securities Appellate Tribunal, Armed Forces Tribunal and Central Administrative Tribunal**. The estimated implementation cost is **₹27.14 crore**. Tribunals operate under **Articles 323A and 323B**.
- Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched a new scholarship and fellowship payment system for agriculture students through the **National Scholarship Portal (NSP)** using **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. At **ICAR-IARI, Pusa**, more than **6,000 agriculture students** received **₹21.35 crore** directly into their bank accounts. Eligible students will receive scholarship assistance monthly, reducing delays and improving transparency. Chouhan emphasised **practical agricultural education**, field experience, innovation, startups and research. The initiative aims to strengthen **agricultural education**, encourage technology-driven solutions for farmers and support national objectives relating to **food security, nutrition and improved farmers' incomes**.
- The **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOC Port)** in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, became India's first major port to achieve **Scope-2 Emission-Free** status on **10 August 2026**. Independent verification confirmed that renewable generation exceeded electricity consumption during the relevant period. Renewable energy supplied **93.89% of total electricity consumption in FY 2025-26**. The port also became India's first major port to receive **ISO 50001:2018 certification** for its Energy Management System. It currently has **7.04 MW solar and 2 MW wind capacity** and plans additional solar, **17 MW wind power, battery storage and a Green Hydrogen Hub**, strengthening India's green-port transition.

- India diversified its **urea imports** in 2026 amid West Asia-related supply disruptions. Between April and June, it imported **15.08 lakh tonnes** from 17 countries, with **52%** coming from Egypt, Algeria, Nigeria and Georgia. In June alone, imports included 3.95 lakh tonnes from Egypt and significant quantities from Algeria, Nigeria and Georgia. Imported urea subsidy expenditure rose **128.4% to ₹47,956.24 crore** in 2025–26. India also routed supplies through the **Strait of Hormuz** and finalised a 2.5-million-tonne import tender to ensure fertiliser availability.
- The **MSME Ministry and DPIIT** signed an MoU on August 5, 2026, to expand market access for **Geographical Indication (GI) products**. GI producers and authorised users will be onboarded onto **ONDC and Government e-Marketplace** under the “Bharat GI” banner. The partnership also connects GI products with the **One District One Product** ecosystem and supports GI pavilions at trade fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meetings. Measures such as **quality standardisation, capacity building and digital enablement** will help artisans and traditional producers reach wider domestic and international markets while improving visibility, competitiveness and income opportunities.
- World Elephant Day 2026 highlighted India’s crucial role in conserving **Asian elephants**, with the country holding nearly **60% of the global wild population**. The SAIEE 2021–25 estimated India’s population at **22,446 elephants**, protected through 33 Elephant Reserves and 150 identified corridors. **Project Elephant** supports habitat protection, conflict mitigation and captive elephant welfare. New measures include **AI monitoring, radio-collaring, genetic databases and early-warning systems**. India also conducted its first DNA-based synchronised elephant census. Railway safeguards have helped reduce train-related elephant deaths from 26 in 2013 to 12 in 2024.
- Parliament passed the **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026**, establishing a proposed independent **National Tribunals Commission (NTC)** to oversee major tribunals. The Commission will comprise a chairperson, two judicial members and two technical members, with headquarters in New Delhi. It will supervise appointments, administration, investigations and tribunal performance while maintaining a **National Tribunals Data Grid**. The Bill covers **16 tribunals**, including CAT, NGT, ITAT, CESTAT, DRT and TDSAT. Tribunal chairpersons will have five-year terms or serve until 70, while members will serve five years or until 67. The reform aims to strengthen **judicial independence and access to justice**.
- The Union Jal Shakti Ministry amended the **Ganga floodplain management framework** through the River Ganga Authorities (Second Amendment) Order, 2026. The new rules divide floodplains into three categories: **Active Floodplain, Regulatory Zone and Warning Zone**. The Active Floodplain covers areas affected by a one-in-five-year flood and faces strict construction restrictions. The Regulatory Zone covers five-to-25-year flood exposure, while the Warning Zone covers areas vulnerable to floods occurring once in 25 to 100 years. Construction in the latter two zones requires official clearances, strengthening **flood-risk management, environmental protection and regulated development** along the Ganga and its tributaries.
- The **RailOne App**, launched by Indian Railways on July 1, 2025, has crossed **4.76 crore downloads** by August 2, 2026. It averages around **10 lakh daily ticket bookings**, including 2.79 lakh reserved and 7.24 lakh unreserved tickets. The **National Train Enquiry System (NTES)** handles over 6 crore enquiries daily and around 80,000 concurrent users. Its Android and iOS apps have crossed 4.5 crore and 16 lakh downloads respectively. Around **89% of reserved tickets** are booked online, while nearly 39% of unreserved bookings are now made digitally.
- The **Monsoon Session of Parliament** concluded on August 13, 2026, with both Houses adjourned sine die. Parliament passed **11 Bills**, while the Indian Statistical Institute Bill remained pending. Proceedings were repeatedly disrupted by Opposition protests over the **NEET-UG controversy**, alleged police action and other political issues. Key legislation covered public examinations, national honour, births and deaths, Supreme Court judges, MSMEs, taxation, bankers’ books, tribunals, Kerala’s name, cooperatives and minerals. The final Lok Sabha sitting began with **six stanzas of Vande Mataram**, while Rajya Sabha passed the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill.
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** was passed by both Houses on August 13, amending the **MMDR Act, 1957**. The Bill proposes greater **central control** over regulation of mineral-bearing lands and restricts states from imposing mineral-right taxes, cesses or levies without central authorisation. Certain unrecovered past state mineral taxes would be invalidated without requiring refunds. Existing leaseholders can add minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, graphite, gold and silver** without additional payments. The legislation also removes caps on captive-mine mineral sales, supporting mineral exploration and strategic resource development.
- As of July 31, 2026, **DigiLocker** had more than **72.43 crore registered users**, while **UMANG** crossed 11.66 crore users, highlighting the expansion of India’s Digital India ecosystem. DigiLocker recorded about 72.86 crore document-access transactions over three years and offered 5,437 document types and services. UMANG recorded nearly **798 crore transactions** and provided 2,575 active services. Meanwhile, **4,07,122 Common Service Centres** were functional at Gram Panchayat level by June 30, including 70,069 operated by women Village Level Entrepreneurs. Digital India was launched in July 2015.

- Parliament passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**, paving the way for Kerala to officially become **Keralam**. The Lok Sabha approved the legislation, followed by the Rajya Sabha through a voice vote. The move follows a **unanimous Kerala Assembly resolution in 2024** requesting the name change. The legislation provides for amendments to the **First Schedule of the Constitution** and related provisions. The constitutional procedure is based on **Article 3**, which governs alteration of state names and boundaries. The change will take effect after **Presidential assent**.
- The Lok Sabha on August 12, 2026, approved a motion referring the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** to a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**. The committee will include 21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members, with its report due by the first week of the Winter Session. The move came amid Opposition protests and demands to withdraw the Bill. Opposition leaders expressed concerns about its impact on minorities and NGOs, while the government rejected the allegations. Introduced on March 25, the Bill proposes tighter oversight of **foreign-funded NGOs** and management of assets after FCRA licence cancellation.
- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee** on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, in its 412th report on Himalayan forest fires, recommended a **National Pine-Needle Utilisation Policy**. It proposed identifying fire-prone areas, incentives for collecting dry pine biomass and a **Himalayan Biomass Management Framework**. The panel suggested a **Himalayan Pirul Management Mission**, minimum procurement price of ₹3–4 per kg and a National or Regional Pine Needle Management Board. Processed pine-needle pellets, with an energy value of around 5,500 kcal/kg, could be used for **co-firing in thermal power plants**. Satellite monitoring and regional NDRF centres were also proposed.
- The revamped **Handloom Haat at Janpath, New Delhi**, has been transformed into the **Handloom Experience Centre**, combining India's handloom heritage with contemporary design, enterprise and retail. Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh was scheduled to inaugurate it on August 14, 2026. The inaugural exhibition features **24 award-winning weavers** and over 30 curated brands participating in Weave The Future 5.0. The ground floor showcases **Reimagining Odisha Weaves**, while the first floor houses the permanent **Visvakarma Gallery** featuring rare textiles. The second floor presents a Design Conclave and immersive forest-inspired exhibition highlighting natural motifs in Indian handlooms.
- **Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal** was injured in a kirpan attack at Gurdwara Mata Sahib Devan Ji Mugat near Nanded, Maharashtra, on August 13, 2026. Police said a **Nihang** member attacked Badal around 1:45 pm. He was taken to hospital and received two to three stitches on his right hand. The attacker was arrested, while security officer **Santosh Kendre** was injured while protecting Badal. SAD leaders called the incident an intelligence failure and demanded a CBI probe. Maharashtra Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** ordered an investigation and spoke to Badal. Badal had earlier visited Takht Sri Hazur Sahib.
- **NITI Aayog** identified **chemicals, textiles, telecom and networking equipment, and solar photovoltaic manufacturing** as four high-potential sectors for positioning India as a global manufacturing hub. Its report assessed market potential, infrastructure, policy support, raw materials, technology, employment and global value-chain integration. Chemicals require greater downstream value addition and feedstock efficiency. **Textiles**, contributing around 2% of GDP, 11% of manufacturing GVA and 9% of merchandise exports, need stronger infrastructure, skills and technology. Telecom manufacturing requires greater localisation, while **solar PV** needs upstream capacity, R&D and technology partnerships. NITI Aayog will examine eight additional sectors.
- The **Railway Board** approved seven new **Amrit Bharat Express** services in August 2026 to improve long-distance interstate connectivity. Routes include Gorakhpur–Delhi, Gorakhpur–Bandra Terminus, Dhanbad–Coimbatore, Charlapalli–Gorakhpur, Prayagraj–Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Prayagraj–Udhna and Subedarganj–Lokmanya Tilak Terminus. The trains connect major regions across **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Gujarat**. Several important junctions, including Kota, Ratlam, Vadodara, Nagpur and Vijayawada, receive connectivity. **Mancheril and Peddapalli** in Telangana received stoppages on selected services. The Gorakhpur–Delhi Special was regularised as a weekly Amrit Bharat Express on August 10.
- The Central Government approved a **fourth railway line** in the Malda–New Jalpaiguri section through the strategically important **Siliguri Corridor**, popularly known as the Chicken's Neck. The narrow corridor connects mainland India with the **eight northeastern states** and is only around 20–22 km wide at its narrowest point. The expansion includes a fourth line, a nearly 29-km underground double-line project between Tinmai Ghat and Bagdogra and ongoing doubling work in Barsoi. **New Jalpaiguri station redevelopment** is scheduled for completion by April 2027. The project will strengthen passenger and freight movement, Northeast connectivity, national logistics and **strategic defence mobility**.

- The **Lucknow–Delhi Tejas Express**, train numbers 82501 and 82502, will operate as the **Sprite Tejas Express** under a commercial branding arrangement. Sprite, a Coca-Cola brand, secured branding and advertising rights for the train. The arrangement permits **exterior vinyl wraps and interior advertisements**, creating additional non-fare revenue. IRCTC manages branding and passenger services, while Indian Railways retains ownership of railway infrastructure and collects standard hauling charges. Railway officials have directed stations to announce the train using its new branded name. The branding period is scheduled from **August 19 to November 11, 2026**, although reports have cited different contract durations.
- The Central Government has delisted **18 monuments** from the centrally protected sites list since 2021. Following these removals, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** maintains 3,688 centrally protected monuments and sites. Protection is governed by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**, with Section 35 allowing removal of monuments that cease to have national importance. A March 8, 2024, Gazette notification initiated the process for these 18 monuments. Examples include the **Nicholson Statue, Kos Minar No. 13, Bara Khamba Cemetery, Gunner Burkill's Tomb and Telia Nala Buddhist ruins**. India has also retrieved **662 historical artefacts from abroad** up to June 2026.

States in the News

- The **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly** unanimously adopted a resolution on **10 August 2026** making **Tamil Thai Vazhthu** the first song at official events across the state. The rule applies to **government departments, universities, educational institutions, PSUs** and other public organisations. The resolution was moved by **Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay** and passed through a voice vote with support from **DMK, AIADMK, Congress and BJP** members. The decision followed controversy over the sequencing of Tamil Thai Vazhthu, Vande Mataram and the National Anthem. **Tamil Thai Vazhthu**, drawn from **Manonmaniam** by **Manonmaniam Sundaranar**, was officially declared Tamil Nadu's **State Song in 2021**.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** presented the prestigious **President's Colours** to the **Puducherry Police** on **9 August 2026**, recognising its bravery, dedication and service. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor **K. Kailashnathan** and Chief Minister **N. Rangasamy** attended the ceremony. Shah highlighted the force's responsibilities across Puducherry's **four geographically separated regions**, including its frontline role during the **COVID-19 pandemic**. He also discussed India's **three new criminal laws**, emphasising technology, timelines and trust. Infrastructure projects highlighted included **₹2,200 crore NH-332A four-laning** and

runway expansion. Between 2014 and 2026, Puducherry received approximately **₹13,762 crore**, alongside nearly **₹39,000 crore industrial investment**.

- **Assam** inaugurated the new **Kalamati Wildlife Range Office** at **Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary** in Sonitpur district on **7 August 2026**. The facility is expected to strengthen **forest administration, patrolling, habitat protection, wildlife monitoring** and conservation activities. The sanctuary covers approximately **220 sq km**, including a core area of nearly **175 sq km**, and lies in Assam's Himalayan foothills. Its forests, grasslands and river systems support **Asian elephants, Indian bison, rhinoceros, leopards, tigers** and numerous birds. Sonai Rupai is particularly significant for the endangered **White-winged Wood Duck**, Assam's state bird. The new office will improve field coordination and biodiversity protection.
- The **Gujarat Forest Department** launched a **₹2.94 crore Plastic Waste Management Project** around the **Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary**, a Ramsar-designated wetland, on **11 August 2026**. Linked with Gujarat's **Project for Eco-Restoration**, the initiative receives support from **JICA** and aims to reduce plastic pollution while creating rural livelihood opportunities. A collection centre has been established at **Kayla village in Viramgam taluka**, covering villages across Ahmedabad and Surendranagar districts. **Eco-Development Committees** will appoint local **Swachhta Praharis** to collect and segregate dry plastic. The project combines **wetland conservation, waste management, community participation and livelihood generation**.
- The **Jammu and Kashmir administration** approved **₹10 crore** on **9 August 2026** for restoration of **Rattan Garh Fort** in Baderwah, Doda district. Built in **1733 by Raja Sampat Pal**, it is described as the only surviving structure among seven original bastions in the Baderwah valley. Historical records indicate that the fort was later used as a **prison**. The restoration aims to preserve its architectural heritage and develop it as a **tourism and heritage destination** in the Chenab Valley. The region comprises **Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban**, known for mountainous landscapes, river valleys and cultural heritage, enhancing the fort's tourism potential.
- **Karnataka** has approached the **Supreme Court** challenging a High Court ruling permitting motorcycles to be registered as transport vehicles and used as **bike taxis**. The state raised concerns over **passenger safety, insurance coverage, road congestion, pollution and enforcement**. The dispute follows the **23 January 2026 Karnataka High Court judgment** involving Ola, Uber, Rapido, motorcycle owners and the Bike Taxi Welfare Association. Karnataka argues that the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** does not automatically authorise motorcycles as commercial taxis. A **Rajya Sabha response of 18 March 2026** also stated that "bike taxi" is not specifically defined under the Act or rules, intensifying the regulatory debate.

- Karnataka launched **Tathyakosh.in** in Bengaluru on August 12, 2026, as an open, non-commercial **digital public good for public data discovery**. Developed by the ACSEL Technology Forum, a government Centre of Excellence in AI, with the IIT Alumni Centre Bengaluru, the platform brings together more than **1.5 million datasets from 458 public repositories**. It functions as a discovery layer rather than replacing existing databases. Startups, researchers and technology teams can use it to locate information related to **agriculture, healthcare, climate, legal research and financial inclusion**. The Sanskrit-inspired name combines "Tathya," meaning fact, and "Kosh," meaning repository.
- The **Uttarakhand government** approved relocating the High Court from **Nainital to Haldwani** in August 2026. A final executive order identified a 30-hectare site at Lamachaur along the Haldwani-Rudrapur highway for the new campus. The **Supreme Court** had earlier ruled that establishing or shifting a High Court is an administrative decision. The Cabinet approved forest-land transfer on August 7 following the Supreme Court's July 16 direction. However, a PIL has raised environmental concerns, claiming the proposed site is **reserved forest and an elephant corridor**. Concerns include removal of thousands of saplings.
- Gujarat launched the **Gramin Gyan Setu mobile application** on August 12, 2026, to digitally connect libraries in the **Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency**. The initiative follows a hub-and-spoke model linking village libraries with four central libraries holding around **2.80 lakh books**. Officials said 752 libraries were interconnected within three months. The initial network covers 63 village libraries across Gandhinagar, Kalol and Sanand. Four **MPLAD-funded mobile library vans** will visit villages every fortnight to exchange books and deliver requested titles. The launch coincided with **National Library Day**, observed in honour of S. R. Ranganathan.
- Karnataka has prohibited the **manufacture, storage, distribution, transportation and sale** of tobacco and nicotine products, including gutkha and pan masala, for one year. The restriction is imposed under **Section 30(2)(a) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, which permits restrictions in the interest of public health. The ban covers packaged and unpackaged gutkha, pan masala and separately sold tobacco or nicotine products intended for mixing. The state's Food Safety and Drugs Administration has launched **special inspection drives** and encouraged citizens to report violations. Reports differ regarding the notification date, citing August 10 or June 15, 2026.
- Ladakh hosted its first **Black-Necked Crane Festival** from August 11 to 14, 2026, to promote awareness and conservation of the rare Himalayan bird. The **Black-Necked Crane (Grus nigricollis)** is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN and is closely associated with high-altitude wetlands. Ladakh is its key Indian breeding region, particularly around **Tso Kar, Hanle and Changthang**. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurated the festival, which brought together conservationists, researchers and experts. The event also promoted local livelihoods and eco-tourism. Major threats include **wetland degradation, climate change, infrastructure, pollution and tourism disturbance**.
- Karnataka approved phased implementation of **SAMASTA**, an integrated digital health platform designed to replace paper-based health records. Linked with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**, it will operate at Ayushman Arogya Kendras and Primary Health Centres through ASHA workers, ANMs and health inspectors. The platform supports **online and offline data entry**, improving usability in low-connectivity areas. It reduces ASHA diary data elements from 485 to 134 digital points, potentially cutting data-entry workload by about 75%. SAMASTA integrates family IDs, Aadhaar verification and **ABHA IDs**. A Udupi pilot achieved 95% beneficiary registration and 85% health-check completion while linking over 4 lakh ABHA IDs.
- Karnataka approved the **Sandhya Kiran contributory cashless healthcare scheme** for eligible retired state employees below 70 years, family pensioners and dependents. It provides up to **₹5 lakh annual cashless medical coverage per family** on a floater basis for secondary, tertiary and emergency treatment at designated hospitals. The scheme operates under **Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka** and is implemented by the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust. Service pensioners contribute 1.25% of basic pension, while family pensioners contribute 0.75%. Estimated annual premium collection is ₹117 crore against treatment costs of ₹81.75 crore. Contribution rates may rise by five basis points if corpus utilisation exceeds 85%.
- The **140-year-old Parichha Weir** in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, was designated a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS)** by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage on August 13, 2026. Built across the **Betwa River**, the rubble-stone masonry weir is 1,174 metres long and 16.8 metres high, with 318 steel falling shutters and reservoir capacity of 2,400 million cubic feet. Its associated **Betwa Canal system** extends around 2,654 km and irrigates 4,28,360 hectares across Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Construction began in 1881 and the system was commissioned in 1886. The formal award will be presented in **France in October 2026**.

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

International Affairs

- Iran appointed former **IRGC commander Mohsen Rezaei** as head of the **Supreme National Security Council (SNSC)**, replacing **Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr**. The appointment comes amid heightened tensions surrounding the **Strait of Hormuz**, a vital global energy route, and ongoing indirect diplomacy involving **Iran, the United States and Oman**. Rezaei is a veteran of Iran's security establishment and has previously supported advancement of the country's **nuclear programme**. The SNSC coordinates major **national security, defence and foreign-policy matters**, with key decisions requiring approval from Iran's Supreme Leader. His appointment may strengthen the security-oriented voice within Iran's decision-making structure amid regional tensions.
- India gifted **five young peacocks** to the **United Nations Office at Geneva** on **7 August 2026**, reviving a tradition dating back to **1981**. The flock includes **four blue Indian peafowl and one rare white male**, all belonging to *Pavo cristatus*, India's **National Bird**. The ceremony involved India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative **Arindam Bagchi** and UN Geneva Director-General **Tatiana Valovaya**. The birds will initially remain in a temporary aviary at **Ariana Park** for three months before moving around the **46-hectare UN Geneva grounds**. **Geneva Bioparc** handled transportation and medical care. The original tradition began when **Indira Gandhi** sent a breeding pair in 1981.
- Colombia declared a **national state of emergency** after a powerful **7.4-magnitude earthquake** struck western regions, causing more than 100 deaths and leaving people missing or injured. The epicentre was near San José del Palmar in Chocó, and the earthquake was described as Colombia's strongest of the 21st century. Its intermediate depth of about **107 km** reflects the country's complex tectonic environment involving the **Nazca, South American and Caribbean plates**. Colombia lies within the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, making it highly vulnerable to seismic activity. Major cities such as Cali, Bogotá and Medellín also face earthquake risks because of their proximity to active seismic zones.
- **New York and New Jersey** officially recognised August 15, 2026, in connection with India's **80th Independence Day**. New York Governor Kathy Hochul designated the date as "India Independence Day," while New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill issued an "Indian Independence Day" proclamation. The declarations recognise contributions of **Indian-American communities** to education, healthcare, technology, business and civic life. They also underline growing **India-US cultural, economic and people-to-people ties**. However, these proclamations are state-level recognitions and do not make August 15 a US federal holiday. Massachusetts and Boston had previously issued similar regional recognitions.
- Lebanon's Parliament abolished the **death penalty** on August 11, 2026, replacing capital punishment with **life imprisonment with aggravated hard labour** for future offences. The legislation also commutes sentences of prisoners currently on death row and legally formalises Lebanon's de facto moratorium on executions, which had existed since **January 17, 2004**. Lebanon became the **first Middle Eastern country** to legally abolish capital punishment and is described as the second League of Arab States member after Djibouti. Around 84–85 death-row prisoners are expected to benefit. The **European Union welcomed** the decision as an important human-rights development.
- Russia imported **gasoline from India for the first time** in August 2026 as domestic fuel supplies faced pressure from disruptions at Russian refineries. The first Indian cargo was loaded at **Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat** and transported through Egypt's Damietta port. Repeated attacks on Russian oil-refining facilities have reduced domestic refining capacity, prompting Moscow to restrict gasoline and diesel exports to protect supplies. The development represents a notable shift in **India-Russia energy trade**, with India increasingly functioning as a major global refining hub while continuing to import substantial volumes of Russian crude oil.
- Several US states have issued proclamations recognising **August 15, 2026, as India Day or India Independence Day**, celebrating India's independence, heritage and Indian-American contributions. **Delaware** became the latest state to issue recognition, following New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Delaware Governor Matthew Meyer highlighted the Indian-American community's leadership, service and contribution to the state's prosperity. **New York Governor Kathy Hochul** and New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill also issued proclamations. Indian communities across the US mark August 15 through **flag-hoisting ceremonies, parades, cultural performances and community gatherings**, reflecting strong India-US people-to-people ties.



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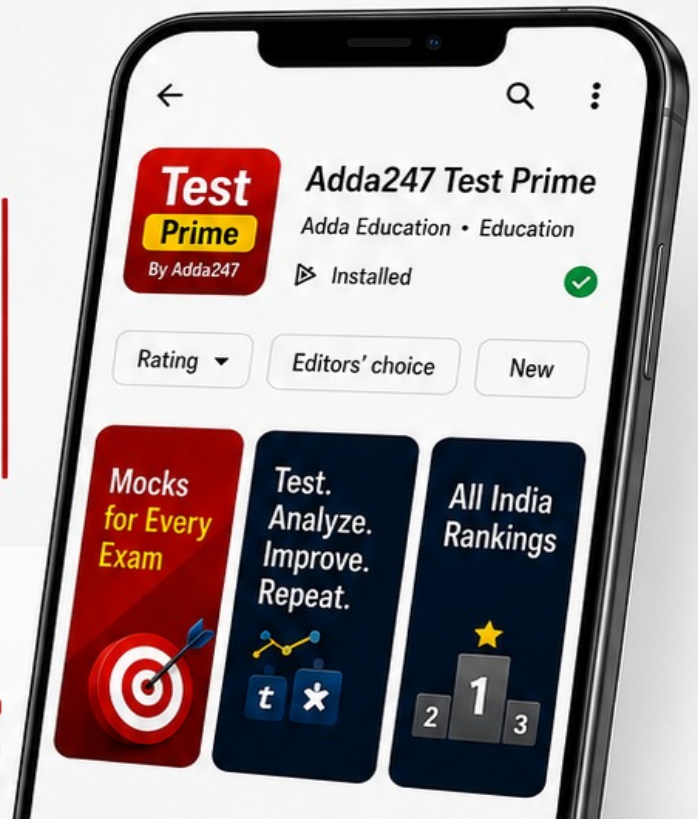


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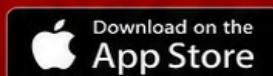


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- Russia has appointed former **Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud** as its arbitrator in an investment treaty dispute filed by Ukraine's state-owned **Oschadbank**. The case concerns assets and operations the bank says it lost in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia after Russia's 2022 invasion. The dispute is being heard under the **1998 Russia-Ukraine investment protection agreement**. The three-member tribunal includes Greek arbitrator Stavros Brekoulakis and Costa Rica's Dyalá Jiménez as president. Chandrachud retired from India's Supreme Court on November 10, 2024. He had reportedly earlier declined Moscow's requests in other treaty disputes.
- Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will establish **political and military coordination mechanisms** under the **Mecca Joint Defence Agreement**, signed on August 7, 2026. The agreement states that an armed attack against one member would be treated as an attack against all, creating a collective-defence arrangement broadly comparable to **NATO's Article 5** principle. Defence ministers, foreign ministers and military chiefs will participate in coordination mechanisms. The countries also plan **joint military exercises**, while cooperation may expand to defence-industry joint production and technology sharing. The pact seeks greater military interoperability and strategic coordination amid regional security concerns.
- Iran rejected US President Donald Trump's claim that the United States has **"total control" over the Strait of Hormuz**, insisting that the strategic waterway remains blocked. The Persian Gulf Strait Authority said reopening would depend on Iran's conditions. Trump described the US naval deployment as a **"wall of steel"** and said Washington would maintain control. Iran's Supreme National Security Council head **Mohsen Rezaei** demanded that the US end the war and blockade, release frozen Iranian assets and accept a regional ceasefire involving Lebanon and Gaza. Hormuz carries nearly **20% of global petroleum trade**, making the dispute critical for energy markets and shipping security.
- Parliament passed the **Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026**, replacing the **Bankers' Book Evidence Act, 1891**, and granting explicit legal recognition to **electronic and digital banking records** in court proceedings. The **Rajya Sabha** cleared the Bill through a voice vote on **10 August 2026**, following Lok Sabha approval. The technology-neutral legislation covers records stored physically, electronically, digitally, in **cloud, backup and disaster-recovery systems**. Records can be authenticated through **manual, digital or electronic signatures**. It also protects bank officers from unnecessary court summons when their bank is not directly involved. The Bill contains around **16 clauses** and can extend to other regulated financial entities.
- India's **government debt-to-GDP ratio** stood at **58.2% in FY26**, exceeding the target of 56.1% by **210 basis points**, according to Minister of State for Finance **Pankaj Chaudhary**. The government has set a lower **55.6% target for FY27**, requiring further reduction. Government liabilities declined from **61.5% of GDP in FY21 to 58.2% in FY26**, while the fiscal deficit decreased from **9.2% to 4.4%**. The higher-than-target debt ratio was partly linked to revised nominal GDP estimates under the new national accounts series with **FY23 as base year**. The government has also established a **₹1 trillion Economic Stabilisation Fund** for global economic risks.
- The **RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters**, conducted in July 2026, raised India's **FY27 real GDP growth forecast** from **6.5% to 6.6%** and increased the retail inflation projection from 4.9% to **5%**. For FY28, economists expect **7% growth** with inflation at 4.5%, suggesting potential balanced economic expansion. The survey projects **merchandise export growth at 7%**, imports at 9.9% and the **current account deficit at 1.4% of GDP**. The RBI's own FY27 growth projection is slightly higher at **6.7%**. Major risks include **food and fuel prices, monsoon conditions, geopolitical tensions, El Niño and global trade uncertainty**.
- Bengaluru-based **Sarla Aviation** received **Design Organisation Approval (DOA)** from the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, marking an important step in India's emerging **electric air-taxi** sector. The approval supports development of **electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL)** aircraft for urban mobility. Sarla became India's **third eVTOL DOA holder in 2026**. Its planned aircraft can carry **six passengers and one pilot** and uses seven electric motors. The company completed flight testing of its half-scale **Sylla technology demonstrator** in July 2026. India aims to introduce operational electric air taxis in **Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi by 2028**, subject to certification, testing and infrastructure development.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The Government clarified that **UPI users will continue paying no transaction charges**, with all **Person-to-Person (P2P)** payments remaining free. The clarification followed discussion over proposed amendments to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act)**. Any future **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)** would apply only to a limited category of merchant transactions above a specified threshold and at a nominal rate, while most merchant UPI payments would remain free. After Parliament approved the **Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, the **NPCI-led UPI and Services Steering Committee** will decide whether MDR is introduced. UPI processed **2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.9 lakh crore in July 2026**.

- **N Chandrasekaran** has announced that he will step down as **Tata Sons Chairman** after his current term ends in February 2027 and will not seek reappointment. His decision followed a proposed five-year extension that reportedly lacked unanimous support from the Tata Sons Board. Chandrasekaran has asked the board to begin **succession planning** ahead of the company's Annual General Meeting. The development comes amid reported differences between **Tata Sons and Tata Trusts** over governance and strategic issues. Following the announcement, shares of major Tata Group companies, including **TCS, Tata Power and Tata Steel**, witnessed declines.
- India's **retail inflation** increased marginally to **4.45% in July 2026**, compared with 4.38% in June, according to MoSPI data based on the new CPI series with 2024 as the base year. Food prices were the main driver, with **Consumer Food Price Index inflation** rising to 5.52%. Rural food inflation reached 5.79%, while urban food inflation stood at 5.05%. Rural retail inflation rose to 4.84%, against 3.96% in urban areas. Ginger, garlic and onions recorded sharp price increases, while potato prices declined. **Telangana** recorded the highest inflation among major states at 6.32%.
- **Google** announced three new **undersea cable systems** connecting Panama, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Bermuda and Florida to strengthen digital connectivity across the Americas. The **Alisios cable** will connect Chile, Panama and the Dominican Republic, while Canoa will link the Dominican Republic with Bermuda and OlaLuz will connect the Dominican Republic with Florida. The projects support Chile's ambition to become a **regional digital hub**, backed by fibre-optic infrastructure and renewable energy. Google is also supporting the **Humboldt cable** connecting Chile and Australia. Officials said the projects could boost businesses, economic growth and regional digital integration.
- **Vijay Singh**, vice-chairman of Tata Trusts, has stepped down as a trustee of the **Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT)** and will not seek renewal after his term expired on August 14, 2026. He will continue serving as a trustee of the **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT)**. His departure comes amid reported differences among SRTT trustees. The Maharashtra State Charity Commissioner has barred SRTT from holding board meetings pending an inquiry into alleged **board-composition violations**. SRTT has sought removal of the restriction, citing possible implications for the Tata Sons AGM. Singh and Venu Srinivasan support Tata Sons listing.

Books & Authors News

- **PM Modi Releases Ram Nath Kovind's Autobiography:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released former President **Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, *Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles***, at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on August 12, 2026. Modi described the book as an important account of **Indian democracy, public service and**

resilience. He highlighted Kovind's difficult childhood, including his mother's death in a house fire, and praised his father's efforts in raising the family. The Prime Minister also discussed Kovind's journey from limited resources to the **Presidency of India** and his continuing involvement in the **One Nation, One Election** initiative, encouraging young people to read the book.

Appointments/Resignations

- The Government extended **Enforcement Directorate Director Rahul Navin's** tenure by one year until **13 August 2027**. The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved the extension from 13 August 2026. Rahul Navin is a **1993-batch Indian Revenue Service officer** who was earlier scheduled to complete his tenure on 13 August 2026. His extension continues beyond his scheduled retirement date of **31 July 2027**. As head of the **Enforcement Directorate**, he oversees investigations into **money laundering, foreign exchange violations and fugitive economic offences** under laws including the **PMLA, FEMA and FEOA**. The decision provides continuity in leadership of India's specialised financial investigation agency.
- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, in its resolution dated **6 August 2026**, recommended **Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge** and **Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi** as Chief Justices of the **Calcutta and Bombay High Courts**, respectively. Justice Ghuge, currently **Acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court**, has nearly 13 years of judicial experience and was elevated in **June 2013**. Justice Tripathi, a senior **Allahabad High Court** judge elevated in 2013, has been recommended as the **50th Chief Justice of Bombay High Court**. He has extensive civil-law experience and previously served as **Additional Standing Counsel for Uttar Pradesh**. Both recommendations require **Central Government approval** and formal notification.
- **Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala**, an eminent oceanographer and distinguished scientist, assumed charge as Secretary of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**. He brings over three decades of experience in **remote sensing, satellite oceanography, coastal hazards and disaster management**. After the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami**, he served as Project Manager for establishing India's advanced **Tsunami Early Warning System at INCOIS**. As Director of INCOIS, he expanded ocean services including **fishing advisories, coral reef alerts and multi-hazard vulnerability mapping**. He also headed the **Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System Secretariat** under UNESCO-IOC. His awards include the **National Geoscience Award 2010** and **Indian National Geospatial Award 2008**.

- **Deepti Gaur Mukerjee**, a 1993-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer, was appointed Secretary of the **Department of Higher Education** under the Ministry of Education on **10 August 2026**. The appointment formed part of a senior bureaucratic reshuffle by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**. She replaced **Vineet Joshi**, who moved to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Mukerjee previously served as Secretary of the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** from August 2024. The Department of Higher Education manages **universities, colleges, technical education and central higher education policy**. Other appointments included **Pallavi Jain Govil** as Corporate Affairs Secretary and **Sunil Paliwal** as Youth Affairs Secretary.

Defence News

- The **India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026** began on **10 August** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, and continued until 14 August. The five-day bilateral exercise focused on strengthening **interoperability, operational coordination and professional cooperation** between specialist diving and EOD teams. Activities included **Subject Matter Expert exchanges, cross-training, equipment demonstrations** and practical exercises based on simulated operational scenarios. EOD specialists are trained to identify, handle and neutralise explosive threats, making their capabilities important for **maritime security, naval operations and underwater infrastructure protection**. The exercise enabled both navies to exchange technical expertise and operational practices, further strengthening **India-US defence cooperation**.
- **Exercise Talisman Sabre 2027** will be conducted from **9 to 22 August 2027**, making it a **14-day multinational military exercise** led by **Australia and the United States**. The upcoming edition is expected to involve Australia, the US and **24 additional partner nations**. India is set to enhance participation, reflecting stronger **India-Australia defence ties** and expanding **Indo-Pacific engagement**. The decision was welcomed during the **India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue** on 1 June 2026, co-chaired by **Rajnath Singh and Richard Marles**. Around **800 personnel** are involved in planning. The exercise aims to improve **interoperability, joint operational capabilities, multinational planning and readiness**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has restarted production of **Su-30MKI fighter aircraft** at its Nashik facility in Maharashtra, strengthening India's domestic defence manufacturing. The revived line will manufacture **12 new Su-30MKI fighters** for the Indian Air Force under an order signed in December 2024 to replace aircraft lost in accidents. The first aircraft is expected in **2027-28**, with deliveries completed by 2029. HAL's Nashik facility previously produced **222 Su-30MKI aircraft** under licence from Russia. The new fighters are expected to contain around **50%-62.6% indigenous content**. India is separately preparing a

₹60,000-crore modernisation programme covering avionics, indigenous radar and electronic warfare.

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** launched **Shruti**, the Indian Navy's second **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**, in Kolkata on August 11, 2026. Designated Yard 3037, the vessel was launched less than three months after the first NGOPV, **Sanghamitra**, which was launched on May 20. GRSE is constructing **four NGOPVs** under an 11-ship programme, with the remaining vessels expected to be launched by the end of the financial year. The project strengthens India's **maritime surveillance, coastal security and indigenous naval shipbuilding** capabilities while supporting the Navy's expanding operational requirements.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and Royal Malaysian Air Force began the **Udara Shakti 2026** bilateral exercise on August 10 at Subang Air Base, Malaysia. The five-day exercise involved **83 personnel** and focused on complex air-combat manoeuvring, **air-to-air refuelling and strategic airlift operations**. India deployed four Rafale fighters from No. 101 Squadron and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, while Malaysia deployed two Su-30MKM fighters, two F/A-18D fighters and one A400M transport aircraft. Joint field training and Subject Matter Expert Exchanges were also conducted to strengthen **interoperability, operational coordination and mutual understanding** between the two air forces.

Awards and Recognitions

- Indian theoretical physicist **Deepak Dhar** was named a recipient of the **2026 Dirac Medal** by the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** on **8 August 2026** in Trieste, Italy. He shares the honour with **Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard and Haim Sompolsky**. The award recognises contributions to **equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence**. Dhar is particularly known for research on the **sandpile model and self-organised criticality**, explaining how complex systems naturally reach critical states. Established by ICTP in **1985**, the **Dirac Medal** is awarded annually and carries a **US\$5,000 prize**.
- **NABARD** announced winners of the **National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge** on **10 August 2026**, organised with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** and **Dalberg Advisors** under the **Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)** framework. **SatSure Analytics India** won first prize of **₹15 lakh** for a climate vulnerability index ranking villages by weather exposure. **EXPERIQS** received second prize of **₹10 lakh** for drought monitoring and crop-cycle forecasting, while **VARSAPRADAYA** won third prize of **₹5 lakh** for hazard scoring and irrigation planning. More than **150 applications** were received, producing 20 prototypes and 11 finalists. The initiative promotes **climate-resilient agriculture and rural credit-risk assessment**.

- India won **four medals** at the **23rd International Linguistics Olympiad 2026** in Bucharest, Romania, including **one gold and three bronze medals**. **Shrilakshmi Venkatraman** won gold with a score of 70.0, while **Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan and Advay Misra** secured bronze medals. **Soham Amit Pednekar** received an Honourable Mention. The competition featured **255 participants from more than 40 countries** and tests **logic, grammar, language analysis and pattern recognition**. India's cumulative individual medal tally since first participating in 2009 reached **37 medals**, including **6 gold, 9 silver and 22 bronze**. The **Panini Linguistics Olympiad** selects Indian participants.
- Indian theoretical physicist **Deepak Dhar** was awarded the prestigious **2026 Dirac Medal** by the **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** for major contributions to statistical mechanics and complex systems. Announced on **8 August 2026** in Trieste, Italy, the honour is shared with **Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard and Haim Sompolinsky**. Dhar is renowned for research on **sandpile models and self-organised criticality**, with wider applications in **optimisation, theoretical neuroscience and artificial intelligence**. Established by ICTP in **1985**, the Dirac Medal is presented annually on **8 August**, the birth anniversary of physicist **Paul Dirac**, and carries a **US\$5,000 prize**.
- India won **four medals** at the **23rd International Linguistics Olympiad 2026** in Bucharest, Romania, comprising one gold and three bronze medals. **Shrilakshmi Venkatraman** won individual gold, while **Aarav Anil Rao, Nishanth Shankar Lakshmanan and Advay Misra** secured bronze medals. **Soham Amit Pednekar** received an Honourable Mention. The competition tests **logical reasoning, grammar, language analysis and pattern recognition** rather than memorised knowledge. India, which first participated in 2009, has now accumulated **37 medals**, including six gold, nine silver and 22 bronze. The team was selected through the **Panini Linguistics Olympiad** and trained at IIIT Hyderabad.
- A total of **301 Gallantry Medals** were awarded to Police and Fire Service personnel as part of the **Independence Day 2026 honours**, comprising 272 police and 29 fire service personnel. The awards recognise exceptional bravery in saving lives and property, preventing crime and apprehending criminals. **197 awards** went to personnel from Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 51 to Jammu & Kashmir, 12 to the Northeast and 41 to other regions. Overall, **1,057 personnel** from Police, Fire Services, Home

Guard, Civil Defence and Correctional Services received Gallantry and Service Medals. Additionally, 92 received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service, while 664 received Medals for Meritorious Service.

- The **Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026** were presented on August 13 during World Elephant Day celebrations in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised the event, with Minister of State **Kirti Vardhan Singh** presenting the awards. Seven mahouts from **Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal**, were honoured for flood-rescue efforts involving elephants and rhinoceroses. The Ministry released **"30 Giant Steps"**, highlighting 30 Project Elephant achievements between 2020 and 2026. A regional action plan for human-elephant conflict in Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu was launched with **₹500 crore** government support. Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan also introduced the **H.A.N.U.M.A.N.** wildlife monitoring initiative.

Ranks & Reports News

- The **2026 Hurun India family business ranking** highlights the strength of major Indian business families across several sectors. The **Ambani family** topped the ranking with Reliance Industries valued at ₹25,82,800 crore, followed by the **Birla family** at ₹8,13,700 crore and the **Jindal family** at ₹8,01,800 crore. Bajaj ranked fourth with ₹7,70,400 crore, while Mahindra secured fifth position at ₹5,14,600 crore. The Anil Agarwal family linked to Vedanta ranked sixth at ₹4,45,500 crore. **Murugappa, Nadar, Premji and Dani-Choksi-Vakil** families completed the top 10, spanning energy, metals, technology, finance and automobiles.

Sports News

- Ashmita Chaliha** won the **Korea Masters 2026** in Asan, South Korea, on **9 August**, defeating China's fourth-seeded **Han Qian Xi** 14-21, 21-14, 21-14. After losing the opening game, the Indian left-hander fought back strongly to level the contest before dominating the deciding game. The victory secured her **maiden BWF World Tour title** and represented the biggest achievement of her career. The **26-year-old World No. 50** also earned a major ranking boost. Her triumph marked a remarkable comeback following a serious **knee injury**, surgery and rehabilitation after the Korea Open two years earlier, highlighting her resilience and competitive return.

- Indian high jumper **Basant Kumar Meghwal** won the **silver medal** at the **World Athletics U20 Championships**, clearing a **personal-best 2.21 metres**. The 19-year-old athlete from **Anupgarh, Rajasthan**, achieved the mark on the fourth day of competition. Algeria's **Younes Ayachi** won gold and Britain's **Otis Poole** claimed bronze, with all three athletes clearing 2.21m. The final positions were decided by the **countback rule**, as none cleared 2.24m. Ayachi cleared 2.21m on his first attempt, Meghwal on his second and Poole on his third. Meghwal's silver took India's medal tally to **two**, following **Ashish Yadav's javelin silver**.
- India won **17 medals** on the opening day of the **U-23 Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026** in Lagos, Nigeria, comprising **4 gold, 4 silver and 9 bronze medals** across foil, epee and sabre. **Nikhil Wagh** won gold in Men's Sabre, while **Joys Ashita, Prachi Lohan and Jeferlin** secured gold in Women's Foil, Women's Epee and Women's Sabre respectively. Several other Indian fencers earned silver and bronze medals. The championship began on **9 August** and continued until 14 August 2026. The U-23 event features athletes below 23 years and includes all three Olympic fencing disciplines: **foil, epee and sabre**.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports suspended recognition of the **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** on August 12, 2026, citing governance shortcomings. The federation reportedly failed to conduct organisational elections within the prescribed period and did not provide a satisfactory response to a show-cause notice. The ministry directed the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to establish an ad-hoc committee to manage table tennis administration temporarily. The arrangement will remain until a compliant federation structure is restored, with coordination involving the **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)**. The action highlights the importance of transparent elections, eligibility requirements and proper governance in Indian sports bodies.
- Jammu and Kashmir** will host the **Irani Cup 2026** at Sher-I-Kashmir Stadium, Srinagar, from October 1 to 5. The five-day first-class match will feature J&K against the **Rest of India** after the team won its maiden **Ranji Trophy title in 2025–26**. J&K defeated Karnataka in the final through a first-innings lead. The stadium will require additional facilities for media, commentary, live broadcasting and spectators. **Paras Dogra** is expected to captain J&K, while swing bowler **Auqib Nabi Dar** enters the contest after taking 60 Ranji wickets. BCCI restored JKCA's hosting rights in July 2024 following a six-year suspension.
- Indian para-cyclists secured **12 medals** at the UCI Paraspport Denmark Grand Prix in Odense from August 7–10, 2026. India won **two gold, five silver and five bronze medals** in the track cycling competition. Andhra Pradesh's **Arshad Shaikh**

was the standout performer, winning six medals in the MC2 category, including two golds. Gujarat's 17-year-old **Vishwa Vasani** won four bronze medals in the WC3 category across multiple events. Maharashtra's 16-year-old **Anshuman Dhumal** added two silver medals. The strong performance demonstrated India's growing strength in **para-cycling** and provided valuable international competition ahead of future major para-sport events.

Schemes News

- The **Delhi Lakshmi Yojana** crossed **five lakh registrations** within a week of its launch, demonstrating strong participation among women in the capital. Before crossing the milestone, the portal had recorded **4.87 lakh registrations and 1.99 lakh submitted applications**. Initially approved as the **Mahila Samridhi Yojana**, it was renamed to emphasise women's welfare and economic empowerment. Eligible beneficiaries receive **₹2,500 monthly** through two savings options. One option provides **₹1,000 through a CBDC wallet and ₹1,500 through RD/FD**, while the other saves the entire ₹2,500 through RD/FD. The scheme combines **immediate financial support with long-term savings and economic security**.

Science and Technology News

- Indian space startup **Skyroot Aerospace** signed a Multi-Launch Agreement with Thiruvananthapuram-based **HEX20** for three dedicated missions involving Earth-observation and payload demonstration. The launches are scheduled to begin in the **fourth quarter of 2027** using Skyroot's Vikram-series rockets. The agreement follows the successful maiden orbital flight of **Vikram-1 on July 18, 2026**, from Sriharikota, making it India's first privately developed orbital-class launch vehicle to deploy customer payloads into Low Earth Orbit. Skyroot plans another Vikram-1 test mission in late 2026 and aims for a long-term production capacity of **12 launches annually**, strengthening India's private space sector.
- NASA** has invited **ISRO** to participate in its Moon Base programme, expanding India-US cooperation under the **Artemis Accords**. The invitation was discussed during the ninth India-US Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting in Bengaluru on August 5–6, 2026. Discussions covered lunar cooperation, scientific data sharing and the **US-India TRUST Initiative**. India signed the Artemis Accords in June 2023, supporting peaceful and responsible space exploration. The cooperation builds on the successful **NISAR mission** and could involve future lunar activities connected with the Artemis architecture, including the **Orion spacecraft, Gateway lunar station and human lunar missions**.

- **IIT Guwahati** has developed a two-stage microalgae cultivation process for **CO₂ capture, biomass production and bioenergy generation**. Led by Professor Kaustubha Mohanty and research scholar Deepesh Singh Chauhan, the research was published in Renewable Energy. The first stage uses 15% CO₂ for rapid microalgal growth, while the second lowers CO₂ to 5% and adds calcium and phosphorus. Experiments produced **25.7% higher biomass**, 35.4% greater CO₂ fixation, 1.86-times higher lipid productivity and 37.65% improved intracellular bioenergy efficiency. Calcium-assisted self-flocculation achieved a **98.46% harvesting recovery rate**, potentially reducing energy-intensive biomass recovery.
- The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** has helped researchers identify a possible **"black hole star"**, designated MoM-BH-1*, in the constellation Cetus, existing around **660 million years after the Big Bang**. Researchers describe it as a possible object containing a central black hole surrounded by extremely hot and dense gas. Its brightness may result from **gas falling toward the black hole**, rather than nuclear fusion like ordinary stars. The object is reportedly around the scale of the Solar System and exceptionally bright. Its study could help explain the rapid growth of **supermassive black holes** and provide clues about early black-hole seeds.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, released **SraVaani** on August 13, 2026, an open-source multilingual speech-recognition model developed by the SPIRE Lab with ARTPARK and Google support. It converts speech into text across **65 Indian languages and dialects**, including 20 scheduled and 45 regional languages. The model supports 10 scripts and automatic language identification. Available on **Hugging Face under the MIT licence**, it permits free use and modification. SraVaani was trained through Project Vaani using more than **31,000 hours of conversational speech** collected from 156,000 people across 165 districts in 28 states. For Garo, it achieved a 9.5% word error rate.
- Union Minister of State for Law and Justice **Arjun Ram Meghwal** launched the revamped **India Code Portal** at Kartavya Bhavan 2, New Delhi. The upgraded platform uses **AI-assisted interaction, semantic search, speech-based search and multilingual access** to make legislation easier to understand and locate. Users can access amendments, legislative history and links between Acts and subordinate legislation, with integration into the e-Gazette ecosystem. The portal also offers improved document viewing, QR-enabled access and citizen feedback. A major feature is **AI-assisted access to laws in all 22 languages** listed in the Eighth Schedule. India Code serves as a unified repository of Central, State and Union Territory legislation.
- **ISRO** is strengthening efforts to reduce **space debris**, particularly from satellite constellations operating in Low Earth Orbit. Its strategy includes the **Debris Free Space Mission (DFSMS), Active Debris Removal (ADR), post-mission disposal and orbital decay norms**. Space debris

includes defunct satellites, spent rocket stages and collision fragments that can threaten operational spacecraft. ISRO has begun precursor on-orbit demonstrations for ADR, although no operational launch date for a full debris-removal system has been announced. Indian space missions follow recognised disposal practices under the **Indian Space Policy and IN-SPACe norms**, including a five-year orbital-decay guideline for certain missions. The LVM3-M5 upper stage re-entered over the Atlantic on July 30, 2026.

Important Days News

- **World Lion Day** is observed annually on **10 August** to raise awareness about lion conservation and threats facing wild populations. Lions are **apex predators** that regulate prey populations and help maintain ecosystem balance. Major threats include **habitat loss, fragmentation, human-wildlife conflict, declining prey, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, disease and climate change**. India is particularly important because it is the **only country with a wild population of Asiatic lions**, concentrated mainly in Gujarat's **Gir landscape**. **Project Lion**, launched in 2020, focuses on habitat management, population monitoring, research, technology-based surveillance and conflict mitigation across the **Greater Gir landscape**.
- The **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** is observed on **9 August** to recognise **Indigenous Peoples' rights, cultures, traditions and contributions**. The **UN General Assembly** proclaimed the day in **1994**, recalling the first session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held on 9 August 1982. The **2026 theme, "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being,"** highlights traditional knowledge related to pregnancy, childbirth, motherhood and community health. The observance promotes **self-determination, cultural preservation, language rights, traditional knowledge, land rights, equality, healthcare and education**, while drawing attention to displacement, discrimination, climate change, deforestation and limited access to essential services.
- **International Youth Day** was observed on August 12, 2026, under the theme **"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations."** The theme highlights how young people may face different social, economic and geographical circumstances while sharing aspirations for **dignity, opportunity, education, decent employment and a better future**. The United Nations first observed the day on August 12, 2000, following the General Assembly's 1999 designation. The observance focuses on youth participation in decision-making, digital inclusion, employment, education, well-being and climate action. It recognises young people as essential partners in **development, innovation and social transformation** and emphasises policies that address their diverse challenges.

- **World Elephant Day** was observed on August 12, 2026, to promote global action for protecting African and Asian elephants. The 2026 message, “**Bringing the world together to help elephants,**” emphasises collective conservation. Major threats include **habitat loss, fragmented migration corridors, poaching, illegal ivory trade, human-elephant conflict and captive-elephant mistreatment.** The observance began in 2012 through an initiative involving the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation and filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark. India is particularly important for Asian elephant conservation, holding more than **60% of the global wild Asian elephant population.** **Project Elephant,** launched in 1992, supports habitat protection and conflict mitigation.
- **World Organ Donation Day,** observed on August 13, raises awareness about organ donation, addresses misconceptions and encourages people to donate organs after death. Transplantation can save patients suffering from organ failure, with **kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas and intestines** among major transplantable organs. Living donors can donate one kidney or parts of the liver and certain other organs. **Ronald Lee Herrick** became the first successful living kidney donor in 1954 by donating to his twin brother, while surgeon Joseph Murray later received the **1990 Nobel Prize** for transplantation advances. India’s National Organ Donation Day began in 2010 and shifted to August 3 in 2023.
- **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day,** also known as **Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas,** was observed on August 14, 2026, to remember victims and survivors of the **1947 Partition of India.** The Government of India declared the day in 2021, with the first observance held that year. Partition resulted in massive displacement, communal violence, loss of lives, property and livelihoods, and separation of families, particularly across **Punjab and Bengal.** It followed the **June 3 Plan of Lord Mountbatten,** while boundaries were drawn by the **Radcliffe Commission.** The day preserves memories through exhibitions, photographs, documents and oral histories while promoting harmony, unity, tolerance and national reconciliation.

Obituaries News

- Renowned **nuclear scientist, science communicator and Marxist theorist M.P. Parameswaran** died on August 11, 2026, aged 92, at his residence in Thrissur, Kerala. Born in 1935, he studied engineering at the College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram and earned a **PhD in Nuclear Engineering** from Moscow Power Institute in 1965. He worked at **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** from 1957 to 1975 before focusing on science popularisation, grassroots education and public activism. He was associated with **Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad** and helped establish the All India People’s Science Network. He also contributed to Malayalam language technology and received the **Kerala Sree Award in 2022.**
- Prominent modern Indian historian **Sumit Sarkar** died in New Delhi on August 13, 2026, aged 87, following prolonged age-related illness. Born in **1939 in Calcutta,** he belonged to an academic Bengali family associated with historian Susobhan Chandra Sarkar and statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. Sarkar became known for **Marxist scholarship,** nationalism, colonialism and social history. His major works include *The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903–1908* and *Modern India: 1885–1947,* which emphasised “**history from below**” and the experiences of peasants, workers, tribal groups and other non-elite communities. He taught at Delhi University from 1974 to 2004 and received the **Rabindra Puraskar in 2004.**
- India celebrated its **80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026,** marking 79 years since independence from British colonial rule in 1947. The occasion honours the sacrifices of freedom fighters and celebrates India’s journey as an independent, democratic and sovereign nation. The main ceremony takes place at the **Red Fort in New Delhi,** where the Prime Minister hoists the national flag and addresses the nation. The 2026 theme, “**Yuva Shakti**” or **Youth Power,** highlights young Indians’ role in innovation, entrepreneurship, science, sports and national development. It aligns with the broader **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision of transforming India into a developed nation by its centenary of independence.

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Uttarakhand	CM: Pushkar Dhami, Governor: Gurmit Singh, Capital: Dehradun (Winter)
Rajasthan	CM: Bhajanlal Sharma, Governor: Haribhau Bagade, Capital: Jaipur
Gujarat	CM: Bhupendra Patel, Governor: Acharya 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
Chattisgarh	CM: Mohan Majhi, Governor: Ramen Deka, Capital: Raipur

Aspect	Details
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
DBS Bank	CMD & MD: Rajat Verma



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