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Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026 Honour Three Asian Leaders

The Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026 has honored three people who have been making a significant contribution to Asia through their work. Tommy Koh of Singapore who is a diplomat and a lawyer, Bo Kyi from Myanmar who is a human rights activist, and Runa Khan from Bangladesh who is a social worker and a former teacher are the awardees for the year 2026, as announced on August 31. The contributions of these awardees include international law, democracy, human rights, poverty reduction, and climate resilience.

Who are the Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026 winners?

1. Tommy Koh: Advocate of diplomacy and international law

Singapore diplomat, 88-year-old Tommy Koh has dedicated many years to the promotion of international cooperation, dialogue and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Koh is a key figure who took part in negotiations that resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) which created the legal framework for the peaceful and just utilization of the oceans of the planet.

Besides being a diplomat, Koh is an academician, a public servant, and an art supporter and contributor to various civic organizations. For his contributions to international diplomacy and for his attempts to develop a new generation of people dedicated to the ideals of justice and human dignity the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation awarded him.

In all his diplomatic activities Koh stressed the importance of dialogue, rule of law and international cooperation especially in those cases when two disputing countries have different levels of power.

2. Runa Khan: Essential services for remote areas

Bangladesh's development leader Runa Khan, aged 67, felt deeply touched when she came to know about the plight of those living in remote char communities in her country. She set up an organization called 'Friendship' to provide basic services to populations out of the reach of traditional development organizations.

While it all started with one hospital boat only to expand into a bigger model encompassing healthcare, education, climate resilience, livelihood, and social inclusion in riverine, coastal, and refugee communities.

Khan was awarded with the RMAF Award for her empathy, bravery, vision, and determination in setting up Friendship and doing all of this with a focus on creating opportunities from access and privilege in some of Bangladesh's toughest geography and economy.

3. Bo Kyi: A lifelong struggle for democracy and justice

Myanmar human right activist Bo Kyi, 61, knows firsthand what repression looks like as he was himself arrested following Myanmar's pro-democracy demonstration in 1988 and was twice jailed for seven years.

In 2000, he co-founded the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP). This organization assists political prisoners and their relatives in documenting human rights abuses during the military regime.

By collecting such data AAPP managed to attract the attention of the international community to the problem of political prisoners and to make sure their stories were not forgotten.

The RMAF recognized the moral courage, personal sacrifice, and dedication to democracy and human dignity in Bo Kyi's attempt to achieve truth and justice.

Why is the Ramon Magsaysay Award relevant?

The main purpose of creating the award was to encourage people showing "greatness of spirit" who serve the peoples of Asia, irrespective of race, gender or religion. The prize is awarded every year since 1958 after the death of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay in 1957.

During more than six decades, there have been 353 award-winning individuals and organizations recognized for their outstanding contribution to their communities, Asia and even the whole world.

Between 1958 and 2008, the awards were granted to people and organizations within six categories: Government Service, Public Service, Community Leadership, Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, Peace and International Understanding, and Emergent Leadership.

Since 2009, the awards are no longer given in separate categories; except for Emergent Leadership.



How are Ramon Magsaysay Award Winners Chosen?

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) invites nominations from its network of international confidential nominators. It is worth mentioning that the public does not have an opportunity to nominate anyone.

The candidates go through investigations and evaluation process after which the RMAF Board of Trustees choose the award recipients.

When are 2026 award winners recognized?

Every year the award recipients are named on August 31 on the birthday of Ramon Magsaysay. The formal awarding ceremony is traditionally held in Manila, Philippines, in November.

This means that the award winners in 2026 will receive a certificate and the classic Ramon Magsaysay medallion embossed with the profile of the former Philippine president. The ceremony will take place in Manila Metropolitan Theatre on November 15, 2026.

PM Modi Receives Uzbekistan's Highest Honour

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Uzbekistan's highest award, 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' Order, when he visited Tashkent on August 30, 2026. Modi dedicated the honor to India's rich history, the Indian nation and the historic friendship between India and Uzbekistan. The award was accompanied by a major diplomatic breakthrough where the two nations elevated their ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Besides, they entered into a long-term agreement for the supply of uranium to India, besides planning to strengthen collaboration in trade, investments, defence, energy and digital connectivity.

What is the Oliy Darajali Do'stlik Order?

The 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' means Order of Supreme Friendship and it is the highest order of Uzbekistan pertaining to friendship and international collaboration.

While receiving the award, Prime Minister Modi said that the award should be considered an honor for the Indian people and not an individual. The Prime Minister dedicated the award to the millennia-old heritage of India and the 1.4 billion people who live there.

The prime minister also referred to the word "Dostlik", which means friendship and he called it a fitting representation of the historic ties between India and Uzbekistan.

Strategic Implications of India-Uzbekistan Relations

The award came at a time when the ties between the two countries saw a major strategic push. India and Uzbekistan elevated their ties to that of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Modi's two-day state visit to Tashkent.

This is a result of increasing collaboration between the two nations in various sectors.

Important sectors of collaboration includes,

- Trade and investment
- Defence and security
- Energy
- Digital connectivity
- Nuclear collaboration
- Regional and international issues

The move is important as it increases India's engagements with the Central Asian region, which is very important from the point of view of connectivity, energy resources, and geopolitical collaboration.

Why is Uranium Supply Agreement Important?

One of the important agreements made during the visit was the one relating to the long-term supply of uranium to India.

Uranium is a very important component of nuclear power generation. For India, the supply of uranium is very important in order to strengthen its nuclear energy program and energy security.

Thus, the agreement brings a new nuclear energy dimension to India-Uzbekistan relations.

Modi Stresses Common Culture and Global South

On receiving this award from Uzbekistan, PM Modi stressed that there were many common ties between the two nations in terms of culture and history. According to him, this recognition came not only with pride but also responsibility.

Modi further reassured Uzbekistan that India will continue to strengthen the bond between the two nations and fulfill its responsibilities.

India and Uzbekistan will jointly strive to become one voice for the Global South and help make efforts towards the well-being of humankind.

Ig Nobel Prize 2026 Winners: Full List and Key Findings

Ig Nobel Prize 2026 once again honored scientific research that might seem odd at first but can give rise to important queries and answers. Sponsored by the humor and science publication Annals of Improbable Research, this event gives awards to research that makes people laugh and then think. The 36th Ig Nobel Prize ceremony took place on September 3, 2026, at the Zurich Convention Center in Switzerland. There were ten award-winning research groups in fields such as Chemistry, Technology, Medicine, Soil Science, Physics, and Evolution, among others, with some Indian researchers included among the winners.

What Is the Ig Nobel Prize?

The Ig Nobel Prize is a yearly prize awarded to people who carry out scientific research in an amusing or interesting way but at the same time add to the field scientifically.

The Ig Nobel Prize does not mean mockery of the scientists' work in any way; on the contrary, it shows the importance of the questions which are strange and help to study unknown areas of science.

This prize is held annually by the Annals of Improbable Research.

Ig Nobel Prize 2026 Winners List

Category	Winners/ Researchers	Research Topic
Chemistry	Sanchari Banerjee, Subrahmanyam Ramaswamy, et al.	Studied protein crystals from cockroach milk and their energy content
Technology	Changhong Cao, Jianyu Li, et al.	Investigated mosquito blood-sucking mouthparts as ultra-fine 3D-printing nozzles
Medicine	Dr. Tokuji Unno, posthumously	Examined airflow and pressure changes associated with blowing the nose
Soil Science	Pia Viviani, Atlant Bieri, et al.	Buried cotton underwear across 25 countries to study soil life
Physics	Zhao Pan, Kavee Thuraiarah, et al.	Developed splash-free urinal designs using fluid impact angles
Evolution	Matilda Brindle, Stuart West, Catherine F.	Talbot Studied how kissing may have evolved among animal species

How Did Indian Scientists Receive Ig Nobel Prize in Chemistry?

Among the more bizarre experiments receiving recognition in 2026 was the research on cockroach milk, which involved Indian scientists from the Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), Bengaluru, as part of the international team of researchers.

The researchers considered the Pacific beetle cockroach, *Diploptera punctata*. It is unique among cockroaches as this species delivers live babies.

In the process, the female secretes an energy-rich substance within the brood sac to nourish the embryos. During the ingestion process, protein crystals form in the midguts of the embryos.

Research indicates that these tiny crystals are made up of proteins, lipids, and sugars. The awarding article reports that the crystals contain three times the energy as that contained in an equivalent amount of milk from mammals.

This discovery does not imply that cockroach milk will soon replace regular milk. Rather, it illustrates the value of studying unusual biological systems to learn about proteins and other nutrients.

Importance of These Ig Nobel Prize Studies

The winners of 2026 prove that the scientific process does not necessarily start from regular questions.

The inspiration from the mouth parts of mosquitoes for developing precision machinery, the investigation of soil via burial of cotton underpants and the investigation of fluid dynamics in urinals seem ridiculous. However, all these studies are conducted in order to answer certain problems or observations.

This is exactly the main idea of the Ig Nobel Prize.

National Affairs

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** notified the **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026** on August 27, establishing **Indian Standard Time (IST)** as the common reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes across India. The rules will come into force after **180 days**. The framework aims to improve accurate time-stamping in **banking, digital payments, telecommunications, transport, power networks, government records and emergency services**. **NavIC** and approved Indian timing sources will support secure IST dissemination. The government's **One Nation, One Time** initiative also includes a **White Rabbit Technology** demonstration network commissioned in Bengaluru.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** highlighted grassroots innovation, entrepreneurship, cleanliness, scientific farming and conservation during the **137th Mann Ki Baat** episode aired on August 30. He discussed **bharatrajya.com**, an interactive platform mapping Indian rulers across different historical periods, and urged citizens to support the **Nashamukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat** campaign. Around **35 lakh women** have benefited from **PM SVANidhi**. He also highlighted **Clean-up Patwai**, cleanliness during the Amarnath Yatra, scientific **gladiolus farming**, women-led forest conservation in Odisha and **Mission ShaktiSAT**, which provides satellite training to **12,000 girls across 108 countries**.
- Preparations for the **Union Budget 2027-28** will officially begin on **October 12, 2026**, with Finance Ministry pre-Budget meetings continuing through mid-November. Ministries and departments must submit expenditure requirements through the **Union Budget Information System** by October 6. Provisional expenditure ceilings will follow discussions, while final allocations will reflect government priorities and expected revenues. **Budget Estimates for 2027-28** and **Revised Estimates for 2026-27** are expected to be provisionally finalised after consultations, with final figures transmitted by December-end or early January. **Economic growth, job creation and domestic demand** are expected to remain major priorities amid global uncertainties and rising food and fuel prices.

- The **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** in The Hague ruled on the **Indus Waters Treaty**, but India rejected the decision, maintaining that the tribunal has no jurisdiction over its sovereign decisions. India did not participate in the arbitration and called the tribunal **"illegally constituted."** The PCA stated that the **1960 Indus Waters Treaty** remains legally effective and issued interim measures concerning the **Ratle Hydroelectric Project** on the Chenab River. Signed with **World Bank** involvement, the treaty broadly allocates the eastern rivers to India and western rivers to Pakistan, while permitting specified Indian uses of western rivers.
- **Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the **Mission Rangan Machhli 2031 Strategic Action Plan** at a Fisheries Outreach Programme in **Agatti, Lakshadweep**, on August 31, 2026. The plan establishes science-based practices for **ornamental fisheries**, covering broodstock management, breeding, hatcheries, quarantine, fish health, traceability, quality assurance and trade. It is linked to the **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**. Lakshadweep has a **4,200 sq km lagoon** and nearly **4 lakh sq km EEZ**, with fisheries potential exceeding **1 lakh tonnes**, including around **94,000 tonnes of tuna**. Projects worth over **₹62 crore** have been approved under PMMSY.
- The Government of India has notified **Semicon 2.0** with a massive **₹1.27 lakh crore outlay** to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem. Announced on August 31, 2026, the expanded programme covers **chip design, fabrication, packaging, equipment, materials, research and talent development** through **six pillars and 10 categories**. Electronics and IT Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** said India could capture nearly **10% of the global semiconductor market** in coming years. The government aims to develop **one lakh additional semiconductor engineers**, after training 85,000 engineers. The initiative is expected to create **50,000–60,000 direct jobs**, with supported projects receiving assistance for up to six years.
- India welcomed the **SCO Bishkek Declaration**, which outlines 13 key outcomes covering **security, terrorism, artificial intelligence, climate change, energy and youth cooperation**. Member states reaffirmed their commitment to fight terrorism, separatism and extremism without double standards. New mechanisms for **counter-terrorism and anti-narcotics cooperation** will strengthen information sharing and address organised crime, drug trafficking and synthetic drugs. The SCO also approved an **AI cooperation MoU** and measures on climate action and energy efficiency. India highlighted the Young Scientists Forum, Young Authors Conference and Civilisation Dialogue Forum. Adding **English as an official and working language** is another major institutional development.
- The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** launched the **Adoption Awareness 2026** campaign on September 1 to promote legal, safe, transparent and child-centric adoption. With the theme **"Legal Adoption. Safe Childhood. Secure Future. Say No to Illegal Adoption!"**, the initiative seeks to discourage private and unlawful adoption arrangements while protecting children's identity, dignity and rights. CARA CEO **Bhavna Saxena** launched the campaign during a DD National programme. The year-round initiative will involve government departments, police, healthcare providers, courts, child-care institutions and NGOs. State and UT workshops begin in September, while a Delhi workshop on September 10 will address lawful surrender and adoption procedures.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the 26th **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit** in Bishkek on September 1, presenting India's three-pillar vision of **Security, Connectivity and Opportunity**. He urged members to convert commitments into tangible outcomes as the organisation marks its 25th anniversary. India called for stronger action against terrorism, including **terror financing, recruitment, radicalisation and safe havens**, while stressing Afghanistan's stability and action against drug trafficking. On connectivity, India advocated projects respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Opportunity pillar focuses on **youth, entrepreneurs and farmers**, supported by initiatives such as the SCO Start-up Forum and Young Scientists' Forum.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory session of the **Jal Shakti Departmental Summit** on September 2 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The two-day summit brought together Centre and State leaders and senior officials to strengthen **Team India, cooperative federalism and governance outcomes**. Discussions focused on accelerating water infrastructure, **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari – Catch the Rain**, sustainable drinking-water sources and reliable rural water systems. Special emphasis was placed on operation and maintenance under **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**. The summit aimed to identify implementation challenges, share best practices and prepare time-bound action plans for improved water conservation and rural drinking-water services.
- The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** launched the digital dialogue series **'AyurVarta'** ahead of Ayurveda Day 2026, scheduled for September 23. The initiative seeks to spread authentic Ayurveda knowledge, scientific perspectives and its contemporary relevance. The inaugural episode featured AIIA Director **Professor P. K. Prajapati** and Dean **Professor Mahesh Vyas**, discussing the significance of September 23. The date, earlier linked with Dhanvantari Jayanti, also coincides with the **Autumnal Equinox**, symbolising balance. Future episodes will cover research, education, clinical practice, innovation, public health, medicinal plants and Ayurveda's global role through AIIA's digital platforms.

- India launched the fifth edition of **Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar (SSSS v.5.0)** on September 1 to address marine litter and strengthen coastal conservation. The nationwide campaign will run from September 12 to 19 across **more than 100 beaches** along India's **11,098-km coastline**. Implemented under the **PRITHVI scheme** of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, it combines beach clean-ups with shoreline erosion and seawater-quality monitoring. The 2026 edition introduces India's first **national Ocean Olympiad** to engage young people in ocean conservation. A dedicated website and pledge portal will encourage public participation. The campaign has been conducted annually since 2022.
- A six-month **LiDAR survey** at Lakkundi in Karnataka's Gadag district will identify buried and undocumented structures associated with the **Kalyana-Chalukya era** of the 10th–12th centuries. The project follows an MoU between Karnataka's Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage and **NIAS, Bengaluru**. LiDAR, GIS mapping, remote sensing and **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** will be combined with field documentation to locate structures without extensive excavation. Lakkundi is renowned for temples, stepwells and inscriptions and is traditionally associated with "101 wells and 101 temples." Since 2023, authorities have identified **70 monuments** and recovered over 3,300 artefacts.
- IIT Madras** and **UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (UNESCO MGIEP)** signed a cooperation agreement on September 1 to develop next-generation **AI and immersive learning technologies**. The partnership combines UNESCO MGIEP's expertise in **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** with IIT Madras' capabilities in AI, Extended Reality and game design. The initiative will create open-source, low-cost digital tools suitable for **low-bandwidth environments**, enabling personalised and interactive education. Joint research will cover educational technology, pedagogy and learning sciences, alongside faculty exchanges. The tools will help teachers develop lesson plans and assessments incorporating SEL principles and support learner-centric education.
- India plans to develop **100 new airports** over the next 10 years under the **Modified UDAN scheme**, backed by a central budgetary outlay of **₹28,840 crore** for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36. Approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2026, the initiative focuses on improving regional air connectivity for **tier-2 and tier-3 cities, Himalayan regions, islands and remote areas**. India's active airport count has increased from 74 in 2014 to **166 in 2026**. The scheme also promotes a **hub-and-spoke model**, with Ahmedabad becoming the third hub after Varanasi and Amritsar. Around **200 new helipads** are also planned.
- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** declared the ancient **Gollala Gudi Temple** in Palampet, Mulugu district, Telangana, a **Monument of National Importance** through a Gazette notification dated August 31, 2026. The Kakatiya-era **Trikutalaya** lies near the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ramappa Temple. It has three sanctums, including a central Shiva shrine, and features intricate carvings of **Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganesha and Mahishasuramardini**, along with animal and floral motifs. ASI will undertake conservation work involving roof repairs, ground levelling and floor restoration. The move will strengthen protection and improve accessibility to this important but lesser-known Kakatiya heritage site.
- Retired **Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra** has been appointed the first **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya. The position was created to strengthen the trust's administrative and financial management. Mishra was commissioned as an **Indian Air Force fighter pilot in 1986** and has more than three decades of operational and leadership experience, including over **3,000 hours of flying** as a fighter combat leader and experimental test pilot. He studied at the National Defence Academy, Air Force Test Pilots School and other prestigious institutions. He was selected from around **5,200 applications**, with 18 candidates shortlisted for interviews.
- The **SUMAN Roadmap 2030** aims to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare by expanding interventions across **13 states and 130 districts**. The initiative focuses on improving access to quality healthcare and strengthening systems supporting women and newborns **before, during and after childbirth**. It brings together government institutions and development partners while introducing new resources and state-level innovations for grassroots implementation. **SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan)** is part of India's efforts to reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths through coordinated action, improved service delivery and stronger healthcare systems.
- The **CBSE three-language policy** for Class 9 students has come under discussion after the Centre sought additional time from the Supreme Court to work on implementation modalities. Introduced from the **2026–27 academic session**, the policy requires students to study **R1, R2 and R3**, with at least two languages being native Indian languages. A foreign language can be chosen as R3 or as a fourth language. The Supreme Court has stressed avoiding undue academic pressure and raised concerns over teacher availability. **R3 will not have a Class 10 board examination**.

- The **Supreme Court** has directed **seven states**—Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal—to amend their service rules and raise the retirement age of **district judges from 60 to 62 years**. The extension will be subject to a suitability assessment by the concerned High Court at age 60. Judges who have already crossed 60 will continue until 62 pending rule changes, which are to be completed within **two months**. The decision considers later entry into judicial service and over **5.18 crore pending district-court cases**.
- Union Minister **Dr Jitendra Singh** launched **BIO-NIVESH**, a strategic platform designed to connect biotechnology startups with investors and accelerate private capital, commercialisation and scale-up. At its inaugural edition, **20 high-potential biotechnology and deep-tech startups** interacted with around **50 investors**. The initiative seeks stronger collaboration among innovators, investors, industry and government and aims to bridge research, entrepreneurship and markets. The **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund**, with **BIRAC** as a Second-Level Fund Manager for biotechnology, is expected to support patient capital for technology translation, scale-up and innovation-led manufacturing.
- Tripura Chief Minister **Manik Saha** unveiled a statue of hockey legend **Major Dhyani Chand** at the **Dashrath Dev State Sports Complex, Badarghat**, on August 29 to mark **National Sports Day**. The state government plans to strengthen sports infrastructure, improve athlete training and provide financial assistance to successful players. Projects include **synthetic football turfs, modern floodlights and an international-standard cricket stadium at Narsingharh**. A **30,000-seat gallery** is planned at Badarghat, along with modern sports and youth hostels in Badarghat, Kailashahar and Udaipur. Saha encouraged youth to pursue sports, maintain fitness and discipline, read books and stay away from drugs.
- **Bihar and Jharkhand** signed an MoU on **Sone River water sharing**, resolving a nearly **25-year-old water dispute** and strengthening irrigation and drinking-water availability. The agreement will benefit Bihar's **Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna**, while areas including **Palamu and Garhwa** in Jharkhand will also gain. Chief Ministers **Hemant Soren and Samrat Choudhary** thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah. Shah described the agreement as an example of **Team Bharat and cooperative federalism**, noting that four major interstate agreements were reached this year through the **Inter-State Council**.
- The **Gujarat government** has extended its statewide ban on **gutkha and tobacco- or nicotine-containing paan masala** until **September 12, 2027**. The notification was issued by the **Commissioner of Food Safety** on August 31, 2026, prohibiting manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of the banned products. Separately sold ingredients intended to be mixed into prohibited products are also covered, preventing sellers from bypassing the restriction. Gujarat has enforced the ban since **2012**, citing public-health concerns and links between gutkha consumption and **oral cancer**. Authorities have warned that violations will attract strict legal action under applicable food-safety and public-health regulations.

States in the News

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced the state's first **ozone-based drinking water treatment project** in **Dehra, Kangra**, with an allocation of **₹46 crore**. The project will use ozone gas to disinfect water and improve its taste, with plans to replicate the model elsewhere. The government also highlighted **Mukhyamantri Ka Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana**, under which surveys are being conducted to identify extremely poor families for financial assistance and **300 free electricity units**. The **Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana** will provide **₹1.20 lakh** assistance to self-help groups. A veterinary hospital was also announced for **Baddal Thor**.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** is set to inaugurate **Phase-I of the Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project** on August 31, nearly three decades after its foundation ceremony in 1996. The project will divert surplus **Krishna floodwaters** through twin underground tunnels beneath the **Nallamala range**. Phase-I will store **10.70 TMC** in Nallamala Sagar, irrigate **1.19 lakh acres** and provide drinking water to nearly **four lakh people** across Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa. Its **gravity-flow system** reduces dependence on energy-intensive lift irrigation. The government has sanctioned over **₹756 crore** for rehabilitation of displaced families.



- The **Maharashtra government** approved its comprehensive **Drug-Free Policy 2029** on September 1, adopting a Whole-of-Government Approach to combat narcotics. The policy targets the entire illegal drug chain, including cultivation, manufacturing, transportation, sale and consumption. Its four pillars are **strict enforcement, supply reduction, demand reduction, and de-addiction, treatment and rehabilitation**. Departments including Home, Transport, Agriculture, Health, Education and Social Justice will coordinate through nodal officers and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force. From the **2027 academic year**, schools will conduct at least one drug-awareness lesson annually from Class V. Higher education institutions will promote drug-free campuses, while a Best Drug-Free District award will be announced annually.
- The **Kerala government** plans to establish a **Coconut Park** with support from the Coconut Development Board to promote processing, value addition and exports. Chief Minister **V D Satheesan** announced the initiative during nationwide celebrations of World Coconut Day 2026 on September 2. The park will encourage modern processing, packaging, branding and marketing while supporting premium-quality coconut products for international markets. Agriculture Minister **T Siddique** said the state would provide land and necessary support. Kerala also plans consultations with exporters and stakeholders within three months to develop **export-oriented projects**, strengthen business-to-business linkages and create new opportunities for entrepreneurship and investment in the coconut sector.
- The **Tamil Nadu government** introduced the **Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, proposing a **21-day limit** for processing business and regulatory clearances. Where state laws prescribe longer periods or no specific timeline, approvals would generally be completed within 21 days, excluding public and local holidays. Shorter existing timelines will continue, while clearances governed by Central laws will follow their prescribed deadlines. The Bill also proposes a **Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission**, chaired by the Chief Secretary, to monitor major investments. It will oversee projects involving **₹200 crore or more investment, 5,000 or more jobs**, FTAs and other notified categories.
- **Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport** launched **hub-and-spoke flight operations** on September 1, 2026, becoming the third Indian airport under the Ministry of Civil Aviation framework after Varanasi and Amritsar. Air India's Easy Connect service uses two daily Ahmedabad–Delhi flights, allowing eligible passengers to complete **customs, immigration and baggage procedures in Ahmedabad** before continuing internationally through Delhi. The model connects travellers with destinations across Europe, North America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Australia. The government plans to extend the system to **22 more airports**, including Surat. The wider aviation strategy could generate around **4 lakh jobs** and contribute about US\$30 billion to GDP by 2030.
- The **Supreme Court of India** directed Tamil Nadu to frame rules identifying a designated channel for fishing vessels to travel through territorial waters and reach the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**. The September 2, 2026 order concerns purse-seine fishing vessels and delays in issuing permits. The Court noted that **226 of 257 applications** on the ReALCRaft Portal remained pending as of August 3, while only six permits had been issued. It observed that prolonged delays could effectively restrict fishermen's right to practise their profession under **Article 19(1)(g)**. India's territorial waters extend 12 nautical miles, while the EEZ extends up to **200 nautical miles**.
- **Tripura** has achieved a milestone in agricultural exports by sending its first major consignment of certified organic rice to European markets. An **18.7-metric-tonne** shipment of organic aromatic rice was dispatched to destinations including **Austria and the Netherlands** with support from **APEDA**. The rice is certified under India's **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**. The export could help Tripura's organic farmers access international markets and promote distinctive agricultural products such as **organic rice, ginger, chilli and Queen Pineapple**, strengthening the state's export-oriented agricultural economy.
- **Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy** removed **Konda Surekha** from the state cabinet amid political developments. The decision was followed by changes involving responsibilities connected with the **State Planning Board** and **Telangana State Women's Commission**. The development is important from an Indian polity perspective because the appointment and removal of state ministers are constitutionally linked to the **Governor acting on the advice of the Chief Minister**. Surekha's removal attracted political attention due to her public profile and previous ministerial responsibilities, making the development significant for state-level affairs.
- **Sikkim** has identified **40 high-hazard glacial lakes**, including **16 Category A** lakes, amid concerns over **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. The state is using satellite imagery, remote sensing, water-level monitoring, bathymetry, geophysical surveys and flood modelling for risk assessment. The threat gained urgency after the **October 2023 GLOF**, which killed at least 60 people and destroyed the Chungthang dam. **Shako Chho** has been identified as the most vulnerable lake, while mitigation plans cover the **Lhonak and Gurudongmar complexes**. Sikkim is also developing a dedicated **GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol**.

- The **Nakatia River in Bareilly** will be revived through a **three-phase project** focused on scientific mapping, pollution control and ecological conservation. The first phase will undertake a baseline survey covering the catchment, drainage network, water flow, pollution sources, discharge points, encroachments, water quality and existing structures. A detailed project report will propose **water conservation, drain treatment, green buffers and biodiversity protection**. Authorities will explore bringing the project under the **Namami Gange programme**. The final phase will implement approved works after securing technical and financial resources, while officials are also considering renaming the river '**Nath Ganga**'.

International Affairs

- India and China agreed to operationalise an **eight-point consensus** reached during the 25th **Special Representatives talks** on the boundary question in Beijing on August 25, 2026. **NSA Ajit Doval** and Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** discussed maintaining peace along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and improving communication and border management. Both sides agreed to continue negotiations under the **2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles**. The consensus includes **two additional military meeting points and two hotline channels** for the Eastern and Middle Sectors. India also welcomed increased **Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra** batches and supported reopening three border trading points.
- Ecuador declared a nationwide **red alert** over the **El Niño climate phenomenon**, which scientists warn could become one of the strongest episodes on record. The country's **Ministry of Risk Management** activated emergency committees to coordinate preparedness and preventive evacuations. El Niño increases surface temperatures in the **central and eastern equatorial Pacific**, disrupting winds, rainfall, fisheries and bird migration. Ecuador is preparing for **droughts and wildfires**, particularly in its Amazon region. The phenomenon is contributing to drought in Central America and worsening wildfires in Indonesia. Scientists expect it to peak by year-end and potentially contribute to **record global heat in 2027**.
- Tennis legend **Roger Federer** was inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** on August 29, 2026, during an emotional ceremony in **Newport, Rhode Island**. The **20-time Grand Slam champion**, who retired in 2022, described the honour as one of the greatest of his life. Federer won **20 Grand Slam singles titles**, including a record **eight Wimbledon championships**. During his speech, he recalled his journey from being a **13-year-old ballboy in Basel** to becoming one of tennis history's most successful players. He thanked opponents, officials, fans, family, friends, ball kids and his support team, highlighting tennis's lasting role in his life.
- The **17th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17)** was held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, from August 17 to 28, 2026, under the theme **"Restoring Land. Restoring Hope."** The conference focused on **land restoration, drought resilience and sustainable management of degraded land**. The **UNCCD**, established in 1994, works to combat desertification and land degradation while promoting sustainable land management. Discussions highlighted the importance of **grasslands** for livelihoods, biodiversity and ecological stability. For India, COP17 was significant for **sustainable grassland management and land restoration**, while countries strengthened cooperation to address drought, desertification and land degradation.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** two-day state visit to **Tashkent** focused on strengthening India-Uzbekistan cooperation in **trade, investment, defence, energy and digital connectivity**. On August 30, Modi held delegation-level talks with Uzbek President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, with both sides seeking closer alignment between **Viksit Bharat** and **Yangi Uzbekistan**. Modi received a ceremonial welcome, visited **Yangi Uzbekistan Park** and interacted with the Indian community. He also attended a **yoga session** hosted by the Yoga Federation of Uzbekistan, highlighting cultural ties. Following Uzbekistan, Modi was scheduled to participate in the **26th SCO Summit** in Kyrgyzstan on August 31 and September 1.
- The **4th Indo-German Environment Forum** will be held in **New Delhi on September 1, 2026**, co-chaired by Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** and German Environment Minister **Carsten Schneider**. Themed **"Together For More Resilience,"** it is the highest-level bilateral environmental policy forum between India and Germany and has been held since **2008**. Discussions will cover **low-carbon industries, biodiversity, wetlands, mountains, forests, circular economy, resource efficiency, sustainable finance, green skills and investment mobilisation**. Three Joint Working Groups focusing on **climate change, biodiversity and circular economy** have already met this year, supporting stronger bilateral environmental cooperation.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** urged the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** to collectively dismantle the entire ecosystem of **terrorism and terror financing** during the annual summit in Kyrgyzstan. He stressed that there should be **no double standards** in combating terrorism and called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve wars and conflicts. On connectivity, Modi supported projects linking markets, facilitating trade and creating development opportunities, while emphasising respect for **sovereignty and territorial integrity**. Describing the SCO as a confluence of civilisations and cultures, he highlighted India's three key priorities for the organisation: **security, connectivity and opportunity**.

- Belgian Prime Minister **Bart De Wever** is visiting India from **September 2 to 4, 2026**, at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation, marking his first India visit since becoming Belgium's Prime Minister in **February 2025**. Defence Minister **Theo Francken** is accompanying him. De Wever is scheduled to hold talks with Modi on September 3 covering bilateral, regional and global issues. Cooperation in **trade, investment, defence, security, technology, renewable energy, connectivity and people-to-people relations** will be discussed. He will address a **CII business event**, while his Mumbai programme includes meetings with stakeholders from the **diamond, ports and logistics sectors**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** met Russian President **Vladimir Putin** in **Bishkek** on the sidelines of the **26th SCO Summit**, marking their first meeting of 2026. The leaders reviewed India-Russia cooperation across **politics, economy, defence, energy, space, mobility and people-to-people ties**. They welcomed outcomes of the **27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission**, held in Moscow on August 24. Discussions also covered **BRICS**, regional conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea, and their impact on maritime trade and Indian seafarers. Modi reiterated the importance of **dialogue and diplomacy** and invited Putin to India for the **18th BRICS Summit on September 12–13**.
- **Apple Maps** changed the US label of **Lake Ontario** to "Lake America" on September 1, 2026, following a federal name change in the US **Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)**. Users in Canada continued seeing "Lake Ontario", while users elsewhere reportedly saw both names. GNIS is maintained by the **US Geological Survey (USGS)** and standardises geographic names for federal maps and records. Lake Ontario is one of North America's five **Great Lakes** and the easternmost among them. Located between Ontario, Canada, and New York, US, it drains into the Saint Lawrence River and is the smallest Great Lake by surface area.
- US President **Donald Trump** nominated **Hung Cao** on September 1 to become the permanent United States Secretary of the Navy. Cao had served as Acting Secretary since April 22, 2026, after being confirmed as the **35th Under Secretary of the Navy** in October 2025. The Secretary is the civilian head of the Department of the Navy and oversees the US Navy and Marine Corps under the Department of Defense. A retired **US Navy Captain**, Cao completed 25 years of service, including special operations, diving and explosive ordnance missions. In August 2026, he established the Navy's **Office of the Defense Industrial Base** to strengthen supply chains and shipyard infrastructure.
- **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** will participate in the **18th BRICS Summit** in New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026, hosted by India at Bharat Mandapam. India assumed the **BRICS chairship** on January 1, with the summit coinciding with the grouping's 20th anniversary. India's theme is **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**, focusing on political and security cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges. More than 350 meetings and high-level engagements have been conducted across over 25 Indian cities. Guterres' second UN Secretary-General term ends in December 2026.
- Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** achieved a major political milestone as her government completed **1,413 consecutive days**, becoming the longest-serving government in the history of the Italian Republic, excluding Benito Mussolini's dictatorship. Meloni became Prime Minister in **October 2022**, with her government highlighting political stability as a major achievement. Her administration has supported **Ukraine**, influenced European debates on migration and trade, and maintained Italy's budget within EU limits. However, challenges include rising living costs, weak productivity, stagnant wages, an ageing population, coalition tensions and setbacks over judicial and electoral reforms.
- The **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** has forecast a near-**100% probability** of **El Niño** continuing through **February 2027**, with unusually warm tropical Pacific conditions potentially strengthening toward the end of 2026. The **Niño 3.4 index** increased to around **+2.0°C in July 2026**, while weekly anomalies later reached **+2.2°C to +2.6°C**. For India, a strong El Niño could reduce monsoon rainfall and raise temperatures, affecting agriculture and water resources. However, a forecast positive **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** of around **+0.9°C** could partly offset rainfall impacts.
- The **2026 Semiquincentennial Donald Trump \$1 coin** has attracted strong demand in the United States ahead of the country's **250th anniversary**. Issued by the **US Mint**, the commemorative coin features President **Donald Trump** on the obverse and the **US Presidential Seal** on the reverse. It is made from a copper, zinc, manganese and nickel alloy, giving it a gold-like appearance without containing gold. The coin carries **"1776–2026"** and **"250"** markings. The Mint also produced **250,000 July 4th privy-marked coins**, increasing collector interest.
- **Lahore** has been named the **SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026–27**, highlighting its historical and cultural importance. The announcement was made at the **26th SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, alongside Pakistan assuming the SCO chairmanship for 2026–27. Lahore will host cultural and tourism activities promoting heritage preservation and people-to-people exchanges. Major attractions include **Lahore Fort, Shalimar Gardens, Badshahi Mosque and the Walled City**. Pakistan's chairmanship theme is **"Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity."**

- The **United Nations General Assembly** has endorsed the **"Correct the Map" resolution**, supporting more accurate representations of continent sizes and addressing distortions created by the **Mercator projection**. Introduced by **Togo** with backing from African Union members, the resolution received support from **164 countries**, while the United States voted against and six countries abstained. The non-binding resolution could influence maps used by international organisations, schools and governments. The **Equal Earth projection** provides a more accurate representation of land areas and has been adopted by **54 African Union members**, highlighting how maps influence perceptions of geography and economic significance.
- India is hosting the **three-day BRICS Chief Justices' Forum 2026** in **New Delhi from September 4 to 6**, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit. The forum aims to strengthen judicial cooperation among BRICS members and partner countries. **Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant** inaugurated the event and held bilateral meetings with judicial leaders from several countries. Discussions cover **modern jurisprudence, artificial intelligence in judicial administration, international commercial mediation, sustainable development and cross-border enforcement of arbitral awards**. The participation of senior judicial representatives highlights growing cooperation among BRICS countries on emerging legal and judicial challenges.
- India will host the inaugural **iBRICS Global Sovereign Capital Summit** in **New Delhi on September 12–13, 2026**, alongside the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit. Organised by the **Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute**, the invitation-only event is expected to attract over **500 participants managing nearly \$1 trillion**. Discussions will cover cross-border investment, infrastructure, technology, critical minerals, energy transition and digital payments. A closed-door roundtable will examine **non-dollar settlement corridors** and a proposed Sovereign Capital Compact. Participants will also explore linking **India's UPI, Brazil's Pix and CBDCs** to develop faster cross-border payment systems.
- **Malaysia** has declared an emergency in **Serian, Sarawak**, after the Air Pollution Index reached **519**, far above the hazardous threshold of 300. The severe haze is mainly attributed to forest fires in neighbouring **Indonesia**, with smoke crossing into Sarawak on Borneo island. Authorities have initiated **cloud-seeding operations** to encourage rainfall and reduce airborne pollutants. The emergency covers Serian within an approximately **20-kilometre radius**, while essential services such as supermarkets, petrol stations and banks continue operating. The episode highlights Southeast Asia's recurring **cross-border haze problem**, especially during dry periods when forest and peatland fires spread smoke across national borders.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **HDFC Bank** Managing Director and CEO **Sashidhar Jagdishan** will retire on **October 26, 2026**, after deciding not to seek reappointment. The bank's board said it attempted to persuade him to continue, but Jagdishan maintained his decision. He became CEO in **October 2020**, succeeding **Aditya Puri**, and oversaw the landmark merger of HDFC Bank with **HDFC Ltd**. His departure comes amid recent **governance concerns and investor scrutiny**. An external review found no evidence supporting allegations made by former chairman **Atanu Chakraborty**, while an internal review described a 2017–2021 deposit arrangement as **"business overreach."** HDFC Bank is accelerating its search for a successor.
- **Micron Technology** Chairman and CEO **Sanjay Mehrotra** has been named among the **2026 TIME100 AI** leaders, recognising influential figures shaping artificial intelligence. TIME released its fourth annual list on August 27. Mehrotra was recognised for positioning Micron to benefit from rapid expansion in **AI infrastructure**. Micron is one of only three global companies manufacturing **high-bandwidth memory (HBM)**, a key component used alongside advanced AI chips. The company's cloud-memory revenue reportedly increased fourfold from **USD 3.4 billion to USD 13.8 billion** in a quarter. Micron has also announced major **US manufacturing and research investments through 2035**, along with expansion in Singapore.
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said India achieved its **FY2025-26 fiscal consolidation target**, with the fiscal deficit at **4.4% of GDP**, equivalent to **₹15.19 trillion**. Speaking to the Indian diaspora in Chicago, she said the target was achieved without reducing allocations for **social welfare or public capital expenditure**. The government aims to reduce the **debt-to-GDP ratio to 50% by 2030**. Sitharaman highlighted India's post-pandemic growth of **7% or more** despite global challenges, including geopolitical tensions and trade disruptions. She also discussed fertiliser supplies, higher shipping insurance costs and ongoing **trade agreements** with the EU, Australia, UAE and EFTA countries.



- India's real **GDP growth** is expected to remain resilient at **7–7.2% in FY2026-27**, according to **EY**, supported by strong domestic demand and government capital expenditure. Nominal GDP growth could reach **12.5–13%**. Industrial activity improved, with **IIP growth reaching 7.3% in June 2026**, a 23-month high, while first-quarter FY27 industrial growth averaged 5.7%. **Manufacturing** expanded 7.8%, while government capex increased **23.7% in Q1 FY27**. However, inflation remains a concern, with **CPI at 4.4%** and **WPI at 9.8%**. Global risks include higher crude prices, weaker trade and a projected **1.9% current account deficit**.
- Indian travellers can now make **UPI payments across Uzbekistan** by scanning the country's national interoperable **UZQR codes** at participating merchants. The facility follows a commercial agreement signed on August 30, 2026, between **NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL)** and **National Interbank Processing Centre JSC (NIPC)**, which operates Uzbekistan's HUMO payment system. Users can pay directly from their bank accounts through existing **UPI-enabled applications** using person-to-merchant transactions. Integration with Uzbekistan's **Unified National QR infrastructure** is expected to expand acceptance across retail, hospitality and services, reduce dependence on cash and international cards, and strengthen **India-Uzbekistan digital payment cooperation**.
- The **National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX)** launched **RAINCHNNAI**, India's second rainfall-based weather derivatives contract after RAINMUMBAI. The cash-settled futures contract helps businesses manage financial risks caused by rainfall variability during Chennai's **Northeast or retreating monsoon**, which contributes nearly **70% of annual rainfall**. Developed with **IIT Bombay**, it uses official **IMD** rainfall observations from Meenambakkam and Nungambakkam stations and measures deviations from the **Long Period Average** using five decades of historical data. The contract covers **September–December**, with a 1-mm tick size and maximum order size of 50 lots, strengthening India's **climate-risk management** framework.
- John Ternus** is set to become **Apple CEO on September 1, 2026**, succeeding **Tim Cook** after his 15-year leadership tenure. Ternus, 51, joined Apple in **2001** and currently serves as Senior Vice President of **Hardware Engineering**, overseeing teams responsible for major products including the iPhone. As CEO, he will face challenges involving **artificial intelligence, product innovation, China-dependent supply chains and US political pressure** over overseas manufacturing. Apple has expanded iPhone assembly in India while diversifying production, although China remains strategically important. Cook will become **Executive Chairman**, continuing global policymaker engagement. Ternus will immediately face Apple's September 9 product event.
- India's real **GDP grew 7.8% in Q1 FY2026-27**, exceeding the RBI's **7% projection** and economists' estimates, according to **National Statistics Office** data released on August 31. Real GDP rose to **₹81.36 lakh crore** from ₹75.46 lakh crore a year earlier, while nominal GDP increased 10.3% to **₹88.27 lakh crore**. Real **GVA grew 8.2%**, led by services, which expanded 10%. Financial, real estate and professional services grew **12.1%**, while manufacturing rose 9.2% and construction 7.7%. Private consumption increased over **9.9%**, government consumption 9.5%, and gross fixed capital formation surged **20.4%**, indicating strong investment momentum.
- India's **coconut product exports** increased by **62% in FY2025-26**, reaching **₹7,038.35 crore**, or USD 794.70 million, compared with ₹4,349.03 crore in the previous fiscal year. India remained the world's largest coconut producer, accounting for **31.24% of global production**. Major exports include **virgin coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water and activated carbon**, serving food, cosmetic and industrial markets. **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh** contribute 91.11% of national production. The Coconut Development Board had registered **8,700 exporters** by July 31, 2026. Government support includes ₹147.21 crore for Board activities and **₹350 crore under the Coconut Promotion Scheme**.
- The Union Government received **₹13,06,709 crore** during the first four months of **FY2026-27**, equivalent to **35.8% of the Budget Estimate**, according to consolidated monthly accounts for July 2026. Receipts included **₹8,44,560 crore net tax revenue**, ₹4,23,013 crore non-tax revenue and ₹39,136 crore non-debt capital receipts. The Centre transferred **₹3,72,354 crore** to states as tax devolution. Total expenditure reached **₹17,61,853 crore**, or 32.9% of the Budget Estimate, including ₹13,11,218 crore revenue expenditure and **₹4,50,635 crore capital expenditure**. Interest payments stood at **₹4,26,566 crore**, while major subsidies totalled ₹1,53,513 crore.
- India's gross **GST collections** increased **14.8% year-on-year** to nearly **₹2 trillion in August 2026**, according to Ministry of Finance data released on September 1. Collections moderated from July's ₹2.11 trillion but retained double-digit annual growth. **Import-related GST** rose 29% to ₹62,604 crore, while domestic GST increased 9% to ₹1.37 trillion. After refunds, net GST collections grew **8.3%** to ₹1.68 trillion. Refunds surged **68% to ₹31,795 crore**. During April-August FY27, gross GST collections increased 11% to **₹10.43 trillion**, while net collections rose 9% to ₹8.89 trillion. The festive season may further support revenue growth.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed **Suman Ray** as Executive Director effective September 1, 2026. Before his elevation, Ray served as RBI's Regional Director for Maharashtra. He will oversee the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** and the Premises Department. Ray brings more than three decades of central-bank experience across currency management, financial inclusion, payment and settlement systems, consumer education and protection, and human resources. He has also served as Secretary to the **Western Area Local Board**. His varied responsibilities have provided extensive exposure to India's banking and financial system and strengthened his institutional experience within the central bank.
- India's **UPI ecosystem** processed a record **24.51 billion transactions worth ₹29.82 trillion** in August 2026, according to NPCI data. Transaction volume increased **3.6% month-on-month and 22% year-on-year**, marking the second consecutive monthly record. Average daily transactions rose from 763 million in July to **791 million** in August, while average daily value reached ₹96,205 crore. UPI value was slightly below July's ₹29.88 trillion. Other payment systems recorded mixed trends, with **IMPS** transactions declining over 1% to 360 million, while **FASTag** rose 1.2% to 351 million. **AePS** volume increased 4% to 104 million.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** observed its **9th Foundation Day** on September 1, 2026, by introducing new digital financial services. These include the **DakPay Sound Box** for merchants, a Digital Insurance Technology Platform for life, health and general insurance, and a Digital Mutual Fund Platform. As of March 31, 2026, IPPB had **13.25 crore customers**, with 77% in rural areas and 49% women. Customer deposits stood at ₹29,104 crore, while digital financial transactions reached ₹21.61 lakh crore. IPPB also processed 12.06 crore AePS transactions and facilitated 9.47 crore Aadhaar mobile updates. New savings products further strengthen financial inclusion.
- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** appointed **Carol Furtado** as Interim CEO for three months from September 1, 2026, following RBI approval. The transition came after MD and CEO **Sanjeev Nautiyal** opted for early retirement on health grounds, with formal retirement scheduled for November 30. The bank also appointed **Vikas Agrawal** as Business Head for MSME. With over 25 years of banking experience, Agrawal will focus on secured MSME lending and portfolio diversification. The appointments followed strong Q1 FY27 performance, with net profit rising **206.7% to ₹317 crore** and Net Interest Income increasing 38.6% to ₹1,186 crore, while the cost-to-income ratio improved to 62%.
- India's **current account deficit (CAD)** widened to **\$4.2 billion, or 0.5% of GDP**, in Q1 FY27, compared with \$3.4 billion or 0.4% a year earlier, according to RBI data. The main pressure came from the merchandise trade deficit, which increased to **\$86.1 billion** from \$68.9 billion. Stronger services receipts partly offset the widening deficit, with net services receipts rising to **\$51.6 billion**, supported by computer, business and transportation services. Personal transfer receipts, mainly remittances, increased sharply to **\$42.9 billion** from \$33.2 billion. Net FDI inflows also improved to \$6.1 billion.
- India's gross **GST collections** increased **14.8% year-on-year to nearly ₹2 trillion** in August 2026, according to Ministry of Finance data. Although collections moderated from July's record ₹2.11 trillion, growth remained strong. Import-related GST revenue rose 29% to **₹62,604 crore**, while domestic collections increased 9% to ₹1.37 trillion. After refunds, net GST collections stood at **₹1.68 trillion**, up 8.3%. Refunds surged 68% to ₹31,795 crore. During April-August 2026, gross GST collections increased **11% to ₹10.43 trillion**, while net collections rose 9% to ₹8.89 trillion. The festive season may provide further support.
- **World Bank President Ajay Banga** said India has the potential to raise economic growth **beyond 8%**, supported by strong services, exports and sustained investment. He described current growth of around 7–8% as robust despite global energy pressures, trade uncertainty and El Niño-related challenges. Banga stressed that the key challenge is converting economic expansion into **jobs and opportunities for India's young population**. He highlighted physical and human infrastructure, regulatory reforms, private capital mobilisation, education, healthcare and skilling as crucial priorities. **MSMEs** could contribute significantly across infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, tourism and manufacturing. Effective implementation of labour reforms and continued private investment will support India's 2047 development ambitions.
- The **Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR)** upgraded India's sovereign credit rating by one notch from **BBB+ to A-**, while maintaining a Stable outlook on September 2, 2026. The upgrade reflects India's robust economic growth, improving fiscal quality, resilient financial system and strong external position. JCR highlighted **7.8% real GDP growth** in FY2026 and Q1 FY2027, supported by private consumption and public investment. India's central government fiscal deficit improved from **4.7% of GDP in FY2025 to 4.4% in FY2026**. Strong bank profitability, better asset quality, improved capitalisation and regulatory oversight also supported the upgrade, while high foreign exchange reserves provide protection against external financial pressures.

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** proposed a **Public Insurance Registry (PIR)** as interoperable digital public infrastructure for India's insurance sector. A consultation paper released on September 1, 2026, proposed a platform through which policyholders could view policies, track claims and grievances, compare products and identify unclaimed insurance amounts. The PIR would function as an **access layer rather than a centralised database**, with customer data remaining with original institutions. Eight stakeholder groups, including policyholders, insurers, reinsurers, financial institutions and government departments, are expected to participate. The registry could improve underwriting, pricing, fraud detection, transparency and market efficiency. Feedback is invited until September 30.
- **Hexaware Technologies** appointed **Vivek Jetley** as CEO Designate, with his appointment taking effect on October 28, 2026. He will succeed outgoing CEO **Srikrishna Ramakarthikeyan (Keech)**, who will step down from the Board but remain associated with the company as Senior Advisor. Jetley will lead Hexaware's next phase of **AI-driven growth** as generative AI transforms the global IT services industry. His priorities will include strengthening AI capabilities, expanding business impact and delivering scalable technology solutions for enterprise clients. The leadership transition reflects the industry's shift toward AI-led services and changing technology delivery models, with companies increasingly integrating artificial intelligence into products, operations and client solutions.
- **GIFT IFSC in Gujarat** is recording strong growth in international banking, external commercial borrowing and international bond activity. As of August 31, 2026, **20 International Banking Units** had sanctioned US\$54.02 billion under the RBI's special swap facility for FCNR(B) deposits, with US\$52.82 billion disbursed. IBUs also disbursed **US\$11.62 billion in External Commercial Borrowings** between April and August 2026. Monthly ECB disbursements increased from US\$1.54 billion in April to US\$3.54 billion in August. Indian banks additionally raised **US\$11.12 billion through bond listings** on GIFT IFSC exchanges. Regulated by IFSCA, the centre connects Indian institutions with global financial markets.
- **Adobe** has appointed **Anil Chakravathy** as its next President and CEO, with the leadership transition scheduled for **December 1, 2026**. He will succeed **Shantanu Narayen**, who will become Adobe's Executive Chair and support the transition. Chakravathy currently leads Adobe's **Customer Experience Orchestration** business and worldwide field operations. He joined Adobe in **January 2020** and has played an important role in expanding its **AI-powered products and Experience Platform**. Before Adobe, he served as CEO of Informatica and held senior positions at Symantec and VeriSign. He studied at **IIT Varanasi and MIT**.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the **National Teachers' Awards 2026** on **48 exemplary school teachers** on **September 5** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The awardees include **26 male and 22 female teachers** representing **27 states, seven Union Territories and six Central Government organisations**. Selection was conducted through a three-stage online process at the district, state and national levels, with nominations held from **June 15 to July 20, 2026**. The ceremony will feature documentaries on the teachers' contributions and will be broadcast through platforms including **Doordarshan and SWAYAM PRABHA**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** rose by **\$11.475 billion** to a record **\$740.803 billion** in the week ended **August 28, 2026**, according to RBI data. The increase followed a \$12.422 billion rise in the previous week, when reserves stood at \$729.328 billion. **Foreign currency assets** increased by \$9.337 billion to **\$600.67 billion**, while gold reserves rose by \$2.191 billion to **\$116.409 billion**. Special Drawing Rights and India's IMF reserve position declined slightly. The reserves have strengthened following the RBI's concessional **forex swap initiatives** announced in June, generating more than **\$132 billion in new flows**.
- **Nvidia** has agreed to acquire AI platform **Hugging Face** for **\$12.93 billion**, expanding its artificial intelligence software strategy. Announced on **September 3, 2026**, the transaction includes around **\$11.9 billion for Hugging Face shareholders** and nearly \$1 billion in employee equity incentives, with completion expected in the first half of 2027. Hugging Face serves more than **18 million developers, researchers and creators**, hosting over **3 million models, 500,000 datasets and 1 million applications**. Nvidia says the platform will remain open to different models, frameworks, cloud providers and accelerators, while the acquisition could strengthen AI development and deployment.

Appointments/Resignations

- The **Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA)** appointed **Sai Giridhar** as its 38th President for the 2026–28 term on September 1, 2026, succeeding C S Vigneshwar. Giridhar, Managing Director of Jaipur-based **Saisha Motors**, brings more than three decades of automobile-industry experience. The new leadership team includes **Amar Jatin Sheth** as Vice President, **Pradeep Agarwal** as Secretary and **Bharat Kumar Chordia** as Treasurer. Saisha Motors operates dealerships for Skoda, Volvo Cars, JSW MG Motor and MG Select. FADA is India's apex automobile dealer association, representing retailers and addressing policy and regulatory issues. The organisation also acknowledged Vigneshwar's contribution to industry reforms.

Defence News

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is strengthening its indigenous maintenance ecosystem to reduce dependence on global supply chains. Around **930 Indian companies** now support aircraft maintenance across mechanical, electrical, electronics and rubber components. The localisation programme has produced nearly **62,300 spare parts**, including **97% of frequently required operational spares** and **93% of mandatory overhaul spares**. The IAF is adopting **Artificial Intelligence, Digital Twins and predictive analytics** to identify equipment failures before they affect operations. A **3D Additive Manufacturing facility**, established in 2022, produces urgent low-volume airborne and ground-equipment spares using **aluminium, steel and titanium alloys**, strengthening operational readiness and domestic defence manufacturing.
- The **4th Tri-Services Future Warfare Course** concluded in New Delhi on August 30, 2026, following a four-week programme beginning August 3 at the **Manekshaw Centre**. Conducted under **Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff** and coordinated by the **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies**, the course brought together officers from the Army, Navy and Air Force, along with participants from academia, government and defence industry. The curriculum covered **Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies, cyber warfare, cognitive warfare, autonomous systems, space operations and grey-zone warfare**. **Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani** interacted with participants. Graduating officers received completion certificates and **Post Graduate Diplomas in Future Warfare**.
- The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Nipun**, its second **Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel**, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on August 31, 2026. **Indigenously designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam**, the vessel supports deep-sea diving, underwater intervention, salvage and **submarine rescue operations**. INS Nipun can conduct saturation, air and heliox diving and features **remotely operated underwater systems, dynamic positioning, specialised diving facilities, life-support and medical systems**. Alongside INS Nistar, it strengthens India's underwater rescue capability and supports the Navy's role as a **"Preferred Submarine Rescue Partner"**. The vessel can also assist in **HADR and specialised underwater salvage missions**.
- **Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb**, AVSM, VSM, assumed charge as **Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM)** of the Indian Air Force on September 1, 2026, succeeding Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia after his superannuation. Commissioned into the Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical Branch) in 1988, Sanjeeb has served as Director General (Aircraft), Director General (System) and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Maintenance Plans). In 2003, he led the Air HQ team responsible for inducting the IAF's first **IL-78 flight refueller aircraft**. He received the **Vishisht Seva Medal** in 2015 and **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal** in 2026. He later paid homage at the National War Memorial.
- **Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma** became the first woman officer from the **non-medical stream** in India's Defence Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal or equivalent. Commissioned into the IAF Education Branch on June 18, 1994, she has completed over three decades of service across training institutions, field formations, command headquarters and Air Headquarters. On September 1, 2026, she assumed charge as **Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education)**. Sharma established IAF Chairs of Excellence at **IIT Kanpur and Pune University** and became the first Tri-Services woman officer to command a Sainik School, serving as Principal of Sainik School Kapurthala.
- **Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan**, VSM, assumed charge as **Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)** on September 1, 2026. He brings more than three decades of military medical experience. Raghavan joined **Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune**, in 1985, completed his MBBS in 1989 and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1989. He has served as Command Medical Officer of the Southern and Eastern Naval Commands and commanded **INHS Asvini, Mumbai**, which received the Raksha Mantri Trophy for Best Command Hospital during his tenure. He was awarded the **Vishisht Seva Medal in 2026**. His new role covers medical leadership, hospital administration and strategic oversight of Armed Forces healthcare.
- The **16th edition of Aero India** will be held at **Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, from February 8 to 12, 2027**, the Ministry of Defence announced on September 2, 2026. The biennial aerospace and defence exhibition will bring together aircraft manufacturers, defence companies, military organisations and technology suppliers from India and abroad. Nine hangars, A to I, will be used, with **Hangars A and B** reserved for the IAF and DRDO. International exhibitor registration and space booking will begin on September 3, 2026. The event will showcase India's growing aerospace capabilities amid rising defence exports, which reached **₹38,424 crore in FY2025-26**.
- Indian Air Force **Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman** has joined Goa-based regional airline **FLY91** as a pilot after nearly 22 years of military service. He resigned from the IAF on March 31, 2026, and joined FLY91 in August for mandatory type training and clearances. Varthaman gained international recognition during the **February 27, 2019 aerial engagement** near the Line of Control, when he flew a MiG-21 Bison and was subsequently captured in Pakistan after ejecting from the damaged aircraft. He returned to India after three days and was awarded the **Vir Chakra** in November 2021. FLY91 operates ATR 72-600 aircraft for regional connectivity.

- Scientists from **DRDO and the University of Hyderabad (UoH)** secured a patent for **BAM-H24**, a high-energy compound containing boron, hydrogen and nitrogen developed through research at ACRHEM. The compound combines high chemical and thermal stability with resistance to impact and friction, improving the safety of handling, transportation and storage. It is also **non-hygroscopic**, meaning it absorbs little moisture. Researchers expect BAM-H24 to offer high specific impulse and low ignition delay, potentially improving the efficiency of **solid rocket propulsion systems**. The patent highlights the strategic value of indigenous energetic materials and demonstrates collaboration between academic research and defence technology development.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted a drop trial of the indigenous **Khagantak-243 long-range glide bomb** on September 2, 2026, releasing it from a Sukhoi **Su-30MKI** fighter aircraft. The stand-off precision-guided weapon is designed to strike targets from significant distances without requiring the aircraft to fly directly over them. It reportedly has a range exceeding **140 km** when released from around 12,000 metres. The weapon uses glide wings, control surfaces and an Mk-81 blast-fragmentation warhead. Its guidance combines **INS, jamming-resistant satellite navigation and terminal EO/IR or passive homing seekers**. The system supports India's indigenous precision-strike capabilities.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** released the **RAKSHA document**, outlining India's defence diplomacy vision for the next **10 years**. The framework seeks to strengthen bilateral and multilateral security partnerships while aligning defence engagement with national security and foreign-policy priorities. Its four key pillars are **strategic partnerships, capacity building, indigenous defence exports and maritime security**. It promotes joint military exercises, training, best-practice exchanges and interoperability with friendly countries. The framework also supports **Make in India** defence platforms and India's emergence as a global defence manufacturing hub and a **net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region**.

- India and Belgium** agreed to deepen their strategic partnership across **defence, trade, investment, renewable energy, critical minerals, semiconductors and technology** during Belgian Prime Minister **Bart De Wever's** visit to India. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and De Wever agreed to work towards **doubling bilateral trade over the next five years**. An **India-Belgium Investment Fast-Track Mechanism** was launched to facilitate investments. The two countries also expanded defence-industrial and semiconductor cooperation involving Belgium's **imec ecosystem**, while discussing critical minerals, counter-terrorism, cybercrime and maritime affairs.

Awards and Recognitions

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** announced the **Green Highways Excellence Awards 2026** to recognise outstanding plantation and landscaping initiatives along National Highways. The awards cover **Avenue Plantations, Median Plantations and Plantations in Land Parcels**, including interchanges, toll plazas and service areas. A total of **86 nominations** were received across the three categories. Winners were assessed on plantation survival rate, site-specific planning, pit size, planting material quality, protection measures and use of native species. Instituted in **2025 under the Green Highways Policy, 2015**, the awards promote sustainable highway development and greener transport corridors.

Sports News

- Sri Lanka** has lost hosting rights for the inaugural **ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027** amid an unresolved governance dispute between **Sri Lanka Cricket and the ICC**. The six-team tournament was scheduled for **February 14–28, 2027**, but will now be moved to another venue. The ICC has not announced a replacement host. Sri Lanka Cricket was previously suspended over concerns about **government interference** and lost the 2024 Men's Under-19 World Cup hosting rights. The Sri Lankan government temporarily took control of the cricket board in April and established a **Transformation Committee**. The ICC continues to seek an independently elected cricket administration.
- Argentina** won the **FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026**, defeating the **Netherlands 3-1 in a shootout** after a 1-1 draw in regulation time at Amstelveen. The victory ended the Netherlands' bid for a fourth consecutive World Cup title and gave Argentina their first women's world championship since **2010**. **Yibbi Jansen** put the Netherlands ahead before half-time, while **Victoria Granatto** equalised early in the fourth quarter. Argentina goalkeeper **Cristina Cosentino** became the hero during the shootout by saving attempts from Pien Sanders and Felice Albers. Granatto, Bruggesser and Sofia Cairo scored for Argentina to secure the title.



- The **FPAI Indian Football Awards 2026** recognised leading performers from Indian football, with **Lallianzuala Chhangte** named **Indian Footballer of the Year** and **Manisha Kalyan** receiving the **Indian Women's Player of the Year** award. **Sanfida Nongrum** won Women's Young Player of the Year. **East Bengal** received major recognition after winning the **ISL and Indian Women's League** titles during the 2025-26 season. Other winners included **Phrangki Buam**, **Sanan Mohammed** and **Miguel Figueira Damasceno**. Coaching honours went to **Owen Coyle**, **Anthony Andrews** and **Savio Medeira**. The awards are notable because **professional footballers select the winners**.
- **Germany** successfully defended its **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup** title by defeating **Spain 1-0** in the final at the Belfius Hockey Arena. The victory secured Germany's **fourth World Cup crown**, moving it level with Pakistan as the tournament's most successful teams. **Michel Struthoff** scored the decisive goal in the 44th minute after both teams remained scoreless through three quarters. Spain, appearing in its first final since **1998**, created several opportunities but Germany's disciplined defence held firm. Spain's late attacking push, including replacing goalkeeper **Luiz Calzado**, failed to produce an equaliser. **Argentina** won bronze after defeating the Netherlands **2-1**.
- Indian all-rounder **Deepti Sharma** became the leading wicket-taker in women's **T20I cricket** during India's Women's Asia Cup 2026 Group A opener against Thailand in Dubai on August 30. On her **150th T20I appearance**, she produced a remarkable spell of **3 wickets for 0 runs in 1.1 overs**, helping India secure a **94-run victory**. Her wickets included Naomi Hamilton, Nannaphat Chaihan and Nannapat Koncharoenkai. Deepti's career tally reached **171 wickets**, moving ahead of Thailand's **Thipatcha Putthawong**, who has 170 wickets. She can extend her record further in upcoming matches against **Hong Kong China and Pakistan**.
- Indian squash player **Abhay Singh** won the **Tuanku Muhriz Trophy 2026** in Seremban, Malaysia, defeating Hong Kong's third-seeded **Henry Leung 3-2** in a dramatic five-game final. Singh won **11-7, 6-11, 3-11, 11-5, 12-10**, claiming his **13th PSA Tour-level title** and second championship of 2026 after the **India Open** in March. Ranked **24th globally**, he is India's highest-ranked squash player. The victory was his **third Tuanku Muhriz Trophy title**, following wins in 2022 and 2024. Singh was also part of India's **2023 Asian Games gold-medal winning men's team** and is included in the 2026 Asian Games squad.
- **Lionel Messi** has announced his retirement from **international football** after an extraordinary 20-year career with Argentina. At 39, he leaves as Argentina's most-capped player with **207 appearances** and its all-time leading scorer with **125 goals**. His international career included defeats in the **2014 FIFA World Cup final** and consecutive Copa América finals in 2015 and 2016 before Argentina's trophy-winning period. Messi helped Argentina win the **2021 and 2024 Copa América, 2022 Finalissima and 2022 FIFA World Cup**, scoring seven goals in the World Cup. Argentina also reached the **2026 World Cup final**, losing to Spain. He had earlier won **Olympic gold in 2008**.
- Fifteen-year-old **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** created Duleep Trophy history on August 31, 2026, becoming the youngest player to score a **half-century in the tournament**. Representing **East Zone** against Central Zone in Bengaluru, he reached fifty from 42 balls before making **92 off 81 deliveries**, including seven fours and six sixes. At **15 years and 157 days**, he surpassed Laxman Singh's 57-year-old record of 16 years and 23 days, set in 1969. Sooryavanshi also became the youngest **Duleep Trophy captain** after Ishan Kishan suffered a finger injury. His innings formed part of a **161-run opening partnership** as East Zone posted 266.
- **Tamil Nadu** has announced plans to establish a **world-class Olympic City in Chennai** to strengthen sports infrastructure and support high-performance athlete development. The project will be developed by the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority as an integrated sports hub combining training, competition and specialised athlete support. The proposed facility will include **world-class sports arenas, modern sporting equipment and a high-performance training centre**, along with sports science and sports medicine centres. These facilities will support performance analysis, conditioning, recovery, injury prevention and rehabilitation. The initiative aims to provide athletes with infrastructure comparable to international standards and improve preparation for **national and global competitions**.
- India will host the **Hyundai World Archery Para Series 2026** for the first time, with Stage 3 scheduled in **Ahmedabad from September 5 to 9, 2026**, at the Sabarmati Riverfront. Organised by the Archery Association of India, Government of Gujarat, Sports Authority of Gujarat and Sports Authority of India, the event will feature **Recurve Open, Compound Open, W1 and Visually Impaired** categories. More than 100 athletes from around 20 countries are expected, while India will field a **29-member squad**. Paris 2024 Paralympic medallists **Harvinder Singh, Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar** are part of the Indian team. The event marks India's debut as a host in the 2026 series.

- The **ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027** will be hosted by **India** after the ICC transferred the inaugural tournament from Sri Lanka amid concerns over government interference in Sri Lanka Cricket's administration. Scheduled from **February 14 to 28, 2027**, the tournament will feature six teams: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. It will follow a **round-robin format**, with every team playing each other and the top two advancing to the final. Matches will be played at the **Cricket Club of India in Mumbai and the International Cricket Stadium in Vadodara**. The tournament will mark the first edition of the Women's Champions Trophy.
- Indian powerlifter **Keyaa Kunal Banerji** delivered a notable performance at the **2026 IPF World Sub-Junior and Junior Classic Powerlifting Championships** in Sun City, South Africa. Competing in the **Junior Women's 47kg category**, she finished fifth overall and won a **silver medal in the deadlift**. Banerji lifted **140kg** at a bodyweight of **45.70kg**, alongside a 90kg squat and 50kg bench press, recording a **280kg total**. Her performance represented significant improvement over her 2025 national championship results and highlighted India's growing presence in international powerlifting.
- Indian opener **Smriti Mandhana** created history by becoming the **highest run-scorer in women's international cricket**, surpassing former India captain **Mithali Raj**. Mandhana achieved the milestone during India's **Women's Asia Cup 2026** campaign after scoring a century against Hong Kong. Her **124-run innings** took her beyond Mithali's long-standing aggregate across international formats. The knock also made Mandhana the **leading century-maker in women's international cricket**. The achievement underlined her consistency across **Tests, ODIs and T20Is** and came as India progressed to the Asia Cup semi-finals.
- The **BCCI** has banned Bengal leg-spinner **Rohit Yadav** for **two years** after discrepancies were found in his age-related documents. The action followed scrutiny during India Under-19's tour of Sri Lanka, where Rohit took **six wickets** and helped India win the final Test. Reports indicated that he had three birth certificates listing **2007, 2009 and 2010** as birth years, while Aadhaar records also showed different years over time. The Cricket Association of Bengal had earlier flagged the documentation issue. CAB has now identified **62 players** with documentation or age-related concerns for the **2026–27 and 2027–28** seasons.
- India will play **Japan** in a historic one-match T20I on **September 22, 2026**, at the **Sano International Cricket Ground in Tochigi Prefecture**, marking **75 years of diplomatic relations** between the two countries. Named the '**Suzuki Cup**', the match will also launch **Sport 75**, an initiative aimed at strengthening people-to-people connections through sport. It will be the first time India's men's cricket team plays in Japan. The **BCCI** will work with the **Japan Cricket Association** to expand cricket's reach in Japan and East Asia, potentially attracting new audiences and strengthening sporting cooperation.

Science and Technology News

- **NASA** launched the **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope** on August 30, 2026, at 7:26 a.m. EDT from **Kennedy Space Center, Florida**, aboard a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy**. The 18,000-pound observatory separated 31 minutes after launch and began its three-month journey towards the **Sun-Earth L2 point**, about 1.5 million km from Earth. Roman has a planned **five-year mission** to study **dark energy, dark matter and exoplanets**. Its 2.4-metre primary mirror provides a field of view about **100 times wider than Hubble's**. The telescope's hardware originated from a National Reconnaissance Office programme and was donated to NASA in 2012 before being repurposed for astronomy.
- India inaugurated the **Green Forge Complex** at **BRIC-NABI, Mohali**, on August 31, 2026, creating a controlled facility for advanced crop research. The first-of-its-kind complex enables research on **genetically modified crops** under simulated environmental conditions. Its chambers can precisely vary **light, temperature and humidity**, allowing researchers to evaluate crop performance before field cultivation. The facility supports **genome and trait engineering**, including studies of yield, stress tolerance and disease resistance. It is linked to the **BioE3 policy — Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment**, which includes 22 manufacturing hubs and eight specialised biofoundries. The initiative strengthens India's **agricultural biotechnology, research and bioeconomy** ecosystem.
- Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched **Gnani Artha** at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on August 28, 2026. Developed by Bengaluru-based **GNANI AI**, the indigenous sovereign AI stack is designed for public institutions and enterprises requiring **data residency and greater control over AI deployment**. It combines **Evon v3.3**, a 30-billion-parameter foundational language model, with **Plexus**, an enterprise agentic AI orchestration platform. Evon uses a **Mixture-of-Experts architecture** and activates around 3.5 billion parameters per token. It supports **11 Indian languages**, with model weights available through Hugging Face under the **Apache 2.0 licence**. The initiative aligns with India's broader **IndiaAI Mission** and sovereign AI ambitions.
- **Türkiye** officially joined NASA's **Artemis Accords** on August 31, 2026, becoming the **71st signatory** to the international framework for peaceful and cooperative exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond. Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir signed the agreement at NASA headquarters in Washington. Established in 2020 by NASA, the US State Department and seven founding countries, the accords promote **peaceful exploration, transparency, scientific data sharing, astronaut assistance and protection of lunar heritage sites**. Türkiye is expanding its national space programme after its first astronaut, **Alper Gezeravci**, travelled to the ISS in 2024. It is also preparing its first lunar mission, AYAP-1.

- An **IT Mandi study** identified **nine to 12 potentially critical glacial lakes** in Himachal Pradesh after examining more than 2,000 lakes and numerous glaciers. Several lakes have expanded by **30% to 60%** over the past decade, increasing concerns over glacier melt and **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**. Ghepan, Yoche and Kali Kund have shown continuous changes and annual expansion. NDMA has identified Ghepan, Vasuk, Kashang and a lake near Baspa for immediate attention. Researchers also highlighted **permafrost degradation**, which can destabilise mountain slopes and increase landslide risks. Rising temperatures, tourism, pollution and dust deposition may accelerate glacier changes, making monitoring and early-warning systems vital for downstream communities.
- New Zealand's critically threatened **kākāpō** population has reached **325 birds** after 90 chicks survived to 150 days during the 2026 breeding season. The flightless, nocturnal parrot, scientifically known as **Strigops habroptilus**, has recovered significantly from just 51 birds in 1995. During the latest breeding season, 79 females nested, producing 258 eggs and 106 hatchlings, of which 90 survived. The **Kākāpō Recovery Programme**, launched in 1995, uses predator control, intensive monitoring, supplementary feeding and managed breeding. Abundant rimu fruiting provided plentiful food and supported breeding success. The birds are protected on predator-free offshore islands such as **Whenua Hou (Codfish Island)**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched the **GSLV-F17** rocket carrying the **EOS-05 Earth observation satellite** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, on **September 4, 2026**. EOS-05 was placed into its intended orbit and is designed for high-resolution Earth observation. The satellite is notable as India's first imaging satellite intended to operate from **geosynchronous orbit**. ISRO Chairman **V Narayanan** said the satellite was in perfect health after launch. The mission marked the **19th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle**, strengthening India's advanced Earth-imaging capabilities.
- **OpenAI** launched **ChatGPT 6 Astra** on **September 3, 2026**, presenting it as a major step towards the **AGI era**. Pretrained on more than **100,000 GPUs**, Astra is designed for complex computer tasks, coding, reasoning and autonomous multi-step workflows. It can work with permitted files stored on users' laptops to create **presentations, spreadsheets, reports and datasets**. OpenAI is beginning a phased rollout with cybersecurity professionals through its **Daybreak programme**, while emphasising human oversight and safety testing. The launch reflects the company's growing focus on **agentic AI and automated workplace workflows**.
- Hyderabad-based startup **Ahuti** introduced the **Ahuti Mk II**, an advanced multirotor UAV designed for high-speed operations and defence applications. The platform attracted attention for its impressive speed capability and its focus on indigenous aerospace and defence technology. Ahuti's work is linked with **BITS Pilani**, reflecting growing collaboration between Indian startups, academic institutions and the defence ecosystem. High-speed UAVs can support **surveillance, interception and tactical missions**. The development contributes to India's broader effort to build home-grown unmanned systems and reduce dependence on imported defence technologies.
- **ISRO** is targeting **six additional space launches** during the current financial year following the successful **GSLV-F17/EOS-05** mission. ISRO Chairman **V Narayanan** highlighted that EOS-05 was deployed into a **Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit** for continuous monitoring of India and nearby regions. He also outlined progress in the **Gaganyaan** human-spaceflight programme, including development of the human-rated launch vehicle and safety systems. The **Kulasekarapattinam launch pad in Tamil Nadu** is expected to be ready by March next year. Around **440 startups** are currently operating in India's space sector.

Important Days News

- **National Small Industry Day** is observed annually on **August 30** to recognise the contribution of small industries to **entrepreneurship, employment and economic growth** in India. The sector evolved through the 2000 policy package and the **MSMED Act, 2006**, with revised classification thresholds effective April 1, 2025. Current limits define **micro enterprises** at ₹2.5 crore investment and ₹10 crore turnover, **small enterprises** at ₹25 crore and ₹100 crore, and **medium enterprises** at ₹125 crore and ₹500 crore. MSMEs contribute **31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports**, employing over **38.9 crore people**.



- **World Coconut Day** is observed annually on **September 2**, with the 2026 observance falling on Wednesday. The day highlights coconut's importance in agriculture, food, trade, rural livelihoods and sustainable resource use. Often called the **"tree of life,"** coconut provides water, milk, oil, flesh, husk and shell for diverse uses. The observance was first held in **2009** and is associated with the **International Coconut Community (ICC)**, formerly known as the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community. The official 2026 theme has not been confirmed. The day promotes sustainable coconut farming, farmer livelihoods, value addition and coconut-based industries across tropical and coastal regions.
- **National Wildlife Day 2026** is observed on **September 4**, highlighting wildlife conservation, endangered species and protection of natural habitats. Founded in **2005** by animal behaviourist and philanthropist **Colleen Paige**, the observance promotes awareness of mammals, birds, insects and other species that support healthy ecosystems. Wildlife faces threats from **habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, illegal hunting, wildlife trade and unsustainable exploitation**. In India, the day can raise awareness about species such as **tigers, Asiatic lions, elephants, rhinoceroses and snow leopards**, while encouraging protection of forests, wetlands and other habitats.
- **Krishna Janmashtami 2026** will be observed on **Friday, September 4**, celebrating the birth of Lord Krishna. Confusion regarding September 5 arises because the important **Nishita Kaal midnight puja** begins late on September 4 and continues into September 5. In New Delhi, the Nishita Puja Muhurat is approximately **11:57 PM on September 4 to 12:43 AM on September 5**. The **Krishna Paksha Ashtami Tithi** runs from around 2:25 AM on September 4 to 12:13 AM on September 5. **Dahi Handi** will be celebrated on September 5.
- **Teachers' Day 2026** is being observed across India on **September 5** to honour teachers and mentors for their contribution to education and society. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, who was born on **September 5, 1888**, in Tiruttani. A philosopher, scholar and statesman, he taught philosophy at the **University of Mysore and University of Calcutta** and later became Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics at Oxford. Radhakrishnan served as India's **first Vice President (1952–1962)** and **second President (1962–1967)**, emphasising education as a foundation for character and nation-building.

Obituaries News

- Veteran Gujarati musician, composer, arranger and singer **Gaurang Vyas** passed away in **Ahmedabad** at the age of **87** on **September 3, 2026**. The son of legendary composer **Avinash Vyas**, he continued an influential musical legacy and made major contributions to Gujarati cinema and music. During his career, he composed music for **more than 100 films**, with his songs and arrangements becoming part of Gujarat's cultural heritage. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** expressed condolences. His death was widely mourned by Gujarat's artists, musicians and cultural organisations.
- **Cassandra Wilson**, the two-time **Grammy Award-winning** jazz singer, songwriter and producer, died at the age of **70** in her native **Jackson, Mississippi**. Known for her distinctive contralto voice, Wilson blended **jazz, blues, folk, pop, R&B and country** influences. She won Grammy Awards for Best Jazz Vocal Album in **1997** for *New Moon Daughter* and **2009** for *Loverly*. In 2015, she performed a special concert celebrating **Billie Holiday's centenary** and released *Coming Forth by Day*. She was named an **NEA Jazz Master in 2022**, one of America's highest jazz honours.

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

Aspect	Details
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodriguez
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin
Nepal	PM: Balen Shah
RBI	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
HDFC Bank	CEO & MD: Mr. Sashidhar Jagdishan
ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah
Home Minister	Amit Shah
Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh
Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin
China	President: XI Jinping

