

Weekly One Liners 24th to 29th August, 2026

UPI Completes 10 Years

Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Introduced on 25 August 2016 by the NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) under the regulatory authority of the RBI (Reserve Bank of India), UPI is a revolutionary system that has transformed the way people and organizations conduct their payments.

Whereas only a few transactions took place initially, the system has now become one of the largest real-time payment systems in the world. In the course of 10 years, UPI has spread out to banks, businesses and customers, being a major element of the DPI of India.

UPI Crosses 10-year Mark

UPI has witnessed phenomenal growth over the years. The annual transaction volume grew from 1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26.

That is a 13,000 times rise in annual transaction volume within less than a decade. The transaction value has risen too, from ₹0.07 lakh crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹314 lakh crore in FY 2025-26. This is due to the high degree of penetration of UPI into our daily finance activities. From making transfers to your family members to paying for your groceries, food items, travels, and services, UPI transactions have seeped into our financial routine.

UPI Quick Facts: Key Statistics

- Launch Date: 25 August 2016
- Annual Transactions, FY 2016-17: 1.78 crore
- Annual Transactions, FY 2025-26: 24,162 crore
- Transaction Volume CAGR: 188%
- Annual Transaction Value, FY 2016-17: ₹0.07 lakh crore
- Annual Transaction Value, FY 2025-26: ₹314 lakh crore
- Transaction Value CAGR: 155%
- YoY Volume Growth, 2025-26: 30%
- YoY Value Growth, 2025-26: 21%
- Average Daily Transactions in 2026: 66 crore
- Record Monthly Transactions: 2,366 crore in July 2026
- Record Monthly Value: ₹29.88 lakh crore in July 2026
- Banks Live on UPI, July 2026: 741
- Banks at Launch: 21
- First Month Transactions: 90,000
- Share of India's Digital Payments: 84% in FY 2025-26
- Share of Global Real-Time Payment Volume: 49% in 2025
- Countries Where UPI is Operational: 11

UPI Hits New Records in July 2026

A period of growth continued for UPI in 2026. UPI transactions crossed 2,300 crore for the first time in May 2026. The number of transactions done through UPI in May 2026 was around 2,320 crore.

UPI set another record in July 2026 with its monthly transactions crossing 2,366 crore for the first time. It is the highest volume seen for a month in a decade of UPI operations. The transaction value during the month was also record ₹29.88 lakh crore.

On an average, around 66 crore transactions are done through UPI per day now, making it a regular financial tool for many people of India.

Participation of More Banks and a Bigger UPI Ecosystem

The growing use of UPI has also been fueled by the increasing participation of more banks.

From 44 banks in FY 2016-17, the number of banks on UPI has gone up to 703 in FY 2025-26. As of July 2026, the number has further increased to 741 banks.

Public sector banks, private banks, small finance banks, payment banks, and cooperative banks are the banks that have joined the system.

The banks can participate as remitter PSPs, which facilitate outgoing transactions, and/or beneficiary PSPs, which receive funds.

UPI has Revolutionized Everyday Payments

One of the most impressive features of UPI is its capability to facilitate not only person-to-person but also person-to-merchant payments using an interoperable system.

Approximately 63% of transaction volume on UPI relates to P2M payments, demonstrating the popularity of this payment solution for making daily purchases. Yet, P2P transactions make up around 71% of transaction volumes, which is associated with a bigger average value of transfers between people.

The usage of this platform is most important to small transaction volumes. So, in FY 2025-26, around 86% of P2M transactions were below ₹500. It demonstrates how UPI became a go-to choice for making everyday retail purchases.

At the same time, there is also considerable usage of P2P transactions with the volume below ₹500. Such transactions account for around 59% of transaction volumes.

UPI becomes the World Leader in Digital Payments

Nowadays, the influence of UPI has significantly expanded beyond the borders of India. Based on the information shared by the government, UPI was responsible for almost 49% of the global transaction volume for real-time payments in 2025.

According to IMF, UPI became the world's biggest real-time payment system in terms of transaction volumes thanks to India's digital payments infrastructure.

Today, UPI works in 11 different countries,

- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Bhutan
- Sri Lanka
- Nepal
- Singapore
- Mauritius
- Qatar
- Cambodia
- Greece
- Maldives

UPI and Financial Inclusion

The effects of UPI go beyond the number of transactions. They lie much deeper, and the true value of UPI in its capacity to make financial inclusion easier.

Since UPI enabled people to transfer money instantly through a number of applications and bank accounts, this system made transactions simpler both for consumers and merchants. Local enterprises, small shop owners and street merchants do not have to install expensive payment devices to receive payments in their stores.

Thus, UPI became a way to solve some of the problems of the digital divide as well as increase the participation in the formal financial system.

Future of UPI

The coming decade seems to be as crucial for UPI as the previous one. Since transaction volume is already extremely high, the key challenges in the following years will be the increase of both users and merchants who participate in the process and the improvements of innovation, security and convenience.

With continuous development and support of policies, UPI can become even more useful as a system for both domestic payments and international transfers.

With the progress of Digital Public Infrastructure in India, UPI will keep on playing one of the central roles there.

e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years

The e-Shram portal will complete five years on 26 August 2026, which is quite an important milestone in the journey of India towards making social security systems strong for the workers of the unorganized sector. The e-Shram portal was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2021 to make India's first Aadhaar based National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW).

The portal which started as a registration portal for workers became a more comprehensive digital portal for various welfare schemes related to social security, employment, skilling, apprenticeship, and pension. Till August 2026, 31.89 crore workers have registered themselves on the portal.

What is the e-Shram Portal?

The e-Shram Portal was introduced on 26 August 2021 with the aim of establishing a national database of the unorganised workers. It is a product of National Informatics Centre (NIC) and provides the registered worker with an unique 12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN).

The system aims at facilitating welfare delivery while also assisting the governments in recognising workers who could benefit from social security schemes. It also supports the portability of benefits for migrant and construction workers, who might need to change locations.

Unorganised workforce encompasses agricultural workers, construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, migrant workers, self-employed workers and gig and platform workers, amongst others.

Why was e-Shram introduced?

One of the primary reasons behind introducing the e-Shram system is to facilitate a common digital database of India's large and varied unorganised workforce.

The portal allows different government departments to share the relevant details of the workers via secure APIs which helps in better implementation of welfare schemes and making data-driven policies. The portal can even assist in planning for assistance during emergencies or crisis.

e-Shram Becomes a One-Stop Solution

The platform saw a huge boost in scope with the introduction of the e-Shram One-Stop Solution launched on 21 October 2024. It now does much more than just register workers. The platform connects workers to a larger range of government services.

The one-stop solution comprises of 15 social security and welfare schemes including Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The portal allows workers to look at the schemes they are eligible for and check the benefits they have already availed, thus making the process of navigation of different government welfare schemes much easier using just one platform.

Financial Services, Insurance and Employment Services

e-Shram also connects workers to various financial services, insurance and employment-related services.

Using the portal, eligible workers can register themselves under PMSBY, which provides accidental insurance of ₹2 lakh in case of accidental death or permanent disability and ₹1 lakh for partial disability. In addition, workers can enrol under PMJJBY which provides life insurance of ₹2 lakh in case of death due to any reason.

The portal also connects workers to the National Career Service (NCS) and the Skill India Digital Hub for employment and skilling and apprenticeship related programmes respectively. Moreover, using the myScheme platform, the workers can know about the government schemes available for them.

Eligible workers under PM-SYM will get a minimum assured pension of ₹3,000 per month once they reach 60 years of age, as per the terms of the scheme.

Expansion of Services to Migrant and Gig Workers

One of the unique features of this platform is its capability to capture details of the family members of the migrant workers. The platform also helps in transferring construction worker data to States and UTs for their registration under the respective Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Board.

Moreover, this platform now includes the gig and platform workers, another rapidly growing segment of the workforce in India. Approximately 11.5 lakh platform workers were registered on the e-Shram portal till August 2026.

The database would help the policymakers in designing social security and welfare schemes for this emerging class of workers.



ALL EXAMS, **ONE** SUBSCRIPTION

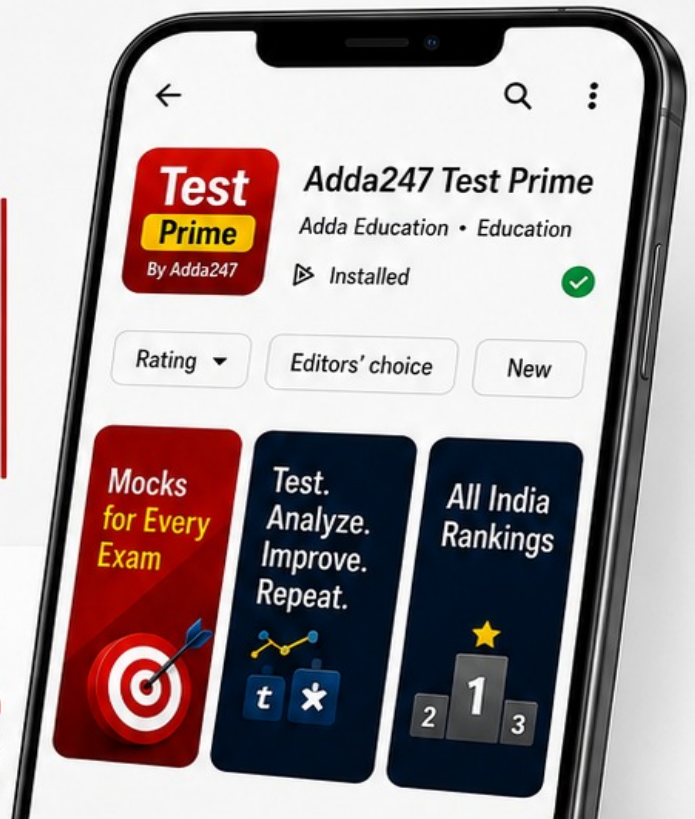


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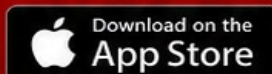
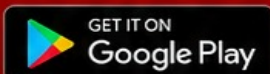


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Eligibility and Registration for e-Shram Scheme

Registration on e-Shram Portal is one-time and free.

Workers aged above 16 years, working in the unorganised sector and who are not income-tax payers and EPFO or ESIC members, are eligible to register.

Workers can register themselves via the official portal of e-Shram or may approach a CSC/State Seva Kendra to get help. State government officials help workers in registering at the district and sub-district level.

To register oneself, one needs to have their Aadhaar number for eKYC and mobile number, preferably linked to the Aadhaar number.

Numbers Behind e-Shram Portal

The capacity of the platform has seen a major increase over the last five years. As of August 2026, the portal has recorded 31.89 crore registrations.

Female workers form the majority of the registered workers, as compared to male workers, with their share standing at 54.28%, while that of male workers stands at 45.72%. The age group 18-40 has been the maximum age group among the registered workers, with their share standing at 55.21%.

Occupational categories include agriculture, domestic and household work, construction, and apparel. The states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have seen the highest registrations till date.

Common Service Centres have been the most popular choice for workers to register themselves.

Multilingual and Digital Reaches of e-Shram

In order to enhance accessibility of the platform in the various linguistic environment in India, multilingual capabilities were implemented in 22 languages through the Bhashini platform in 2025.

This would be especially important for such an initiative that seeks to connect with workers across rural and urban India who might find access to digital services a challenge.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has become 12 years old, which is an important step forward for India in its quest for financial inclusion. The scheme, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014, has ensured that all those who were outside the purview of the banking system before gain access to financial services.

During the last 12 years, PMJDY has become a much more than just the bank account scheme for people. It has connected people with banks, insurance, pension schemes, digital payments, and government welfare services.

As of August 19, 2026, 59.09 crore PMJDY accounts have been opened with total deposits of ₹3.17 lakh crore.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years

The idea behind introducing PMJDY is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure the access to a basic bank account to every unbanked adult.

An important feature of the scheme is that it does not require a person to keep any minimum balance in the account to open it. It helps poor people access formal banking system.

The scheme has been giving great importance to rural and semi-urban areas and women.

59.09 Crore Jan Dhan Accounts Opened

As per the latest data by the government, the number of total accounts in the PMJDY scheme amounted to 59.09 crore on August 19, 2026.

A considerable portion of these accounts are owned by women. Specifically, 55.7%, which equals 32.92 crore accounts, are held by women.

The scheme also achieved high rural coverage. About 77.8%, or 45.95 crore PMJDY accounts, are in rural and semi-urban areas.

The numbers demonstrate the impact the program had on making financial services accessible to people from previously disadvantaged groups.

PMJDY Deposits Amount to ₹3.17 Lakh Crore

As of August 19, 2026, the amount of money deposited in Jan Dhan accounts was ₹3,16,514 crore, or approximately ₹3.17 lakh crore.

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Finance, over the past 12 years, the deposits made in accounts under PMJDY grew by about 12.8 times, whereas the number of accounts increased by about 2.3 times.

The growth in deposits can be considered as the evidence that these accounts are utilized actively and are not dormant.

Average Balance per PMJDY Account Reaches ₹5,356

As of August 19, 2026, the average balance in PMJDY accounts equaled ₹5,356.

According to the data provided by the government, the average balance in these accounts increased by about 3.4 times over the past 12 years.

The growth is interpreted by the government as the result of better account utilization and formation of savings habits by account owners.

41.29 Crore RuPay Cards Issued

Apart from this, another significant accomplishment of PMJDY has been the increase in access to digital payments.

By August 19, 2026, 41.29 crore RuPay cards had been issued to account holders of PMJDY.

These cards help account holders make digital transactions and also offer accident insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakhs based on applicable conditions.

Thus, it can be seen that the scheme helps create a link between financial inclusion and the digital payments ecosystem of India.

Benefits of PMJDY: Banking, Insurance and Overdraft

A Jan Dhan account gives the account holder access to a number of financial services.

Overdraft facilities worth ₹10,000 can be availed by eligible account holders. This provides financial assistance during emergencies, as per applicable conditions.

Accounts under PMJDY have also helped people access various government schemes related to insurance and pension. The schemes include Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Thus, it is clear that financial inclusion through a bank account can give more than just a bank account itself. It also provides access to insurance, pensions and other financial services.

JAM Trinity Enhances Direct Benefit Transfers

One of the most significant achievements of the PMJDY scheme has been its incorporation in the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity.

With PMJDY as the key element, the JAM Trinity has allowed the Indian government to carry out transfers of welfare benefits directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

This form of transfers has lowered the reliance on intermediaries and ensured that delays and diversion in the delivery process are minimised.

The system has played an important role in developing India's digital public infrastructure and welfare delivery systems.

PMJDY and Financial Empowerment

Apart from facilitating the opening of bank accounts, the Jan Dhan Accounts have also provided many other opportunities.

Through these bank accounts, one can obtain many other services like savings, insurance, pensions and even credit facilities. Bank accounts have made it possible for individuals to build their financial history and obtain formal credit. Credit-linked schemes like MUDRA loans may be accessed by eligible account holders based on their eligibility criteria.

It may be useful for entrepreneurs and workers who wish to improve their income and financial standing.

National Affairs

- The ICAR-NBAGR has registered **16 new indigenous livestock and dog breeds** in 2026, taking India's total registered animal breeds to **262**, including **258 indigenous and four synthetic breeds**. The newly recognised cattle breeds are **Koppal, Mahakaushali, Periyar and Umarda**, while sheep additions include **Asomi, Kow Debar, Madgyal and Seemanchali**. Other registrations comprise **Gomanchali buffalo, Totapuri and Battisi goats, Nagal pig, Sikkimese yak, Braj donkey, Kashmiri pony and Kombai dog**. The registrations strengthen the documentation and conservation of India's **animal genetic resources** and support efforts to preserve the country's diverse indigenous livestock heritage.
- The Union government launched **Kanda Express** on **August 24, 2026**, to transport onions from **Nashik, Maharashtra**, to major consumption centres such as **Delhi, Chennai, Kochi and Guwahati**. The initiative follows a sharp increase in onion prices, with the national average reaching **₹42 per kg** on August 22, around **45% higher** than the previous year.

Delhi recorded ₹65 and Chennai ₹58 per kg. The move complements the **onion buffer-stock strategy**, under which **NAFED and NCCF** have procured around **1.2 lakh tonnes**. The government also increased the procurement price to **₹2,645 per quintal**.

- A recent **NITI Aayog** report estimates that around **8.7 crore Indian youth aged 15–29** are outside education, employment or training, placing them in the **NEET** category. The report, *Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047*, uses data from the **78th National Sample Survey** conducted in 2021. It recommends affordable or subsidised training, financial assistance, self-employment opportunities and flexible learning aligned with local demand. Only **8.25% of graduates** reportedly work in jobs matching their qualifications. Since 2014-15, more than **7.67 crore people** have received training under various initiatives.
- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in New Delhi has introduced the **Garbhini Mitra Course** for 2026-27. This six-month programme focuses on **Ayurveda-based maternal wellness** during pregnancy and the postnatal period. Its curriculum includes **Garbhini Paricharya, Sutika Paricharya, Garbhadhana Vidhi**, trimester-specific diet, lifestyle guidance, pregnancy-safe yoga, emotional support, newborn massage and basic life support. It also covers infection control, sanitation and workplace safety. Applicants must be **18 years or older and Class 12 qualified**. Each batch will admit **20 students**, with applications closing on **August 31, 2026**.
- **India Post** has accelerated its digital transformation by upgrading the **Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa applications** and renovating **14 Post Office buildings**. The initiatives were launched on August 24, 2026, by Union Minister **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** and Minister of State **Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani**. **Dak MITRA** serves more than **1.4 lakh Branch Post Offices**, supporting paperless transactions, doorstep services, banking, insurance and Aadhaar-based e-KYC. **Dak Sewa** provides **24x7 tracking, booking, complaints, locators and calculators** in 23 Indian languages. The modernisation supports **Digital India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat** goals.
- The **National Security Guard (NSG)** has launched its first **Mahila Commando Conversion Course** at its Training Academy in Manesar, Haryana. The **12-week programme** is designed for women personnel from **State Police Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**. Training covers physical conditioning, weapons handling, marksmanship, tactical intervention, hostage rescue and specialised counter-terror operations. The initiative aims to increase women's participation in specialised security roles, create a larger pool of trained personnel and establish common operational standards. After completion, participants will return to their parent cadres as **force multipliers**, strengthening **Nari Shakti** in India's security architecture.

- India restored **21.76 million hectares of degraded land** between 2011 and 2020, generating approximately **1.22 billion person-days of employment**, according to Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav**. India had initially committed to restoring land under the **Bonn Challenge** in 2015 and later increased its target to **26 million hectares by 2030**. Restoration covered forests, agriculture, soil and water conservation and other land-use systems. India is preparing its **2021–2025 restoration report** with ICFRE and IUCN. Major programmes include the **Green India Mission, CAMPA, Nagar Van Yojana, watershed development and agroforestry**.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **9th National Security Strategies Conference 2026** in New Delhi on August 24. More than **850 participants**, including senior security officials, CAPF and CPO chiefs, police officers and experts, attended the two-day conference. Discussions focused on **counter-terrorism, intelligence fusion, narcotics control, illegal migration, cybercrime and proxy warfare**. Shah stressed effective implementation of the **PRAHAAR scheme**, faster trials, bringing fugitives back and integrated investigations under **UAPA**. He also called for **AI-based analysis of MAC information** and stronger anti-infiltration measures, while later sessions addressed information warfare and bio-security.
- A national conclave on **Tribal Languages and Museums** began in **Mysuru, Karnataka**, bringing together policymakers, linguists, researchers, technologists and tribal representatives. Organised by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, Karnataka's Tribal Research Institute and the **Central Institute of Indian Languages**, the event focuses on documenting tribal languages and strengthening **Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums**. The upgraded **Adi Vaani platform** received an iOS application, five additional languages and a new logo. The Ministry also launched **Jago**, an AI conversational assistant for tribal welfare information. A MoU with CIIL will support language documentation, corpus development and community-led revitalisation.
- India's installed **non-fossil fuel power capacity** reached **300.50 GW** by July 31, 2026, exceeding 54% of total electricity generation capacity of around 552 GW. **Solar power** contributed 164.59 GW, followed by wind at 58.14 GW, hydropower at 57.24 GW, bio-power at 11.75 GW and nuclear power at 8.78 GW. During 2025-26, India added a record **55.29 GW** of non-fossil capacity, including 44.6 GW solar and 6 GW wind. The country has crossed 60% of its **500 GW non-fossil capacity target for 2030**. Renewable generation also reached **477.79 billion units**.
- India plans to add **100 new merchant ships** to its fleet over the next five years to reduce dependence on foreign shipping and lower freight expenditure. Shipping Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** said the expansion could save nearly **USD 75 billion** in freight costs. India currently has around **1,600 seagoing merchant ships**. The government is simultaneously promoting domestic container production through the **₹10,000-crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme**, with **Maersk** ordering Indian-made containers. The strategy also focuses on maritime employment, industry-led skilling, cruise shipping and advanced shipbuilding under **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
- The **ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CCARI)**, Goa, conducted a workshop on **"Carbon Pathshala: Voluntary Carbon Market for Farmers"** at ICAR-KVK, Old Goa, on August 21, 2026. Organised with **Core CarbonX Solutions**, the programme introduced farmers to **carbon sequestration, biochar and carbon-credit generation**. Experts explained how agricultural and plantation residues could be converted into biochar and incorporated into carbon projects. Dr. Sandip Mandal demonstrated biochar production using a portable unit, while Sandeep Kanda explained the carbon project cycle. The initiative supports research into **agroforestry, residue management, carbon accounting and carbon-credit opportunities**.
- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** launched seven **Nitrosamine Impurities Reference Standards** on August 25, 2026, strengthening pharmaceutical impurity testing. The standards include **NDMA, NDEA, NEIPA, NDBA, NMPA, NDIPA and NMBA**. Nitrosamines are chemical compounds associated with **genotoxic and carcinogenic properties** and can unintentionally form during pharmaceutical manufacturing, packaging, storage or contamination. Reference standards enable laboratories to identify, compare and accurately quantify impurities in drug samples. The launch took place during IPC's first interactive meeting at the **Central Drugs Laboratory and Central Cosmetics Laboratory in Kolkata**. The initiative strengthens **drug quality control and impurity profiling**.
- PM Modi** is scheduled to address young participants at the **Khelo India Dialogue** through video conferencing as part of **National Sports Day** celebrations. Organised by **Mera Yuva Bharat**, the programme will connect youth from colleges across districts. Discussions will focus on strengthening India's **sports ecosystem**, preparing athletes for the **2036 Olympics**, promoting **youth leadership**, supporting **Viksit Bharat**, and creating a **Nasha Mukta Yuva** movement. The initiative aims to encourage **fitness, discipline, sports participation and nation-building**. Local events will involve MY Bharat volunteers, sportspersons, public representatives and leading athletes, creating a broader platform for youth engagement.

- **Indian Railways** plans to quadruple-track seven high-density railway corridors covering around **11,000 km**. These routes currently handle nearly **41% of railway traffic** despite representing only 16% of the national route length. The identified corridors include **Delhi-Howrah, Howrah-Chennai, Chennai-Mumbai, Mumbai-Delhi, Delhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Howrah and Delhi-Guwahati**. Adding two tracks to existing double-line sections will increase **passenger and freight capacity**, reduce congestion and improve operational efficiency. Construction is already underway on several stretches, while some sections await **Detailed Project Report** approval. The expansion is intended to strengthen India's busiest railway routes and support growing transportation demand.
- **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the redeveloped **Hutatma Smruti Smarak** at Patradevi, Goa, commemorating martyrs of the **Goa Liberation Movement**. Redeveloped at approximately **₹9.50 crore**, the memorial includes a central monument, sculptures, information hubs and murals depicting the liberation struggle. Patradevi witnessed a major **satyagraha on August 15, 1955**, when volunteers carrying Indian flags faced Portuguese firing. Singh recalled **Operation Vijay**, which liberated Goa in 1961, and highlighted India's expanding defence production and exports. He urged young people to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters. The memorial aims to preserve Goa's historical memory and inspire future generations.
- The **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** launched seven **Nitrosamine Impurities Reference Standards** in Kolkata on August 25. The standards cover **NDMA, NDEA, NEIPA, NDBA, NMPA, NDIPA and NMBA**, helping laboratories identify and accurately measure potentially harmful impurities in medicines. **Nitrosamines** can possess genotoxic and carcinogenic properties and may arise during pharmaceutical manufacturing, storage, packaging or contamination. Standardised reference materials strengthen **drug quality control and safety testing**, particularly for medicines used in hypertension, gastric disorders, diabetes and tuberculosis treatment. The initiative supports India's pharmaceutical regulatory framework and reinforces IPC's role in establishing reliable **pharmacopoeial standards** for medicines manufactured and tested in the country.
- India plans to eliminate **SCADA imports** for the power sector beyond **2030**, supporting technological self-reliance and stronger **grid cybersecurity**. The **Central Electricity Authority** has proposed a three-year indigenisation roadmap from 2026-27 to 2028-29 covering domestic SCADA software and hardware. The programme includes **38 software modules and 25 hardware components** for monitoring and controlling electricity networks. Existing grid-level SCADA systems contain less than 20% local content, creating dependence on foreign licences, updates and components. Domestic development is expected to reduce **supply-chain risks**, improve cybersecurity and strengthen India's indigenous capabilities in critical **power-grid technology** and infrastructure.
- India plans to add **100 new merchant vessels** over five years to reduce dependence on foreign shipping companies and lower its **foreign freight bill**. Announced during the **Sagar Samvad** conference, the initiative supports **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**. India currently has around 1,600 Indian-flagged vessels but spends nearly **\$75 billion annually** on foreign shipping. New ships will focus on critical cargo such as **crude oil, liquefied gas, coal and urea**, improving supply-chain resilience and energy security. However, Indian vessels cost around 16–20% more to operate, highlighting the need for competitiveness reforms alongside fleet expansion.
- **NABARD** and **NaBFID** signed an MoU to strengthen **rural infrastructure development**, agricultural value chains and PPP projects. Their collaboration will cover **irrigation, water and sanitation, cold chains, post-harvest storage, terminal markets, rural roads, bridges, warehousing and compressed biogas facilities**. Both institutions will jointly undertake project identification, appraisal, credit structuring, debt syndication, monitoring and capacity building. NABARD brings expertise in **agriculture and rural development**, while NaBFID specialises in infrastructure financing. The partnership is expected to improve rural connectivity, agricultural logistics, storage and value addition, supporting sustainable rural economic growth and strengthening infrastructure in underserved areas.
- **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Gujarat Gaurav Sarovar** in Amreli, Gujarat, strengthening the state's water-conservation efforts. The **21-acre reservoir** has a storage capacity of **400 million litres** and is expected to support agriculture, drinking-water availability and groundwater recharge. Shah highlighted initiatives such as **SAUNI Yojana, Sujalam Sufalam Yojana, check dams and Narmada water distribution**. He noted that around 10,000 reservoirs store Narmada water across North and Central Gujarat. Shah also praised **Savji Dholakia**, who has constructed 208 lakes. The initiative emphasises **rainwater harvesting, groundwater conservation and drought prevention** through community-focused water management.
- India will host the **18th BRICS Summit** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, on September 12–13, 2026. India assumed the **BRICS Chairship** on January 1 under the theme **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."** The summit coincides with BRICS' **20th anniversary**, marking two decades since the grouping began as BRIC in 2006. More than 350 meetings and engagements have been organised across 25 Indian cities during the chairship. The grouping has expanded from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa to include **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE**, reflecting its growing global economic and diplomatic significance.

- The government aims to create **six crore Lakhpati Didis** across India, with more than **3.4 crore women** already achieving the status. Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** stressed the importance of training, capital access and economic opportunities for women associated with **Self-Help Groups**. The government plans to facilitate **₹10 lakh crore in bank linkages** for SHGs over five years and targets **₹1.5 lakh crore** in loans for individual enterprises. Women are being encouraged to diversify income sources and build larger businesses. The initiative links **women's economic empowerment** with entrepreneurship, livelihood generation and the broader **Viksit Bharat** vision.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is undertaking a four-day diplomatic visit to **Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan** from August 29, 2026. In Uzbekistan, Modi will meet President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** to discuss **trade, investment, defence and digital cooperation**. He will then travel to Bishkek to attend the **25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit**, where regional security, terrorism, extremism and connectivity are key priorities. Modi is also expected to meet Russian President **Vladimir Putin** on the sidelines to review India-Russia relations. During his Kyrgyzstan visit, he will attend the opening of the **sixth World Nomad Games**, strengthening India's engagement with Central Asia.
- The Centre has appointed **three senior officers** to strengthen the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** amid concerns over examination management and the **NEET paper leak** controversy. **IPS officer Ravi Kumar Singh** and **IAS officer Prasanna Venkatesh V** have been appointed directors, while **IRS officer Amit Samdariya** has been named joint director. The appointments were announced by the **Personnel Ministry on August 27**, with the officers directed to assume charge within three weeks. The government is also pursuing wider **NTA reforms**, including a **four-tier paper-checking system**, removal of 600 experts and induction of domain specialists.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched **Jago AI Assistant**, a conversational **artificial intelligence chatbot** designed to simplify access to information on tribal welfare schemes and government programmes. Users can ask questions in simple language and receive information about **policies, schemes, guidelines and official documents**. The platform is currently available in **English and Hindi** and aims to bridge the information gap between government initiatives and beneficiaries. Its AI-based system can continuously expand its knowledge base as new material is added. The ministry has also stated that conversations conducted through the platform are **secure and private**.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has expanded its **Silver HUID hallmarking network** across India ahead of the festive season. The system now covers **341 Silver Assaying and Hallmarking Centres across 102 districts**, with more than **25,000 registered silver jewellers**. Since the Silver HUID portal began on September 1, 2025, over **77 lakh silver jewellery pieces** have received HUID-based hallmarking. The

six-digit **HUID** provides traceability for silver products. BIS has advised consumers to check the **BIS hallmark**, verify HUID details using the **BIS CARE app**, purchase from registered jewellers and retain invoices for future reference.

- India has recorded nearly an **80% decline in malaria cases and deaths between 2015 and 2025**, according to the Union Health Ministry. The number of high-burden districts has decreased substantially from **155 to 33**. Between 2022 and 2025, **160 districts reported zero indigenous malaria cases**, showing progress in controlling local transmission. However, the remaining 33 high-burden districts accounted for **64% of cases and 54% of deaths in 2025**. Authorities are focusing on stronger **District and Village Action Plans**, surveillance, diagnostics and treatment. India continues the **Test, Treat and Track** strategy and aims for **malaria elimination by 2030**.

States in the News

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has approved a **₹31,387-crore green integrated AI data centre** project in **Visakhapatnam district**. **AM AI Factory Pvt Ltd** will establish the **512-MW facility** at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal. The project is expected to create employment for up to **1,000 people** and must be completed within **two years and four months**. The state will support the project through **power infrastructure and water supply**. Incentives include exemptions from **stamp duty and electricity duty**. The initiative aims to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position in **green infrastructure, artificial intelligence and data-centre development**.
- Rajasthan has announced a **₹12,500-crore school infrastructure modernisation roadmap** covering all **41 districts**. The plan includes **₹2,487.75 crore** for 3,587 new school buildings, **₹8,378.30 crore** for 83,783 classrooms, **₹1,129.45 crore** for repairs in 22,589 schools and **₹340.40 crore** for 13,616 toilet complexes. Assembly discussions highlighted major infrastructure gaps, including **611 schools without buildings, 2,047 without functional toilets and 1,049 without basic drinking-water facilities**. A new **₹18 lakh school building** is also planned at Rampura Kanwarapura in Jaipur, addressing longstanding infrastructure deficiencies in government schools.
- Karnataka has imposed a **one-year ban on analogue paneer** when non-dairy products are manufactured, stored, distributed or sold as "paneer." The order is effective from **August 17, 2026, to August 17, 2027**, and seeks to protect consumers and enforce **food safety standards**. Analogue paneer may contain **vegetable oil, vegetable fat or other non-dairy ingredients** instead of traditional milk-based components. The restriction operates under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, bringing hotels, restaurants and food businesses under greater scrutiny. However, **processed cheese, frozen desserts and mixed fat spreads** are excluded from this specific restriction.

- **Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture** have proposed a **₹600-crore investment fund** to support Yamanashi-based **MSMEs** investing in Uttar Pradesh. The proposal was announced at the **UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026** in Lucknow on August 21. Uttar Pradesh will create a dedicated **Yamanashi Desk at Invest UP** to assist Japanese investors with approvals and coordination. A **90-day review mechanism** will monitor land allotments and investment issues. Several MoUs were also signed covering **technical training, skill development, tourism, Japanese Global Capability Centres and legislative cooperation**, strengthening economic and institutional ties between Uttar Pradesh and Japan.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a policy allowing eligible women government employees to avail **180 days of maternity leave twice** during their service. The benefit applies to the **first two surviving children**, providing six months of leave with full pay. Eligible employees include regular women staff working under the Uttar Pradesh government and specified government-run or autonomous institutions. The policy aims to support **maternal recovery, infant care and breastfeeding**, while improving **work-life balance** for working mothers. The decision is also intended to strengthen **social security** and provide greater workplace support to women employees.
- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** has introduced **QR-enabled reflective collars** for stray dogs to strengthen **animal birth control and anti-rabies measures** in Mumbai. Each collar carries a unique QR code connected to digital records containing the dog's **vaccination, sterilisation and health details**. Officials, animal welfare organisations and citizens can use the system to identify dogs requiring intervention and avoid duplicate treatment. Developed with **Ridlan AI Foundation's PawFriend.in**, the collars offer more durable identification than temporary coloured markings. The initiative supports Mumbai's goal of achieving **rabies elimination by 2030** through better monitoring and treatment.
- Tamil Nadu will introduce the **TN-ARIVU curriculum** in government schools from the **2027-28 academic year**, incorporating artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. TN-ARIVU represents **Analytical thinking, Reasoning, Innovation, Venture and entrepreneurship, and Upskilling**. The programme will have three stages: **ARIVU Foundation** for Classes I-V, **ARIVU Discovery** for Classes VI-VIII and **ARIVU Edge** for Classes IX-XII. The state has also announced **31 school education initiatives** with an estimated ₹44,527-crore outlay. Other measures include **TN PAL**, Mathichudar, Vetripathai, **PLAY**, no-school-bag days and **50 Sports Plus schools**.
- **Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary** in Jamnagar, Gujarat, has emerged as an important breeding site for the **Black-necked Stork (Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus)**. Researchers surveyed 48 georeferenced points between July 2024 and March 2025. The sanctuary recorded a peak seasonal population of **21-23 storks**. During the October-December breeding period, researchers identified **four active nests**, each successfully producing two fledglings, resulting in **eight juveniles**. The nests were built on the invasive **Neltuma juliflora**, locally known as gando baval, at heights of 3-4.5 metres. Shallow wetlands supported successful nesting and feeding.
- **Mumbai** has entered the **IWG 2026 Work From Anywhere Index** as the only Indian city featured among global remote-work destinations. The city scored **77 points**, performing well in transport, accommodation, climate and flexible workspace availability, but scoring relatively lower in broadband quality, local events and happiness. **Bangkok** topped the ranking with 106.5 points, followed by Tokyo, Barcelona, Porto and Vancouver. India recorded the highest maturity score of **100** in the cited flexible-workspace assessment. The country had **79.7 million sq ft** of flexible workspace across its top eight cities by Q2 2025, expected to exceed 100 million sq ft in 2026.
- Tamil Nadu has announced the **Annapoorani Super Six LPG Scheme** to reduce cooking-fuel expenses for eligible families. Announced in the State Assembly on August 24, 2026, the scheme is scheduled to begin on **Pongal Day in January 2027**. Under its reimbursement-based system, beneficiaries will purchase domestic LPG cylinders first and receive eligible reimbursement directly through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**. The scheme will cover families earning below **₹2.5 lakh annually**, middle and marginal farmers, and families of persons with disabilities. The state expects an annual expenditure of around **₹4,000 crore** under the welfare initiative.
- **Kerala** has officially been renamed **Keralam**, with the new name taking effect on **August 25, 2026**. The change was implemented through the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026**, following approval by Parliament and presidential assent. The Union Cabinet had approved the proposal in February. The **Lok Sabha passed the Bill on August 11**, followed by the Rajya Sabha on August 12. **President Droupadi Murmu** gave assent on August 14, after which the Union Home Ministry notified August 25 as the commencement date. The change modifies Kerala's entry in the **First Schedule of the Constitution under Article 3**.
- The **Maharashtra government** has partnered with the **OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation** and **Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust** to expand school eye-care services. The three-year programme, running from August 2026 to June 2029, aims to screen **20 lakh students** in Classes 5 to 10 across government and Zilla Parishad schools. The programme will provide school-based screening, teacher training, optometry services and spectacles. OneSight will contribute **1 lakh free prescription spectacles**, while Ratna Nidhi will provide qualified optometry teams. Since 2019, the partnership has already screened more than **6.8 lakh children across 800 schools in 18 districts**.



ALL EXAMS, **ONE** SUBSCRIPTION

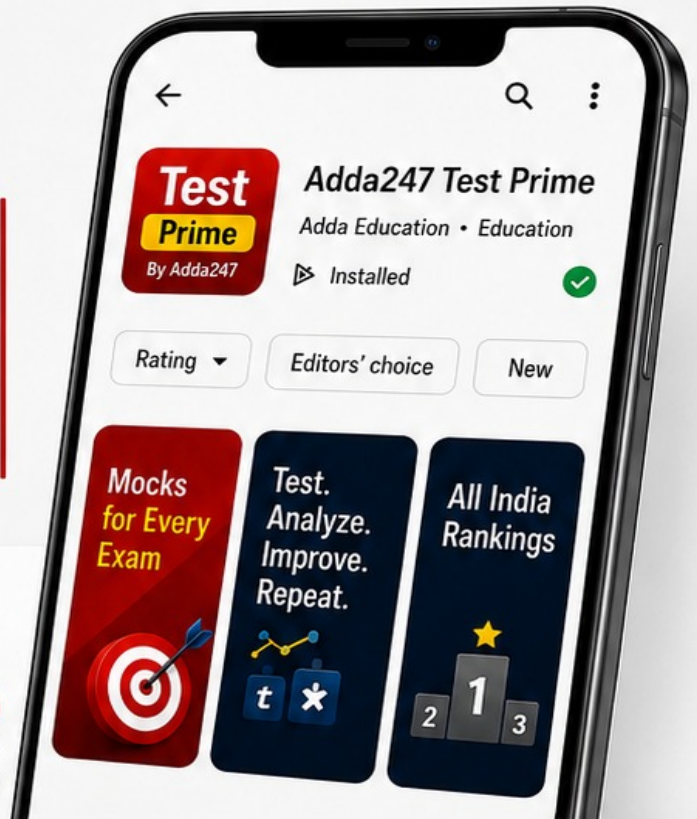


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- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** has approved the purchase of **25 lakh tablets** for free distribution among eligible youth under the **Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana**. The state has allocated **₹2,374.60 crore** for the scheme during 2026-27. The five-year programme aims to improve young people's access to **digital education, training, employment and self-employment opportunities**. Eligible beneficiaries include students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, skill-development and other approved programmes. The tablets will enable access to online learning, government schemes and employment services. The initiative seeks to strengthen **digital access, training quality and youth employability**.
- Researchers from **CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology** have discovered a new sunflower-family species, **Doronicum sanctum**, in **Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh**. The species was formally described on August 11, 2026, and belongs to the genus **Doronicum**, commonly known as Leopard's Bane, and the family **Asteraceae**. It was recorded at an elevation of approximately **4,000–4,086 metres** near the Chumi Gyatse Holy Waterfalls. Researchers identified distinctive characteristics including **yellow flowers, heart-shaped leaves and pubescent ray cypselae**. The discovery is significant because it represents the **first documented Doronicum species from Northeast India**.
- The **West Bengal government** plans to establish **Arjun Bahini**, a specialised disaster-response force comprising trained **Agniveers**, expected to become operational in September 2026. Around **200 personnel** have already been selected through the Sainik Board, with 100 planned for Kolkata, 50 for hill areas and 50 for Sagar. Modelled on the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**, the force will use modern equipment for rapid emergency response. West Bengal has also announced **20% reservation for Agniveers** in recruitment to the Fire and Emergency Services, Forest Department, Police and Disaster Management Department, creating additional employment opportunities.
- The **Meghalaya Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution opposing **uranium exploration and mining** in the state. Chief Minister **Conrad K. Sangma** moved the resolution, supported by all 60 MLAs, urging the Centre, Department of Atomic Energy and Uranium Corporation of India Limited not to undertake mining activities. Meghalaya possesses significant uranium deposits, but previous exploration faced strong public opposition. The state government cited concerns regarding the potential **health and environmental impacts** of uranium mining. The resolution represents Meghalaya's formal political opposition to such activities and seeks to prevent future mining operations while reflecting concerns expressed by local communities across the northeastern state.
- Meghalaya launched the **CM-IMPACT Read & Rise programme** to improve **foundational literacy** and reading readiness among children, particularly in remote and rural areas. Its **Universal Reading Readiness Mission** aims to ensure every child can confidently read and write by age seven. Children above seven will receive a three-month intervention designed to address learning gaps. The state also released a **Teacher Training Guide** to support implementation across Meghalaya. The initiative responds to learning disruptions and aims to strengthen early educational outcomes. Education Minister **Lahkmen Rymbui** and senior officials attended the launch, highlighting the state's emphasis on literacy and inclusive school education.
- The **Delhi Lakshmi Yojana** is scheduled to provide **₹2,500 monthly financial assistance** to eligible women from September 1, 2026. Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** distributed approval letters to around 2,500 women, marking progress in implementation. More than **9.13 lakh women** have registered, while 6.52 lakh have completed applications. Eligible women aged 21–60 can receive assistance directly through their bank accounts. Beneficiaries can receive ₹1,000 through **central bank digital currency** and invest ₹1,500, or invest the full amount in fixed or recurring deposits. The scheme aims to provide financial support while encouraging savings among eligible women.
- Gujarat's **Banas Dairy, Suzuki Motor Corporation** and **National Dairy Development Board** jointly inaugurated a **Banas Bio-CNG Model Plant** at Vinchhiwadi in Banaskantha. The facility can process **100 metric tonnes of cattle dung daily** through anaerobic digestion to produce **Bio-CNG and organic manure**. A Bio-CNG filling station was also opened. The wider Banas Bio-CNG network now includes four plants with combined capacity of **340 tonnes per day**. The event also launched India's first rural cooperative-model **Gramin Bharat Taxi** service with nine vehicles. The initiative promotes **waste-to-energy**, clean fuel production, cattle-dung utilisation and rural cooperative development.
- **Hindalco Industries** commissioned India's first greenfield **Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH)** plant in Belagavi, Karnataka. The facility initially produces **30,000 tonnes annually**, with capacity planned to rise to 60,000 tonnes. Superfine ATH is used in **flame-retardant materials**, halogen-free products, polymer insulation and thermal insulation. The plant is expected to reduce import dependence and support growing demand from electrical, infrastructure and electric-vehicle sectors. Hindalco states that it is the world's only specialty alumina plant powered entirely by **renewable energy**, using solar, wind and biomass. The facility also incorporates automation and indigenous technology, strengthening advanced domestic manufacturing.

- **Dehing Patkai National Park** in Assam recorded **165 butterfly species**, including 37 endangered species, during its 2026 biodiversity survey. The park covers **234.26 sq km** across Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts and contains tropical wet evergreen forests. The fourth annual **Dihing Patkai Biodiversity and Butterfly Trail**, conducted from July 28–31, documented the park's exceptional ecological diversity. A wider survey covering Assam and parts of Arunachal Pradesh identified more than **260 butterfly species**. The findings highlight the importance of the northeastern rainforest landscape for biodiversity conservation and strengthen scientific understanding of butterfly populations and their habitats in the region.
- **Uttar Pradesh** launched the **Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission portal** and **UP Startup Policy 2026** to strengthen its innovation ecosystem. Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** said the state now has more than **24,000 startups and eight unicorns**, compared with roughly 120 startups before 2017. The government distributed incentives exceeding **₹3.42 crore to 107 startups** and ₹1.79 crore to nine incubators. Support will focus on **funding, incubation, research and innovation**, with emerging sectors such as drones, quantum computing, robotics, medtech, space technology and green hydrogen receiving attention. Around half of Uttar Pradesh's startups are reportedly operated by **women entrepreneurs**.
- Andhra Pradesh approved India's first dedicated **Quantum and AI University campus** in Amaravati, to be established by **NIELIT** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The campus will cover 8.5 acres and involve an investment of **₹730.7 crore** over five years through central grants. Academic programmes will begin in September 2026 at a temporary facility in Guntur. The university will focus on **quantum technology, artificial intelligence, semiconductors and deep technology**. Planned infrastructure includes advanced research facilities, cleanrooms, high-performance computing and startup incubation. Around **8,250 learners** are expected to receive training over five years, strengthening India's future deep-tech workforce.
- **Delhi** recorded the highest own-revenue share among states and Union Territories with comparable data during the **2024-25 Budget Estimates**, according to the India State Fiscal Health Tracker. Delhi's own revenue contributed **93.2% of total revenue receipts**, followed by **Haryana at 80.4%**, Telangana at 78.4%, Karnataka at 77.3% and Tamil Nadu at 75.5%. Own revenue includes **tax and non-tax revenue** generated by a government. A higher share generally indicates greater **revenue self-reliance**, although it does not alone determine overall fiscal health. The figures are based on **Budget Estimates** and may differ from final accounts.
- **Gujarat** has launched India's first state-level **Sports Genomics Programme**, combining **genomics, sports science, physiology and nutrition** to improve athlete identification and high-performance training. The programme is led by the **Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre** under the Department of Science and Technology. Around **2,000 athlete samples annually** are planned, with nearly 10,000 samples targeted over five years. Athletes from **tennis, archery, fencing, judo and shooting**, among other sports, will be studied. Researchers will examine genetic factors linked to endurance, power, recovery and injury risks. Gujarat also plans a **Gujarat Athlete Genome Database** for personalised training and nutrition.
- **Tamil Nadu** has notified three **elephant corridors** in the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary under the Hosur Forest Division to improve habitat connectivity and facilitate safer elephant movement between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The **Jawalagiri–Panai–Anchetty corridor** is the largest, covering **6,881.47 hectares** and extending 20.90 km. The **Jawalagiri–Ulibanda–Thaggatti corridor** covers 3,241.53 hectares, while the **Billikkal Jawalagiri corridor** spans about 196 hectares. The notification followed **Madras High Court directions** and committee recommendations. Officials said the recognition will strengthen **elephant conservation** while retaining existing land protections and avoiding additional restrictions on local communities.
- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Praamaan Operating System**, an AI-powered accounting and statutory compliance platform developed by **Pramanique Infotech Private Limited**. The system combines **artificial intelligence, accounting automation and data analytics** to simplify financial reporting and compliance processes. During the launch at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Velagapudi, Naidu reviewed its technological architecture, automated workflows and **data security measures**. The platform is intended for businesses, **chartered accountants and finance professionals**, offering integrated financial-management solutions. The Chief Minister appreciated the initiative and encouraged developers to explore broader applications, technological improvements and future **market expansion**.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** has promulgated a regulation allowing sittings of the **Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court** in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The regulation, notified on **August 27**, follows the Union Cabinet's approval on August 20 and addresses the long-standing demand for improved access to higher judicial remedies. Judges and divisions of the common High Court can conduct sittings at locations in Ladakh designated by the **Chief Justice**, with the Lieutenant Governor's approval. The principal seat will remain unchanged. The move is expected to reduce **travel time and legal expenses** for litigants, advocates and others seeking higher judicial remedies.

International Affairs

- **Singapore** has launched a prototype **biological data centre** at the **National University of Singapore's Centre for Life Sciences**, using living human neurons connected to silicon hardware. The 20-unit rack contains approximately **16 million neurons**, with around 800,000 neurons in each **CL1 biological computing system**. The neurons are grown from **stem cells** and require nutrient solutions and specialised gas-based life support. **Cortical Labs** provides the biological hardware, while **DayOne** manages infrastructure. The project explores **biological computing** and possible applications in neuro-inspired AI, biomedical modelling, drug discovery and neurological disease research. The full rack consumes about **800–1,000 watts**.
- **India and Mauritius** have signed a **five-year fuel supply agreement** under which **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** will meet Mauritius' complete import requirements for **petrol, high-speed diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)**. The agreement was exchanged during Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri's** visit to Mauritius on August 20–21, 2026. A separate government-to-government MoU covers **oil and gas cooperation, biofuels, training and knowledge exchange**. **India Oil (Mauritius) Ltd** is also developing a **27,500-tonne marine bunker fuel facility** at Mer Rouge with a \$25-million investment. The partnership strengthens Mauritius' **energy security** and India's strategic presence.
- **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan** have signed the **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA)** at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah, creating a new **trilateral security framework**. A central provision states that an **armed attack on one member will be treated as an attack on all three**, strengthening collective deterrence. The agreement builds upon the **Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement of 2025**, with Türkiye joining the framework in 2026. It aims to enhance **military coordination, intelligence sharing, training and interoperability**. The pact reflects growing regional security concerns and efforts by the three countries to strengthen **strategic autonomy and cooperation**.
- The **United States** removed **Syria** from its **State Sponsors of Terrorism (SST)** list on August 24, 2026, ending a designation imposed since December 29, 1979. The move marks a significant change in Washington's Syria policy following the country's political transition after **Bashar al-Assad's fall**. The US also revoked the designation of **al-Nusrah Front/HTS** as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist organisation and removed HTS from the SDN List. Syria's removal could enable greater economic and financial engagement. **Cuba, Iran and North Korea** remain on the SST list following the policy shift.
- Thailand's **Act on Promoting a Peaceful Society B.E. 2569 (2026)** came into force on August 24 following royal endorsement and publication in the Royal Gazette. The law provides **amnesty for specified political offences and expressions** linked to political conflicts between January 1, 2005 and July 16, 2025. However, it excludes **Section 112**, corruption, offences causing death or serious injury and certain civil liabilities. A nine-member committee chaired by Prime Minister **Anutin Charnvirakul** will determine qualifying cases. Eligible cases may have investigations terminated, prosecutions dismissed, prison sentences ended and criminal records cleared. Parliament passed it **306-141**.
- The United States has launched **Operation Economic Outcast**, an economic pressure campaign targeting Iran's revenue sources and seeking to isolate its economy. US Treasury Secretary **Scott Bessent** said Washington would target Iranian economic lifelines, particularly oil, while warning countries and companies dealing with Tehran about possible **secondary sanctions**. The campaign focuses on **digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping**. The US Treasury imposed sanctions on **60 entities, vessels and individuals** across countries including the UAE, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland. Iran rejected the measures, while Washington seeks to push Tehran toward negotiations over its **nuclear programme**.
- India and China are holding the **25th round of Special Representatives talks** on their boundary dispute in **Beijing** on August 25, 2026. India's Special Representative, **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval**, is visiting Beijing, while Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** represents China. Established in 2003, the mechanism facilitates high-level discussions on the unresolved boundary question. The dispute spans the **western, middle and eastern sectors**, involving areas including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The previous round took place in August 2025. Current discussions focus on maintaining communication, managing differences and preserving **peace along the frontier**.
- The **Illinois State Senate** has declared **August 15 as National India Hub Day**, recognising the Indian-American community and the National India Hub in Schaumburg. The proclamation was presented during **INDIA FEST 2026**, coinciding with India's 80th Independence Day. The National India Hub is a **107,000-square-foot community centre** hosting cultural, social and community activities and bringing together more than **150 independent organisations**. Founded by **Harish Kolasani** during the COVID-19 pandemic, the centre provides a shared platform for Indian-American groups. Despite heavy rain forcing festival arrangements indoors, celebrations continued successfully.

- The **second India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue** was held in Wellington on August 24, 2026, focusing on **maritime security, joint military training and defence cooperation**. India's Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence **Amitabh Prasad**, and New Zealand Deputy Secretary **Richard Schmidt** co-chaired the meeting. Both sides discussed implementation of the **India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership Roadmap 2030** and reaffirmed support for a free, open and inclusive **Indo-Pacific**. Discussions included joint exercises, cross-service exchanges and defence staff college partnerships involving maritime, air and land forces. The Indian delegation also discussed procurement, operational coordination and future defence engagements with New Zealand officials.
- **India and China** have agreed to continue dialogue and work towards a **fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement** of their long-standing boundary dispute. The understanding followed talks in Beijing between Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** and India's National Security Adviser **Ajit Doval** on August 25, 2026. Both sides discussed bilateral relations, border affairs and maintaining peace along the frontier. Relations have gradually improved following the **2020 border clash** and military disengagement agreement reached in October 2024. The countries also agreed to hold the **next round of boundary talks in India in 2027**, maintaining communication despite unresolved territorial differences.
- **China** has expanded construction activity around **Antelope Reef** in the disputed **Paracel Islands of the South China Sea**, according to satellite imagery. New land reclamation and infrastructure, including port-related facilities and installations on nearby islets, have been observed. China has controlled the Paracel Islands since **1974**, while **Vietnam also claims sovereignty** over the territory. Analysts have raised concerns that the facilities could support maritime operations, logistics and surveillance. China maintains that its South China Sea activities serve civilian purposes, including scientific research, weather monitoring and fisheries protection. The developments have intensified attention over **regional maritime security and territorial disputes**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard and Vietnam Coast Guard** held their seventh High-Level Meeting in **Chennai** on August 25, 2026, to strengthen maritime cooperation. The meeting was co-chaired by ICG Director General **Paramesh Sivamani** and Vietnam Coast Guard Vice Commandant **Major General Luong Dinh Hung**. Discussions covered **search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, marine pollution response, capacity building and professional exchanges**. Both sides reviewed ongoing engagements and stressed regular institutional interactions, training programmes, ship visits and operational best-practice sharing. The meeting also aimed to improve **interoperability and mutual trust**. The joint exercise **SAHYOG-HOPTAC** was scheduled for August 27.
- India called for **community-led rangeland restoration** at the 17th Conference of Parties of the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17)** in Ulaanbaatar. Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** emphasised that pastoralists should be recognised as custodians rather than merely beneficiaries of rangeland ecosystems. India advocated combining **traditional knowledge with modern science** for sustainable restoration. The country highlighted diverse rangelands spanning Himalayan pastures, Central Indian savannas, the Thar, Kachchh and southern sholas. Rajasthan's **Orans**, community-protected sacred groves, were cited as examples. India also highlighted satellite-based degradation atlases, sustainable grazing, watershed development and habitat restoration.
- India and **Morocco** agreed to double bilateral trade over the next five years and establish a **Joint Working Group** to explore new trade opportunities and a possible preferential trade agreement. Bilateral trade was approximately **\$4 billion in 2025**. The group will examine tariff and non-tariff barriers and improve market access. Potential growth sectors include **fertilisers, chemicals, minerals, machinery, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism and renewable energy**. Both countries also signed an MoU on **food safety** and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 2026–2030. Cooperation in **AI, digital transformation, investment and fertiliser supply chains** was also strengthened.
- India highlighted its **science-based snow leopard conservation** programme at a Russian-Indian roundtable in Moscow. The Indian delegation discussed advances in **population estimation, radio telemetry and genetic analysis** for monitoring the endangered species. The meeting took place under a partnership between the Interregional Association 'Irbis' and the **International Big Cat Alliance**. Russian institutions, including the A.N. Severtsov Institute and Moscow Zoo, participated. Discussions focused on scientific research, monitoring techniques, knowledge sharing and collaborative conservation. India emphasised combining advanced technology with field-based science to strengthen **snow leopard protection** and deepen international cooperation in Himalayan wildlife conservation.
- Nepal's **Rasuwa district** was struck by deadly flash floods after an **ice and rock avalanche** reportedly triggered a sudden surge in the Lhende Khola River. At least eight deaths were initially reported, with hundreds missing. Floodwaters damaged villages, roads and **hydropower infrastructure**, prompting warnings along the Bhotekoshi, Trishuli and Narayani rivers. Experts linked the growing disaster risk to a warming Himalayan environment, including **glacier melt, extreme rainfall, landslides and floods**. India offered humanitarian assistance, while Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** expressed condolences and assured Nepal of support. The disaster highlighted increasing climate-related vulnerabilities across the **Hindu Kush Himalaya**.

- India dispatched **10 tonnes of humanitarian and disaster-relief supplies** to flood-hit Nepal after devastating floods killed at least 95 people and left hundreds missing. An **Indian Air Force C-130J** transported essential medicines, temporary shelters, blankets, hygiene kits and solar lamps. External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** confirmed the assistance, while Home Minister **Amit Shah** expressed solidarity with Nepal. The National Disaster Response Force and local administrations in border areas of **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** were placed on high alert. Nepal prioritised rescue operations, medical treatment, food and shelter. India's response demonstrated its commitment to regional humanitarian cooperation during natural disasters.
- India and **Japan** agreed to deepen cooperation in **startups, deep technology, innovation and MSMEs** during the India-Japan Startup Roundtable in Tokyo. Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** highlighted India's nearly 250,000 startups and its position as the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. He proposed a four-pillar framework covering a **Deep-Tech Capital Corridor, Two-Way Innovation Bridge, Manufacturing and Technology Integration, and Joint Startup Pitching Platforms**. India also proposed a second **\$1 billion Fund of Funds** for deep-tech enterprises. The India-Japan Pitching Series has already connected 65 Indian startups with around 100 Japanese companies, resulting in more than 30 business tie-ups.
- US President Donald Trump** signed an executive order directing the renaming of **Lake Ontario** as "Lake America." The order instructed the **US Department of the Interior** and Secretary **Doug Burgum** to implement the change. Lake Ontario is one of North America's five Great Lakes and lies between **Ontario, Canada, and New York, USA**. The announcement came amid strained US-Canada relations following the breakdown of trade negotiations. Both governments blamed each other for the failed talks. The proposed name change has significant symbolic and diplomatic implications because Lake Ontario is a major shared geographical feature between the two neighbouring countries.
- US President **Donald Trump** honoured the four-member **NASA Artemis II crew** with the **Congressional Space Medal of Honor** following their historic lunar flyby. Commander **Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen** became the first humans to travel to the Moon in more than five decades. Their mission came within **4,067 miles of the lunar surface** while testing NASA's **Orion spacecraft**. During the Houston ceremony, Trump also announced plans for a new **US Space Academy** involving NASA, the Space Force and the commercial space sector. Further Artemis missions are planned, including future lunar operations and potential crewed landings.
- Italy** has requested **€8 billion** under the European Union's **Security Action for Europe (SAFE)** defence programme. SAFE is an EU-backed joint borrowing mechanism designed to help member states rapidly increase defence investment and strengthen Europe's defence-industrial capabilities. The programme can provide up to **€150 billion in long-term loans** for urgent defence requirements and common procurement. Only EU member states can receive SAFE loans, while eligible partner countries can participate in specified joint procurement arrangements. These include EU candidate countries and nations with **EU Security and Defence Partnerships**, such as **India, Canada, Japan, Norway, South Korea and the UK**.
- US President **Donald Trump** has announced a major oil arrangement involving **Venezuela**, describing it as the "biggest oil deal in world history." The proposed agreement would reportedly give the United States majority control of **65 billion barrels of proven Venezuelan petroleum reserves**, while Secretary of State **Marco Rubio** said it could attract nearly **\$100 billion in private investment**. Trump said the arrangement could strengthen US-Venezuela relations and potentially reduce American gasoline prices. However, the Venezuelan government had not immediately confirmed the deal. US companies are expected to participate in developing oil fields, although **infrastructure and nationalisation concerns** remain significant.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The Government of India has appointed **Syed Akbaruddin, Annie George Mathew and Janmejaya Kumar Sinha** as **part-time, non-official directors** on the **Reserve Bank of India's Central Board**. The appointments were approved on **August 22, 2026**, by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**, with each receiving a **four-year tenure** under Section 8(1)(c) of the **RBI Act, 1934**. Akbaruddin is a former Indian Permanent Representative to the **United Nations**, Mathew is an Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer and Sixteenth Finance Commission member, while Sinha is an economist and former BCG Asia-Pacific chairman. Board strength increased from **11 to 14 members**.
- UPI** completed **10 years** on August 25, 2026, marking a major milestone in India's digital payments transformation. Launched in **2016 by NPCI under RBI oversight**, UPI grew from 1.78 crore transactions in FY2016-17 to more than **24,162 crore transactions in FY2025-26**. Transaction value increased from ₹0.07 lakh crore to nearly **₹314 lakh crore** during the same period. In July 2026 alone, UPI recorded a monthly high of **2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.88 lakh crore**. The platform now includes **741 participating banks**, handles around 84% of India's digital payments and operates in **11 countries**.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted two **Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR)** auctions on August 24, 2026, absorbing a combined **₹1.41 trillion** from the banking system to manage surplus liquidity. In the seven-day auction, ₹91,980 crore was accepted at a cut-off and weighted average rate of **5.24%**, against ₹2.5 trillion notified. The overnight auction absorbed ₹49,206 crore at the same rate. Another two-day VRRR auction worth ₹1.75 trillion was announced. Banking-system liquidity remained at a surplus of **₹3.4 trillion**, while the **Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)** stood at 5.19%.
- **SEBI** has introduced an **Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI)** for **Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**, including stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations. The index aims to improve oversight of **IT resilience** and identify vulnerabilities early. ITRI will assess nine parameters, including availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability, monitoring, business continuity, modularity, flexibility and scalability. **Availability and security** carry the highest weightage of 20% each. MIIs must calculate the index **half-yearly within 60 days** after each period and submit comparative analysis. They must also establish an **Early Warning System** to detect deterioration and potential technological disruptions.
- **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** recorded an all-time high consolidated net profit of **₹10,176 crore in FY2025-26**, up from ₹6,820 crore the previous year. Their combined business crossed **₹13.5 lakh crore**, highlighting their growing role in rural banking. India currently has **28 RRBs**, operating through 22,273 branches across 26 States and three Union Territories and covering nearly 700 districts. Gross NPAs and net NPAs fell to record lows of **5.3% and 2.1%**, respectively. RRBs also opened more than **54.98 lakh PMJDY accounts**, while their credit-deposit ratio reached a record **75.2%**.
- **Fino Payments Bank** has approved another **three-month extension** for **Ketan Merchant**, who continues as interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The extension begins on **August 27, 2026**, subject to **RBI approval**. Merchant's earlier three-month tenure began on May 27 and was scheduled to end on August 26. He became interim CEO following the arrest of former MD and CEO **Rishi Gupta** by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence over alleged GST violations. Before assuming the interim leadership role, Merchant served as **Chief Financial Officer** of Fino Payments Bank. His extension continues during the bank's leadership transition.
- India's **finished steel production** increased **4.7% year-on-year to 54.7 million tonnes** during April-July 2026, while consumption grew faster by **7.9% to 56 million tonnes**, reflecting strong domestic demand. **Crude steel production** rose 2.4% to 56.2 million tonnes and hot metal output increased 2.7% to 31.9 million tonnes. Finished steel imports surged **36.6% to 2.77 million tonnes**, while exports rose 35% to 2.29 million tonnes, leaving India a net importer. Alloy steel production grew **26.7%**, while stainless steel output declined 4.2% despite consumption increasing 25%, indicating mixed trends across segments.
- India's **industrial production growth** moderated to **6.7% in July**, compared with 7.3% in June, mainly because of weaker mining activity. Data from the **National Statistical Office** showed mining and quarrying output contracted **0.9%**, while manufacturing grew 7.3% and electricity and gas supply expanded 8.7%. Manufacturing growth remained broad-based, with **19 of 23 industry groups** reporting expansion. Electrical equipment, motor vehicles and transport equipment performed strongly. **Consumer durables** grew 10.5%, while passenger vehicle and tractor sales also increased. During April-July, **IIP growth reached 6.3%**, compared with 4% a year earlier. Economists expect some moderation ahead.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** increased by **\$12.4 billion to a record \$729.3 billion** during the week ended August 21, according to RBI data. The rise was driven mainly by capital inflows through the central bank's **concessional swap window** and revaluation gains. **Foreign currency assets** increased by \$9.48 billion to \$591.33 billion, while gold reserves climbed \$2.8 billion to \$114.22 billion. The reserves have risen by **\$62.4 billion over eight weeks**, recovering from \$666.9 billion in June. The RBI swap facility had mobilised \$72.8 billion by August 21. India's reserves now cover more than **11 months of goods imports** and 94% of external debt.
- **TVS Motor Company** has appointed **Peyman Kargar** as its new director and chief executive officer, effective **January 27, 2027**. He will succeed **K N Radhakrishnan**, who has led the company since 2008 and will continue through the transition before becoming a non-executive director. Kargar currently serves as president for international business and brings more than **three decades of global automotive experience**. Under his leadership, international operations became increasingly important, contributing 29% of sales volume. TVS Motor recorded **5.9 million global vehicle sales** and 30% revenue growth in FY26. Kargar is expected to focus on **technology, AI, quality, premiumisation and international expansion**.
- The proposed **Jio Platforms IPO** has received **SEBI's observations**, clearing a major regulatory hurdle for a potential record-breaking public issue. The offering is expected to exceed **₹37,000 crore**, potentially surpassing Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,870-crore IPO record. Jio Platforms has proposed a fresh issue of up to **27 crore equity shares** and currently has no offer-for-sale component. Up to **₹27,500 crore** of the proceeds could be used to repay or prepay borrowings by Reliance Jio Infocomm. The IPO could provide public-market investors with direct exposure to Jio's **telecom and digital businesses** while helping Reliance unlock value from its expanding digital ecosystem.

Appointments/Resignations

- Former Bombay High Court Judge **Justice Sunil Balkrishna Shukre** has been sworn in as Chairman of the **Maharashtra Lokayukta Institution**. Maharashtra Governor **Jishnu Dev Varma** administered the oath at Lok Bhavan in Mumbai. Shukre's appointment under the **Maharashtra Lokayukta Act, 2023**, carries a five-year term or until he turns 70, whichever comes earlier. He graduated from Pune University in 1980 and completed his LL.B. in 1983. Joining the judiciary as a Direct District Judge in 2000, he later served as **Principal District Judge, Registrar General of the Bombay High Court and Joint Director of the Maharashtra Judicial Academy** before becoming a High Court judge.
- Senior IPS officer and former **Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha** has been appointed **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the Directorate of Home Guards. According to the Delhi government Home Department, he will serve as OSD until **September 30, 2026**, when he will assume charge as **Director General of Home Guards from October 1**. Golcha was removed as Delhi Police Commissioner on July 17 and subsequently attached to the Lieutenant Governor's office. **Anurag Kumar**, a Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau, replaced him as Delhi Police chief. Golcha has previously served as **Director General (Prisons)** and Special Commissioner (Law and Order).

Defence News

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)** has manufactured and test-fired the first **fully indigenous AK-203 assault rifle**, named **Sher**, at its Korwa facility in **Amethi**. The rifle incorporates **Indian-made components and input materials**, representing a major milestone for **Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India** in defence manufacturing. IRRPL CEO and MD **Maj Gen S K Sharma** said the rifle successfully completed firing tests, including burst firing, with encouraging initial results. The company plans to produce prototypes for **Indian Army trials in September 2026**. IRRPL targets production of one rifle every **100 seconds** and plans to deliver approximately **six lakh rifles**.
- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** unveiled three indigenous micro and small gas turbine engines—**NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100**—in New Delhi on August 25, 2026. The engines provide thrust ratings of **5 kg, 50 kg and 100 kg** respectively and are intended for defence applications such as tactical **UAVs, drone interceptors and compact missile systems**. They operate on the **Brayton cycle**, using compressed air and fuel expansion through a turbine to generate thrust or shaft power. NJ-100 builds on data from the NJ-5 technology demonstrator. The initiative supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and greater participation by Indian aerospace industries and startups.

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** approved the transfer of technology for all conventional **missile systems developed by DRDO** to Indian defence industries on August 25, 2026. The decision aims to move missile technologies from development stages to **large-scale domestic production**. Eligible Indian companies can manufacture the systems after meeting qualification, certification and regulatory requirements. The move is expected to increase **domestic value addition**, strengthen indigenous manufacturing and reduce dependence on defence imports. It will also create opportunities for **MSMEs and technology partners** in components, subsystems, fabrication, testing and maintenance, supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and strengthening India's defence industrial ecosystem.
- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)** unveiled three indigenous **Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines** on August 25, 2026. The **NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100** provide thrust ratings of 5 kg, 50 kg and 100 kg respectively. They are designed for potential defence applications including **tactical UAVs, drone interceptors and compact missile systems**. Development involved advances in high-RPM turbomachinery and high-temperature combustion technologies. CSIR Director General **N. Kalaiselvi** described the development as an important milestone for **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, while Air Marshal **Tejinder Singh** highlighted the strategic importance of indigenous aerospace propulsion capabilities for national security.
- The **Indian Navy** will commission **Nipun**, its second indigenous **Diving Support Vessel (DSV)** of the Nistar class, on **August 31, 2026**, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. Designed and constructed by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**, the vessel was delivered to the Navy on July 30 after completing outfitting and trials. Nipun is designed for **deep-sea diving and underwater operations**, featuring modern diving systems, underwater intervention capabilities, navigation equipment, platform management and precise station-keeping facilities. The vessel will also strengthen India's **submarine rescue capabilities**, highlighting the expanding capacity of indigenous defence shipbuilding for specialised naval platforms.
- The **DRDO** successfully tested its indigenous **Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS)** at the Nyoma-Mudh drop zone in Ladakh, one of the world's highest-altitude drop zones. Test jumpers from **ADRDE, Agra**, jumped from 22,000 feet in temperatures of -15°C. The parachute deployed at 20,000 feet, and the team landed safely at 13,700 feet. Developed by **ADRDE and DEBEL**, MCPS offers improved steering, lower descent rates and **NavIC compatibility**. The trial demonstrated India's ability to develop specialised high-altitude airborne systems domestically. The achievement strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and India's indigenous defence technology capabilities.

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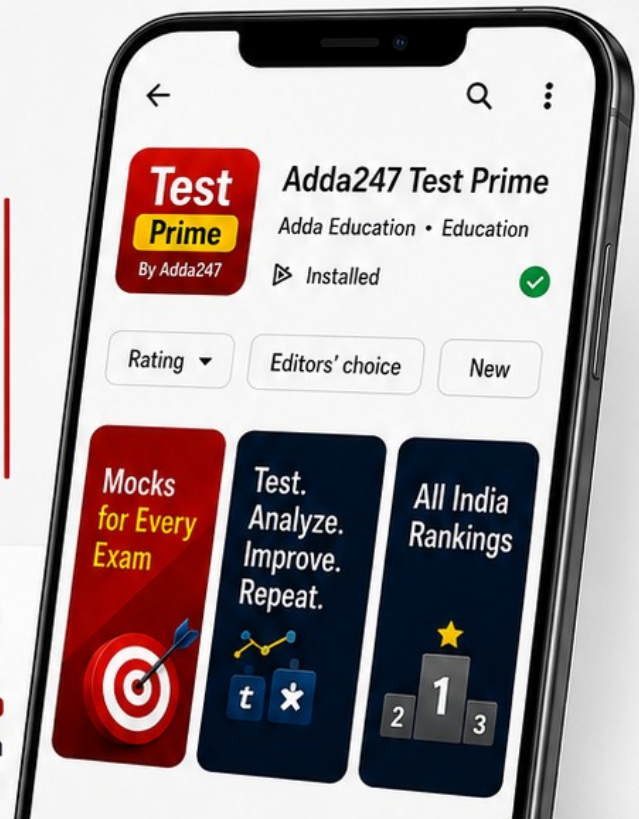


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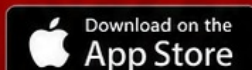
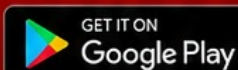


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- The **Indian Coast Guard** received **ICGS Ajit**, a Fast Patrol Vessel constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited**, on August 25. The vessel is the seventh **Adamyia-class** patrol ship built by the yard and contains more than **65% indigenous content**. Measuring 51.43 metres, it has a displacement of 330 tonnes and can exceed 27 knots. Its twin marine diesel engines feature **controllable pitch propellers**, a first for this class in India. With an operational range of 1,500 nautical miles, ICGS Ajit will perform **coastal surveillance, EEZ protection, fisheries enforcement, search and rescue, anti-smuggling and anti-piracy operations**.
- **HAL** and France's **Safran Helicopter Engines**, through their 50:50 **SAFHAL Helicopter Engines** joint venture, signed an agreement to develop the **3,500–4,000 shaft horsepower Aravalli helicopter engine**. The engine will power India's planned **13-tonne Indian Multi-Role Helicopter** and 12.5-tonne Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter for the Navy. The partnership covers design, development, manufacturing, supply and lifecycle support, with production planned at **HAL's Tumakuru facility**. Development responsibilities will be equally shared. The agreement strengthens **India-France aerospace cooperation** and supports India's objective of achieving greater self-reliance in advanced **aero-engine technology**.
- **Rolls-Royce** has offered India **100% technology transfer and complete intellectual property rights** for jointly developing an engine for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**. The proposed engine is expected to deliver more than **120 kN thrust**, with future upgrades targeting 145 kN. India is particularly seeking advanced capabilities such as **single-crystal turbine blade manufacturing**. Rolls-Royce, partnering with Reliance Industries, is competing with France's **Safran**, which is collaborating with DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment. The proposed engine could be rolled out by 2034 and support India's ambition to develop an indigenous **fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft**.
- The **Indian Navy** received **Samarthak**, its first indigenous **Multi-Purpose Vessel**, on August 27, 2026. Built by **Larsen & Toubro** at Kattupalli, the vessel contains more than **75% indigenous content**. Designed as a versatile trial and evaluation platform, Samarthak can support **maritime surveillance, reconnaissance, offshore patrolling and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations**. Its name means "The Proponent," reflecting its role as an operational enabler. The vessel's delivery represents another milestone in India's **indigenous naval shipbuilding** capabilities and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** objective of developing sophisticated maritime platforms domestically.
- **India and Kuwait** conducted the inaugural meeting of their **Joint Defence Committee** in New Delhi on August 28,

strengthening bilateral military cooperation. Discussions covered **military training, exercises, military medicine, staff talks, defence industry and research and development**. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary **Amitabh Prasad** and Kuwait's Brigadier General **Raed Alsakran**. The committee aims to implement objectives outlined in the **India-Kuwait defence cooperation agreement**, signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuwait in December 2024. The Kuwaiti delegation also visited the **National War Memorial** and interacted with Indian defence industry representatives to explore potential areas of future cooperation.

- The **Indian Army** has signed its first contract for the American **FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missile**, ending a 17-year effort to acquire the weapon. The purchase is being processed through the **Foreign Military Sales route** under emergency procurement provisions, with limited quantities initially involved. Javelin uses an **imaging infrared seeker**, enabling operators to lock onto targets before launch and quickly reposition. Its **top-attack capability** targets the weaker upper armour of tanks, while its tandem warhead is designed to defeat explosive reactive armour. India had explored procurement since 2009, but previous efforts did not materialise. The latest purchase could potentially support future **co-production in India**.

Awards and Recognitions

- The **Publications Division** of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting received **seven honours** at the **Federation of Indian Publishers Awards for Excellence in Book Production 2026**. The awards were presented during the 46th FIP Awards ceremony on August 24. The division secured **four Second Prizes and three Third Prizes** across multiple categories. The Hindi July 2026 edition of **Yojana**, themed **Viksit Bharat@2047**, and the English edition of **Kurukshetra** won Second Prizes. **Bharat 2026** in Hindi and **Wings to Our Hopes – Vol. 2** in English also received Second Prizes. Third Prizes went to **Dharti Ki Sehat, Rangoli Roop Sur Lay Ki and Ajkal Urdu**.
- **Kaziah Liz Mejo**, a 19-year-old from Kerala, was crowned **Miss Universe India 2026** in Jaipur on August 23. She emerged victorious among **52 finalists** at the grand finale held at Zee Studios and was crowned by Miss Universe India 2025 **Manika Vishwakarma**. Mejo will represent India at the **75th Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico in November 2026**. **Vaishnavi Gannesh** became first runner-up and Miss International India 2026, followed by Anushri Satavlekar, Tejaswini Shrivastava and Anubha Vashist Chaudhary. The judging panel included **Sushmita Sen, Urvashi Rautela, Rhea Singha, Pragya Kapoor and Celina Jaitly**.

Sports News

- Indian women wrestlers secured **three additional medals** at the **U20 World Championships in Slovakia**. **Mansi Lather** won silver in the **68kg category** after losing 1-2 to China's Chenling Song in the final. **Tanvi Gundesh Magdum** claimed bronze in the 57kg category after defeating Canada's Agnia Krakovska **10-4**, while **Komal** won bronze in the 59kg category by defeating Hungary's Eda Balazs **5-2**. Earlier, **Kajal Dhochak** had won gold in the 76kg category, while **Tanu Sharma and Savita** secured silver medals. India will next compete in the remaining **men's freestyle categories**.
- India's **19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M** won the **Group A title at the Kanizsa Open 2026** in Nagykanizsa, Hungary. He defeated Germany's **Vadim Petrovskiy** in the ninth and final round to finish with **seven points from nine rounds**. Four players shared the same score, but Pranesh won the championship on a superior **tiebreak**. Israel's Or Bronstein, Ukraine's Andrei Volokitin and India's Karthik Venkataraman finished second, third and fourth respectively. Pranesh, from **Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu**, has a rating of **2673** and was ranked 44th in the August 2026 FIDE rankings. The tournament featured **226 players**.
- Australian fast bowler **Mitchell Starc** became the leading wicket-taker in **ICC World Test Championship history** during Australia's second Test against Bangladesh at Mackay. Starc delivered a match-winning performance, taking **10 wickets**, including figures of **6/12 and 4/39**. He moved to **234 WTC wickets**, surpassing teammates **Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon**, who have 228 each. Starc also reached **445 Test wickets**, entering the all-time top.
- Australia defeated Bangladesh by an **innings and 51 runs** after bowling them out for **64 and 95**, highlighting Starc's dominant performance.
- Lando Norris** won the dramatic **2026 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort**, securing his **second consecutive Formula 1 victory**. He finished **11.536 seconds** ahead of Mercedes driver **Kimi Antonelli**, while George Russell took third. The race was red-flagged after home favourite **Max Verstappen** crashed into the wall on the opening lap but escaped injury. Norris regained the lead from Antonelli during the closing stages and held on despite late strategic pressure. **Lewis Hamilton** finished fourth, followed by Charles Leclerc and Oscar Piastri. The race was notable as the **final F1 Dutch Grand Prix at Zandvoort**.
- Ravindra Jadeja** became the first Indian and Asian cricketer to play **50 World Test Championship matches** during India's second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on August 23, 2026. Across four WTC cycles, Jadeja has scored **2,632 runs and taken 160 wickets**. He played 11 matches in 2019-21, 13 in 2021-23, 15 in 2023-25 and 11 in the ongoing 2025-27 cycle. **Mohammed Siraj** follows among Indian players with 47 appearances, while **Virat Kohli** has 46. England's **Joe Root** holds the overall record with **78 WTC appearances**.
- India has announced its **12-member men's kabaddi squad** for the **2026 Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Star raiders **Ayan Lohchab and Devank Dalal** will lead the attack, supported by Arjun Deshwal and Ashu Malik. Experienced defender **Sunil Kumar** will spearhead the defence with Sumit Sangwan, while **Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar** have been selected as all-rounders. Only four members of India's **gold-winning Hangzhou 2023 team** have retained their places: Arjun Deshwal, Sunil Kumar, Pawan Sehrawat and Aslam Inamdar. Kabaddi will be played from **September 21 to 26**.
- Saransh Jain** made his India Test debut aged **33 years and 145 days** during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo on August 23, 2026. The off-spinner became the **oldest Indian Test debutant of the 21st century** and the oldest since **Robin Singh**, who debuted at 35 years and 23 days in 1998. Jain replaced **Kuldeep Yadav**, who was unavailable due to viral illness. He has taken **188 wickets in 54 first-class matches**, including 10 five-wicket hauls, and scored 2,223 runs. During the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, he scored **518 runs and took 30 wickets**.
- East Bengal** defeated arch-rivals **Mohun Bagan 4-1** in the **Durand Cup final**, winning their **17th title** and equalling Mohun Bagan's record. **Edmund Lalrindika** was the standout performer, scoring a memorable **hat-trick**. Bipin Singh opened the scoring in the 10th minute before Lalrindika struck in the 12th and 22nd minutes. Mohun Bagan's **Manvir Singh** reduced the deficit in the 33rd minute, but Lalrindika completed his hat-trick before half-time. East Bengal controlled the second half and secured a decisive victory, also avenging their **0-1 defeat to Mohun Bagan in the 2023 final**.
- Apoorv Kamble**, aged 17, won a FIDE-rated rapid chess tournament in Bengaluru after scoring an impressive **8.5 points from nine rounds**. More than **700 players** participated in the Swiss-format competition, which offered a ₹4 lakh prize pool and used a 10-minute time control with a five-second increment. Kamble entered at the last moment after returning from the Asian Junior Championship and defeated notable opponents including **Sameer Shetty and top seed Vishak Enna**. Sammed Jaykumar Shete finished second and Vaidyanathan Kannan third. The event formed part of the **Road2GCL initiative**, ahead of Global Chess League Season 4 in Bengaluru.

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** approved a 15-member Indian **esports contingent** for the **2026 Asian Games** in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Esports competitions will take place from September 23 to October 2. India will participate in four titles: **League of Legends, Pokémon UNITE, eFootball and Puyo Puyo Champions**. Six-player teams will compete in League of Legends and Pokémon UNITE, while **Chinmay Sahoo and Danial Shakeel Patel** will represent India in eFootball. **Paritosh from Haryana** will compete in Puyo Puyo Champions. The selection marks India's participation in the expanding competitive esports programme at the Asian Games.
- Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** became the **first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour** after defeating American Grandmaster **Fabiano Caruana 15–13** in a dramatic final at the Saint Louis Chess Club. The 21-year-old Chennai player began the final day six points behind but produced a remarkable comeback by winning both rapid games. He maintained his advantage during the blitz segment and secured the title after a final-game draw. Praggnanandhaa earned a **USD 200,000 prize** and secured qualification for next year's Grand Chess Tour alongside Caruana and Wesley So. His triumph represents a landmark achievement for **Indian chess** on the global stage.
- Indian squash player **Velavan Senthilkumar** won the **PSA Budapest Squash Open** in Hungary after defeating home favourite **Balazs Farkas 3-0** in the final. Senthilkumar delivered an impressive campaign throughout the tournament, defeating strong opponents before reaching the championship match. In the quarterfinal, he defeated **World No. 18 and Asian Games gold medallist Eain Yow Ng** by 3-0. He then overcame fellow Indian **Veer Chotrani 3-2** in a closely contested semifinal. Senthilkumar maintained his momentum in the final, completing another 3-0 victory. The title adds to his growing international reputation and represents another significant achievement in his **professional squash career**.
- India finished **eighth in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** after Belgium defeated them **4-3 in a shootout** following a dramatic 3-3 draw in regulation time. **Abhishek** gave India an early advantage before Belgium responded with two goals. **Harmanpreet Singh** restored parity, but Nicolas de Kerpel again put Belgium ahead in the fourth quarter. Harmanpreet scored in the dying moments to make it 3-3 and force a shootout. India converted attempts through **Shilanand Lakra, Dilpreet Singh and Abhishek**, but Belgium held its nerve. Belgium finished seventh, while India ended its campaign in **eighth place**.
- **Spain and Germany** have reached the men's **Hockey World Cup final** after winning their respective semifinals. Spain defeated co-hosts **Netherlands 4-3** in a dramatic match at Amstelveen, while Germany overcame **Argentina 2-1** in Wavre, Belgium. Spain initially fell behind before **José**

Basterra equalised and later completed a hat-trick. **Pepe Cunill** also scored from a penalty corner as Spain took control, despite late Netherlands goals from Jip Janssen and Joep de Mol. Germany's goals came from **Justus Weigand and Paul-Philipp Kaufmann**, while Argentina scored through Tomas Domene. Spain and Germany will now compete for the **world championship title**.

Science and Technology News

- India plans to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) by 2035**, expanding its ambitions in human spaceflight. **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan** announced the target during the third **National Space Day** celebrations in Ahmedabad on August 23, 2026, stating that the station's **first module has already been approved**. The project builds upon technologies being developed through the **Gaganyaan programme** and aims to enable long-duration human activities in space. The station could support **scientific research, technology testing and extended space missions**. Growing participation by private companies in satellite manufacturing, payloads and launches is also expected to strengthen India's space ecosystem.
- India has launched its first indigenous **non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid**, marking progress towards agricultural self-reliance. Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched the hybrid at Musunuru in **Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh**, on August 24, 2026. The new seed is expected to reduce dependence on imported hybrid technology for premium popcorn maize and strengthen domestic seed development. More than **17,500 farmers across eight States**, cultivating nearly **40,000 acres**, are associated with the Gourmet Popcornica ecosystem. The initiative brings together **farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs** to strengthen agricultural value chains, processing and market access while supporting **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

Important Days News

- **National Space Day 2026** is being observed on **August 23** to commemorate India's historic **Chandrayaan-3 Moon landing** on August 23, 2023. The **Vikram lander** successfully achieved a soft landing near the Moon's southern polar region, making India the **fourth country to achieve a soft lunar landing** and the first to reach the **lunar south polar region**. The 2026 theme, **"Towards Viksit Bharat – Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring Global Space Leadership,"** highlights India's space ambitions and international cooperation. The occasion celebrates **ISRO's achievements**, promotes STEM education and highlights the growing contribution of **startups and private space companies**.

- **Eid Milad-un-Nabi 2026** is being observed in India on **August 26**, commemorating the birth anniversary of **Prophet Muhammad**. Also called **Mawlid or Eid-e-Milad**, the occasion is observed on the 12th day of **Rabi' ul-Awwal**, the third month of the Islamic calendar. Prophet Muhammad was born around **570 AD** and is regarded in Islam as the final prophet and messenger of God. Observances include **religious gatherings, prayers, lectures, poetry and readings** about his life and teachings. Mosques, homes and streets are often decorated with lights, while processions and community programmes are organised in various regions.
- **Onam 2026** is being celebrated across Kerala with **Pookalam, Onam Sadhya, cultural programmes and community gatherings**. The ten-day festival begins with **Atham** and culminates in **Thiruvonam on August 26, 2026**. Onam is traditionally associated with the annual return of **King Mahabali**, remembered for his generosity, wisdom and prosperous rule. The festival represents **prosperity, equality, unity and Kerala's cultural heritage**. Major traditions include floral decorations, **Vallamkali or snake boat races**, traditional clothing and temple visits. **Onam Sadhya**, a grand vegetarian feast served on banana leaves, remains one of the festival's most prominent culinary and cultural traditions.
- **World Lake Day 2026** was observed on August 27 to highlight the ecological, economic and social importance of **lakes** and the urgent need for their conservation. Lakes provide freshwater, support biodiversity, sustain livelihoods and contribute to food and water security. The **United Nations** established the observance through Resolution 79/142 in December 2024, with August 27 commemorating the first World Lake Conference in Japan in 1984. The first UN-recognised World Lake Day was observed in 2025. Major threats include **pollution, excessive water extraction, climate change, agricultural runoff, habitat degradation and biodiversity loss**. The observance promotes restoration and sustainable freshwater management.
- **World Sanskrit Day 2026** is observed on **August 28**, coinciding with **Shravana Purnima**, to celebrate the heritage and continued relevance of the Sanskrit language. Also known as **Sanskrit Diwas**, the occasion promotes Sanskrit through shloka recitations, debates, seminars and educational activities. India's official observance began in **1969** following Union Education Ministry notifications. Sanskrit has profoundly influenced Indian **literature, philosophy, religion and traditional knowledge**, with major works including the Vedas, Ramayana, Mahabharata and writings of Kalidasa. Under **NEP 2020**, scholarships, institutional support and preservation initiatives are being used to encourage Sanskrit education, research and wider cultural awareness.
- **Raksha Bandhan 2026** is being celebrated on **Friday, August 28**, marking the traditional bond between brothers and sisters. The festival falls on **Shravana Purnima**, with the Purnima tithi extending from August 27 into August 28. Traditional Panchang calculations favour August 28 for the celebration. The timing is significant because of **Bhadra**, which is traditionally avoided for tying rakhi. In 2026, Bhadra ends before sunrise on August 28, making the morning suitable for **Rakhi rituals and ceremonies**. Families celebrate by tying sacred threads, exchanging gifts and expressing affection while seeking blessings for the long-lasting **sibling relationship**.
- India observes **National Sports Day on August 29** every year to honour hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand** on his birth anniversary and promote sports participation and fitness. Known as the **"Wizard of Hockey,"** Dhyan Chand helped India win Olympic gold medals in **1928, 1932 and 1936**. National Sports Day was first observed in **1995** and has developed into a nationwide fitness-awareness occasion. The **Fit India Movement**, launched on August 29, 2019, further strengthened the day's focus on active lifestyles. In 2026, celebrations are being held from **August 28 to 30** under the theme **"Tribute, Play, and Move,"** encouraging physical activity and sporting participation.

Obituaries News

- **Dolly Parton**, the legendary country music singer and songwriter, died at the age of **80**, leaving behind a career spanning nearly six decades. Born in Tennessee in 1946, she became one of the world's best-selling female artists, with more than **100 million records sold**. Her celebrated songs include **"Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors" and "I Will Always Love You."** Parton won **11 Grammy Awards**, including a Lifetime Achievement Award, and entered the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2022**. She also acted in films such as **9 to 5** and **Steel Magnolias** and supported literacy, scholarships and vaccine research through philanthropy.
- Veteran Bollywood filmmaker **Avtar "Kuku" Kohli** died in Mumbai on **August 25, 2026**, aged **77**. Reports said he suffered a massive heart attack and died at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Andheri. Kohli began his career as an assistant director under legendary filmmaker **Raj Kapoor** before moving into direction. His directorial debut, **Phool Aur Kaante (1991)**, marked **Ajay Devgn's debut as a lead actor** in Hindi cinema. Kohli subsequently directed films including **Suhaag, Haqeeqat, Anari No. 1 and Woh Tera Naam Tha**. He was married to veteran actress **Aruna Irani** and is survived by his wife and two daughters.

- British actor **Tim Curry** died peacefully at his Los Angeles home on August 25, 2026, aged **80**. He became internationally famous for portraying **Dr. Frank-N-Furter** in *The Rocky Horror Show* and its 1975 film adaptation, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. His extensive career included films such as *Clue*, *It*, *The Shadow*, *Home Alone 2*, *Muppet Treasure Island* and *Charlie's Angels*. Curry was also an acclaimed stage performer, earning **three Tony Award nominations**, including one for *Monty Python's Spamalot*. He won a **Daytime Emmy** in 1991 for voice work. His career demonstrated remarkable versatility across film, television, theatre and voice acting.
- Japanese avant-garde artist **Yayoi Kusama** died at the age of **97** in Tokyo on August 14, with her death announced on August 27. Born in Matsumoto in 1929, Kusama became globally recognised for her distinctive **polka dots, repetitive patterns, pumpkin sculptures and Infinity Mirror Rooms**. She moved to New York in 1957 and became associated with the **avant-garde and pop art movements** during the 1960s. Returning to Japan in the 1970s, she continued producing art while voluntarily living in a psychiatric hospital in Tokyo from 1977. Her work transformed contemporary art through immersive installations and highly recognisable visual motifs, earning worldwide cultural influence.
- According to the supplied report, **Norway's King Harald V** has died at the age of **89**. He became king in **1991** after the death of his father, King Olav V, and served during decades of economic development largely associated with Norway's oil and gas sector. Harald was regarded as a modernising monarch who maintained the largely **symbolic constitutional role** of the Norwegian royal family. Born in **1937 near Oslo**, he spent part of his childhood in exile in the United States during the Nazi occupation of Norway. The report states that his son automatically succeeds him as **King Haakon VIII**.

Static Takeaways

Aspect	Details
Uttar Pradesh	CM: Yogi Adityanath, Governor: Anandiben Patel, Capital: Lucknow
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
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin
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



ALL EXAMS, **ONE** SUBSCRIPTION

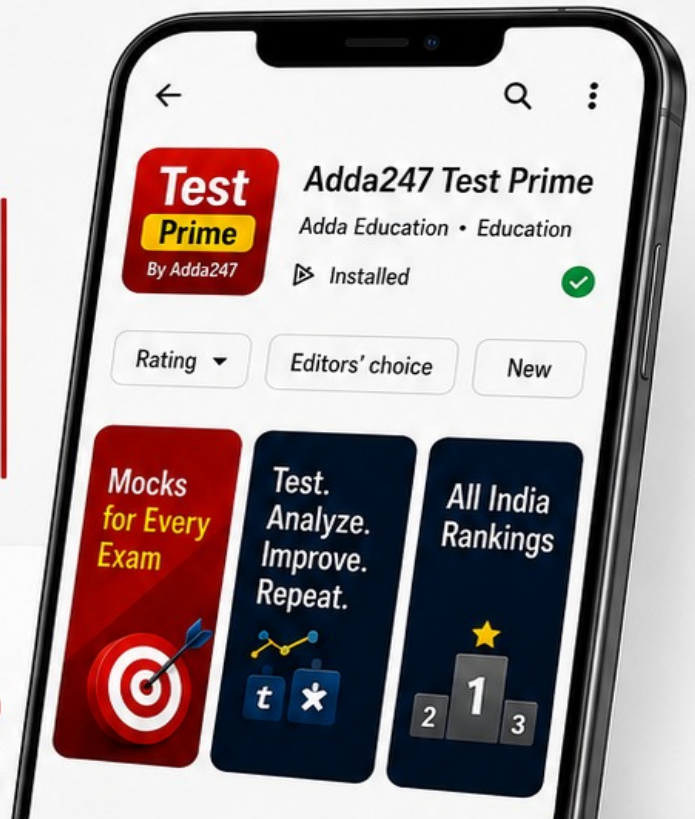


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