

Weekly One Liners 17th to 23rd August, 2026

National Teachers Awards 2026

President Droupadi Murmu will present the National Teachers' Awards 2026 on 5 September 2026 (Teachers' Day) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. For the current year, 48 teachers of schools all over India have been chosen for their outstanding contributions to the field of education, innovation in teaching, and impact on the lives of the students. These National Teachers' Awards are presented every year by the Ministry of Education to recognize teachers who have greatly enhanced the quality of school education in India.

What Is the National Teachers Award?

The National Teachers Award is an award that belongs to India and is a major national-level recognition for school teachers. This award is bestowed upon those teachers who display excellent dedication, leadership, innovation, and effectiveness in improving students' educational experience.

The award was instituted in 1958 and is presented annually on 5th September, which marks the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President and philosopher of India, and Teachers' Day in India.

List of National Teachers Awards 2026

S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
1	Shri J Prakash Rao	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	PM SHRI GMSSS Mayabunder, Pokadera
2	Shri Rajesh Kouluri	Andhra Pradesh	MPPS Chinamallupeta, Chinamallupeta
3	Ms. Yaku Tame	Arunachal Pradesh	Government Secondary School, G-Sector Naharlagun, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh, Ward No. 16 IMC
4	Shri Rajesh Bordoloi	Assam	Adarsha Tribal Higher Secondary School, Jorhat, Kalbari
5	Ms. Khushboo Kumari	Bihar	Urdu Primary School Bidaydih, Bidaydih
6	Ms. Pushpa Prasad	Bihar	Middle School Kuchaikote Kanya, Kuchaikote
7	Ms. Radha Rajesh	CISCE	New Horizon Public School, Indiranagar
8	Ms. Sangeeta Yadav	CBSE	St. Joseph's Convent Sr. Sec. School, Ward No. 8, Idgah Hills
9	Shri Ravi Jaiswal	Chandigarh	Govt. Model High School Maloya Colony, Chandigarh, Maloya Colony
10	Ms. Sunita Yadav	Chhattisgarh	Govt. M.S. Khichari, Khichari
11	Ms. Patel Purnima Mohanlal	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	GHS Dalwada, Dalwada
12	Ms. Suman Goel	Delhi	GSKV Pooth Kalan, Pooth Kalan
13	Md. Zafar Alam	Eklavya Model Residential Schools, Ministry of Tribal Affairs	EMRS Karanjia, Binuria (Tato)
14	Shri Mahadev Hanamant Shinde	Goa	Gujarati Samaj-Special School, Aquem
15	Shri Nitinkumar Mahendrakumar Pathak	Gujarat	Rangpur Primary School, Rangpur

Awards are managed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

How is the Winner of the National Teachers Awards 2026 Chosen?

The procedure for choosing winners of the National Teachers Awards 2026 is quite comprehensive and ensures that teachers with measurable qualities are selected rather than nominations.

1. On-Line Self-Nomination

In the initial step, eligible teachers apply online through the National Teachers' Awards website.

2. District/Regional Level

The first level of evaluation is carried out by the District or Regional Selection Committee where the eligibility of the candidate is established.

3. State/Organisation Level

From here, the short-listed teachers move to the next level of evaluation by the State Selection Committee or Organisation Selection Committee.

4. Independent National Jury

This is the final level of evaluation where independent jury evaluates the short-listed nominations. This can be done through virtual conference sessions.

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S. No.	Teacher Name	State/UT/Organisation	School Name
16	Shri Anil Kaushik	Haryana	GMSSSS Sanghi, Rohtak, Sanghi
17	Ms. Manjari V Mahajan	Himachal Pradesh	Government Senior Secondary School, Bhalet, Bhalet
18	Mohd. Ayaz Raina	Jammu & Kashmir	HSS Dalhori, Dalhori
19	Ms. Munmun Bhattacharjee	Jharkhand	MS Barmasia, Barmasia
20	Ms. Rathnakumari S	Karnataka	Government Higher Primary School Samatagaru, Honnebailu
21	Ms. Amutha J	Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sangathan PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Madurai, Madurai
22	Dr. Manisha Khetrapal	Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sangathan PM SHRI KV NFR Rangiya, Rangia
23	Shri Sunil Kumar KP	Kerala	GHSS Irikkur, Irikkur
24	Shri Mohd Mustafa Kumal	Ladakh.	Govt Middle School Zgangjing, Sankoo, Kanoor
25	Dr. Archana Shukla	Madhya Pradesh	Govt. Mahatma Gandhi Sandipani Hr. Sec. School, BHEL Bhopal, BHEL Bhopal
26	Shri Shailendra Pratap Singh	Madhya Pradesh	Government Middle School Kanjwar, Village Kanjwar, Post Pondi Jodouri, Block Majhauri, District Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh
27	Dr. Kavita Narsingrao Gitte	Maharashtra	Sane Guruji Niwasi Vidyalaya Kaij, Sane Guruji Niwasi Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Kaij-Dharur Road, Kaij
28	Ms. Kunda Jayawant Bachhav	Maharashtra	NMC School No. 18, Anandwalli, Nashik, Maharashtra
29	Shri Wanglembam Gobin Singh	Manipur	Laikon Upper Primary School, Kongba Makha Nandeibam Leikai
30	Ms. Lalnunmawii	Mizoram	Government Electric Veng High School, Electric Veng
31	Shri R Ronald Meru	Nagaland	GHSS Sechu Zubza, Sechu
32	Shri Vaibhav Vasantrao Kulkarni	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti	PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Latur, 12 No. Pati, Near Manjara Sugar Factory, Barshi Road
33	Shri Padaraj Umakanta Nayak	Odisha	Government High School Alipingal, Alipingal
34	Shri Ganesan S Puducherry	Seenuvasan	Government High School, Mettupalayam
35	Shri Dinesh Kumar	Punjab	Govt. Victoria Girls Senior Secondary School, Patiala
36	Dr. Divyendu Sen	Rajasthan	Mahatma Gandhi Government School Pachpahar, Pachpahar
37	Dr. Vartika Gulati	Rajasthan	GGUPS Tumli Ka Bas, Chaksu, Jaipur, Post Jagat Shiromani Pura
38	Shri Shivprasad Arvind Tingare	Sainik Schools, Ministry of Defence	Sainik School Satara, Satara
39	Ms. Sushma Tamang	Sikkim	PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School Dikling, Dikling
40	Shri Thanga Raj	Tamil Nadu	Panchayat Union Primary School Puliampatti, Puliampatti
41	Ms. Bhavani Bompelly	Telangana	MPPS Girls Gandhari, Gandhari
42	Shri Ranjan Debnath	Tripura	PM SHRI Sabroom Girls HS School, Sabroom
43	Dr. Renu Tripathi	Uttar Pradesh	Govt. Balika Inter College Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ward No. 14 (Municipal Area)
44	Dr. Iftkhar Khan	Uttar Pradesh	Government Inter College Ballia, Jagdishpur, Ballia
45	Ms. Shalini Kushwaha	Uttar Pradesh	Composite School Rasoolabad, Koilaha
46	Shri Gabar Singh	Uttarakhand	Govt. UPS Musyakhand, Maira
47	Shri Palash Chowdhury	West Bengal	Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidyapith Primary School, Ward No. 30
48	Shri Santanu Patra	West Bengal	Govt. Model School, Nayagram Block, Baranigui

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

Honorable President Droupadi Murmu has awarded 78 Gallantry Awards, including 13 Posthumous Awards, to personnel of the Defence Forces and Central Armed Police Forces ahead of India's 80th Independence Day. President Droupadi Murmu has further awarded 89 Mention-in-Despatches to personnel of Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force in appreciation of their distinguished services in different operations.

78 Gallantry Awards Approved

These 78 gallantry awards that have been sanctioned by President Murmu consist of awards from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces.

The awards have been distributed as follows,

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

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

Gallantry Awards 2026 - Award List

Kirti Chakra - 9

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

Bar to Shaurya Chakra – 1

1. Major Aditya Pratap Singh — Army

Shaurya Chakra – 19

1. Major Paramveer — Army
2. Major Tarun Vasudevan — Army
3. Major Keshav Kumar — Army
4. Major Gaurav Singh Brijwal — Army
5. Major Vipeen Kumar — Army
6. Naib Subedar Shankar Ram — Army

7. Naib Subedar Dabbal Singh Bisht — Army
8. Havildar Jagattar Singh — Army
9. Lance Naik Narender Sindhu — Army (Posthumous)
10. Lance Naik Kapil Dev — Army
11. Sepoy Jaswinder Singh — Army
12. Lt Commander Shivam Kumar — Navy
13. Squadron Leader Sudhir Kumar — Air Force
14. DySP Dheeraj Singh Katoch — MHA
15. Inspector Ajay Singh Chib — MHA
16. DySP Sukhvir Singh — MHA
17. ASI Niyaz Ahmad — MHA
18. Deputy Commandant Anjani Kumar — MHA
19. Constable Deepak Sah — MHA

Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 5

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

Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 36

1. Lt Col Pushkar Vijay Chaudhary — Army
2. Lt Col Sonam Topden Bhutia — Army
3. Major Sudhansu Sekhar Pani — Army
4. Major Mohit Podia — Army
5. Major R Sahil — Army
6. Major Balendu Kumar Jha — Army
7. Major Ravi Shankar Joshi — Army
8. Major Rupam Das — Army
9. Major Arnav Bali — Army
10. Major Anshuman Ranjan — Army
11. Major Arvind Kumar — Army
12. Captain Karan Singh Cheema — Army
13. Captain Harish Singh Dewali — Army
14. Captain Mohit Rawat — Army
15. Captain Anshumaan Singh — Army
16. Captain Bane Swaraj Sudhir — Army
17. Captain Pruthviraj Jaysing Nighot — Army
18. Captain Savik — Army
19. Lt Bhanu Pratap Singh — Army
20. Lt Aman Pandey — Army
21. Assistant Commandant Bikash Rai — Army
22. Subedar Pawan Kumar — Army
23. Subedar Perbhat Gaur — Army (Posthumous)
24. Subedar Kanase Namdev Balkrishna — Army
25. Subedar Baljinder Singh — Army
26. Naib Subedar Dayal Singh — Army
27. Havildar L Joel Kom — Army
28. Havildar Mulla Abidali Ashrafali — Army
29. Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh — Army (Posthumous)
30. Naik Ali Mohammad Khan — Army
31. Lance Naik Sujay Ghosh — Army (Posthumous)

32. Lance Naik Abhimanu Singh — Army
33. Lance Naik Bidha Singh — Army
34. Lance Naik Pritpal Singh — Army (Posthumous)
35. Sepoy Harminder Singh — Army (Posthumous)
36. Paratrooper Himanshu Kumar — Army
37. Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 3
38. Commander Vineet Sharma — Navy
39. Commander Yuvraj Kumar — Navy
40. AC Avinash Annaso, POA (FD) — Navy
41. Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) – 5
42. Group Captain Rahul Jagotta — Air Force
43. Group Captain Rahul Rawat — Air Force
44. Wing Commander Ashish Rajpoot — Air Force
45. Flight Lieutenant Yash — Air Force
46. Master Warrant Officer Ravinderjit Singh — Air Force

Overall Gallantry Awards

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

Mention-in-Despatches – 89

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

Army – 75

Operation Rakshak: 24 personnel, including Army Dog Tyson

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

Navy – 4

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

Air Force – 10

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

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

National Affairs

- **Suryapath Tiranga** completed a historic global relay under **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026** on India's **80th Independence Day**. The Tiranga began in **Suva, Fiji, at 1:30 AM IST** and followed the rising sun across continents, reaching **San Francisco at 8:30 PM IST**. The relay lasted over **19 hours** and connected **54 Indian missions and posts** across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Indian communities and officials participated in mass singing of **Vande Mataram** and **Jana Gana Mana**, while the event also commemorated **150 years of Vande Mataram**.
- **NIELIT** launched **CYBER KUSHTI 2026**, a national **cybersecurity and AI hackathon**, on August 15 with the **ISAC Foundation** and **CERT-In** as Knowledge Partner. The competition focuses on **human judgment** rather than detection speed. Teams of three students or independent researchers will analyse imperfect security packages containing genuine, false, duplicated and omitted vulnerabilities. It has three stages: **Akhada on September 15, Dangal on September 24, and Kesari Final on October 9** in New Delhi. Registration is free until **September 10**. Winners receive the **Cyber Kesari 2026** title and traditional Gada.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced a nationwide **sports talent identification campaign** for children aged **5–15 years**, targeting future athletes for India's possible **2036 Olympics**. The initiative will search for talent across villages, cities and schools and provide selected children specialised training. Modi highlighted **TOPS** and **Khelo India** while stressing participation across Olympic disciplines. India is also preparing to host the **2030 Commonwealth Games**. He additionally announced **free online competitive-exam coaching**, a **₹1 lakh crore employment initiative** targeting around **3.5 crore youth**, **AI training for one crore young people**, and efforts towards a **Nasha Mukta Bharat**.

- **India** is hosting the **BRICS ICT Track** in **Pune from August 17–21, 2026**, under its BRICS Chairship. The programme follows the theme “**Innovate, Cooperate and Transform for a Resilient Future**” and focuses on secure, inclusive and sustainable digital ecosystems. Events include the **7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting, Digital BRICS Forum and Expo**, and **12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting**. Discussions cover **universal connectivity, digital skills, AI, next-generation communications, Digital Public Infrastructure, cybersecurity, child online protection, startups and innovation**. Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** will attend the August 21 ministerial meeting.
- The **Supreme Court** asked the remaining **19 States and Union Territories** to consider declaring **cancer a notifiable disease**. A bench headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** issued the direction during proceedings on a PIL seeking nationwide cancer notification. Already, **17 of 36 States and UTs** have notified cancer following Parliamentary Standing Committee recommendations. Notification would enable systematic reporting, better **disease surveillance, data collection, early detection and treatment planning**. The Court also sought measures for nationwide **cancer screening**. States and UTs must consider the recommendation and submit compliance affidavits.
- India’s **80th Independence Day** was celebrated extensively across the **New York tri-state region**. In New Jersey, over **1,300 US flags** were arranged into the number “**250**” at Veterans Memorial Park, commemorating America’s 250th anniversary alongside India’s Independence Day. The celebration achieved a **Guinness World Record** for the Largest Flagpole Number. In Queens, New York City Mayor **Zohran Mamdani** joined the India Day Parade in Floral Park and highlighted Indian-American contributions. The New Jersey event was organised by the **Indian Consulate in New York** and **Federation of Indian Associations**, showcasing India-US community ties.
- During his **Independence Day 2026 address**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide **sports talent hunt** for children aged **5–15 years**. The campaign will identify hidden sporting talent across **villages, cities and schools**, with the long-term goal of preparing athletes for the **2036 Olympics**. Modi noted that children aged 5, 10 or 15 today could compete in 2036. He highlighted around **40 Olympic sports and 325–350 events**, many currently lacking Indian participation. The initiative builds on **KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification)**, which uses technology and **Talent Assessment Centres**.
- The **Bharatiya Janata Party** announced its new national team under president **Nitin Nabin** on August 17, 2026. The structure includes **13 national vice-presidents, eight general secretaries and 16 national secretaries**. Union Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** was appointed national treasurer, while **Rajesh Mangal** became joint treasurer. **BL Santhosh** continues as National General Secretary (Organisation), supported by **Shivprakash and Saudan Singh**. Leaders including **Vasundhara Raje, Ram Madhav, Smriti Irani and Biplab Kumar Deb** received key roles. New morcha presidents, North-East coordinators and media and social-media office bearers were also appointed.
- India has constituted a **12-member high-powered committee** to review restoration and future management of the **Teesta Barrage Project** in West Bengal. Formed on **July 10** under the chairmanship of the **Central Water Commission Chairman**, the committee has six months to submit its report. It will examine **water utilisation, future demand, siltation, climate change, infrastructure strengthening and river-basin management**. The review comes amid increasing **Chinese involvement in Bangladesh’s Teesta plans**, with Beijing offering technical cooperation. India will also assess upstream releases, **Gajaldoba Barrage**, storage and drainage capacity, adding geopolitical significance.
- The **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project** is advancing towards its expected **August 2027 launch**. Construction is progressing at stations in Mumbai and Gujarat, with the **Bandra Kurla Complex station** being built nearly **30 metres underground**. At Surat, structural work and roofing are complete, while interiors are underway. The **508-km corridor** will pass through Maharashtra, Gujarat and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and include **12 stations**. Trains are expected to reach **320 km/h**, covering Mumbai-Ahmedabad in around **two hours**. **Sabarmati station** is planned as a major multimodal transport hub.
- Three UAE-based **Indian skydivers** participated in a Guinness World Record event over **Benghazi, Libya**, on August 7, 2026. The jump involved **65 skydivers from 38 nationalities**, exiting a military **Ilyushin II-76TD** aircraft at **13,000 feet**. Indians **Jamsheer Thanalot of Kerala, Abhishek Rawat of Uttar Pradesh and Isha Raj of Bihar** unfurled the **Indian Tricolour** during the jump. Together, they had over **1,500 jumps** of experience. Guinness verified the achievement on August 14 as the most skydivers simultaneously jumping with **national flags from one aircraft**, ahead of Independence Day.
- **India** launched its first **Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** at the **17th UN Convention to Combat Desertification** session in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on August 17, 2026. Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** highlighted the importance of grasslands, scrublands, ravines and other open ecosystems for ecology and livelihoods. The guide covers **Himalayan and Terai grasslands, Thar and Banni landscapes, Deccan savannas, rocky plateaus, coastal ecosystems and deserts**, along with pastoralism, fire ecology and carbon sequestration. **ATREE, IUCN, CoE-SLM, ICFRE and ISRO-SAC** supported the publication, promoting science-based conservation and restoration.

- Senior IAS officer **Anurag Jain** has assumed charge as **NITI Aayog CEO**. A 1989-batch **Madhya Pradesh** cadre officer, Jain brings nearly four decades of experience in administration, governance and policymaking. He previously served as **Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh** and held senior central positions including Secretary in the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** and **DPIIT**. His expertise covers infrastructure, industrial policy, economic development and public administration. The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved his appointment for two years or until further orders. Economist **Ashok Kumar Lahiri** was earlier appointed NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson.
- A newly discovered Himalayan plant, **Impatiens nimspurjai**, has been named after legendary Nepali mountaineer **Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja**. Researchers **Bhakta Bahadur Raskoti** and **Rita Ale** discovered the species in Nepal's **Myagdi district** at around **2,800–2,900 metres** altitude. Purja became internationally famous after climbing all **14 mountains above 8,000 metres in six months and six days in 2019**. He also participated in the first winter ascent of **K2 in 2021** and supported conservation through the **Nimsdai Foundation** and **Big Mountain Cleanup**. Purja died in a Broad Peak avalanche in Pakistan in July 2026, making the plant a lasting tribute.
- **UIDAI** has completed more than **2 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU)** for schoolchildren under its nationwide mission-mode campaign launched in **September 2025**. More than **1.56 lakh schools** have participated through special Aadhaar biometric-update camps. UIDAI integrated its system with **UDISE+**, enabling schools to monitor children's MBU status. Biometric updates are necessary because fingerprints and iris details are not captured during Aadhaar enrolment below age five. Updates are required at ages **5 and 15**. MBU remains **free for children aged 5–17 until September 30, 2026**, helping smoother authentication for education, government services and examinations.
- **Lakshmanan Meyyappan**, aged **16 years and 141 days**, has entered the **Guinness World Records** as the world's youngest male **Chartered Accountant**. He achieved the milestone in Dubai after completing the **ACCA qualification** in about one year. His accounting interest began during the COVID-19 pandemic when his mother, an ACCA professional, introduced him to accounting after Class 10. Meyyappan later earned the **CFA charter** and is pursuing an MSc in Finance. He also works as a **Senior Research Analyst at Century Financial, Dubai**. Beyond academics, he enjoys designing and building watches and aims to understand finance practically.
- **Semicon India 2026**, the fifth edition of India's major semiconductor event, will take place from **September 17–19** at **Yashoobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi**. Themed "**Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem**," it is jointly organised by **SEMI and India Semiconductor Mission**. The event will feature over **500 exhibitors, 290 international companies, 150 speakers and delegations from more than 40 countries**, alongside six country pavilions. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is expected to inaugurate it on September 17, with a global CEO roundtable on September 16. The event comes as **ISM 1.0 projects** move toward production, with 2–3 facilities expected to begin operations in 2026.
- **Vizhinjam International Seaport** has begun full-fledged **export-import (EXIM) operations**, transforming Kerala's port from a transshipment facility into a major gateway for Indian trade. Located around **10 nautical miles from international shipping routes**, Vizhinjam has a natural **18–20 metre draft** and can handle ultra-large container vessels. A planned **₹16,000 crore Phase-II expansion** will raise annual capacity to **5.7 million TEUs by December 2028** and create over 5,000 additional direct and indirect jobs. Since commercial operations began in December 2024, the port has handled over **2.28 million TEUs and 1,100 vessels**. EXIM operations should reduce foreign transshipment dependence and improve South India's connectivity.
- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** has introduced a new **four-tier question-paper checking system** to improve examination accuracy. The mechanism examines papers for **factual, grammatical, translation and formatting errors** before finalisation. NTA has removed 600 experts from existing panels and started recruiting new specialists, while planning to induct **20–25 officials** and hiring for 10 professional leadership posts, including **Chief Technology Officer and Chief Information Security Officer**. Examination security will involve **CISF protection, secluded workrooms, air-gapped systems and strict device-deposit protocols**. NTA will also conduct re-examinations for selected June 2026 **UGC-NET English, Commerce and Sociology** papers on September 9–10.



- The **PM CARES Fund** had a closing balance of **₹8,452.07 crore as of March 31, 2025**, according to audited financial statements, rising from **₹7,173.03 crore** in FY2023–24. Established in **March 2020** during the COVID-19 pandemic, the fund held **₹7,846.65 crore** in fixed deposits and **₹605.41 crore** in savings accounts. It earned **₹469.38 crore in fixed-deposit interest** during FY25. Domestic donations declined to **₹479.05 crore**, while foreign contributions fell to **₹92.83 lakh**. Expenditure stood at **₹87.85 lakh**, with almost all spending directed towards the **PM CARES for Children Scheme**.
- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has expanded its digital **FASTag Local Pass** facility to **121 toll plazas** across India. The facility is available to eligible residents living within **20 km** of designated toll plazas. Applicants can obtain monthly passes through the **Rajmargyatra app**, without visiting plazas or submitting physical documents. Consent-based integration with **DigiLocker** and **VAHAN**, along with GIS technology, verifies residential eligibility. The pass allows **unlimited trips** through the designated toll plaza during its validity period. First piloted in July 2026 at **Mundka–Bakkarwala Toll Plaza** on Delhi's UER-II, the facility will be expanded in phases.
- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has proposed a centrally generated **Unique Identification (UID) number** for registered doctors under the draft 2026 regulations. The **Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB)** would issue the UID, while the **National Medical Register (NMR)** would become the central repository for registrations, disciplinary actions and suspensions. The proposal introduces **"One Nation, One Licence"**, allowing doctors to practise across India without separate state registrations. State registers would synchronise electronically with NMR. The proposed practising licence would remain valid for **five years**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the **₹3,590.73 crore NH-22 four-laning project** in Bihar. The project covers an **82.578-km Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa** stretch under the **Hybrid Annuity Mode**. It will include seven major bridges, three railway overbridges, two flyovers and a 340-metre bridge over the **Bagmati River**. The highway will have a design speed of 100 kmph and average speed of 80 kmph. It will improve connectivity to the **India–Nepal border**, industries, railways, agricultural logistics, Bhithamore land port and religious destinations.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched **Friends of MY Bharat**, a digital platform connecting **Indian-origin youth abroad** with India's development journey. Announced by Minister of State **Raksha Khadse** during the **BRICS Youth Summit 2026** in Gandhinagar, the platform offers volunteering opportunities, nation-building programmes and youth initiatives. Its **Know Your India** section provides information about Indian culture, heritage, history, tourism and prominent leaders. Users can also share youth-club details. The initiative seeks to utilise global Indian youth skills and ideas for **Viksit Bharat**. **MY Bharat** was launched on 31 October 2023.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved four **multi-tracking railway projects** worth **₹9,450 crore** on August 19, 2026. Covering around **410 km** across West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the projects include fourth lines between Kharagpur–Bhadrak and Bhadrak–Haridaspur, third/fourth lines between Cuttack–Paradeep, and third/fourth lines between Gummidipundi–Gudur. The projects will benefit nearly **6,448 villages**, strengthen the Howrah–Chennai route and improve freight and passenger movement. Completion is targeted for **2030–31**, adding annual freight capacity of **76 million tonnes**.
- The **31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting** is being held on August 20, 2026, at **Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu**, under Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**. Organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat, the meeting focuses on **cooperative federalism** and **TEAM BHARAT** through stronger Centre-state coordination. The Southern Zonal Council includes Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Created under Sections 15–22 of the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, these advisory forums address issues including water, infrastructure, education, aviation and regional development.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved establishing a **Jammu & Kashmir High Court bench in Ladakh** to improve access to justice. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** said it would reduce the time, distance and costs faced by residents seeking judicial relief. Ladakh's difficult terrain, extreme weather and limited connectivity create major challenges for litigants and lawyers. The **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court** currently serves both Union Territories. Ladakh became a separate **Union Territory on October 31, 2019**, following the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **Aadhaar App** has crossed **5 crore downloads**, highlighting growing adoption of digital identity services. According to **UIDAI**, more than **60 lakh mobile numbers, 15 lakh addresses** and **23 lakh email addresses** have been updated through the app. Users can also access **biometric lock/unlock** and **e-Aadhaar downloads**. Its **"Show, Share and Verify"** approach provides greater control over personal information. Since January, UIDAI has onboarded over **200 Offline Verification Seeking Entities (OVSEs)**, enabling QR-code verification and digitally signed documents without real-time connectivity.

- The **North Eastern Railway's Lucknow Division** operated the **Awadh Mahashakti freight train** on August 20, 2026, marking the longest train operation in the zonal railway's history. Three cargo trains were combined into one formation carrying **129 wagons**, powered by **three heavy-duty locomotives**. The train departed **Gonda Junction at 1:50 PM** for the Moradabad Division via Sitapur. It was assembled at the **Gonda ROH depot**, where ROH means Routine Overhaul. The operation demonstrated improved utilisation of **track capacity, fuel and locomotives** while transporting larger cargo volumes.
- The **Territorial Army**, in partnership with **CyberPeace**, launched **Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0)** on August 21. The national cyber hackathon seeks indigenous solutions for defence and digital security through three tracks: **Bug Hunting, AI Kavach and National Creators Challenge**. Bug Hunting includes a Capture-the-Flag qualifier and 36-hour sandbox finale. AI Kavach focuses on **AI/ML-based cyber defence**, threat intelligence and anomaly detection. The creators track addresses deepfakes, phishing and misinformation. Registrations opened July 30, with the deadline extended to **August 31**; the Grand Finale occurs October 6–8.
- India's first **large-scale biopolymer plant** is being constructed at the **Kumbhi sugar unit of Balrampur Chini Mills**, Gola Gokarannath, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. Scheduled for commissioning in **October 2026**, commercial production is expected from November. The integrated facility will use locally produced **sugarcane** to manufacture **Polylactic Acid (PLA)**, a biodegradable thermoplastic used in packaging and disposable products. The project costs around **₹3,080 crore** and incorporates **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)** technology. Planned products include plates, cups and bags, with some designed to naturally decompose within **three to six months**.
- India hosted the **12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting in Pune on August 21, 2026**, under its BRICS Chairship. Union Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** chaired the meeting involving communications ministers and representatives from **11 BRICS countries**. India's theme is **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"** while the ICT track used **"Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future."** Discussions covered emerging technologies, future networks, cybersecurity, capacity building, **Digital Public Infrastructure** and global digital governance. The **BRICS ICT Track** was held August 17–21.
- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court bench in Ladakh**, aiming to strengthen access to justice. Home Minister **Amit Shah** said the move would reduce long-distance travel for citizens seeking High Court services. Ladakh's mountainous terrain, extreme weather and limited connectivity create significant logistical and financial difficulties for litigants and lawyers. The new bench is expected to reduce **travel costs**, improve **legal services** and strengthen judicial infrastructure. Ladakh became a separate **Union Territory on October 31, 2019**, following the reorganisation of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The **BJP** is preparing nationwide **Modi@25 celebrations** to mark Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's 25 years in public service**. A meeting in **New Delhi on August 22, 2026**, involving BJP president **Nitin Nabin**, organisation general secretary **BL Santosh** and programme in-charge **Vinod Tawde**, will finalise the roadmap. The proposed **Seva Sankalp Mahotsav** will begin on **September 7** for about 15 days. Activities include **cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, tree plantation, health camps, digital exhibitions and intellectual conferences**, highlighting **seva, good governance, development, Antyodaya and public welfare**.
- The Centre launched **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II** under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** to accelerate the goal of creating **six crore Lakhpati Didis**. Running from **August 21 to November 21, 2026**, the three-month campaign aims to train **five lakh SHG women**, formalise **50,000 enterprises**, orient **50,000 community cadres** and onboard **25,000 members** onto **ONDC and GeM**. It also supports producer groups, sustainable practices and market access. **Udyam Sakshis** will assist enterprises, while **Sankalp Shakti** provides technical guidance on rural entrepreneurship.
- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated **MALHAR 2026** in New Delhi on August 21, celebrating Indian classical music through a youth-focused, monsoon-themed programme. Organised by **Antar Hriday Connect**, the initiative seeks to connect young people with India's classical heritage through **cultural programmes and free concerts**. The Vice President described music as a powerful link connecting India's diverse traditions and urged youth to become **custodians and ambassadors of cultural heritage**. He highlighted the **Malhar family of ragas** as symbols of monsoon and renewal and emphasised classical music as an important component of India's **soft power**.
- The **Supreme Court** reduced the mandatory practice requirement for entry-level **judicial service examinations** from **three years to one year**, while introducing **one year each of training and clerkship**. A three-judge bench headed by **CJI Surya Kant** delivered the 2:1 verdict while deciding review petitions against its May 2025 ruling. Candidates covered by notifications issued between **May 20, 2025 and March 31, 2027** can apply irrespective of previous experience. Selected candidates will initially serve as **trainee judicial officers for one year**. The arrangement will continue for three years before review based on institutional experience.

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** transferred processing of pending **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 applications** to **District Collectors** in eight States and Union Territories through the **Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026**. Under Section 6B of the Citizenship Act, 1955, District Collectors can verify documents, conduct inquiries, administer the oath of allegiance and grant citizenship to eligible applicants. The revised mechanism covers **Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and non-tribal areas of Assam and Tripura**. It replaces the earlier system involving **Empowered Committees and District Level Committees**.
- The government notified the **₹62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)** to strengthen domestic production and support Indian mobile brands. The **five-year scheme** runs from **April 1, 2026 to FY 2030-31** and covers mobile manufacturers and eligible Indian brands. Companies must meet specified turnover conditions, while Indian brands require at least **51% Indian ownership**. The scheme provides an additional incentive of up to **1.5%** for domestic sourcing of key components and sub-assemblies. According to **MeitY**, MPMS could generate around **₹39 lakh crore cumulative production** and approximately **60,000 direct jobs**.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development** launched **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II** on August 21 under **DAY-NRLM**, focusing on rural women entrepreneurs across farm and non-farm sectors. The campaign continues until **November 21, 2026** and supports the target of creating **six crore Lakhpati Didis**. It aims to train **five lakh SHG women**, formalise **50,000 enterprises**, orient **50,000 community cadres**, add **two lakh members to producer groups** and promote sustainable practices among **20 lakh women**. Around **25,000 SHG members** will join **ONDC and GeM**, expanding digital market access for rural enterprises.
- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated seven infrastructure projects worth **₹427.80 crore** at **Paradip Port Authority, Odisha**, on August 21, 2026. Projects include **capital dredging, Atharbanki Second New Bridge** and an **Advanced Vessel Traffic Management and Information System** developed with IIT Madras. The **₹352 crore dredging project** will create an **18.5-metre deep-draft facility** for fully laden Capesize vessels. Three mechanisation concession agreements worth **₹1,580.36 crore** were also signed. Paradip Port reached **150 million metric tonnes annual cargo capacity** and completed its **one-millionth tree plantation**.
- The government notified the **Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, removing the earlier **12-minute-per-hour television advertisement cap**. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified the amendment in the Gazette on **August 21**, omitting Rule 7(11) of the 1994 rules. The cap was introduced in **2006**, when India had only 62 television channels. The broadcasting sector now has over **900 channels**, with digitised distribution through **DTH**,

cable, HITS and IPTV. The government said the change would promote **fairer competition with digital media**, support broadcasters and improve **ease of doing business**.

- The government restricted the manufacture, sale and distribution of all **fixed-dose combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride** for children below **four years of age**. Manufacturers must prominently display the warning that the combination **"shall not be used in children below four years of age"** on labels, package inserts and promotional material. The notification extends an earlier April 2025 restriction covering certain formulations to **all formulations containing both compounds**. The decision followed recommendations from an **expert committee and Drugs Technical Advisory Board**, citing potential risks to young children and availability of safer alternatives under **Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

States in the News

- **Indore** opened India's first **virtual zoo experience** at **Kamala Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya** on August 17. Spread across **8,000 square feet**, the facility was developed under a **Public-Private Partnership** at an estimated cost of **₹4.5 crore**. It combines digital projection, sound, motion and special effects through a **3-D dome theatre, 14-D cinema and digital jungle safari**. The 14-D theatre includes moving seats, wind, water, fog, bubbles and vibrations. Attractions include a gorilla entrance, neon jungle pathways, glow garden, roar maze and **Hanuman hologram**. Entry costs **₹70**, with 16 daily shows.
- The **Karnataka Cabinet** cleared the **Karnataka Regulation of Use of Government Premises and Public Property Bill, 2026**, on August 13. The proposed law requires prior government permission for rallies, events and gatherings on government-maintained **land, buildings, roads, parks and playgrounds**. Political rallies, religious gatherings, route marches and processions involving more than **10 people** are covered, while marriage and funeral processions are exempt. Unauthorised first-time use may attract **two years' imprisonment or ₹1 lakh fine**, while repeat violations may bring **three years and ₹2 lakh**. Offences would be **cognisable and non-bailable**.
- **Vantara** and the **Gujarat Forest Department** released **20 blackbucks** into the **Banni Grasslands of Kutch** on India's 80th Independence Day. The release comprised **five males and 15 females** and received technical support from the **Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre**. The animals came from Vantara, Jamnagar, following approvals from the **Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat**, and **Central Zoo Authority**. Authorities conducted veterinary examinations, health screening, quarantine, disease surveillance and humane transportation. The initiative aims to restore native herbivore populations, strengthen **predator-prey relationships** and improve Banni's ecological balance through scientific monitoring and community participation.

- **Gujarat** is set to develop **Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park** at **Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district**. The **Central Zoo Authority** approved the project on August 12, 2026. Covering around **103 hectares** of government land, the project is estimated to cost **₹542.14 crore**. It will feature **five dedicated night safari enclosures** and a separate day zoo. Around **2,700 animals and birds representing 83 species** are proposed, including **Chinkara, Blackbuck, Indian wild ass, Cheetah, Giraffe, Zebra, Kangaroo and Emu**. The Gujarat Forest Department expects the project to boost **wildlife awareness and eco-tourism**.
- **Chhattisgarh** has received **₹3,942 crore** from the Centre for expansion of the **Amended BharatNet Programme**. On August 18, 2026, the Digital Bharat Nidhi, Department of Telecommunications, Chhattisgarh, CSBIL, BSNL and ChiPS signed an implementation agreement. The project will cover **11,682 Gram Panchayats**, comprising 4,048 Phase-I, 5,964 Phase-II and 1,670 newly created panchayats. Another **8,328 villages** will receive on-demand connectivity. The initiative is expected to support over **three lakh rural fibre connections**, strengthening **e-governance, online education, telemedicine and digital payments**. CSBIL will implement the project to expand inclusive rural digital connectivity.
- **Tamil Nadu** has announced an increase in **maternity leave to 365 days** for women government employees having a third child, compared with the earlier 12-week provision. Human Resources Management Minister **D Sarathkumar** made the announcement in the Assembly, citing women's empowerment and social welfare. Existing rules provide one year of leave for regular women employees with fewer than two surviving children, while employees with two or more surviving children receive 12 weeks with full pay. Tamil Nadu had increased maternity leave from 90 days to six months in 2011, nine months in 2016 and one year in July 2021. A detailed government order will specify implementation.
- **Maharashtra** has declared **snakebite a notifiable disease**, making it mandatory for hospitals, medical colleges and healthcare professionals to report suspected and confirmed cases and deaths. The decision followed an August 9 incident in **Gadchiroli**, where three tribal schoolgirls died and three others were hospitalised after a venomous snakebite. Reports must include the **bite date and location, patient details, symptoms, treatment, anti-snake venom doses, referrals and outcomes**. Serious and fatal cases require immediate reporting. Healthcare institutions must maintain updated **ASV stock records**. The state will establish a nodal mechanism for prevention and control while district authorities promote awareness, first aid and timely treatment.
- **West Bengal** hosted its first **Kaushal Mahotsav** at Balurghat Stadium in Dakshin Dinajpur on August 18, 2026. It was the **11th Kaushal Mahotsav** organised nationally by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **NSDC** and the state government. More than **8,000 candidates** registered, while over 7,500 interviews were conducted in one day. The event offered more than **7,000 career opportunities** across IT, banking, logistics, hospitality, healthcare, manufacturing and retail. Major recruiters included **Wipro, Tata Group and Axis Bank**, strengthening industry-linked employment under the **Skill India Mission**.
- The **Delhi Master Plan 2047 (MPD-2047)** was unveiled as a long-term roadmap to transform the capital into an inclusive, sustainable and globally competitive city. It proposes around **40 lakh affordable housing units**, including homes along metro corridors and for slum dwellers and low-income groups. The plan promotes **Transit-Oriented Development**, mixed-use development, land pooling and multimodal connectivity. It proposes regularisation of **1,511 unauthorised colonies**, benefiting nearly **45 lakh residents**. Around **1,500 heritage assets**, 1,700 hectares of Yamuna floodplains and 52 km of cycle tracks are targeted. Narela becomes an education hub.
- The **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department** and **Bharti Institute of Public Policy at ISB** signed a five-year MoU in Shimla on August 20, 2026, to assess the state's **forest and pastoral economy**. Officials identified approximately **₹22,600 crore** of untapped potential in selected bio-resources. A joint forest inventory involved more than **500 forest guards**, over two lakh tree-level records, species-tagged images, AI, machine learning and satellite data. The partners released "**Counting Green Wealth**", covering seven species: **khair, bamboo, chir pine, amla, wild mango, sal and rhododendron**.
- The **Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration** banned the sale of **loose or unpackaged edible oil and fats** statewide on August 20, 2026. The order covers oil expellers, refiners, blenders, repackers, importers, wholesalers, transporters, retailers and e-commerce platforms. Edible oil must be sold in **sealed, tamper-evident packages** with mandatory labels. Multi-sourced vegetable oil packs are restricted to **15 kg** maximum. Commercial establishments cannot repeatedly reuse frying oil, while used cooking oil exceeding **25% Total Polar Compounds** must go to authorised collectors. Violations may attract penalties under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** became the **fourth state** to prohibit the sale and supply of **non-dairy or analogue paneer** that fails food safety requirements. The Food Safety Commissioner banned its manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution, sale and supply. Products marketed as paneer cannot replace milk fat, milk solids or other milk constituents partly or completely with **vegetable oils or fats**. Such substitutes are designed to imitate traditional dairy paneer. Similar restrictions exist in **Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat**. The decision seeks to protect consumers and prevent dairy substitutes from being falsely marketed as genuine paneer.

- **Chhattisgarh** became India's first inland state to export **value-added Tilapia products**, shipping **382 tonnes** to the United States on August 20, 2026. Tilapia is a freshwater fish commonly cultivated in ponds, tanks, cages and other aquaculture systems. The state has invested nearly **₹900 crore under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** to strengthen fisheries infrastructure and production. A review meeting in Raipur was chaired by Fisheries Secretary **Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi**, with participation from the **National Fisheries Development Board, MPEDA, NABARD**, fish farmers and exporters.
- **West Bengal** launched four **toll-free complaint helplines** allowing citizens to report extortion, syndicate activities, illegal road and toll-tax collections and illegal liquor operations. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** announced the initiative and said complaints would be directly registered for swift action. Helpline **155334** handles extortion complaints, **155335** addresses syndicate activities, **155337** covers illegal road and toll-tax collections, while **155339** is dedicated to illegal liquor activities. Shah reviewed the helpline system during a meeting with Chief Minister **Suvendu Adhikari** and senior officials in **Siliguri** during his three-day West Bengal visit.
- **India and Nepal** agreed to complete mapping of **cross-border land occupation within three years**, using **unmanned aerial vehicles and aerial imagery**. The joint survey is expected to begin after the monsoon, around **September or October 2026**. The decision followed the **13th Survey Officials' Committee meeting in Lucknow**. The exercise will identify areas where citizens cultivate or reside on land technically belonging to the other country. Changing river courses and historical demarcation contribute to disputes. India and Nepal share around **1,880 km of border**. Of **8,554 boundary pillars**, 1,325 are missing and 1,956 damaged.
- **Russia** has introduced a new multiple-entry **talent visa** aimed at attracting highly skilled foreign professionals. The programme targets specialists in **science, creative fields and sports**, graduates of leading universities, rare-skill professionals and entrepreneurs contributing to technological development. Applications will be assessed by the newly established **Agency for Attracting Foreign Talents to Russia** before standard immigration processing. The initiative seeks to simplify pathways towards **temporary and permanent residency** for eligible applicants. Russia expects the dedicated route to strengthen its workforce, innovation ecosystem and technological capabilities while making long-term relocation easier for qualified international professionals.
- **Iran's Parliament** approved the general framework of a bill on August 16 seeking to criminalise unauthorised interviews and communications with **US and Israeli media organisations** considered hostile to the Islamic Republic. The proposed legislation could impose **six months to two years' imprisonment** for unauthorised participation in hostile-media discussions. Contact with non-hostile foreign media would require notification to the **intelligence ministry**. Unauthorised contact with foreign embassies or organisations could bring fines and loss of social rights. Certain foreign-directed activities harming national security could attract penalties of up to **30 years' imprisonment**. Further parliamentary review and **Guardian Council approval** remain necessary.
- **Qatar Post** launched a **Qatar-India postal remittance service** using **PosTransfer powered by UPI**, enabling customers to transfer money directly into UPI-enabled Indian bank accounts. Available from **August 15, 2026**, through Qatar Post outlets, the service was jointly developed by **Qatar Post, India Post, UPU Interconnection Platform and NPCI International Payments Limited**. Senders require the recipient's **UPI ID** and identification details, while recipients must activate foreign inward remittance through their UPI application. Transfers range from **QAR 10 to QAR 4,000**, subject to **₹1 lakh per transaction**, with a flat **QAR 15 fee**.

International Affairs

- **Hurricane Lala** strengthened into a **Category 1 hurricane** on August 15 while moving offshore of Hawaii's Big Island. It reached maximum sustained winds of **75 mph**, causing heavy rain, strong winds, power outages, flight cancellations and flooding risks. Forecasts projected **10–20 inches of rain** on the Big Island, locally reaching 25 inches, and 8–12 inches in eastern Maui. **Hilo and Kona international airports** were closed, while more than **42,000 utility customers** lost power. The **Wailuku River** rose from 3.4 to 16.2 feet, while wind gusts above 100 mph and landslides caused road closures.
- **Iran and Oman** have agreed on a new **shipping route map for the Strait of Hormuz** after weeks of technical negotiations. The discussions followed a **June 18, 2026 memorandum** aimed at establishing safer navigation routes. Iran said the agreement involved coordination among **diplomatic, defence, security and environmental authorities**. Some issues, including wording of a joint statement, remain unresolved. Tehran stressed that the arrangement concerns navigation and does not affect either country's sovereignty. Iran also maintains that full restoration of security and normal commercial shipping depends on the end of **US actions** and fulfilment of June memorandum commitments.

- **India and Armenia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** in Yerevan on August 17, 2026, to strengthen cooperation in **defence research, development, innovation and joint production**. Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh** signed the agreement during his two-day Armenian visit. He held discussions with High Tech Industry Minister **Davit Tadevosyan**, Defence Minister **Suren Papikyan** and Chief of General Staff **Lt Gen Edvard Asryan**. Since 2020, India-Armenia defence contracts have reached nearly **US\$2 billion**. Armenia has acquired or ordered India's **Akash, Pinaka, Swathi radar and ATAGS** systems. The partnership supports Armenia's supplier diversification and India's defence-export ambitions.
- **Russia** has received at least one **gasoline shipment from India** as Moscow addresses domestic fuel shortages caused by repeated **Ukrainian drone attacks on oil refineries**. Industry sources and LSEG data showed an Oman-flagged tanker carrying approximately **68,000 tonnes of gasoline** after a ship-to-ship transfer near Port Said from tanker **Agni**, which loaded the fuel at India's **Vadinar port**. The cargo reached Russia's Arctic **Vitino port** in early August before being transported by rail to domestic buyers. Deputy Prime Minister **Alexander Novak** had announced plans to import petroleum products to stabilise supplies, with at least two more Indian cargoes expected.
- US President **Donald Trump** cited India's **voter identification system** while supporting the Republican-backed **SAVE America Act**, which seeks stricter federal voter-registration requirements. Trump referred to India's general election and highlighted the large number of voters and limited use of postal ballots. The proposed US legislation would require **proof of citizenship and valid identification** for federal voter registration and impose restrictions on mail voting, with exceptions. India uses the **Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC)** alongside electoral rolls. However, India and the US have significantly different electoral systems, registration procedures and postal-ballot frameworks.
- India hosted the **Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026** virtually on August 17 under its BRICS Chairship, bringing together more than **100 young professionals, experts and representatives**. The energy track adopted "**सर्वेषां ऊर्जम्**" (**Energy for All**), stressing affordable and inclusive energy access. Discussions covered **energy security, sustainability, equity, clean technologies, digitalisation, cybersecurity and resilient supply chains**. Participants also examined innovative financing. Indian representatives highlighted **PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, SHANTI Act, RDSS and India Energy Stack**. The summit supported stronger youth participation and international cooperation on sustainable and secure energy systems.
- The **Fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMRT) 2026** is scheduled in Singapore on August 20. India is represented by **Nirmala Sitharaman, S. Jaishankar, Piyush Goyal and Jitin Prasada**. Established in 2022, the roundtable reviews bilateral cooperation and explores strategic and economic opportunities. Discussions are expected to cover **advanced manufacturing, digitalisation, connectivity, healthcare, skills, sustainability and technology**. A parallel **India-Singapore Business Roundtable** will involve business leaders. The dialogue supports the countries' **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, encouraging investment, innovation, technology cooperation and deeper economic engagement.
- The latest **FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Report** for June-November 2026 identifies **13 countries and territories** facing serious acute food-insecurity risks. Conflict, displacement, climate shocks, economic instability and restricted humanitarian access are major drivers. **Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Palestine, Northeast Nigeria and Somalia** face the highest concern, while Afghanistan, DRC and Haiti face very high concern. Myanmar, Mali, Lebanon and Madagascar are also hotspots. Sudan remains particularly critical amid prolonged conflict. Gaza faces worsening hunger because of damaged infrastructure and disrupted food supplies, while South Sudan and Northeast Nigeria face additional climate and conflict pressures.
- The United States imposed **sanctions on ICC President Tomoko Akane** of Japan and Senior Trial Lawyer **Abdoulaye Seye** of Senegal on August 18, 2026. The measures were announced by Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** under a presidential executive order, escalating Washington's dispute with the **International Criminal Court**. The US is not a party to the **Rome Statute**, which established the ICC in 1998. Based in The Hague, the ICC prosecutes individuals for **genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression**. Its jurisdiction generally applies under the Rome Statute when relevant territorial or nationality conditions are met.
- **India and Japan** signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation** in New Delhi on August 20, 2026. The agreement creates a framework for cooperation between the **Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force** in Maritime Domain Awareness, search and rescue, HADR, naval visits, exercises and personnel exchanges. It also covers **reciprocal logistics support, mine countermeasures and ship repair**. Both sides discussed possible naval shipbuilding and design cooperation by combining Japanese expertise with Indian manufacturing capabilities. The agreement supports a **Free and Open Indo-Pacific** and broader maritime stability. Both countries are **Quad** members.

- **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir**, a senior **Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)** leader, was elected Bangladesh's **23rd President** with **255 parliamentary votes**, defeating **Oli Ahmed**, who secured 88. Of 349 eligible MPs, **343 participated** in the election supervised by Chief Election Commissioner **AMM Nasir Uddin**. It was Bangladesh's **first contested presidential election in 35 years**. Alamgir resigned as BNP Secretary General and from its National Standing Committee after nomination. The election followed **Mohammed Shahabuddin's resignation on July 24** due to serious health problems. Parliament must elect a replacement within 90 days.
- **Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema** was re-elected for a **second five-year term**, receiving around **60% of votes**, according to the electoral commission. His closest challenger, **Brian Mundubile**, secured 38% and announced plans to legally challenge the results over alleged voting irregularities. His party said Mundubile had gone into hiding because of alleged threats. The election followed political tensions, including allegations of arrests and a raid on his residence. Observers described polling as largely peaceful but raised concerns about **late electoral reforms, media freedom and access**. Zambia has maintained peaceful transitions since multiparty democracy returned in 1991.
- **India and Japan** agreed to deepen **defence and maritime security cooperation** during talks between Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Japanese Defence Minister **Shinjiro Koizumi** in New Delhi on August 20, 2026. They signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation** covering information sharing, maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Discussions included naval visits, joint exercises, logistics, ship repair and possible naval shipbuilding and design cooperation. Both welcomed **Veer Guardian 26**, featuring the first Japanese fighter aircraft visit to India, and agreed to expand **DRDO-ATLA defence technology cooperation**.
- India hosted the **Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026** virtually on August 17 under its BRICS Chairship. More than **100 participants** from member countries, including young professionals from governments, academia and energy ministries, participated. Organisations including the **International Solar Alliance, IRENA and Sustainable Energy for All** joined discussions. India's BRICS theme is **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"** while the energy track used **"सर्वेषां ऊर्जम्" (Energy for All)**. Discussions focused on **energy security, sustainability, access, equity, technology and innovation**. Initiatives highlighted included **PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, SHANTI Act, RDSS and India Energy Stack**.
- **BRICS Tourism Ministers** adopted the **Jaipur Declaration**, officially called the **BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communiqué 2026**, by consensus in Jaipur on August 21. The meeting was held under India's **BRICS Chairship** and chaired by Union Tourism Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**. The tourism track followed the theme **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."** Four priorities were identified: **AI and tourism, sustainability and responsible tourism, tourism skilling and capacity building, and tourism exchanges and seamless travel facilitation**. The declaration also promoted safe, responsible and **human-centred AI** for destination management, visitor services and multilingual communication.
- **India and Brazil** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on telecommunications and ICT cooperation** during the BRICS ICT Track Meeting in Pune. Union Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** and Brazilian Communications Minister **Frederico de Siqueira Filho** signed the agreement. Cooperation will cover **telecom policies, AI, 5G and 6G, Open RAN, IoT, Direct-to-Device connectivity, Low Earth Orbit satellites and Non-Terrestrial Networks**. It also includes **cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, optical fibre, submarine cables, spectrum management and digital inclusion**. The partnership seeks to strengthen technological cooperation, capacity building and **universal connectivity** between India and Brazil.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers-Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS)** came into force on **August 16, 2026**, creating a one-time voluntary disclosure window until **December 31**. Eligible taxpayers can disclose previously undisclosed foreign income or assets worth up to **₹1 crore**, paying **30% tax plus another 30% amount in lieu of penalty**. A second category covers foreign assets up to **₹5 crore** that were already taxed or acquired while the taxpayer was a non-resident but omitted from ITRs, with a **₹1 lakh fee**. Covered assets include bank accounts, property, jewellery, shares, securities, **RSUs and ESOPs**, valued as of March 31, 2026.
- **Equirus Securities** has estimated that India could potentially become a **\$20 trillion economy by 2036** if the rupee strengthens and economic growth accelerates. The projection assumes approximately **14.2% annual growth** in the rupee-denominated economy, supported by measures strengthening India's external balance. A stronger rupee would reduce the rupee value required to reach the dollar-denominated target while improving India's global economic position. Achieving the projection would require sustained **economic expansion, productivity gains, investment and macroeconomic stability**, alongside continued structural reforms. Strong performance across **manufacturing, services, infrastructure and other productive sectors** would be crucial.

- **Reliance Industries** plans to partner with Britain's **Rolls-Royce** to develop and manufacture an advanced combat aircraft engine for India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** programme. The proposal includes establishing a dedicated **aerospace gas-turbine complex in India**. The AMCA prototype is expected to roll out in **2028** and become a major element of India's future air-combat capability. The partnership could strengthen domestic **aero-engine manufacturing** and reduce dependence on imported propulsion technology. Rolls-Royce would contribute advanced propulsion expertise, while Reliance would provide technology, manufacturing capabilities and scale. The proposal competes with **Safran's** separate engine partnership plans.
- State-owned **ONGC** has secured a **US Treasury OFAC licence** allowing it to resume fuller operations in Venezuela after years of sanctions-related restrictions. **ONGC Videsh** holds a **40% stake in the San Cristobal project** and an **11% stake in Carabobo**. The licence could enable financial management, recovery of more than **\$500 million in pending dividends**, increased investment and potentially operatorship from Venezuela's **PDVSA**. San Cristobal produced about **0.265 million tonnes of oil equivalent in FY26**, well below potential. Venezuela holds the world's largest proven crude reserves, estimated at around **303 billion barrels**, supporting India's energy diversification strategy.
- **Shabnam Sinha** will become the **non-executive chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank** from October 1, 2026, succeeding **Sunil Bharti Mittal**. Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises, will leave the Board on **September 30** after serving as chairman since April 2016. Sinha's three-year appointment has been approved by the **Board and RBI**. She currently serves as an independent director and chairs the Special Committee for Monitoring Frauds. With over three decades of experience, including at the **World Bank**, she specialises in financial services, governance, risk management and digital transformation. Airtel Payments Bank has over **121 million monthly active users** and nearly **30 million account customers**.
- **SEBI** launched the **Incident Reporting Portal** and **Cyber Suraksha Portal** to strengthen cybersecurity across India's securities-market ecosystem. The Incident Reporting Portal aims to make reporting by market intermediaries more structured and timely while aligning with the **Financial Stability Board** format. Cyber Suraksha will act as a central platform for cybersecurity knowledge, vulnerability warnings, policy measures and incident information. SEBI Chairman **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** stressed ecosystem-wide resilience because threats can spread through vendors, technology platforms and third parties. SEBI is also promoting continuous **vulnerability management** and preparing for emerging **AI and quantum-computing threats**, including through **post-quantum cryptography**.
- **India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)** has raised India's **FY27 real GDP growth forecast to 6.8%**, from its earlier 6.7% estimate, mainly due to lower crude oil prices. The agency reduced its FY27 crude oil assumption from **\$95 to \$85 per barrel**, estimating that every \$10 decline could boost growth by about **44 basis points**. However, risks include **El Niño, inflation, West Asia tensions, rupee depreciation, weaker global trade and potential US tariffs** linked to Russian crude purchases. Agriculture GVA growth is expected at **2%**, CPI inflation at **4.9%**, private consumption at **7.2%**, while the current account deficit may widen to **1.5% of GDP**.
- **PhonePe and MeitY** signed an MoU on August 20, 2026, to integrate PhonePe's **PulsePro** enterprise data-intelligence platform with the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** portal. The integration is being coordinated with **BISAG-N** for geospatial applications. PulsePro uses aggregated and anonymised transaction data from more than **700 million registered users and 50 million merchants**, covering nearly **99% of India's postal codes**. The information can generate near-real-time market insights supporting infrastructure planning, urban-rural development and market analysis while protecting individual identities. **PM GatiShakti** enables integrated geospatial infrastructure planning.
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has proposed an estimated **₹2.73 lakh crore investment over 30 years** for India's first integrated **Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)** complex in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district. The project will utilise deep coal reserves from the **Chintalapudi and Recherla blocks**, estimated at 3,130.61 million tonnes at depths exceeding 600 metres. UCG converts coal underground into combustible **syngas** without conventional mining. Syngas can produce **hydrogen, methanol, urea, ammonia and synthetic fuels**. The project has pilot, development and production stages, with the pilot phase planned from **Q3 2026 to Q4 2027**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** appointed former **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath** and reappointed **Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra** as part-time, non-official directors on its Central Board. Both appointments are for **four years from August 20, 2026**, or until further orders, whichever comes earlier. Somanath retired from ISRO in January 2025 after extensive contributions to India's **space programme and aerospace engineering**. Anand Mahindra continues his association with the RBI board. The Central Board currently has **11 members**, including Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** and four Deputy Governors. It oversees the central bank's affairs under the **RBI Act**.

- India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$230 million loan agreement** on August 21, 2026, for the **Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project**. The initiative will benefit approximately **4.5 million residents** across Greater Chennai. It includes over **170 km of water supply and sewer pipelines**, upgrades to seven water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations, digital network monitoring and mechanised sewer inspection. A key feature is a **closed-loop ring-main water supply system** designed to balance pressure and improve resilience against natural hazards. The project aligns with **AMRUT 2.0** and the **Urban Challenge Fund**.
- The government allowed **duty-free imports of up to 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar** until **October 31, 2026**, to improve domestic availability and contain rising prices. The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** amended the policy under the **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)**. Domestic ex-mill sugar prices reached around **₹5,400–5,500 per quintal**, compared with ₹3,900 a year earlier, while retail prices rose approximately **13% to ₹52.30 per kg**. Separately, stockholding limits apply to bulk consumers using over 10 tonnes monthly, restricting inventories to **15 days from September 1 to November 30**.
- SEBI** proposed an **advertisement code for Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)** to improve investor awareness and expand bond investment. OBPPs are SEBI-registered digital platforms facilitating bond transactions between issuers and investors. Investors can compare bonds using **credit ratings, yield, maturity, interest rates and issuer information**, with investments starting from around **₹10,000**. After completing **Demat account and KYC requirements**, investors place orders routed through recognised stock exchanges' **Request for Quote (RFQ)** platform. Settlement takes place through recognised clearing corporations, after which bonds are credited to investors' Demat accounts.

Appointments/Resignations

- Senior **Indian Foreign Service officer Soumendu Bagchi**, a **1993-batch diplomat**, has been appointed India's next **Ambassador to Switzerland**. The Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment on August 17, 2026. Bagchi is currently India's Ambassador to **Iraq** and is expected to assume his new assignment in Bern shortly. His career spans over three decades, including postings in **Brussels, Dhaka and San Francisco**. He previously served as Deputy and Acting Director General of the **Indian Council of World Affairs**. His expertise covers **counter-terrorism, energy security, investment, technology, SAARC, BIMSTEC** and India's relations with Southeast Asia and West Africa. He holds degrees from **IIT Delhi, IIM Calcutta and JNU**.
- Ajay A Kumar**, a **2001-batch Indian Foreign Service officer**, has been appointed India's next **Ambassador to Iraq** by the

Ministry of External Affairs. Kumar was serving as **Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs** before receiving the new assignment and is expected to take charge shortly. His appointment comes as India maintains important **political, economic, energy and people-to-people relations with Iraq**. His experience in West Asian affairs is expected to support India's engagement with Baghdad. The appointment forms part of a wider diplomatic reshuffle following current Ambassador **Soumendu Bagchi's appointment as Ambassador to Switzerland**. Kumar will represent India in Baghdad and work to deepen bilateral cooperation.

Defence News

- The **eighth India-US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026** concluded at **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, on August 14. The bilateral exercise enabled Indian and US Navy teams to exchange professional expertise, best practices and specialised demonstrations. Subject Matter Expert Exchanges covered **IED threats, render-safe procedures, mine neutralisation and unmanned underwater systems**. Cross-training included diving operations such as wreck location and salvage, specialist equipment use and slithering operations. The exercise strengthened specialised diving capabilities, professional competence and **interoperability** between both navies. Its successful conclusion further reinforced **India-US naval cooperation** and operational synergy in specialised maritime security operations.
- The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **₹1,943 crore** contract with **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI)** to lease two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian** High-Altitude Long-Endurance remotely piloted aircraft systems for the Indian Navy. Signed on **August 17, 2026**, in New Delhi, the **30-month contract** provides advanced sensors and sophisticated payloads for maritime surveillance. The systems will significantly strengthen India's **Maritime Domain Awareness** by providing persistent **Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)** coverage across large areas. Their deployment is particularly important for monitoring the **Indian Ocean Region**, tracking maritime activity and improving the Navy's ability to respond to emerging security situations.
- Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth** received the honorary rank of **General of the Nepali Army** from Nepal President **Ram Chandra Paudel** during his official visit from August 17–19, 2026. The visit aimed to strengthen longstanding **India-Nepal defence ties**. Seth received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Nepali Army Headquarters and laid a wreath at **Tundikhel**. The honorary-rank tradition dates to **1950**, with the Army chiefs of both countries receiving honorary ranks in each other's forces. Seth was also scheduled to meet Nepal Army Chief **General Ashok Raj Sigdel** and address officers at **Shivapuri**.

- **India and Thailand** began **Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026**, the 15th edition of their bilateral military exercise, to strengthen cooperation in **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations**. The Indian Army contingent departed for Thailand on August 17, with exercises scheduled from **August 18–31 at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani**. Both armies are participating with **85 personnel each**. India is represented mainly by the **9 Gorkha Rifles**, while Thailand fields troops from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade, 5th Division. Training covers challenging **jungle and semi-urban environments**, UN Chapter VII operations, tactical discussions, technology demonstrations and a final validation exercise.
- The **Department of Defence Production** has notified the sixth **Positive Indigenisation List (PIL)** containing **405 strategically important defence items**, with estimated business potential of **₹3,070 crore**. The list includes **16 Indian Coast Guard items and 389 DPSU items**, covering aircraft, armoured vehicles, warships, missiles, defence electronics, ammunition, components, spares and raw materials. Platforms include **Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Combat Aircraft, Su-30MKI, T-72, T-90 and BMP-II**, while missile systems include **Konkurs-M, Invar and MRSAM**. Items will be indigenised through Make procedures and in-house development with industry and MSME participation. The **SRIJAN Portal** has facilitated over 33,000 items, with more than **15,700 already indigenised**.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited** delivered **Mangrol**, the third of eight indigenously designed **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC)**, to the Indian Navy in Kochi on August 21. The **78-metre vessel** is designed for coastal and shallow-water operations, including **anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, mine-laying and search and rescue**. It uses **Diesel Engine-Waterjet Propulsion** and carries shallow-water sonars, lightweight torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets and mine-laying equipment. Built under Det Norske Veritas classification rules, Mangrol is named after **Mangrol in Gujarat**. Five remaining vessels in the eight-ship series are currently under construction.
- The **DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** signed a **Transfer of Technology agreement with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for indigenous production of the **Submarine Fired Decoy (SFD)**. The system protects submarines from incoming **torpedoes** by deploying decoys capable of misleading hostile weapons. NSTL developed the technology, while BDL will undertake large-scale production. The agreement strengthens India's **underwater warfare and countermeasure capabilities** and reduces dependence on foreign suppliers. SFD complements India's indigenous underwater defence ecosystem involving **torpedoes, sonar and related systems**, while supporting **MSMEs and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in defence manufacturing.
- The **Indian Navy** received **Mangrol**, the third indigenously built **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**, from Cochin Shipyard on August 21. The vessel contains over **80% indigenous content** and is designed for underwater surveillance, coastal anti-submarine warfare, low-intensity maritime operations and **mine warfare**. It is powered by **waterjets** and equipped with advanced torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, radars and sonars. Named after the coastal town and minor port of **Mangrol in Gujarat's Junagadh district**, the vessel also carries the legacy of the former **INS Mangrol minesweeper** and supports India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** defence manufacturing mission.

Awards and Recognitions

- **POWERGRID** received the **PMIS Recognition of Partner Company Award** in the category of **Innovation in Exit Pathways** on August 14, 2026. The award was presented by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power participated in the **Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)** as a pan-India partner and provided **6,265 internship opportunities** during Pilot Rounds 1 and 2 between December 2024 and December 2025. Its award-winning practice involved uploading intern training details onto the **Rozgaar portal of Power Sector Skill Council**, supporting skill-based employment. **Mahindra & Mahindra** was named Overall Industry Champion.
- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** announced the **National Sports Awards 2025** on August 18, 2026, honouring **17 sportspersons with Arjuna Awards**. Recipients include chess champion **Divya Deshmukh**, badminton players **Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly**, Grandmaster **Vidit Gujrathi**, athlete **Tejaswin Shankar**, boxer **Narender** and deaf rifle shooter **Dhanush Srikanth**. No recipient was named for the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** this year. Footballer **I Arumainayagam**, a 1962 Asian Games gold medallist, received the Arjuna Award for Lifetime Achievement. **Parveer Singh, Chhote Lal Yadav and Neha Nandkumar Chavan** received Dronacharya Awards, while **Army Paralympic Node, Pune** won the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar.



- More than **200 Indian peacekeepers** serving with the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** received prestigious **UN medals** for exceptional service. In Juba, **210 Indian peacekeepers**, including six women and seven staff officers, were recognised for contributions during crises, medical emergencies and life-saving operations. India remains the **second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel** to UN peacekeeping, with more than **4,200 military and police personnel**, including 155 women, deployed across multiple missions. These include South Sudan, Lebanon, Congo, Somalia, Cyprus, Abyei, Central African Republic and Western Sahara. As of April 2026, India was the **largest troop contributor to UNMISS**, with **1,775 personnel**.
- Pakistan has proposed Mumbai-based Parsi doctors **Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel and Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo** for the **Nishan-e-Imtiaz**, its highest civilian honour. The doctors were associated with Bombay in 1946 and became historically linked with the medical examination of **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**. Historical accounts say they examined Jinnah's X-rays and diagnosed terminal tuberculosis, reportedly estimating his life expectancy at one to two years. Their decision to preserve **medical confidentiality** became part of the historical narrative surrounding Jinnah's final years. The honours are expected to be presented in **March 2027**.
- Odia poet, essayist and former **CSIR-IMMT scientist Ashutosh Parida** has been selected for the **Sarala Puraskar 2026** for his poetry collection **Bishwas De Pruthwi**. Presented annually by the **Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust**, the award recognises outstanding literary achievement. Parida will receive a **citation, copper plaque and ₹7 lakh cash prize** at a ceremony in Bhubaneswar on October 25. The **Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman 2026** will honour **Odissi maestro Guru Durga Charan Ranbir** and sculptor-art educator **Damodar Behera**, with ₹2.5 lakh each. Seven books were shortlisted before Parida's selection.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the **National Teachers' Awards 2026** on **48 outstanding school teachers** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on **September 5, Teachers' Day**. The Ministry of Education selected **26 male and 22 female teachers** representing **27 States, seven Union Territories and six Central Government organisations**. Selection followed a three-stage process involving **District/Regional, State/Organisation and National-level evaluation**, followed by an Independent National Jury. The awards recognise **excellence, innovation, dedication and leadership** in school education. Teachers from **PM SHRI schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, EMRS and Sainik Schools** are included.

Sports News

- Indian chess players **Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi** won gold medals in the **Open and Girls' sections** respectively at the **Asian Junior Blitz Chess Championship** on August 17, 2026. The tournament was held at **ITC Maratha Sheraton, Mumbai**, under the Maharashtra Chess Association. Open section 23rd seed **Vermula** won on tie-break after finishing level on points. **Sharnarathi Viresh** and **Nandish V S** secured second and third places, while **Akshay Borgaonkar** and **Madhavendra Pratap Sharma** finished fourth and fifth. In the Girls' event, ninth seed **Saranya Devi** took gold, followed by **Prishita Gupta** and **Shanmathi Sree** with silver and bronze respectively.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** achieved a historic Test cricket milestone by becoming only the **fourth cricketer** to score at least **4,000 runs and take 350 wickets**. He reached his 350th Test wicket during India's first Test against **Sri Lanka in Galle**, dismissing **Keshara Nuwantha**. Jadeja already had **4,108 Test runs from 90 matches**. He joined legendary all-rounders **Kapil Dev, Ian Botham and Daniel Vettori** in the elite club. Jadeja is also the **fifth Indian** to reach 350 Test wickets after Kumble, Ashwin, Kapil and Harbhajan. Among left-arm spinners, he ranks third behind **Rangana Herath and Daniel Vettori**.
- **Rishabh Pant** created Test cricket history during India's first Test against **Sri Lanka in Galle** on August 18, 2026, becoming the **fourth player to hit 100 Test sixes** and the fastest to reach the milestone. Pant achieved 100 sixes in only his **89th innings**, surpassing **Adam Gilchrist's previous record of 130 innings**. He joined **Ben Stokes, Brendon McCullum and Gilchrist** in the 100-six club and became the **first Indian batter** to reach the mark. Pant achieved the record while completing his fifty against **Lahiru Kumara** and eventually scored **66 runs from 69 balls** in India's second innings.
- The **65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026** began in New Delhi on August 18, featuring **108 teams** across three categories. The opening ceremony was held at **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium**, with Air Marshal S Sivakumar as chief guest and weightlifter Lovepreet Singh as guest of honour. Competitions include **Junior Girls U-17, Junior Boys U-17 and Sub-Junior Boys U-15** categories. Teams are divided into eight groups, with group winners advancing to knockouts. **Meghalaya defeated Chandigarh** in the opening girls' match. The tournament promotes grassroots football and provides young players national-level competitive exposure.

- **FIFA released the complete 64-match schedule for the 2027 Women's World Cup**, which Brazil will host from **June 24 to July 25, 2027**. The tournament features **32 national teams** and will be the competition's 10th edition. Matches will be staged across eight cities: **Belo Horizonte, Brasília, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador and São Paulo**. Each host city will stage at least seven matches, including a knockout game. **Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro** will host both the opening match and final. The 2027 tournament is the last under the 32-team format before expansion to **48 teams in 2031**.
- Indian badminton pair **Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand** reached the **women's doubles semifinals of the BWF World Championships 2026** in New Delhi, guaranteeing India a medal. The unseeded pair defeated fourth-seeded Chinese players **Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian** in a 69-minute quarterfinal on August 21. They became only the **second Indian women's doubles pair** to win a World Championships medal after **Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's 2011 bronze**. The achievement extends India's streak of winning at least one World Championships medal to **12 consecutive editions since 2011**. Treesa is the **first Malayali player** to achieve this since H.S. Prannoy's 2023 bronze.

Schemes News

- **West Bengal** officially implemented **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** nationwide on August 16, 2026. The scheme provides eligible families with **₹5 lakh annual cashless health coverage** and covers over **1.43 crore eligible families**, senior citizens aged **70 years and above**, and frontline workers including **ASHA, AWW and AWH personnel**. Beneficiaries can receive treatment at more than **36,000 empanelled public and private hospitals** across India, with portability outside West Bengal. Coverage includes **pre-existing diseases, secondary and tertiary hospitalisation, and pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses**. Registration is available through NHA portals, Aadhaar e-KYC, hospitals and outreach camps.
- The **UP Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana 2026** is a Uttar Pradesh government initiative launched in **2018** to promote self-employment among educated unemployed youth. Eligible applicants can obtain bank loans of up to **₹25 lakh for manufacturing or industrial projects** and up to **₹10 lakh for service-sector businesses**. The government provides **25% margin-money assistance**, subject to prescribed limits, reducing entrepreneurs' initial financial burden. Applicants generally must be **permanent Uttar Pradesh residents**, aged **18–40 years**, and at least **Class 10 pass**. They should not be government or private employees or bank defaulters and must meet other eligibility conditions under the scheme.

Science and Technology News

- **SpaceX launched two Falcon 9 rockets only 38 minutes apart** on August 15, 2026, setting a new company record for the shortest interval between orbital missions. The first launched from **Cape Canaveral at 9:12 PM EDT**, carrying eight **Globalstar satellites**. The second lifted off from **Vandenberg at 9:50 PM EDT**, carrying classified **USSF-366** for the US Space Force. Both first-stage boosters were successfully recovered after completing their **14th and 18th flights**. Booster **B1088's landing marked SpaceX's 650th successful Falcon booster landing**. The missions raised the total number of **2026 Falcon 9 flights to 96**.
- Indian-origin astrophysicist **Dr. Rohan Naidu** has gained global attention for research into a rare cosmic object described as a **"Black Hole Star."** Published in **Nature in August 2026**, the research could explain how some of the earliest **supermassive black holes** formed and grew rapidly. Using the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)**, Naidu's team studied **MoM-BH-1**, which appears as a massive red star but may contain a black hole nearly **100,000 times the Sun's mass**. Surrounded by dense hydrogen, the object could explain JWST's mysterious **"little red dots"** and offer insights into the early universe. Naidu's career journey spans Hyderabad, Harvard, MIT and the University of Hawaii.
- **H1N1 influenza cases** have risen sharply in Delhi, with **1,449 cases reported by August 12, 2026**, compared with 229 during the same period last year. H1N1 is an **Influenza A virus** carrying H1 and N1 surface proteins. Influenza viruses evolve through **antigenic drift and antigenic shift**, influencing seasonal outbreaks and potentially causing major changes in viral characteristics. Symptoms include **fever, cough, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, chills and sweating**. Elderly people, children, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses face greater risks. Early antiviral treatment such as **oseltamivir** may help, while annual vaccination provides protection against circulating strains.
- China's private space company **LandSpace** successfully recovered the first-stage booster of its **Zhuque-3 Y2 rocket** on August 19, 2026, marking an important reusable-launch milestone. The **66-metre rocket** lifted off at 7:35 AM Beijing time from the Dongfeng Commercial Space Innovation Pilot Zone and placed the **Honghu-3 commercial internet satellite** into orbit. Its booster completed a vertical landing in **Minqin County, Gansu**, around 390 km away. Powered by **liquid oxygen and methane**, Zhuque-3 can carry up to **14.2 tonnes to low Earth orbit** and is designed for up to **20 reuses**. LandSpace became the fourth entity globally to recover an orbital-class booster after **SpaceX, Blue Origin and China's state space sector**.

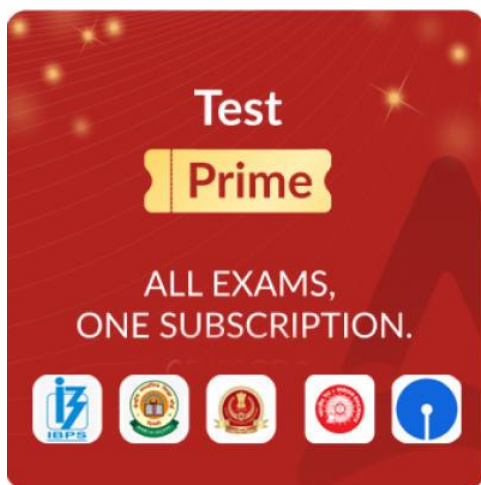
- **Morocco's fog-harvesting project** at **Mount Boutmezguida** is converting atmospheric fog into usable water for communities in the Aït Baamrane region. Located in the **Anti-Atlas Mountains near the Sahara**, the project uses **CloudFisher black polymer mesh nets** to capture tiny water droplets carried by Atlantic fog. The system requires **no electricity** and sends collected water through gravity-fed pipelines to nearby homes. Women-led nonprofit **Dar Si Hmad** manages the initiative and began testing fog collection in 2006. Depending on the installation and period, the system has reportedly collected between **6,300 and 37,000 litres daily**, supporting villages and demonstrating an innovative solution for water-scarce areas.
- Scientists have identified **S301** as the fastest star with a securely determined orbit in the **Milky Way**. Announced on August 19, 2026, in *Nature*, the star reaches around **25,000 km/s**, nearly 8% of the speed of light. It follows a highly elliptical orbit around **Sagittarius A***, the supermassive black hole at the galaxy's centre. S301 completes an orbit in about **8.7 years** and approaches within roughly **12 astronomical units**. Researchers used the **European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer** and archival observations from 2017, offering insights into extreme gravity and stellar dynamics.
- **S301** has also been highlighted as the fastest securely orbiting star currently known in the Milky Way, reaching approximately **25,000 km/s**. Its highly elliptical **8.7-year orbit** takes it around **Sagittarius A***, the galaxy's central supermassive black hole. At closest approach, it comes within about **12 astronomical units**, nearly 1.8 billion kilometres. Researchers combined observations from the **Very Large Telescope Interferometer (VLT)** with archival data dating to 2017. The discovery provides an important natural laboratory for studying **extreme gravity and Einstein's general relativity**, while earlier measurements
- **European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot** became the **first French woman and second European woman to conduct a spacewalk** on August 18, 2026. She performed **U.S. Spacewalk 97** with NASA astronaut **Anil Menon** outside the International Space Station. The extravehicular activity lasted **6 hours and 23 minutes**, beginning at 8:29 a.m. EDT. Their primary task was replacing a failed **Space-to-Ground Antenna** on the ISS Z1 truss, which supports high-speed Mission Control communications. Stuck bolts and electrical cables caused delays. **Jessica Meir and Jack Hathaway** supported them inside, making it the ISS's **282nd spacewalk**.
- China plans to launch the **Chang'e-7 lunar mission** on **August 24, 2026**, from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan using the **Long March 5 Y14** rocket. The mission will explore the Moon's **south pole** through a four-part

system comprising an **orbiter, lander, rover and hopping probe**. The lander is expected near **Shackleton Crater**, while instruments will search for **water ice** in permanently shadowed craters. The hopping probe will analyse water molecules in difficult terrain. Chang'e-7 will carry **six international scientific payloads** and communicate via the **Queqiao-2 relay satellite**.

Important Days News

- **Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary 2026** is observed on **August 18**, marking 81 years since his reported death in 1945. Popularly known as **Netaji**, Bose was a major leader of India's freedom movement who advocated complete independence. Born on **January 23, 1897, in Cuttack**, he cleared the **Indian Civil Services examination** but resigned to join the freedom struggle. He later became Congress president and founded the **Forward Bloc**. In 1943, Bose led the **Indian National Army** and established the Provisional Government of Free India. His famous **"Delhi Chalo"** call inspired the freedom movement. He was reportedly killed in a plane crash on August 18, 1945, though circumstances surrounding his death remain disputed.
- **Sadbhavana Diwas 2026** is observed on **August 20** to mark former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary** and promote national harmony, peace and unity. Rajiv Gandhi became India's **sixth Prime Minister** on October 31, 1984, following Indira Gandhi's assassination, and became the youngest PM at **40 years**. His government introduced major initiatives in **technology, education and governance**, including the 1984 Computer Policy, 1986 Software Policy, **C-DOT, C-DAC and National Technology Missions**. The **National Policy on Education 1986**, reduction of voting age from 21 to 18 through the **61st Amendment**, and **anti-defection law** through the 52nd Amendment were also significant reforms.
- **World Humanitarian Day 2026** is observed on **August 19** to honour humanitarian workers and highlight challenges faced by people affected by conflicts, disasters and other crises. The 2026 theme is **"Honouring fallen humanitarians and calling for greater protection of health care."** The campaign remembers humanitarian and healthcare workers killed while serving vulnerable communities and calls for stronger protection of **medical personnel, patients, healthcare facilities and medical transport**. August 19 commemorates the **2003 Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad**, which killed 22 humanitarian workers, including UN representative **Sergio Vieira de Mello**. The UN General Assembly designated August 19 as World Humanitarian Day in **2008**.

- **World Photography Day 2026** is observed on **August 19** with the theme **"home,"** highlighting photography's ability to preserve personal spaces, memories, cultural roots and everyday experiences. The date commemorates **August 19, 1839**, when the French government declared the **Daguerreotype process** freely available to the world without copyright restrictions. Photography's history goes back to **Joseph Nicéphore Niépce's first permanent photograph in 1826**. The modern World Photography Day was proposed by the **World Photography Organisation in 2009**, followed by the first global online gallery in 2010. The 2026 theme also coincides with France marking the **200th anniversary of photography during 2026–27**.
- **Indian Akshay Urja Day** is observed annually on **August 20** to raise awareness about renewable and sustainable energy. The term **"Akshay Urja"** means inexhaustible energy and includes solar, wind, hydropower, biomass and geothermal sources. The observance highlights renewable energy's importance in combating **climate change, reducing fossil-fuel dependence and strengthening energy security**. The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** coordinates awareness activities with states and institutions. Events include exhibitions, seminars, workshops, rallies and demonstrations. The day encourages households, industries and institutions to adopt cleaner energy technologies and solutions.
- **World Mosquito Day** is observed every year on **August 20** to commemorate Sir **Ronald Ross's 1897 discovery** that malaria is transmitted through infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. The day promotes awareness of mosquito-borne diseases, especially during monsoon periods. Major diseases include **dengue, malaria, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and Zika**. Prevention involves eliminating stagnant water, covering water containers, cleaning drains and maintaining hygienic surroundings. Individuals can reduce exposure through repellents and protective clothing. Common symptoms of mosquito-borne illnesses include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, rash, vomiting and fatigue, with severe cases potentially causing bleeding or neurological complications.
- **Sadbhavana Diwas** is observed annually on **August 20** to commemorate former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary** and promote peace, goodwill, national unity and communal harmony. Born in 1944, Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1984 at age **40**, becoming India's youngest Prime Minister. His tenure emphasised **computerisation, telecommunications, software development and technology missions**. His government introduced the **National Policy on Education, 1986**, while the **61st Constitutional Amendment** lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. The **52nd Amendment Act, 1985** introduced the anti-defection law, reflecting important political and institutional reforms.
- **World Senior Citizens Day 2026** was observed on **August 21** to recognise older adults and highlight their contributions, wisdom and experiences. The observance promotes **dignity, healthy ageing, social inclusion, healthcare access, emotional well-being, financial security and elder rights**. It encourages families and communities to support senior citizens while addressing loneliness, accessibility, safety and social isolation. Students can observe the day through **speeches, posters, storytelling sessions, gratitude walls and discussions** on ageing and elder care. The official **2026 theme was not confirmed** in the provided material, so an unverified theme should be avoided. The day reinforces shared responsibility toward older people.
- **Madras Day 2026** is observed on **August 22** to commemorate the **1639 land grant** that enabled the English East India Company to establish a settlement at Madraspatnam. This year marks the **23rd anniversary of Madras Day** and the **387th anniversary of Madras's founding**. The annual observance began in **2004** and celebrates Chennai's history, heritage and transformation into a major cultural and commercial centre. Events commonly include **heritage walks, lectures, exhibitions, quizzes and cultural programmes**. Madras later evolved into Chennai, while **Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969**. The occasion is also popularly called **Chennai Day**.



Obituaries News

- Veteran Bengali filmmaker **Raja Sen** died in **Kolkata at age 71** after multiple health complications. He was receiving treatment at **SSKM Hospital** and had been placed on ventilator support as complications affected his **lungs, heart and kidneys**. Sen made his feature-film debut with **Damu in 1996**, which won the **National Film Award for Best Children's Film**. His career spanned feature films, television serials and documentaries. Notable works included **Atmiyo Swajan, Desh, Debipaksha, Krishnakant er Will, Laboratory and Maya Mridanga**. His 2002 film **Desh** starred **Jaya Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan**. His death is a major loss for Bengali cinema and television.

- Former Congress MP **Sajjan Kumar** died aged **80** on August 20, 2026, while serving a life sentence in cases connected with the **1984 anti-Sikh riots**. He represented the **Outer Delhi Lok Sabha constituency** in 1980, 1991 and 2004. The Delhi High Court sentenced him to life imprisonment in December 2018 for a case involving the killing of five Sikhs and the burning of a gurdwara in Raj Nagar, Delhi Cantonment. In February 2025, another Delhi court imposed a concurrent life sentence. Kumar was taken from **Tihar Jail to Safdarjung Hospital**, where he was declared brought dead.
- Veteran actor **Sowcar Janaki** died on **August 21, 2026**, aged **94**, following brief hospitalisation in Chennai. **Nadigar Sangam President Nassar** confirmed her death after admission to Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet, for age-related health issues. Her career spanned over **seven decades** across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam cinema. She made her Telugu debut with **Shavukaru (1950)** and appeared in numerous landmark productions. Her television work included Doordarshan's **Oorarinda Rahasyam**, while later films included **Anni Manchi Sakunamule**. Recognising her contribution to Indian cinema, the Government of India honoured her with the **Padma Shri in 2022**.
- Renowned Sri Lankan singer and musician **Nanda Malini** died on **August 20, 2026**, aged **82**, after a career spanning nearly seven decades. She was among the most influential figures in **Sinhala music**, known for playback and stage singing and culturally significant musical works. During her career, she received **11 Sarasaviya Awards** and **eight Presidential Awards for Best Female Singer**. The Sri Lankan government announced **three days of national mourning from August 21 to 23**, while Parliament observed a one-minute silence. Public homage began at her residence and music academy, with final rites scheduled at **Borella Cemetery, Colombo**.

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
West Bengal	CM: Shuvendu Adhikari, Governor: R N Ravi , Capital: Kolkata
Uttarakhand	CM: Pushkar Dhami, Governor: Gurmit Singh , Capital: Dehradun (Winter)
Karnataka	CM: D K Shivakumar, Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot , Capital: Bengaluru
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
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
ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah
Home Minister	Amit Shah
Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh
Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman