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Most Important Current Affairs

Most Important Current Affairs of September 2026

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026 Honour Three Asian Leaders

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026** has been awarded to **Tommy Koh of Singapore, Runa Khan of Bangladesh and Bo Kyi of Myanmar**. The winners were announced on **August 31, 2026**, the birth anniversary of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.

Ramon Magsaysay Award 2026 Winners

- **Tommy Koh – Singapore:** Veteran diplomat and international lawyer Tommy Koh has been honoured for his contribution to **diplomacy, international law and peaceful dispute resolution**. He played an important role in negotiations leading to the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- **Runa Khan – Bangladesh:** Runa Khan is the founder of **Friendship**, an organization working for underserved communities in Bangladesh. Starting with a hospital boat, the organization expanded its work into **healthcare, education, livelihoods and climate resilience**, particularly in remote riverine and coastal areas.
- **Bo Kyi – Myanmar:** Human rights activist Bo Kyi is the co-founder of the **Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)**, established in **2000**. He has been recognized for his contribution to **democracy, human rights and the protection of political prisoners** in Myanmar.

About the Ramon Magsaysay Award

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award** was established in **1957** in memory of former Philippine President **Ramon Magsaysay**, with the first awards presented in **1958**. It recognizes individuals and organizations showing **“greatness of spirit”** while serving the people of Asia.

The winners are selected by the **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)**. The 2026 award ceremony is scheduled to be held on **November 15, 2026, at the Manila Metropolitan Theatre, Philippines**.

PM Modi Receives Uzbekistan's Highest Honour

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with Uzbekistan's highest friendship honour, the **‘Oliy Darajali Do'stlik’ Order**, during his visit to **Tashkent on August 30, 2026**. The honour recognizes his contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between India and Uzbekistan.

What is the ‘Oliy Darajali Do'stlik’ Order?

The **‘Oliy Darajali Do'stlik’**, meaning **Order of Supreme Friendship**, is Uzbekistan's highest honour for friendship and international cooperation. PM Modi dedicated the award to **India's 1.4 billion people**, its civilizational heritage and the historic India-Uzbekistan friendship.

India-Uzbekistan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

During PM Modi's visit, **India and Uzbekistan elevated their bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. The two countries agreed to deepen cooperation in key areas such as **trade and investment, defence and security, energy, digital connectivity and nuclear cooperation**.

Long-Term Uranium Supply Agreement

A major outcome of the visit was a **long-term uranium supply agreement** between Uzbekistan and India. The agreement is significant for strengthening **India's nuclear energy programme and energy security**.

Key Points for Exams

- **Award:** Oliy Darajali Do'stlik Order (Order of Supreme Friendship)
- **Awarded to:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Country:** Uzbekistan
- **Date:** August 30, 2026
- **Place:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **India-Uzbekistan ties:** Elevated to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**
- **Major Agreement:** Long-term supply of **uranium to India**
- **Key Cooperation Areas:** Trade, defence, energy, digital connectivity and nuclear cooperatio

Ig Nobel Prize 2026 Winners: Full List and Key Findings

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 Thuraiarajah, 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





Most Important Current Affairs of August 2026

Commonwealth Games 2026 Medal Tally

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

India's Medal Tally by Sport

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

Complete List of India's Medal Winners

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Jhandu Kumar	Para Powerlifting	Men's Heavyweight	Bronze
2	Rishikanta Singh	Weightlifting	Men's 60kg	Silver
3	Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting	Women's 48kg	Gold
4	Muthupandi Raja	Weightlifting	Men's 65kg	Silver
5	Gyaneshwari Yadav	Weightlifting	Women's 53kg	Silver
6	Bindyarani Devi	Weightlifting	Women's 58kg	Bronze
7	Sharmila Dhankar	Para Athletics	Women's Shot Put F57	Gold
8	Sarvesh Kushare	Athletics	Men's High Jump	Silver
9	Shilpa K Shyla	Para Athletics	Women's Shot Put F57	Bronze
10	Valluri Ajaya Babu	Weightlifting	Men's 79kg	Silver

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





No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
36	Sachin Siwach	Boxing	Men's 60kg	Gold
37	Ankush Panghal	Boxing	Men's 80kg	Gold
38	Narender Berwal	Boxing	Men's +90kg	Silver
39	Gulveer Singh	Athletics	Men's 5,000m	Bronze

India's Major Highlights

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

Hurun India Women Leaders List 2026

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

Rank	Name	Organization/Association	Age
1	Meena Bindra	BIBA	83
2	Tushara Shankar	Lupin	46
3	Rajni Bector Bectors	Food Specialities	86
4	Vaishali Nigam Sinha	ReNew Power	56
5	Suneeta Reddy & Preetha Reddy	Apollo Hospitals Enterprise	67 & 68
6	Avani Lekhara	Paralympic Medallist	24
7	Sudha Murthy	Author	75

Rank	Name	Organization/Association	Age
8	Ananya Birla	Entrepreneur & Social Media Influencer	32
9	Faye D'Souza	Journalist Independent	44
10	Kanika Gupta Shori	Square Yards	---

Youngest Women Leaders List 2026

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

Oldest Women Leaders Across Categories

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

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

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the nation from the **Red Fort on August 15, 2026**, on the occasion of India's **80th Independence Day**. His nearly **75-minute** address covered self-reliance, critical minerals, energy security, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, manufacturing, defence, sports, women's representation and youth empowerment. The celebrations also marked **150 years of Vande Mataram**.





Viksit Bharat by 2047

PM Modi reiterated the goal of transforming India into a **developed nation by 2047**, when the country completes 100 years of independence. He highlighted the collective role of more than 140 crore Indians in achieving this target and stated that **more than 25 crore people have come out of poverty**.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local

Aatmanirbharta remained one of the central themes of the speech. PM Modi stressed that India should reduce dependence on other countries for essential products and technologies and strengthen **Swadeshi, Vocal for Local and Make in India**.

Critical Minerals and Energy Security

PM Modi emphasized the importance of achieving self-reliance in **critical minerals and energy**, particularly as semiconductor plants, data centres and other technology-intensive industries require secure supplies of both. He also highlighted India's initiatives related to a **critical mineral corridor**.

India's Semiconductor Strategy

Semiconductor manufacturing was highlighted as an important part of India's self-reliance strategy. PM Modi stated that **three semiconductor facilities had been set up**, with production already underway, and more facilities would be established. The aim is to reduce import dependence and strengthen India's position in the global technology supply chain.

₹85,000 Crore Samudra Manthan Initiative

PM Modi highlighted the **₹85,000 crore Samudra Manthan initiative** for deep-sea exploration. India will also explore offshore areas previously considered "no-go" zones to identify new oil reserves and strategic resources, with the objective of strengthening domestic energy security.

100 GW Nuclear Energy Target by 2047

India has set a target of achieving **100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047**. The expansion of nuclear power and development of new reactors are part of India's long-term strategy to meet growing energy demand and strengthen energy security.



Piped Gas and Solar Energy Expansion

PM Modi said the number of cities with piped gas facilities has increased from around **70 before 2014 to more than 700**, benefiting over **1.45 crore families**. He also stated that more than **50 lakh families** have received solar energy generation facilities.

Railway Electrification and Hydrogen Trains

PM Modi highlighted the transformation of Indian Railways, including railway electrification and advances in **hydrogen train technology**. He said railway electrification has helped reduce fuel imports while also providing environmental benefits.

FTAs and Opportunities for MSMEs

The Prime Minister said India is signing **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with 40 countries** and encouraged Indian MSMEs to use these agreements to increase exports. He stressed that Indian products must remain globally competitive in terms of **quality, cost and standards**.

Saptadhara: Seven Streams for Viksit Bharat

One of the major highlights was **Saptadhara**, or seven streams of development, as India enters its next phase of reforms. The seven streams are **Manufacturing; Farming and Food Processing; Technology and Innovation; Gati Shakti; Raksha Shakti; Green and Blue Economy; and Soft Power**.

India's Global Corporate Ambitions

PM Modi urged Indian companies to aim higher globally. He envisioned India having **50 companies in the Fortune 500 in the next decade**, at least **one Indian bank among the world's top five banks**, and at least **one Indian pharmaceutical company among the world's top five pharma firms**.

One Crore Youth to Get AI Training

The Prime Minister announced that **one crore young people will be trained in Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The initiative aims to prepare Indian youth for an economy increasingly driven by AI and advanced technologies. He also highlighted initiatives such as **Digital India, Skill India, Khelo India and the National Education Policy**.

Free Coaching for Competitive Exams

PM Modi announced plans to establish a **network of free coaching centres** for young people. The initiative aims to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent students from preparing for **government jobs and other competitive examinations**.

Over ₹1 Lakh Crore Innovation Fund

PM Modi spoke about an **innovation fund of more than ₹1 lakh crore** to encourage innovation and create opportunities for young innovators. The initiative is aimed at strengthening India's technology ecosystem and global competitiveness.

2030 Commonwealth Games and 2036 Olympics

Sports also featured prominently in the speech. PM Modi said India will host the **2030 Commonwealth Games** and aims to host the **2036 Olympic Games**. He also spoke about a **Talent Hunt programme for children aged 5–15 years** to identify sporting talent at an early age, with the message **"Jo Khele, Woh Khile."**





Naxal-Free India and Civil Defence Network

PM Modi reiterated the government's goal of making India **Naxal-free**. He also announced plans to establish a **civil defence network** to improve preparedness and resilience during emergencies requiring civilian response.

Women's Reservation and Nari Shakti

PM Modi highlighted the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, which provides for **33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies**, subject to the conditions prescribed under the law. He emphasized greater political representation and empowerment of women.

UPI Completes 10 Years

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** completed 10 years in August 2026. Launched on **25 August 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the regulatory oversight of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, UPI has emerged as a key pillar of India's **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** and one of the world's largest real-time payment systems.

UPI's Growth in 10 Years

UPI has recorded massive growth since its launch. Annual transaction volume increased from just **1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26**, representing an increase of around **13,000 times**.

The annual value of UPI transactions also increased from **₹0.07 lakh crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹314 lakh crore in FY 2025-26**. Transaction volume recorded a **CAGR of 188%**, while transaction value grew at a **CAGR of 155%**.

In FY 2025-26, UPI transaction volume increased by **30% year-on-year**, while transaction value grew by **21%**.

UPI Sets New Records in 2026

UPI crossed the **2,300 crore monthly transaction mark** for the first time in May 2026, recording around 2,320 crore transactions.

In **July 2026**, UPI created another record with **2,366 crore transactions**, the highest monthly volume in its first decade. The value of transactions during the month also reached a record **₹29.88 lakh crore**.

UPI now processes an average of around **66 crore transactions every day**.

UPI's Expanding Banking Network

UPI started with only **21 banks** and recorded around **90,000 transactions in its first month**. The number of participating banks increased to **44 in FY 2016-17** and **703 in FY 2025-26**.

By **July 2026**, **741 banks** were live on the UPI platform, including public sector banks, private banks, small finance banks, payments banks and cooperative banks.

UPI's Role in Everyday Payments

UPI supports both **Person-to-Person (P2P)** and **Person-to-Merchant (P2M)** payments through an interoperable system.

Around **63% of UPI transaction volume relates to P2M payments**, showing its widespread use for everyday purchases. In FY 2025-26, around **86% of P2M transactions were below ₹500**, highlighting UPI's importance for small-value retail payments.

UPI accounted for around **84% of India's digital payments in FY 2025-26**.

UPI Emerges as a Global Payments Leader

UPI has expanded beyond India and accounted for nearly **49% of the world's real-time payment transaction volume in 2025**. According to the material, the **IMF** recognized UPI as the world's largest real-time payment system by transaction volume.

UPI is currently operational across **11 countries** — the **UAE, France, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Singapore, Mauritius, Qatar, Cambodia, Greece and Maldives**.

UPI and Financial Inclusion

UPI has played an important role in expanding **financial inclusion** by allowing consumers and merchants to make and receive instant digital payments without expensive payment infrastructure.

Small shopkeepers, local businesses and street vendors can accept payments through UPI, helping bring more people and businesses into the **formal financial system**.

e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years

The **e-Shram Portal** will complete **five years on August 26, 2026**, marking an important milestone in India's efforts to provide social security to unorganised workers. Launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment on August 26, 2021**, the portal was created to establish India's first Aadhaar-based **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)**. As of August 2026, around **31.89 crore workers** have registered on the portal.

What is the e-Shram Portal?

The e-Shram Portal was developed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** to create a centralized database of India's unorganised workforce. Every registered worker receives a unique **12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN)**.

The database covers workers such as **agricultural labourers, construction workers, domestic workers, street vendors, migrant workers, self-employed workers, and gig and platform workers**. It also facilitates portability of welfare benefits, particularly for migrant and construction workers.

e-Shram One-Stop Solution

The scope of e-Shram was significantly expanded with the launch of the **e-Shram One-Stop Solution on October 21, 2024**. The platform now connects workers with multiple social security, employment, skilling, apprenticeship and pension-related services.





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

Insurance, Pension and Employment Benefits

Eligible workers can access **PMSBY**, which provides accidental insurance of **₹2 lakh for accidental death or permanent disability and ₹1 lakh for partial disability**.

Under **PMJJBY**, eligible beneficiaries receive life insurance coverage of **₹2 lakh in case of death due to any reason**. Eligible workers enrolled under **PM-SYM** can receive a minimum assured pension of **₹3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60**, subject to the scheme's conditions.

The portal is also linked with the **National Career Service (NCS)** for employment opportunities, **Skill India Digital Hub** for skilling and apprenticeship programmes, and **myScheme** for information about government schemes.

Support for Migrant, Construction and Gig Workers

e-Shram allows details of family members of **migrant workers** to be recorded and facilitates the sharing of construction-worker data with States and UTs for registration under their respective **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Boards**.

The portal has also expanded its coverage to **gig and platform workers**. Around **11.5 lakh platform workers** had registered on e-Shram by August 2026.

Who Can Register on e-Shram?

Registration on the e-Shram Portal is **free and one-time**. Workers above **16 years of age** engaged in the unorganised sector who are not income-tax payers or members of **EPFO or ESIC** are eligible to register.

Registration can be completed through the e-Shram portal or with assistance from **Common Service Centres (CSCs) and State Seva Kendras**. Aadhaar is required for e-KYC, along with a mobile number, preferably linked with Aadhaar.

e-Shram Registration Statistics

As of August 2026, e-Shram had registered **31.89 crore workers**. Women accounted for **54.28%** of registrations, compared with **45.72% men**. Workers in the **18–40 years age group** accounted for **55.21%** of total registrations.

Major occupational groups include **agriculture, domestic and household work, construction and apparel**. **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra** are among the states with the highest registrations.

e-Shram in 22 Languages

To improve accessibility, e-Shram's multilingual capabilities were expanded to **22 languages through the Bhashini platform in 2025**. This initiative helps workers across rural and urban India access social security and welfare services in their preferred languages.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years

The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** completed **12 years on August 28, 2026**, marking a major milestone in India's financial inclusion journey. Launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014**, PMJDY is a **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** aimed at providing banking and financial services to unbanked people.

As of **August 19, 2026**, the scheme had **59.09 crore accounts** with total deposits of approximately **₹3.17 lakh crore**.

What is Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana?

PMJDY aims to provide every unbanked adult access to a **basic bank account** and other financial services. One of its key features is that beneficiaries can open an account **without maintaining a minimum balance**.

Over the years, PMJDY has expanded beyond basic banking to provide access to **insurance, pension, digital payments, overdraft facilities and government welfare benefits**.

59.09 Crore Jan Dhan Accounts Opened

As of August 19, 2026, the total number of PMJDY accounts reached **59.09 crore**.

Women account holders constitute **55.7% of the total**, with around **32.92 crore accounts** held by women. Rural and semi-urban areas account for **77.8%**, or around **45.95 crore accounts**, highlighting the scheme's focus on financial inclusion in underserved areas.

PMJDY Deposits Cross ₹3.16 Lakh Crore

Total deposits in Jan Dhan accounts stood at **₹3,16,514 crore (around ₹3.17 lakh crore)** as of August 19, 2026.

Over the past 12 years, PMJDY deposits increased by approximately **12.8 times**, while the total number of accounts increased by around **2.3 times**.

Average Balance Reaches ₹5,356

The **average balance per PMJDY account** reached **₹5,356** by August 19, 2026. The average account balance has increased approximately **3.4 times over 12 years**, indicating greater usage of Jan Dhan accounts and increased savings among beneficiaries.

41.29 Crore RuPay Cards Issued

Another major component of PMJDY is access to digital payments through **RuPay debit cards**. As of August 19, 2026, around **41.29 crore RuPay cards** had been issued to PMJDY account holders.

RuPay cards enable digital transactions and provide eligible account holders with **accident insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakh**, subject to applicable conditions.

Overdraft, Insurance and Pension Benefits

Eligible PMJDY account holders can avail an **overdraft facility of up to ₹10,000**, providing access to funds during financial emergencies.





Jan Dhan accounts also facilitate access to social security schemes such as the **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)**, along with other pension and financial services.

PMJDY and JAM Trinity

PMJDY is an important component of the **Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity**, which enables the government to transfer welfare benefits directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.

The system helps reduce dependence on intermediaries and minimizes delays and diversion of government benefits, making

PMJDY an important part of India's **digital public infrastructure and welfare delivery system**.

PMJDY and Financial Empowerment

Jan Dhan accounts provide access to **savings, insurance, pensions, digital payments and credit facilities**. Having a formal bank account can also help beneficiaries build a financial history and potentially access formal credit.

Eligible beneficiaries may also access credit-linked initiatives such as **MUDRA loans**, subject to the respective scheme's eligibility requirements.

National Current Affairs

National Current Affairs of September 2026

- **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026:** Department of Consumer Affairs notified the rules on **August 27, 2026**, making **IST the common reference time** for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes. They take effect after **180 days**. NavIC and approved Indian timing sources will support the **"One Nation, One Time"** initiative.
- **137th Mann Ki Baat:** PM Narendra Modi highlighted grassroots innovation, scientific farming, cleanliness and conservation. Key mentions included **bharatrajya.com**, **Nasha-mukt Yuva** for Viksit Bharat, **35 lakh women beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi**, and **Mission ShaktiSAT**, providing satellite training to **12,000 girls across 108 countries**.
- **Union Budget 2027–28:** Pre-Budget consultations will begin on **October 12, 2026** and continue through mid-November. Ministries must submit expenditure requirements through the Union Budget Information System by **October 6**. Growth, employment and domestic demand are expected to be major priorities.
- **Indus Waters Treaty:** The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague issued a ruling concerning the treaty and interim measures related to the **Ratle Hydroelectric Project on Chenab River**. India rejected the tribunal's jurisdiction and called it "illegally constituted." The 1960 treaty broadly allocates eastern rivers to India and western rivers to Pakistan.
- **Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031:** Vice President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the Strategic Action Plan at **Agatti, Lakshadweep**. It focuses on science-based development of ornamental fisheries. Lakshadweep has a **4,200 sq km lagoon**, nearly **4 lakh sq km EEZ**, and fisheries potential exceeding 1 lakh tonnes.
- **Semicon 2.0:** Government notified the expanded semiconductor programme with an outlay of **₹1.27 lakh crore**. It covers chip design, fabrication, packaging, equipment, materials, R&D and talent development. India

aims to train **1 lakh additional semiconductor engineers** and potentially create **50,000–60,000 direct jobs**.

- **SCO Bishkek Declaration:** The declaration contains **13 major outcomes** covering terrorism, security, AI, climate, energy and youth cooperation. An **AI cooperation MoU** was approved, while adding **English as an official and working language** was highlighted as an institutional development.
- **PM Modi at SCO Summit:** At the 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek, PM Modi presented India's three-pillar approach — **Security, Connectivity and Opportunity**. India called for stronger action against terrorism, terror financing, radicalisation, safe havens and drug trafficking.
- **Adoption Awareness 2026:** CARA launched the campaign on **September 1** with the theme **"Legal Adoption. Safe Childhood. Secure Future. Say No to Illegal Adoption!"** It promotes legal, transparent and child-centric adoption.
- **Jal Shakti Departmental Summit:** Focused on water conservation, **Catch the Rain**, sustainable drinking-water sources and **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0**, with emphasis on operation and maintenance of rural water systems.
- **AyurVarta:** All India Institute of Ayurveda launched the digital dialogue series ahead of **Ayurveda Day on September 23, 2026**, focusing on authentic Ayurveda knowledge, research and contemporary applications.
- **Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 5.0:** Runs from **September 12–19** across more than **100 beaches** along India's **11,098-km coastline**. The 2026 edition introduces India's first **National Ocean Olympiad**.
- **Lakkundi LiDAR Survey:** Karnataka and NIAS Bengaluru will conduct a six-month survey using **LiDAR, GIS, remote sensing and GPR** to locate buried Kalyana-Chalukya structures. Since 2023, **70 monuments and 3,300+ artefacts** have been identified.
- **IIT Madras–UNESCO MGIEP Partnership:** The two institutions will develop **AI and immersive learning technologies**, combining Social and Emotional Learning with AI, Extended Reality and game design. Tools will be open-source, low-cost and suitable for low-bandwidth areas.





- **Modified UDAN Scheme:** India plans **100 new airports over 10 years**, backed by ₹28,840 crore for FY2026–27 to FY2035–36. Active airports have risen from **74 in 2014 to 166 in 2026**. Around **200 new helipads** are also planned.
- **Gollala Gudi Temple:** ASI declared the Kakatiya-era temple at **Palampet, Telangana**, a **Monument of National Importance**. The Trikotalaya temple is located near the UNESCO-listed Ramappa Temple.
- **Ram Janmabhoomi Trust CEO:** Retired **Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra** became the first CEO of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. A former IAF fighter pilot, he has more than **3,000 flying hours** and was selected from about **5,200 applications**.
- **SUMAN Roadmap 2030:** Maternal and newborn healthcare initiative covering **13 states and 130 districts**, focusing on healthcare before, during and after childbirth and reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
- **CBSE Three-Language Policy:** From the **2026–27 academic session**, Class 9 students study R1, R2 and R3, with at least **two native Indian languages**. A foreign language can be R3 or a fourth language. **R3 will not have a Class 10 board exam**.
- **District Judges' Retirement Age:** Supreme Court directed **seven states** to raise district judges' retirement age from **60 to 62 years**, subject to suitability assessment at age 60. The states are Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- **BIO-NIVESH:** Launched by Dr Jitendra Singh to connect biotechnology startups with investors. Its inaugural edition brought **20 biotech/deep-tech startups and around 50 investors** together. It is supported by the broader **₹1 lakh crore R&D and Innovation Fund**.
- **Himachal Pradesh:** State's first **ozone-based drinking-water treatment project** will be established at **Dehra, Kangra**, with an allocation of **₹46 crore**.
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Phase-I of the **Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project** will divert Krishna floodwaters through tunnels beneath the Nallamala range. It will store **10.70 TMC**, irrigate **1.19 lakh acres** and provide drinking water to nearly **4 lakh people**.
- **Tripura:** CM Manik Saha unveiled a statue of **Major Dhyan Chand** at Dashrath Dev State Sports Complex on National Sports Day. The state also plans expanded sports infrastructure, including a **30,000-seat gallery**.
- **Bihar–Jharkhand:** The states signed an MoU on **Sone River water sharing**, resolving a nearly **25-year-old dispute** and improving irrigation and drinking-water availability.
- **Gujarat:** Ban on **gutkha and tobacco/nicotine-containing paan masala** extended until **September 12, 2027**. Gujarat has enforced the ban since 2012.
- **Maharashtra Drug-Free Policy 2029:** Based on four pillars — **strict enforcement, supply reduction, demand reduction, and de-addiction/treatment/rehabilitation**. From 2027, schools will conduct at least one drug-awareness lesson annually from Class V.
- **Kerala Coconut Park:** Kerala plans a Coconut Park with Coconut Development Board support to promote **processing, value addition, branding and exports** of coconut products.
- **Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Bill 2026:** Proposes a **21-day limit for business and regulatory clearances**. A proposed Investment Promotion Commission will monitor major projects, including those involving **₹200 crore+ investment or 5,000+ jobs**.
- **Ahmedabad Airport:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport became India's **third hub-and-spoke airport** after Varanasi and Amritsar. The government plans to extend the model to **22 more airports**.
- **Tamil Nadu Fishing Vessels:** Supreme Court directed the state to establish a designated route for fishing vessels to cross territorial waters and reach the **EEZ**. India's territorial waters extend **12 nautical miles**, while the EEZ extends up to **200 nautical miles**.
- **Tripura Organic Rice Export:** Tripura dispatched **18.7 metric tonnes** of certified organic aromatic rice to European markets including **Austria and the Netherlands**, with APEDA support. The rice is NPOP-certified.
- **Telangana Cabinet:** CM **A. Revanth Reddy** removed **Konda Surekha** from the state cabinet. Constitutionally, state ministers are appointed and removed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- **Sikkim GLOF Risk:** Sikkim identified **40 high-hazard glacial lakes**, including **16 Category A lakes**. **Shako Chho** is considered the most vulnerable, and the state is developing a dedicated **GLOF Risk Mitigation Protocol**.
- **Nakatia River Revival:** Bareilly's Nakatia River will be revived through a **three-phase project** covering mapping, pollution control, drain treatment, green buffers and biodiversity protection. Authorities are exploring inclusion under **Namami Gange** and considering renaming it **"Nath Ganga."**





National Current Affairs of August 2026

Cabinet Approvals

- **Samudra Manthan Offshore Exploration Scheme:** Union Cabinet approved the scheme with an outlay of **₹84,084 crore** up to FY 2030–31 to boost offshore oil and gas exploration and reduce import dependence. It provides ₹28,534 crore for seismic surveys, ₹43,200 crore for **60 deepwater wells**, ₹10,000 crore for offshore infrastructure hubs and ₹2,000 crore for manufacturing/services zones. Government support for deepwater drilling will be up to **50% of eligible cost**, capped at ₹675 crore per well. The scheme targets raising domestic oil and gas production from **62 MMTOE to 80 MMTOE annually** and the hydrocarbon resource base from 1.6 billion TOE to **2.2 billion TOE**.
- **GOBARdhan National Circular Bioenergy Scheme:** Cabinet approved the scheme with an outlay of **₹23,731 crore** for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36. It aims to increase domestic **Compressed Biogas (CBG) production nearly ten-fold** by converting agricultural residue, cattle dung, press mud and municipal organic waste into clean fuel and manure. It introduces an administered CBG price of **₹2,110 per MMBTU** and capital assistance of up to **₹2 crore per tonne/day** of installed capacity.
- **Guwahati–Tezpur Highway Corridor:** CCEA approved the **135.871-km four-lane access-controlled corridor on NH-15 in Assam** at a cost of **₹8,970.20 crore** under BOT Toll Mode. It includes a **4.9-km Emergency Landing Facility** on Tezpur Bypass, five major bypasses, 15 major bridges, 19 flyovers and an elephant underpass. The project will improve connectivity across **Assam and Arunachal Pradesh**, double average travel speeds and halve travel time.
- **Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa NH-22 Project:** CCEA approved four-laning of the **82.578-km NH-22 stretch in Bihar** at a cost of **₹3,590.73 crore** under Hybrid Annuity Mode. It will strengthen connectivity between the **India–Nepal border at Sonbarsa and Muzaffarpur/NH-27**. Designed for speeds up to 100 kmph, it includes seven major bridges, three Railway Over Bridges and two flyovers.
- **Four Railway Multitracking Projects:** CCEA approved four projects worth **₹9,450 crore** across West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These are **Kharagpur–Bhadrak fourth line (173 km)**, **Bhadrak–Haridaspur fourth line (75 km)**, **Gummidipundi–Gudur third & fourth lines (90 km)**, and **Cuttack–Paradeep third & fourth lines (72 km)**. Together, they will add around **410 km** to the railway network, benefit about **6,448 villages and 60 lakh people**, and create around **76 MTPA additional freight capacity**.

- **PM GatiShakti & Multimodal Connectivity:** The four railway projects are planned under the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** to strengthen freight movement, multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency. They will support transport of coal, iron ore, steel, cement, automobiles, containers and food grains while improving access to tourist destinations such as **Bhitarkanika National Park, Chandipur Beach and Pulicat Lake**. The projects are expected to reduce oil imports by nearly **13 crore litres** and CO₂ emissions by around **65 crore kg**.

State-wise August Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **AP–Australia MoUs:** Andhra Pradesh and Australia signed **4 MoUs** covering clean energy, manufacturing, inclusive education, student mental health and skill development. A **Centre of Excellence for Solar Manufacturing** will promote solar PV manufacturing, recycling and research.
- **Visakhapatnam Economic Region:** **₹9.5 lakh crore development plan** covering eight districts, targeting a **\$120 billion economy by 2032** and **20–24 lakh jobs**. Focus sectors include AI data centres, green hydrogen, ports, logistics, IT, steel, tourism and agriculture.
- **PPP Policy 2026:** AP Cabinet approved **PPP Policy-2026** and Ease of Doing Business Act-2026, including **₹1,500 crore Viability Gap Funding**.
- **Pedestrian Safety Policy:** Mandates a minimum **2-metre clear walking zone**, accessible infrastructure and road-safety audits.
- **Green AI Data Centre:** **₹31,387 crore, 512-MW AI data centre** approved in Visakhapatnam district by AM AI Factory Pvt Ltd.
- **Quantum & AI University:** India's first dedicated **Quantum and AI University campus** approved in Amaravati, to be established by NIELIT with ₹730.7 crore investment.
- **Praamaan OS:** CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the **AI-powered accounting and statutory compliance platform**, developed by Pramanique Infotech.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Doronicum sanctum:** New sunflower-family plant species discovered in **Tawang** at around 4,000 metres altitude. It is the **first documented Doronicum species from Northeast India**.

Assam

- **Flood Relief:** Assam released around **₹160 crore** through DBT for flood-affected families; assistance included ₹15,000 per family and **₹9 lakh ex-gratia** for flood deaths.
- **Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary:** New **Kalamati Wildlife Range Office** inaugurated to strengthen wildlife monitoring and conservation.





- **Dehing Patkai National Park:** 2026 biodiversity survey recorded **165 butterfly species**, including 37 endangered species.

Chhattisgarh

- **BharatNet Expansion:** Centre allocated **₹3,942 crore** for Amended BharatNet, covering **11,682 Gram Panchayats** and providing on-demand connectivity to another 8,328 villages.
- **Tilapia Export:** Chhattisgarh became India's first inland state to export value-added Tilapia products, shipping **382 tonnes** to the US.

Delhi

- **Delhi Master Plan 2047:** Proposes around **40 lakh affordable homes**, regularisation of 1,511 unauthorised colonies and Transit-Oriented Development.
- **Delhi Lakshmi Yojana:** Eligible women aged 21–60 will receive **₹2,500 per month**; over 9.13 lakh women had registered.
- **Revenue Self-Reliance:** Delhi recorded the highest own-revenue share at **93.2%** of total revenue receipts in 2024–25 Budget Estimates.

Gujarat

- **Analogue Dairy Products:** Gujarat banned production and sale of **unstandardised analogue paneer, cheese and butter**.
- **Nalsarovar Project:** **₹2.94 crore Plastic Waste Management Project** launched around Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary with JICA support.
- **Gramin Gyan Setu:** Mobile app launched to digitally connect libraries; hub-and-spoke network links village libraries with four central libraries holding around **2.80 lakh books**.
- **Blackbuck Conservation:** **20 blackbucks** released into the **Banni Grasslands of Kutch** by Vantara and Gujarat Forest Department.
- **Desert Night Safari:** Gujarat will develop **Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari and zoological park** at Juna Deesa, Banaskantha, at an estimated **₹542.14 crore**.
- **Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary:** Emerged as an important breeding site for the **Black-necked Stork**, recording four active nests and eight juveniles.
- **Banas Bio-CNG Plant:** Plant can process **100 tonnes of cattle dung daily** into Bio-CNG and organic manure. India's first cooperative-model **Gramin Bharat Taxi** service was also launched.
- **Sports Genomics:** Gujarat launched India's first state-level **Sports Genomics Programme**, targeting around **10,000 athlete samples** over five years.

Haryana

- **Tiranga Yatra:** Palwal's Independence Day Tiranga Yatra achieved **two Guinness World Records**, featuring a **5-km-long national flag**.

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himalayan Serow:** Rare Himalayan Serow recorded near **Kalatop-Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary** after nearly **20 years**; species is Near Threatened.
- **Green Wealth:** Forest Department and ISB identified around **₹22,600 crore** of untapped potential in selected forest bio-resources.
- **Analogue Paneer:** Himachal Pradesh became the **fourth state** to prohibit non-dairy/analogue paneer failing food-safety requirements.

Jammu & Kashmir

- **Rattan Garh Fort:** Administration approved **₹10 crore** for restoration of the 1733-built fort in **Bhaderwah, Doda**.

Karnataka

- **Cabinet Expansion:** **19 MLAs** took oath, increasing the Karnataka ministry's strength to **33**.
- **Anthropic Partnership:** Karnataka is exploring collaboration with **Anthropic** for AI skilling, public services, healthcare, education and cybersecurity.
- **HAL Airport:** Became India's first airport to operationalise the **RNP CAT H helicopter approach**, reducing approach time from about 12 to **4 minutes**.
- **Tathyakosh.in:** Digital public-good platform launched with more than **1.5 million datasets** from **458 public repositories**.
- **SAMASTA:** Integrated digital health platform linked with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission; designed to replace paper-based health records.
- **Sandhya Kiran:** Cashless healthcare scheme provides up to **₹5 lakh annual family coverage** to eligible retired state employees and dependents.
- **Analogue Paneer:** One-year ban from **August 17, 2026 to August 17, 2027**.
- **Hindalco Plant:** India's first greenfield **Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate plant** commissioned at Belagavi with initial capacity of 30,000 tonnes annually.

Kerala

- **AI Governance:** Kerala announced an AI-led governance overhaul for faster, more transparent and citizen-centric public services.
- **Weather Radar:** IMD will commission an **X-Band Doppler Weather Radar** at **Pulpally, Wayanad**, providing observations within a 100-km radius.
- **Keralam:** Kerala was officially renamed "**Keralam**" from **August 25, 2026**, following the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026.

Ladakh

- **High-Altitude Wildlife Safari:** Ladakh approved India's first **high-altitude wildlife safari**, covering areas including Hemis, Changthang, Nubra, Zaskar and Drass. Ladakh is estimated to host **477 of India's 718 snow leopards**.





- **Black-Necked Crane Festival:** Ladakh hosted its **first Black-Necked Crane Festival** from August 11–14.
- **High Court Sitzings:** Presidential regulation allows sittings of the **J&K and Ladakh High Court in Ladakh**, improving access to higher judicial remedies.

Madhya Pradesh

- **India's First Virtual Zoo:** Opened at **Kamala Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya, Indore**, featuring a 3-D dome theatre, 14-D cinema and digital jungle safari.

Maharashtra

- **Analogue Paneer:** One-year statewide ban imposed on manufacture and sale of analogue paneer.
- **Snakebite:** Maharashtra declared **snakebite a notifiable disease**, requiring mandatory reporting of cases and deaths.
- **Edible Oil:** Sale of **loose/unpackaged edible oil and fats banned**; products must be sold in sealed, labelled packages.
- **QR Collars for Stray Dogs:** BMC introduced QR-enabled collars containing vaccination, sterilisation and health information, supporting Mumbai's **rabies elimination by 2030** goal.
- **Work From Anywhere Index:** **Mumbai was the only Indian city** in the IWG 2026 Work From Anywhere Index, scoring 77 points; Bangkok topped the ranking.
- **School Eye Care:** Three-year programme aims to screen **20 lakh students** and provide eye-care services and spectacles.

Meghalaya

- **Uranium Mining:** Meghalaya Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing **uranium exploration and mining**.
- **CM-IMPACT Read & Rise:** Programme aims to ensure children can confidently **read and write by age seven**, with additional intervention for older children.

Puducherry

- **President's Colours:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the prestigious **President's Colours to Puducherry Police** on August 9.
- Major infrastructure projects include **₹2,200 crore NH-332A four-laning** and airport runway expansion.

Punjab

- **School Education Quality Index 2026:** Punjab secured the **top position**, according to the content. Mission Samarth covers around **12 lakh students and 70,000 teachers** annually.
- **AI Education:** Punjab introduced **Artificial Intelligence as a core subject from Classes 1–12**.
- Government-school NEET qualifiers increased from **80 in 2021 to 882 in 2026**.

Rajasthan

- **School Infrastructure:** Rajasthan announced a **₹12,500 crore modernisation roadmap** across all 41 districts, including thousands of new school buildings, classrooms, toilets and repairs.

Tamil Nadu

- **Organ Donation:** Tamil Nadu led India in deceased organ donation with **266 donors** in 2025 and ranked second in transplants with **2,796 procedures**.
- **Tamil Thai Vazhthu:** Assembly adopted a resolution making it the **first song at official state events**.
- **Maternity Leave:** State announced **365 days' maternity leave** for women government employees having a third child, replacing the earlier 12-week provision for that category.
- **TN-ARIVU:** New AI and emerging-technology curriculum from **2027–28**, covering Classes I–XII through Foundation, Discovery and Edge stages.
- **Annapoorani Super Six LPG Scheme:** Scheduled from **Pongal 2027**, providing DBT-based LPG reimbursement to eligible households earning below ₹2.5 lakh and other eligible groups.
- **Elephant Corridors:** Three corridors notified in **Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary**, with Jawalagiri–Panai–Anchetty the largest at **6,881.47 hectares**.

Telangana

- **NextGen Dial-112:** Telangana Police launched an AI-powered emergency system integrating **18 emergency services**. Call-processing time has been reduced from 190 to **133 seconds**.
- Telangana also became the first state to pilot **AI-enabled drones with Dial-112**.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Supplementary Budget:** UP presented a **₹59,019.54 crore** supplementary budget for 2026–27, with over 70% earmarked for capital expenditure.
- **Parichha Weir:** The **140-year-old structure on Betwa River** was designated a World Heritage Irrigation Structure.
- **UP–Japan Fund:** UP and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture proposed a **₹600 crore investment fund** for Yamanashi-based MSMEs investing in UP.
- **Maternity Leave:** Eligible women government employees can avail **180 days of maternity leave twice**, covering the first two surviving children.
- **Free Tablets:** Cabinet approved purchase of **25 lakh tablets** under Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana, with **₹2,374.60 crore** allocated.
- **UP Startup Policy 2026:** State launched its Startup Mission portal and new policy; UP has **24,000+ startups and eight unicorns**, according to the content.

Uttarakhand

- **High Court Relocation:** Government approved shifting the **Uttarakhand High Court from Nainital to Haldwani**, identifying a 30-hectare site at Lamachaur.





West Bengal

- **Kaushal Mahotsav:** State's first Kaushal Mahotsav held at **Balurghat**, offering **7,000+ career opportunities**; more than 8,000 candidates registered.
- **Complaint Helplines:** Four toll-free numbers launched for complaints related to extortion, syndicate activities, illegal toll collection and illegal liquor.
- **Arjun Bahini:** Specialised disaster-response force of trained **Agniveers**, with around 200 personnel selected. West Bengal also announced **20% reservation for Agniveers** in specified state services.

August Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **Satish Gujral Birth Centenary Stamp:** Department of Posts released a **commemorative postage stamp** marking the birth centenary of renowned artist, sculptor and architect **Satish Gujral**. Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled it on **August 3, 2026, at Bikaner House, New Delhi**; it features Gujral's 2010 self-portrait.
- **National Organ Transplant Portal & App:** NOTTO launched a real-time digital platform providing a unified national waiting list, transparent organ allocation, donor-recipient matching and post-transplant monitoring. It also enables Aadhaar-linked donation pledges and expands **paired kidney swap transplantation nationally**.
- **TRAI MyCall App:** TRAI launched a revamped **MyCall app** on August 3 to improve voice-quality monitoring. Users can rate calls, report call drops, delays, echo and voice-breaking, and perform signal-coverage tests.
- **Har Ghar Tiranga 2026:** Fifth edition launched by Culture Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, with nationwide activities from **August 9–17**. The campaign focuses on the **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram**; Suryapath Tiranga involves Indian missions in **54 countries**.
- **CCRAS-PARAMPARA:** Launched to **document and scientifically validate local health traditions and traditional veterinary knowledge**. Other Ayurveda initiatives include the National Research Recognitions portal and **Ayur-dict**.
- **Bank in a Box:** Amit Shah launched **Bank in a Box** and a dedicated **Security Operations Centre (SOC)** for Urban Cooperative Banks under Sahkar Nav-Kranti. Services include core banking, digital payments, cloud infrastructure, Aadhaar services and **AI-based fraud prevention**.
- **E-Samudra:** India launched the **digital maritime governance platform** on August 8, offering single-window services, digital certificates, payments and real-time tracking for seafarers, shipping companies and ports. India's active seafarers increased from 1.03 lakh in 2013 to **3.23 lakh+ in 2025**.

- **AAERI Verify:** NeGD and the Association of Australian Education Representatives in India launched the **DigiLocker-integrated verification platform** for Indian students seeking higher education in Australia. It enables paperless verification of academic, identity and financial documents.
- **Har Ghar Tiranga – Andaman & Nicobar:** Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** launched the campaign at **Sri Vijaya Puram** on August 9, highlighting the islands' freedom-struggle legacy and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's historic 1943 flag hoisting.
- **Agriculture Scholarship DBT:** Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched a new scholarship/fellowship payment system through the **National Scholarship Portal**. More than **6,000 agriculture students received ₹21.35 crore** through DBT.
- **Handloom Experience Centre:** Revamped Handloom Haat at **Janpath, New Delhi**, was transformed into the Handloom Experience Centre, combining traditional handloom heritage with contemporary design, enterprise and retail.
- **CYBER KUSHTI 2026:** NIELIT launched the national **cybersecurity and AI hackathon** with ISAC Foundation and CERT-In. It has three stages — **Akhada, Dangal and Kesari Final** — with winners receiving the **Cyber Kesari 2026** title.
- **India's First ONEs Guide:** India launched its first **Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)** at UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar. It covers grasslands, scrublands, savannas, rocky plateaus, coastal ecosystems and deserts.
- **NTA Four-Tier Checking System:** National Testing Agency introduced a **four-level question-paper review mechanism** covering factual, grammatical, translation and formatting errors. Security measures include CISF protection, air-gapped systems and strict device protocols.
- **Friends of MY Bharat:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched the digital platform to connect **Indian-origin youth living abroad** with volunteering, nation-building and youth initiatives in India.
- **Terrier Cyber Quest 2026:** Territorial Army and CyberPeace launched **TCQ 3.0**, a national defence-focused cyber hackathon with three tracks — **Bug Hunting, AI Kavach and National Creators Challenge**. Grand Finale is scheduled for **October 6–8**.
- **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II:** Launched under **DAY-NRLM** from August 21 to November 21 to support the goal of **six crore Lakhpati Didis**. It targets training **5 lakh SHG women** and formalising 50,000 enterprises.
- **MALHAR 2026:** Vice-President **C. P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated the youth-focused Indian classical music programme in **New Delhi** on August 21 to connect young people with India's musical heritage.





- **Paradip Port Projects:** Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated **7 projects worth ₹427.80 crore** at Paradip Port, Odisha. A ₹352-crore dredging project will create an **18.5-metre deep-draft facility** for fully laden Capesize vessels.
- **Kanda Express:** Centre launched **Kanda Express** on August 24 to transport onions from **Nashik** to major consumption centres including Delhi, Chennai, Kochi and Guwahati amid rising prices. NAFED and NCCF had procured around **1.2 lakh tonnes** for buffer stock.
- **Garbhini Mitra Course:** All India Institute of Ayurveda introduced a **six-month maternal wellness programme** based on Ayurveda for pregnancy and postnatal care. Each batch will have 20 students.
- **Dak MITRA & Dak Sewa:** India Post upgraded both digital applications. **Dak MITRA serves 1.4 lakh+ Branch Post Offices**, while Dak Sewa provides 24x7 services in **23 Indian languages**.
- **NSG's First Mahila Commando Course:** NSG launched its first **Mahila Commando Conversion Course** at Manesar, Haryana. The **12-week programme** trains women from State Police and CAPFs in weapons, hostage rescue, tactical intervention and counter-terrorism.
- **National Security Strategies Conference 2026:** Amit Shah inaugurated the **9th edition** in New Delhi, attended by **850+ participants**. Discussions covered terrorism, intelligence, narcotics, illegal migration, cybercrime and proxy warfare.
- **Adi Vaani & Jago:** At a tribal languages and museums conclave in Mysuru, the **Adi Vaani platform** gained an iOS app and five additional languages. The government also launched **Jago**, an AI assistant for tribal welfare information.
- **Nitrosamine Reference Standards:** Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission launched **7 Nitrosamine Impurities Reference Standards** — NDMA, NDEA, NEIPA, NDBA, NMPPA, NDIPA and NMBA — to strengthen drug-quality control.
- **Hutatma Smruti Smarak:** Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the redeveloped memorial at **Patradevi, Goa**, commemorating martyrs of the Goa Liberation Movement. Redevelopment cost around **₹9.50 crore**.

- **Gujarat Gaurav Sarovar:** Amit Shah inaugurated the **21-acre reservoir in Amreli**, with a storage capacity of **400 million litres**, to support agriculture, drinking water and groundwater recharge.
- **Jago AI Assistant:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the conversational **AI chatbot** to simplify access to tribal welfare schemes and government programmes. It is currently available in **English and Hindi**.

Miscellaneous National News

- President Droupadi Murmu granted assent to the **Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026**. The law prohibits conversions through coercion, fraud, misrepresentation, allurements or marriage promises, while permitting voluntary conversions. It requires 60-day prior notice to the District Magistrate.
- The Union Government released an additional **₹1.09 lakh crore as advance tax devolution to states**. Under Finance Commission recommendations, states receive 41% of the Centre's divisible tax pool. **Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation of ₹19,208 crore**.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the strength of the Supreme Court from **34 to 38 judges**, including the Chief Justice of India. The amendment aims to address case backlog and improve judicial efficiency.
- The Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda reviewed expansion of **Project SARATHI**, which deploys youth volunteers in hospitals. At PGIMER Chandigarh, over 2,500 volunteers contributed 1.5 lakh service hours and reduced patient navigation time by 26%.
- India will implement a **₹45,000 crore railway infrastructure upgrade across border states** adjoining China, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The initiative will strengthen civilian connectivity and strategic military logistics, including in the **Siliguri Corridor**.
- Indian Railways provides an **Emergency Quota facility for eligible cancer patients** to secure confirmed train tickets for urgent medical treatment. Twelve Emergency Quota berths are reserved across specified travel classes.
- **Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh became India's 101st Ramsar Site** on August 3, 2026. It is also the **first Ramsar Site in Arunachal Pradesh** and lies within Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Central Government introduced **UPSC and SSC recruitment reforms** to make examinations faster, transparent, secure and technology-driven. SSC reduced its recruitment cycle to 6–8 months, while UPSC introduced a Modular Online Application Portal and AI-based attempt verification.





- India extended anti-dumping duties on four imported products and imposed a new **five-year duty on low-ash metallurgical coke** from Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed **mandatory Vehicle-to-Vehicle communication** for newly manufactured L, M and N category vehicles from **October 1, 2028**.
- The Supreme Court extended compulsory third-party insurance for new private vehicles, requiring **four years for cars and six years for two-wheelers**, replacing the earlier three- and five-year periods.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways proposed draft rules recognising **two-wheeled ambulances as a separate emergency-vehicle category**. L2-category bike ambulances manufactured from October 1, 2027, would follow AIS-209 standards.
- India plans to raise installed power capacity to **874 GW by 2031-32**, from 548.86 GW as of June 30, 2026. Non-fossil sources already account for 54.18% of installed capacity.
- The Supreme Court ordered a **10-kilometre mining buffer around all notified wetland conservation reserves** nationwide, strengthening environmental safeguards around fragile wetlands.
- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** proposes tighter oversight of foreign funding received by NGOs, associations and individuals. It creates a Designated Authority to manage assets in specified circumstances.
- The Supreme Court issued nationwide directions against **digital arrest scams and cyber financial fraud**. RBI must prepare an SOP for identifying, freezing and investigating mule accounts used in cybercrime.
- **Massachusetts and the City of Boston declared August 15 as India Day** to commemorate India's 79th Independence Day and recognise the contributions of the Indian-American community.
- Parliament passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026**, increasing the Court's total strength from **34 to 38 judges**.
- The **9th India Medical Device 2026 conference** was scheduled for August 7–8 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. India's medical devices sector is targeted to reach **US\$50 billion by 2030**.
- The **Bharat International Rice Conference 2026** will be held from October 23 to 25 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. India is the world's largest rice exporter, shipping over 20 million tonnes annually to more than 170 countries.
- India's **IT Rules 2026** reduced the deadline for removing unlawful content after a valid court order or government notice from **36 hours to 3 hours** and introduced provisions covering AI-generated content and deepfakes.
- The Union government told the Supreme Court that the **creamy layer principle should not be extended to SCs and STs**, arguing that their reservation addresses historical and social disadvantage rather than income alone.
- Lok Sabha passed the **MSME Development Amendment Bill, 2026** on August 7. The legislation aims to address delayed payments through faster dispute resolution and improved liquidity.
- The **Scan and Register Service under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission crossed 25 crore OPD registrations**. It operates across 30,800 healthcare facilities covering all 36 States and Union Territories.
- India completed its **first sea shipment of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia** in August 2026. The consignment originated from farmers in Darbhanga.
- India crossed **300.50 GW installed non-fossil fuel capacity** as of July 31, 2026. Solar power led with 164.59 GW, followed by wind at 58.14 GW and hydropower at 57.24 GW.
- The **CPGRAMS** platform connects citizens with Central ministries, State governments and Union Territories for government-service complaints. The framework requires grievances to be resolved within a **maximum of 21 days**.
- India's **Asiatic lion population increased from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025**, a rise of nearly 70%. Greater Gir in Gujarat remains their principal natural habitat.
- India celebrates its **80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026**, with the theme **"Yuva Shakti: Leading the journey to Viksit Bharat@2047."**
- The 80th Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort will feature **Vande Mataram for the first time as part of the official programme**, commemorating 150 years of the National Song.
- Tripura achieved an agricultural export milestone by sending its **first-ever mustard honey shipment to Dubai**. The one-metric-tonne consignment was exported by the Dergang Farmer Producer Organisation with assistance from APEDA.
- India identified **45 major Invasive Alien Plant Species** through the Forest Survey of India to strengthen forest ecosystem management.
- Lok Sabha passed the **Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026**, proposing an independent **National Tribunals Commission** to oversee appointments, administration and performance of tribunals.
- **V.O. Chidambaranar Port became India's first major port to achieve Scope-2 Emission-Free status** on August 10, 2026. It also became India's first major port to receive ISO 50001:2018 certification for its Energy Management System.
- India diversified its urea imports in 2026 amid West Asia-related supply disruptions. Between April and June, it imported **15.08 lakh tonnes from 17 countries**.





- The MSME Ministry and DPIIT signed an MoU to expand market access for **Geographical Indication (GI) products** through ONDC, Government e-Marketplace and the “Bharat GI” banner.
- World Elephant Day 2026 highlighted that **India holds nearly 60% of the global wild Asian elephant population**. The SAIEE 2021–25 estimated India's population at 22,446 elephants.
- Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, establishing a proposed independent **National Tribunals Commission (NTC)** to oversee 16 major tribunals.
- The Union Jal Shakti Ministry amended the **Ganga floodplain management framework**, dividing floodplains into Active Floodplain, Regulatory Zone and Warning Zone.
- The **RailOne App crossed 4.76 crore downloads** by August 2, 2026. Around 89% of reserved railway tickets are now booked online.
- The **Monsoon Session of Parliament concluded on August 13, 2026**, with Parliament passing 11 Bills.
- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** was passed by both Houses on August 13, amending the MMDR Act, 1957.
- As of July 31, 2026, **DigiLocker had more than 72.43 crore registered users**, while UMANG crossed 11.66 crore users.
- Parliament passed the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**, paving the way for Kerala to officially become **Keralam**.
- Lok Sabha referred the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** to a **31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee** on August 12.
- A Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended a **National Pine-Needle Utilisation Policy** to address Himalayan forest fires and utilise pine biomass.
- Akali Dal chief **Sukhbir Singh Badal was injured in a kirpan attack** at Gurdwara Mata Sahib Devan Ji Mugat near Nanded, Maharashtra, on August 13, 2026.
- NITI Aayog identified **chemicals, textiles, telecom and networking equipment, and solar photovoltaic manufacturing** as four high-potential sectors for positioning India as a global manufacturing hub.
- The Railway Board approved **seven new Amrit Bharat Express services** in August 2026 to improve long-distance interstate connectivity.
- The Central Government approved a **fourth railway line in the Malda–New Jalpaiguri section** through the strategically important **Siliguri Corridor or Chicken’s Neck**.
- The Lucknow–Delhi Tejas Express will operate as the **Sprite Tejas Express** under a commercial branding arrangement.
- The Central Government has delisted **18 monuments from the centrally protected sites list since 2021**. ASI now maintains 3,688 centrally protected monuments and sites.
- **Suryapath Tiranga** completed a historic global relay involving **54 Indian missions and posts** on India’s 80th Independence Day.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **nationwide sports talent identification campaign for children aged 5–15 years**, targeting future athletes for India's possible 2036 Olympics.
- India hosted the **BRICS ICT Track in Pune from August 17–21, 2026**, focusing on secure, inclusive and sustainable digital ecosystems.
- The Supreme Court asked the remaining **19 States and Union Territories to consider declaring cancer a notifiable disease**.
- India’s 80th Independence Day celebrations in New Jersey achieved a **Guinness World Record for the Largest Flagpole Number**, using over 1,300 US flags to form “250”.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide sports talent hunt for **children aged 5–15 years** to identify athletes for the **2036 Olympics**.
- The BJP announced its new national team under president **Nitin Nabin** on August 17, 2026.
- India constituted a **12-member high-powered committee** to review restoration and future management of the **Teesta Barrage Project** in West Bengal.
- The **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project** is advancing towards its expected August 2027 launch. The 508-km corridor is expected to support trains travelling at up to 320 km/h.
- Three UAE-based Indian skydivers participated in a **Guinness World Record event** over Benghazi, Libya, involving 65 skydivers from 38 nationalities.
- Senior IAS officer **Anurag Jain assumed charge as NITI Aayog CEO**.
- A newly discovered Himalayan plant, **Impatiens nimspurjai**, has been named after mountaineer **Nirmal “Nimsdai” Purja**.
- UIDAI completed more than **2 crore Mandatory Biometric Updates for schoolchildren** under its nationwide mission-mode campaign.
- **Lakshmanan Meyyappan**, aged 16 years and 141 days, entered the Guinness World Records as the **world’s youngest male Chartered Accountant**.
- **Semicon India 2026** will take place from September 17–19 at Yashoobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi, under the theme **“Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem.”**
- **Vizhinjam International Seaport** began full-fledged EXIM operations, transforming it from a transshipment facility into a major gateway for Indian trade.
- The **PM CARES Fund had a closing balance of ₹8,452.07 crore** as of March 31, 2025, according to audited financial statements.
- NHAI expanded its **FASTag Local Pass facility to 121 toll plazas** across India for eligible residents living within 20 km of designated toll plazas.





- The National Medical Commission proposed a centrally generated **Unique Identification number for registered doctors** and the concept of **“One Nation, One Licence.”**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the **₹3,590.73 crore NH-22 four-laning project in Bihar**, covering 82.578 km.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved **four multi-tracking railway projects worth ₹9,450 crore** across West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The **31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting** was held on August 20, 2026, at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.
- The Union Cabinet approved establishing a **Jammu & Kashmir High Court bench in Ladakh** to improve access to justice.
- The **Aadhaar App crossed 5 crore downloads**, highlighting growing adoption of digital identity services.
- North Eastern Railway operated the **Awadh Mahashakti freight train**, its longest train operation, consisting of **129 wagons** powered by three locomotives.
- India's **first large-scale biopolymer plant** is being constructed at the Kumbhi sugar unit in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, at a cost of around **₹3,080 crore**.
- India hosted the **12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting in Pune** on August 21, 2026.
- The BJP is preparing nationwide **Modi@25 celebrations** to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public service.
- The Supreme Court reduced the mandatory practice requirement for entry-level judicial service examinations from **three years to one year**.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs transferred processing of pending **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 applications** to District Collectors in eight States and Union Territories.
- The government notified the **₹62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)**. The five-year scheme runs from April 1, 2026 to FY 2030-31.
- The government notified the **Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2026**, removing the earlier **12-minute-per-hour television advertisement cap**.
- The government restricted fixed-dose combinations containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for **children below four years of age**.
- ICAR-NBAGR registered **16 new indigenous livestock and dog breeds**, taking India's total registered animal breeds to **262**.
- A NITI Aayog report estimates around **8.7 crore Indian youth aged 15–29** are outside education, employment or training.
- India restored **21.76 million hectares of degraded land between 2011 and 2020**, generating approximately 1.22 billion person-days of employment.
- India's installed non-fossil fuel power capacity reached **300.50 GW by July 31, 2026**, exceeding 54% of total electricity generation capacity.
- India plans to add **100 new merchant ships over the next five years**, potentially saving nearly USD 75 billion in freight costs.
- ICAR-CCARI conducted the **“Carbon Pathshala: Voluntary Carbon Market for Farmers”** workshop in Goa on August 21, 2026.
- PM Modi is scheduled to address the **Khelo India Dialogue** as part of National Sports Day celebrations, focusing on India's sports ecosystem and preparation for the **2036 Olympics**.
- Indian Railways plans to **quadruple-track seven high-density railway corridors** covering around 11,000 km.
- India plans to **eliminate SCADA imports for the power sector beyond 2030**, supporting technological self-reliance and grid cybersecurity.
- India plans to add **100 new merchant vessels over five years** to reduce dependence on foreign shipping companies.
- **NABARD and NaBFID signed an MoU** to strengthen rural infrastructure development, agricultural value chains and PPP projects.
- India will host the **18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, on September 12–13, 2026.
- The government aims to create **six crore Lakhpati Didis**, with more than 3.4 crore women already achieving the status.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is undertaking a four-day diplomatic visit to **Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan** from August 29, 2026.
- The Centre appointed **three senior officers to strengthen the National Testing Agency (NTA)** amid concerns over examination management.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards expanded its Silver HUID hallmarking network** across India ahead of the festive season.
- India recorded nearly an **80% decline in malaria cases and deaths between 2015 and 2025**, according to the Union Health Ministry.





International Current Affairs

International Current Affairs of September 2026

- **India–China:** Agreed to implement an **8-point border consensus**, including two new military meeting points and two hotline channels to improve LAC management.
- **Ecuador:** Declared a nationwide **red alert over El Niño**, preparing for droughts and wildfires.
- **Roger Federer:** Inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame**; won 20 Grand Slams, including a record 8 Wimbledon titles.
- **UNCCD COP17:** Held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, under the theme *"Restoring Land. Restoring Hope."*
- **India–Uzbekistan:** PM Modi visited **Tashkent** to strengthen trade, defence, energy, investment and digital cooperation.
- **Indo-German Environment Forum:** 4th edition held in New Delhi with theme **"Together For More Resilience."**
- **SCO Summit:** PM Modi outlined India's three priorities — **Security, Connectivity and Opportunity** — and called for united action against terrorism.
- **Belgium PM Visit:** **Bart De Wever** visited India to strengthen trade, defence, technology, renewable energy and investment ties.
- **Modi–Putin Meeting:** Leaders met during the **SCO Summit in Bishkek** and reviewed defence, energy, economic and strategic cooperation.
- **US Navy:** Donald Trump nominated **Hung Cao** as permanent US Secretary of the Navy.
- **BRICS Summit:** UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** will participate in the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- **Giorgia Meloni:** Her government completed **1,413 consecutive days**, becoming the longest-serving government of the Italian Republic.
- **El Niño:** WMO forecast a near-**100% probability** of El Niño continuing through February 2027.
- **Lahore:** Named **SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital 2026–27**.
- **Correct the Map:** UNGA endorsed the resolution supporting more accurate world maps and addressing **Mercator projection distortions**.
- **BRICS Chief Justices' Forum:** India hosting the forum in **New Delhi, September 4–6**, focusing on AI, mediation and judicial cooperation.
- **iBRICS Summit:** India to host the inaugural **Global Sovereign Capital Summit** in New Delhi on September 12–13, with 500+ participants.
- **Malaysia Haze:** Emergency declared in **Serian, Sarawak**, after the Air Pollution Index reached a hazardous **519**

International Current Affairs of August 2026

- **BRICS Statistics Meeting:** India hosted BRICS National Statistical Offices meeting in **Lucknow** under the theme **"Quality Statistics as Driver of Change."**
- **BRICS Anti-Corruption Meeting:** India hosted the second meeting in **Hyderabad**, focusing on asset recovery, cross-border corruption and fugitive offenders.
- **Nauru Renamed:** Pacific nation **Nauru officially became the Republic of Naoero**; country code changed from NRU to NRO.
- **Youngest Male Professor:** American **Nathan Thomas** became the world's youngest male professor at **18 years, 346 days**.
- **India–Uzbekistan:** Both countries aim to raise bilateral trade to **\$3 billion within three years** and are exploring an FTA.
- **Naoero Citizenship Programme:** Climate-resilience citizenship-by-investment scheme launched, with contributions starting at **\$90,000 during 2026**.
- **BRICS Education Ministers:** 13th meeting held in **Bhubaneswar**, focusing on education, skills, research, startups and digital learning.
- **Iran–Oman:** Reached an understanding on a proposed shipping route through the **Strait of Hormuz**, which carries nearly one-fifth of global oil shipments.
- **FAO Food Price Index:** Rose to **131.1 points in July 2026**, its highest since January 2023.
- **Colombia President:** **Abelardo de la Espriella** sworn in as Colombia's 36th President.
- **Iran SNSC:** Former IRGC commander **Mohsen Rezaei** appointed head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.
- **India–UN Geneva:** India gifted **five young peacocks** to the UN Office at Geneva.
- **Colombia Earthquake:** National emergency declared after a **7.4-magnitude earthquake** killed more than 100 people.
- **India Independence Day in US:** New York, New Jersey and other US states issued proclamations recognising **August 15**.
- **Lebanon:** Became the **first Middle Eastern country to legally abolish the death penalty**, as stated in the material.
- **India–Russia Energy:** Russia imported **gasoline from India for the first time**, with fuel supplied from Vadinar, Gujarat.
- **D.Y. Chandrachud:** Russia appointed former CJI **D.Y. Chandrachud** as its arbitrator in an investment treaty dispute involving Ukraine's Oschadbank.
- **India–Nepal Border:** Agreed to map **cross-border land occupation within three years** using drones and aerial imagery.
- **Russia Talent Visa:** New multiple-entry visa launched to attract skilled professionals in science, sports, creative fields and technology.





- **Qatar–India Remittance:** Qatar Post launched **UPI-powered PosTransfer**, allowing direct remittances to Indian UPI-enabled bank accounts.
- **BRICS Youth Energy Summit:** India hosted the 8th summit under the theme **“Energy for All.”**
- **India–Singapore:** 4th Ministerial Roundtable focused on manufacturing, digitalisation, connectivity, healthcare, skills and sustainability.
- **Hunger Hotspots:** FAO-WFP identified **13 countries and territories** facing serious acute food-insecurity risks.
- **Bangladesh President:** **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir** elected Bangladesh's 23rd President with 255 parliamentary votes.
- **Zambia:** President **Hakainde Hichilema** re-elected for a second five-year term with around 60% votes.
- **India–Japan Defence:** Signed a **Maritime Security Cooperation arrangement** covering information sharing, search and rescue and maritime awareness.
- **Jaipur Declaration:** BRICS Tourism Ministers adopted the **BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communiqué 2026** in Jaipur.
- **India–Brazil:** Signed an MoU on **telecom and ICT**, covering AI, 5G/6G, Open RAN, IoT, satellites and cybersecurity.
- **Biological Data Centre:** Singapore launched a prototype computing facility using around **16 million living human neurons**.
- **India–China:** 25th Special Representatives talks held in Beijing between **Ajit Doval and Wang Yi** on the boundary issue.
- **India–New Zealand:** Second Defence Strategic Dialogue held in **Wellington**, focusing on maritime security and joint training.
- **India–Vietnam:** Coast Guards held their **7th High-Level Meeting** in Chennai; joint exercise **SAHYOG-HOPTAC** followed.
- **Snow Leopard Conservation:** India highlighted its science-based programme using population estimation, **radio telemetry and genetic analysis**.
- **Nepal Floods:** India sent **10 tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies** aboard an IAF C-130J.
- **India–Japan Startups:** India proposed a **\$1 billion Fund of Funds** for deep-tech enterprises.
- **Artemis II Crew:** Four-member NASA crew received the **Congressional Space Medal of Honor** after its lunar flyby.
- **Italy SAFE Programme:** Italy sought **€8 billion** under the EU's SAFE defence programme, which provides up to €150 billion in loans.

New Appointments: National & International

New Appointments: National & International of September 2026

- 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.

New Appointments: National & International of August 2026

- **Vishwesh Negi:** 2002-batch IFS officer appointed India's next **Ambassador to Iran**; Chabahar Port remains a key area of bilateral cooperation.
- **T.V. Somanathan:** Tenure as **Cabinet Secretary** extended by one year till **August 30, 2027**.

- **Govind Mohan:** Tenure as **Union Home Secretary** extended till **August 22, 2027**.
- **Anand Prakash:** 2009-batch IFS officer appointed India's next **High Commissioner to Eswatini**.
- **Rahul Navin:** Tenure as **Enforcement Directorate Director** extended by one year till **August 13, 2027**.
- **Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge:** Supreme Court Collegium recommended him as **Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court**.
- **Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi:** Recommended as **Chief Justice of Bombay High Court**.
- **Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala:** Eminent oceanographer appointed **Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences**; played a key role in establishing India's Tsunami Early Warning System.
- **Deepti Gaur Mukerjee:** 1993-batch IAS officer appointed **Secretary, Department of Higher Education**.
- **Soumendu Bagchi:** 1993-batch IFS officer appointed India's next **Ambassador to Switzerland**.
- **Ajay A Kumar:** 2001-batch IFS officer appointed India's next **Ambassador to Iraq**.
- **Justice Sunil Balkrishna Shukre:** Former Bombay HC judge sworn in as **Chairman of Maharashtra Lokayukta**.
- **Satish Golcha:** Appointed **OSD, Directorate of Home Guards**; will take charge as **DG Home Guards from October 1, 2026**.





Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of August 2026

- **Submarine Fired Decoy:** DRDO's NSTL transferred **SFD technology to Bharat Dynamics Limited** for indigenous production to protect submarines from torpedoes.
- **Aravalli Engine:** HAL–Safran JV will develop the **3,500–4,000 SHP Aravalli helicopter engine** for India's IMRH and Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter.
- **India–Kuwait:** Held the **first Joint Defence Committee meeting** in New Delhi, focusing on training, exercises, military medicine and defence industry.
- **India–Indonesia:** IIT Madras Global Research Foundation signed an MoU with Indonesia for **deep-tech research, innovation and entrepreneurship**.
- **Skyroot–HEX20:** Signed a deal for **three dedicated space missions** beginning in Q4 2027 using Vikram-series rockets.
- **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement:** **Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan** formed a trilateral collective-defence framework where an attack on one is treated as an attack on all.

- **Iran–Oman:** Agreed on a new **shipping route map through the Strait of Hormuz**.
- **India–Armenia:** Signed an MoU on **defence R&D, innovation and joint production**; defence contracts since 2020 total nearly **\$2 billion**.
- **India–Japan:** Signed a **Maritime Security Cooperation** arrangement covering maritime awareness, search and rescue, exercises, logistics and ship repair.
- **India–Mauritius:** Signed a **5-year fuel supply agreement** under which IOC will meet Mauritius' petrol, diesel and ATF import requirements.
- **India–China:** Agreed to continue boundary dialogue, with the **next round of talks in India in 2027**.
- **India–Morocco:** Agreed to **double bilateral trade in five years** and explore a preferential trade agreement.
- **US–Venezuela:** Donald Trump announced a major proposed **oil arrangement involving Venezuela**; the Venezuelan government had not immediately confirmed it.
- **As Seen on Netflix:** Culture and Tourism Ministries with Netflix India launched the feature on the **Incredible India portal** to promote film-induced tourism.

Banking Current Affairs

Banking Current Affairs of September 2026

- **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%.

Banking Current Affairs of August 2026

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
1	India Achieves 99.92% Banking Coverage	India has achieved 99.92% banking coverage across inhabited villages, with 6,00,868 of 6,01,328 villages having a banking outlet within five kilometres. Services are delivered through bank branches, Business Correspondents, and India Post Payments Bank. As of July 17, 2026, India had over 1.81 lakh bank branches , 17.36 lakh BCs, and 1.65 lakh IPPB centres. PMJDY has 58.77 crore accounts holding over ₹3.12 lakh crore. RBI also requires 25% of new branches to serve unbanked rural areas, strengthening financial inclusion and rural access.
2	Monisha Chakraborty Appointed RBI Executive Director	The Reserve Bank of India appointed Monisha Chakraborty as Executive Director with effect from August 3, 2026. Previously Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the Department of Supervision, she has over 30 years of central banking experience . She will oversee the Foreign Exchange Department and Financial Markets Regulation Department , covering FEMA, money markets, government securities, foreign exchange, and derivatives. Chakraborty has held important roles in banking supervision, foreign exchange, government accounts, and the Banking Ombudsman. She holds Economics and Business Economics degrees from the University of Delhi , strengthening RBI's regulatory leadership.
3	Unified Pension Scheme	More than 1.18 lakh Central Government employees have opted for the Unified Pension Scheme , according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. By mid-July 2026, 1,18,195 employees had enrolled. Introduced under the National Pension System, UPS became effective on April 1, 2025 . Employees completing at least 25 years receive an assured pension equal to 50% of average basic pay during their final 12 months. Those completing at least 10 years receive a minimum ₹10,000 monthly pension . The scheme combines NPS contributions with pension assurance for retirement security.





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
4	Government Launches LIC Offer for Sale	The Government launched an Offer for Sale of Life Insurance Corporation of India shares, offering up to 6.5% stake at a floor price of ₹382 per share. The transaction involves existing government-held shares, so LIC will not receive new capital. Full subscription could raise around ₹31,400 crore , reducing government ownership from 96.5% to 90% and increasing public shareholding to 10%. The discounted offer increased selling pressure on LIC shares. Retail investors receive an additional ₹10 discount on the final cut-off price, potentially making the issue attractive to eligible investors.
5	Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026	The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 seeks to replace the 1891 law and modernise rules governing banking records in courts. It gives legal recognition to electronic banking records as admissible evidence when authentic, accurate, and untampered. The Bill retains protection for bank officials from unnecessary court appearances, defines "special cause" for requiring originals, and allows the Central Government to extend provisions to other financial institutions. By aligning law with digital banking, UPI, internet banking, and electronic records , it aims to simplify judicial procedures, strengthen confidence in digital transactions, and support India's evolving financial ecosystem.
6	Proposed MDR Charges on Select UPI Transactions	The Union Finance Ministry proposed amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 , allowing Merchant Discount Rate charges on select UPI transactions. The proposal removes the zero-MDR provision under Section 10A, potentially enabling banks and payment providers to charge eligible merchants. Large businesses with annual turnover above ₹50 crore are expected to bear the charge, while smaller businesses up to ₹1.5 crore and consumers may remain exempt. Proposed MDR could be capped at 0.5% on transactions above ₹2,000 , supporting the financial sustainability of India's expanding digital payments ecosystem.
7	RBI Proposes On-Tap Licensing for UCBs	The Reserve Bank of India has proposed an on-tap licensing framework for Urban Co-operative Banks , allowing eligible credit co-operative societies to apply for banking licences anytime through the PRAVAAH portal . The framework is the first fresh UCB licensing initiative in nearly 22 years. Applicants must have at least ₹10,000 crore deposits, ₹300 crore net worth, 10 years of operations, 12% CRAR , and net NPAs below 3%. The proposal also strengthens governance, business planning and regulatory scrutiny. UCBs remain regulated by RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
8	RBI Expands NBFC-UL List	The RBI expanded the Upper Layer NBFC-UL list to 17 entities for FY 2026-27 , compared with 15 previously. New entrants are REC Ltd., Power Finance Corporation, IRFC and HUDCO . The classification follows a review of the framework for large and systemically significant NBFCs. Entities with assets under management of at least ₹1 lakh crore qualify for consideration. The Upper Layer falls under the RBI's scale-based framework and carries enhanced supervision and regulatory requirements. Tata Sons Private Limited remains included pending its NBFC de-registration application. The move strengthens regulatory oversight of large financial institutions.
9	Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026	The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 creates a framework allowing charges on selected UPI and digital payment transactions . It does not impose charges immediately; future fees would require government notification. Person-to-person transfers are expected to remain free, while large retailers and online businesses could potentially face Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges. The framework could help banks, payment providers and fintech firms recover costs for infrastructure, cybersecurity, processing and support. The RBI would continue overseeing the digital payments ecosystem. Future rules will determine charges too.
10	RBI Issues New Loan Recovery Framework	The Reserve Bank of India issued nine circulars on August 6 introducing a unified framework for loan recovery practices , effective January 1, 2027. Recovery calls and physical visits will be allowed only between 8 AM and 7 PM , while borrowers must receive at least one day's notice before a recovery agent's first physical visit. Lenders must record recovery calls and retain recordings for at least six months . Remote locking of financed devices is also regulated. Locking cannot begin before accounts become 30 days overdue , while complete locking is allowed only after 60 days, preserving emergency and communication services.





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
11	India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Rise to \$692.87 Billion	India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$10.51 billion to \$692.87 billion during the week ended July 31, 2026, according to RBI data. Foreign Currency Assets, the largest component, rose by \$8.75 billion to \$564.68 billion , while gold reserves increased by \$1.69 billion to \$104.74 billion . Special Drawing Rights rose by \$48 million to \$18.67 billion, and India's IMF reserve position increased by \$28 million to \$4.78 billion. The latest increase follows a \$6.1 billion rise in the previous week. India's record reserves stood at \$728.494 billion in February 2026.
12	Government Clarifies UPI Users Will Pay No Transaction Charges	The Government clarified that UPI users will continue paying no transaction charges , with all Person-to-Person (P2P) payments remaining free. The clarification followed discussion over proposed amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act (PSS Act) . Any future Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) would apply only to a limited category of merchant transactions above a specified threshold and at a nominal rate, while most merchant UPI payments would remain free. After Parliament approved the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 , the NPCI-led UPI and Services Steering Committee will decide whether MDR is introduced. UPI processed 2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.9 lakh crore in July 2026 .
13	Parliament Passes Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026	Parliament passed the Bankers' Book Evidence Bill 2026 , replacing the Bankers' Book Evidence Act, 1891 , and granting explicit legal recognition to electronic and digital banking records in court proceedings. The Rajya Sabha cleared the Bill through a voice vote on 10 August 2026 , following Lok Sabha approval. The technology-neutral legislation covers records stored physically, electronically, digitally, in cloud, backup and disaster-recovery systems . Records can be authenticated through manual, digital or electronic signatures . It also protects bank officers from unnecessary court summons when their bank is not directly involved. The Bill contains around 16 clauses and can extend to other regulated financial entities.
14	Government Debt-to-GDP Ratio	India's government debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 58.2% in FY26 , exceeding the target of 56.1% by 210 basis points , according to Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary . The government has set a lower 55.6% target for FY27 , requiring further reduction. Government liabilities declined from 61.5% of GDP in FY21 to 58.2% in FY26 , while the fiscal deficit decreased from 9.2% to 4.4% . The higher-than-target debt ratio was partly linked to revised nominal GDP estimates under the new national accounts series with FY23 as base year . The government has also established a ₹1 trillion Economic Stabilisation Fund for global economic risks.
15	RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters	The RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters , conducted in July 2026, raised India's FY27 real GDP growth forecast from 6.5% to 6.6% and increased the retail inflation projection from 4.9% to 5% . For FY28, economists expect 7% growth with inflation at 4.5%, suggesting potential balanced economic expansion. The survey projects merchandise export growth at 7% , imports at 9.9% and the current account deficit at 1.4% of GDP . The RBI's own FY27 growth projection is slightly higher at 6.7% . Major risks include food and fuel prices, monsoon conditions, geopolitical tensions, El Niño and global trade uncertainty .
16	FAST-DS Comes into Force	The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers-Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS) came into force on August 16, 2026 , creating a one-time voluntary disclosure window until December 31 . Eligible taxpayers can disclose previously undisclosed foreign income or assets worth up to ₹1 crore , paying 30% tax plus another 30% amount in lieu of penalty . A second category covers foreign assets up to ₹5 crore that were already taxed or acquired while the taxpayer was a non-resident but omitted from ITRs, with a ₹1 lakh fee . Covered assets include bank accounts, property, jewellery, shares, securities, RSUs and ESOPs , valued as of March 31, 2026.
17	Shabnam Sinha to Head Airtel Payments Bank	Shabnam Sinha will become the non-executive chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank from October 1, 2026, succeeding Sunil Bharti Mittal . Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises, will leave the Board on September 30 after serving as chairman since April 2016. Sinha's three-year appointment has been approved by the Board and RBI . She currently serves as an independent director and chairs the Special Committee for Monitoring Frauds. With over three decades of experience, including at the World Bank , she specialises in financial services, governance, risk management and digital transformation. Airtel Payments Bank has over 121 million monthly active users and nearly 30 million account customers .





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
18	SEBI Launches Cybersecurity Portals	SEBI launched the Incident Reporting Portal and Cyber Suraksha Portal to strengthen cybersecurity across India's securities-market ecosystem. The Incident Reporting Portal aims to make reporting by market intermediaries more structured and timely while aligning with the Financial Stability Board format. Cyber Suraksha will act as a central platform for cybersecurity knowledge, vulnerability warnings, policy measures and incident information. SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey stressed ecosystem-wide resilience because threats can spread through vendors, technology platforms and third parties. SEBI is also promoting continuous vulnerability management and preparing for emerging AI and quantum-computing threats , including through post-quantum cryptography .
19	S. Somanath and Anand Mahindra Appointed to RBI Central Board	The Reserve Bank of India appointed former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and reappointed Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra as part-time, non-official directors on its Central Board. Both appointments are for four years from August 20, 2026 , or until further orders, whichever comes earlier. Somanath retired from ISRO in January 2025 after extensive contributions to India's space programme and aerospace engineering . Anand Mahindra continues his association with the RBI board. The Central Board currently has 11 members , including Governor Sanjay Malhotra and four Deputy Governors. It oversees the central bank's affairs under the RBI Act .
20	India-ADB Sign \$230 Million Loan Agreement	India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$230 million loan agreement on August 21, 2026, for the Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project . The initiative will benefit approximately 4.5 million residents across Greater Chennai. It includes over 170 km of water supply and sewer pipelines , upgrades to seven water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations, digital network monitoring and mechanised sewer inspection. A key feature is a closed-loop ring-main water supply system designed to balance pressure and improve resilience against natural hazards. The project aligns with AMRUT 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund .
21	SEBI Proposes Advertisement Code for OBPPs	SEBI proposed an advertisement code for Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) to improve investor awareness and expand bond investment. OBPPs are SEBI-registered digital platforms facilitating bond transactions between issuers and investors. Investors can compare bonds using credit ratings, yield, maturity, interest rates and issuer information , with investments starting from around ₹10,000 . After completing Demat account and KYC requirements , investors place orders routed through recognised stock exchanges' Request for Quote (RFQ) platform. Settlement takes place through recognised clearing corporations, after which bonds are credited to investors' Demat accounts.
22	Three New RBI Central Board Directors	The Government of India has appointed Syed Akbaruddin, Annie George Mathew and Janmejaya Kumar Sinha as part-time, non-official directors on the Reserve Bank of India's Central Board . The appointments were approved on August 22, 2026 , by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet , with each receiving a four-year tenure under Section 8(1)(c) of the RBI Act, 1934 . Akbaruddin is a former Indian Permanent Representative to the United Nations , Mathew is an Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer and Sixteenth Finance Commission member, while Sinha is an economist and former BCG Asia-Pacific chairman. Board strength increased from 11 to 14 members .
23	UPI Completes 10 Years	UPI completed 10 years on August 25, 2026, marking a major milestone in India's digital payments transformation. Launched in 2016 by NPCI under RBI oversight , UPI grew from 1.78 crore transactions in FY2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore transactions in FY2025-26 . Transaction value increased from ₹0.07 lakh crore to nearly ₹314 lakh crore during the same period. In July 2026 alone, UPI recorded a monthly high of 2,366 crore transactions worth ₹29.88 lakh crore . The platform now includes 741 participating banks , handles around 84% of India's digital payments and operates in 11 countries .
24	RBI Conducts VRRR Auctions	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auctions on August 24, 2026, absorbing a combined ₹1.41 trillion from the banking system to manage surplus liquidity. In the seven-day auction, ₹91,980 crore was accepted at a cut-off and weighted average rate of 5.24% , against ₹2.5 trillion notified. The overnight auction absorbed ₹49,206 crore at the same rate. Another two-day VRRR auction worth ₹1.75 trillion was announced. Banking-system liquidity remained at a surplus of ₹3.4 trillion , while the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) stood at 5.19%.





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
25	SEBI Introduces Information Technology Resilience Index	SEBI has introduced an Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) , including stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations. The index aims to improve oversight of IT resilience and identify vulnerabilities early. ITRI will assess nine parameters, including availability, security, integrity, governance, reliability, monitoring, business continuity, modularity, flexibility and scalability. Availability and security carry the highest weightage of 20% each. MIIs must calculate the index half-yearly within 60 days after each period and submit comparative analysis. They must also establish an Early Warning System to detect deterioration and potential technological disruptions.
26	RRBs Record All-Time High Profit	Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) recorded an all-time high consolidated net profit of ₹10,176 crore in FY2025-26 , up from ₹6,820 crore the previous year. Their combined business crossed ₹13.5 lakh crore , highlighting their growing role in rural banking. India currently has 28 RRBs , operating through 22,273 branches across 26 States and three Union Territories and covering nearly 700 districts. Gross NPAs and net NPAs fell to record lows of 5.3% and 2.1% , respectively. RRBs also opened more than 54.98 lakh PMJDY accounts , while their credit-deposit ratio reached a record 75.2% .
27	Ketan Merchant's Tenure Extended	Fino Payments Bank has approved another three-month extension for Ketan Merchant , who continues as interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The extension begins on August 27, 2026 , subject to RBI approval . Merchant's earlier three-month tenure began on May 27 and was scheduled to end on August 26. He became interim CEO following the arrest of former MD and CEO Rishi Gupta by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence over alleged GST violations. Before assuming the interim leadership role, Merchant served as Chief Financial Officer of Fino Payments Bank. His extension continues during the bank's leadership transition.
28	Forex Reserves Hit Record \$729.3 Billion	India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$12.4 billion to a record \$729.3 billion during the week ended August 21, according to RBI data. The rise was driven mainly by capital inflows through the central bank's concessional swap window and revaluation gains. Foreign currency assets increased by \$9.48 billion to \$591.33 billion, while gold reserves climbed \$2.8 billion to \$114.22 billion. The reserves have risen by \$62.4 billion over eight weeks , recovering from \$666.9 billion in June. The RBI swap facility had mobilised \$72.8 billion by August 21. India's reserves now cover more than 11 months of goods imports and 94% of external debt.
29	Jio Platforms IPO Gets SEBI Observations	The proposed Jio Platforms IPO has received SEBI's observations , clearing a major regulatory hurdle for a potential record-breaking public issue. The offering is expected to exceed ₹37,000 crore , potentially surpassing Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,870-crore IPO record. Jio Platforms has proposed a fresh issue of up to 27 crore equity shares and currently has no offer-for-sale component. Up to ₹27,500 crore of the proceeds could be used to repay or prepay borrowings by Reliance Jio Infocomm. The IPO could provide public-market investors with direct exposure to Jio's telecom and digital businesses while helping Reliance unlock value from its expanding digital ecosystem.

Economy/Business Current Affairs

Economy/Business Current Affairs of September 2026

- 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 Chakravarthy** 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. Chakravarthy 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.

Economy/Business Current Affairs of August 2026

S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
1	Willie Walsh Takes Charge as IndiGo CEO	Willie Walsh took charge as IndiGo's Chief Executive Officer on August 3, 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers. The aviation veteran held leadership roles at Aer Lingus, British Airways, IAG, and IATA. He will oversee international expansion, operational efficiency, customer experience, and growth. IndiGo operates more than 430 aircraft and 2,200 daily flights, remaining India's largest airline by market share. Managing Director Rahul Bhatia backed the appointment. Investors responded positively, with IndiGo shares rising 3.72% to ₹5,363.35 on the BSE, signalling confidence in the airline's growth strategy.
2	HSBC India Manufacturing PMI	India's manufacturing sector expanded in July 2026, but at its slowest pace in five years, as HSBC India Manufacturing PMI declined to 53.5 from 54.2 in June. The index remained above 50, indicating expansion, although weaker demand slowed new orders, hiring, and purchasing. Factory output recorded one of the weakest growth rates since mid-2022. Employment increased for the 29th consecutive month . Export orders remained strong, supported by Canada, UAE, South Africa, and Indonesia. Easing input-cost inflation, supplier deliveries, and inventory rebuilding supported business confidence despite risks.
3	DGFT Cross-Border E-Commerce Export Framework	The DGFT has introduced a new framework for inventory-based cross-border e-commerce exports , effective August 5, 2026, under the Foreign Trade Policy 2023 . The Exporter-on-Record (EOR) model permits eligible e-commerce companies to maintain inventory only against confirmed export orders while prohibiting domestic retail sales. EORs must register with DGFT, maintain digital inventory records, ensure product traceability, manage customs and logistics, and provide reverse logistics. The framework also requires timely seller payments, transparent transfer of export benefits and caps administrative charges at 10% of export rebates , supporting MSMEs and digital exporters.
4	HSBC Services PMI	India's HSBC Services PMI declined to 53.3 in July 2026 from 57.4 in June, indicating continued expansion but slower services-sector growth. The moderation reflected weaker domestic demand, stronger competition and fewer customer enquiries. However, robust export demand from the UAE, UK and US supported business activity, while continued hiring indicated confidence in future prospects. Input-cost inflation reached a six-month low , helping companies improve margins through higher selling prices. India's Composite PMI stood at 54.3, confirming continued private-sector expansion and highlighting economic resilience amid global uncertainties.
5	Tewolde Gebremariam Appointed Air India CEO	Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam , former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, as its new Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Campbell Wilson. Gebremariam is known for transforming Ethiopian Airlines through fleet modernization, international expansion, route development, MRO capabilities, aviation training and operational excellence . At Air India, he is expected to focus on service quality, international connectivity, aircraft integration, maintenance infrastructure and strengthening India's position as a global aviation hub. The appointment comes during the Tata Group's continuing airline transformation following fleet upgrades, digital initiatives and the Vistara merger , with ambitions to build a world-class full-service carrier.





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
6	Google Tops India's Most Attractive Employer Brand Ranking	Google has topped India's Most Attractive Employer Brand Research 2026 , followed by Tata Group and Amazon . The survey covered more than 1.75 lakh respondents across 34 countries , including nearly 3,500 participants from India. Key factors influencing employer preference were work-life balance, equal opportunities, career growth, competitive salaries and company reputation . The report found that 46% of Indian employees plan to change jobs within six months, while 32% changed employers recently. The findings highlight the growing importance of balanced, flexible and employee-focused workplace cultures.
7	Microsoft's Fourth Cloud Region in India	Microsoft's India South Central cloud region in Hyderabad became available on August 6, becoming the company's fourth cloud region in India , after Pune, Chennai and Mumbai. The facility expands hyperscale cloud infrastructure for enterprise computing, AI and mission-critical workloads. It includes three availability zones , improving fault tolerance, disaster recovery, continuity and reliability. The expansion responds to rising demand for cloud and AI infrastructure while supporting organisations seeking stronger data-location and regulatory compliance capabilities in India. Hyderabad therefore strengthens Microsoft's cloud footprint. It expands local cloud and AI capacity.
8	Sarla Aviation Receives DGCA Approval	Bengaluru-based Sarla Aviation received Design Organisation Approval (DOA) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) , marking an important step in India's emerging electric air-taxi sector. The approval supports development of electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft for urban mobility. Sarla became India's third eVTOL DOA holder in 2026 . Its planned aircraft can carry six passengers and one pilot and uses seven electric motors. The company completed flight testing of its half-scale Sylla technology demonstrator in July 2026. India aims to introduce operational electric air taxis in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi by 2028 , subject to certification, testing and infrastructure development.
9	N Chandrasekaran to Step Down as Tata Sons Chairman	N Chandrasekaran has announced that he will step down as Tata Sons Chairman after his current term ends in February 2027 and will not seek reappointment. His decision followed a proposed five-year extension that reportedly lacked unanimous support from the Tata Sons Board. Chandrasekaran has asked the board to begin succession planning ahead of the company's Annual General Meeting. The development comes amid reported differences between Tata Sons and Tata Trusts over governance and strategic issues. Following the announcement, shares of major Tata Group companies, including TCS, Tata Power and Tata Steel , witnessed declines.
10	India's Retail Inflation at 4.45%	India's retail inflation increased marginally to 4.45% in July 2026 , compared with 4.38% in June, according to MoSPI data based on the new CPI series with 2024 as the base year. Food prices were the main driver, with Consumer Food Price Index inflation rising to 5.52%. Rural food inflation reached 5.79%, while urban food inflation stood at 5.05%. Rural retail inflation rose to 4.84%, against 3.96% in urban areas. Ginger, garlic and onions recorded sharp price increases, while potato prices declined. Telangana recorded the highest inflation among major states at 6.32%.
11	Google Announces Three Undersea Cable Systems	Google announced three new undersea cable systems connecting Panama, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Bermuda and Florida to strengthen digital connectivity across the Americas. The Alisios cable will connect Chile, Panama and the Dominican Republic, while Canoa will link the Dominican Republic with Bermuda and Olaluz will connect the Dominican Republic with Florida. The projects support Chile's ambition to become a regional digital hub , backed by fibre-optic infrastructure and renewable energy. Google is also supporting the Humboldt cable connecting Chile and Australia. Officials said the projects could boost businesses, economic growth and regional digital integration.
12	Vijay Singh Steps Down from Sir Ratan Tata Trust	Vijay Singh , vice-chairman of Tata Trusts, has stepped down as a trustee of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and will not seek renewal after his term expired on August 14, 2026. He will continue serving as a trustee of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) . His departure comes amid reported differences among SRTT trustees. The Maharashtra State Charity Commissioner has barred SRTT from holding board meetings pending an inquiry into alleged board-composition violations . SRTT has sought removal of the restriction, citing possible implications for the Tata Sons AGM. Singh and Venu Srinivasan support Tata Sons listing.





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
13	India Could Become \$20 Trillion Economy by 2036	Equirus Securities has estimated that India could potentially become a \$20 trillion economy by 2036 if the rupee strengthens and economic growth accelerates. The projection assumes approximately 14.2% annual growth in the rupee-denominated economy, supported by measures strengthening India's external balance. A stronger rupee would reduce the rupee value required to reach the dollar-denominated target while improving India's global economic position. Achieving the projection would require sustained economic expansion, productivity gains, investment and macroeconomic stability , alongside continued structural reforms. Strong performance across manufacturing, services, infrastructure and other productive sectors would be crucial.
14	Reliance-Rolls-Royce AMCA Engine Proposal	Reliance Industries plans to partner with Britain's Rolls-Royce to develop and manufacture an advanced combat aircraft engine for India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme. The proposal includes establishing a dedicated aerospace gas-turbine complex in India . The AMCA prototype is expected to roll out in 2028 and become a major element of India's future air-combat capability. The partnership could strengthen domestic aero-engine manufacturing and reduce dependence on imported propulsion technology. Rolls-Royce would contribute advanced propulsion expertise, while Reliance would provide technology, manufacturing capabilities and scale. The proposal competes with Safran's separate engine partnership plans.
15	ONGC Secures US Treasury OFAC Licence	State-owned ONGC has secured a US Treasury OFAC licence allowing it to resume fuller operations in Venezuela after years of sanctions-related restrictions. ONGC Videsh holds a 40% stake in the San Cristobal project and an 11% stake in Carabobo . The licence could enable financial management, recovery of more than \$500 million in pending dividends , increased investment and potentially operatorship from Venezuela's PDVSA . San Cristobal produced about 0.265 million tonnes of oil equivalent in FY26 , well below potential. Venezuela holds the world's largest proven crude reserves, estimated at around 303 billion barrels , supporting India's energy diversification strategy.
16	Ind-Ra Raises FY27 GDP Forecast	India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has raised India's FY27 real GDP growth forecast to 6.8% , from its earlier 6.7% estimate, mainly due to lower crude oil prices. The agency reduced its FY27 crude oil assumption from \$95 to \$85 per barrel , estimating that every \$10 decline could boost growth by about 44 basis points . However, risks include El Niño, inflation, West Asia tensions, rupee depreciation, weaker global trade and potential US tariffs linked to Russian crude purchases. Agriculture GVA growth is expected at 2% , CPI inflation at 4.9% , private consumption at 7.2% , while the current account deficit may widen to 1.5% of GDP .
17	PhonePe and MeitY Sign MoU	PhonePe and MeitY signed an MoU on August 20, 2026, to integrate PhonePe's PulsePro enterprise data-intelligence platform with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan portal. The integration is being coordinated with BISAG-N for geospatial applications. PulsePro uses aggregated and anonymised transaction data from more than 700 million registered users and 50 million merchants , covering nearly 99% of India's postal codes . The information can generate near-real-time market insights supporting infrastructure planning, urban-rural development and market analysis while protecting individual identities. PM GatiShakti enables integrated geospatial infrastructure planning.
18	Reliance Proposes ₹2.73 Lakh Crore UCG Investment	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has proposed an estimated ₹2.73 lakh crore investment over 30 years for India's first integrated Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) complex in Andhra Pradesh's Eluru district. The project will utilise deep coal reserves from the Chintalapudi and Recherla blocks , estimated at 3,130.61 million tonnes at depths exceeding 600 metres. UCG converts coal underground into combustible syngas without conventional mining. Syngas can produce hydrogen, methanol, urea, ammonia and synthetic fuels . The project has pilot, development and production stages, with the pilot phase planned from Q3 2026 to Q4 2027 .
19	Duty-Free Raw Sugar Imports	The government allowed duty-free imports of up to 10 lakh tonnes of raw sugar until October 31, 2026 , to improve domestic availability and contain rising prices. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended the policy under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) . Domestic ex-mill sugar prices reached around ₹5,400–5,500 per quintal , compared with ₹3,900 a year earlier, while retail prices rose approximately 13% to ₹52.30 per kg . Separately, stockholding limits apply to bulk consumers using over 10 tonnes monthly, restricting inventories to 15 days from September 1 to November 30 .





S. No.	News / Announcement	Full Details
20	India's Finished Steel Production	India's finished steel production increased 4.7% year-on-year to 54.7 million tonnes during April-July 2026, while consumption grew faster by 7.9% to 56 million tonnes , reflecting strong domestic demand. Crude steel production rose 2.4% to 56.2 million tonnes and hot metal output increased 2.7% to 31.9 million tonnes. Finished steel imports surged 36.6% to 2.77 million tonnes , while exports rose 35% to 2.29 million tonnes, leaving India a net importer. Alloy steel production grew 26.7% , while stainless steel output declined 4.2% despite consumption increasing 25%, indicating mixed trends across segments.
21	Industrial Production Growth at 6.7%	India's industrial production growth moderated to 6.7% in July , compared with 7.3% in June, mainly because of weaker mining activity. Data from the National Statistical Office showed mining and quarrying output contracted 0.9% , while manufacturing grew 7.3% and electricity and gas supply expanded 8.7%. Manufacturing growth remained broad-based, with 19 of 23 industry groups reporting expansion. Electrical equipment, motor vehicles and transport equipment performed strongly. Consumer durables grew 10.5%, while passenger vehicle and tractor sales also increased. During April-July, IIP growth reached 6.3% , compared with 4% a year earlier. Economists expect some moderation ahead.
22	Peyman Kargar Appointed TVS Motor CEO	TVS Motor Company has appointed Peyman Kargar as its new director and chief executive officer, effective January 27, 2027 . He will succeed K N Radhakrishnan , who has led the company since 2008 and will continue through the transition before becoming a non-executive director. Kargar currently serves as president for international business and brings more than three decades of global automotive experience . Under his leadership, international operations became increasingly important, contributing 29% of sales volume. TVS Motor recorded 5.9 million global vehicle sales and 30% revenue growth in FY26. Kargar is expected to focus on technology, AI, quality, premiumisation and international expansion .

Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of September 2026

- **IAF Indigenisation:** Around **930 Indian companies** support IAF maintenance; nearly **62,300 spare parts** have been localised. AI, Digital Twins and 3D printing are also being adopted.
- **Future Warfare Course:** 4th Tri-Services course concluded in New Delhi, covering **AI, quantum tech, cyber, space, autonomous systems and grey-zone warfare**.
- **INS Nipun:** Indian Navy commissioned its second **Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel**, built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, for deep-sea diving and submarine rescue.
- **Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb:** Assumed charge as **Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance, IAF** on September 1, 2026.
- **AVM Shakti Sharma:** Became the **first non-medical woman officer** in India's Defence Forces to attain Air Vice Marshal/equivalent rank; appointed ACAS (Education).
- **Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan:** Assumed charge as **Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)**.
- **Aero India 2027:** 16th edition will be held at **Yelahanka, Bengaluru, February 8–12, 2027**.
- **Abhinandan Varthaman:** Former IAF Group Captain joined regional airline **FLY91 as a pilot** after leaving the Air Force.
- **BAM-H24:** DRDO and University of Hyderabad secured a patent for a **high-energy compound** with potential applications in solid rocket propulsion.

- **Khagantak-243:** IAF successfully tested the indigenous **long-range glide bomb** from a Su-30MKI; reported range exceeds **140 km**.
- **RAKSHA Document:** Rajnath Singh released India's **10-year defence diplomacy framework**, based on strategic partnerships, capacity building, defence exports and maritime security.
- **India–Belgium:** Agreed to strengthen **defence, semiconductors, critical minerals, trade and technology cooperation** and work towards doubling bilateral trade in five years.

Defense Current Affairs of August 2026

- **Exercise ROTOR CLAP III:** IAF conducted the counter-drone exercise at **Pokhran**, involving Apache, Mi-25/35 and Prachand attack helicopters.
- **Xtreme Weather Grade Diesel:** Indian Army introduced indigenous fuel capable of operating at **-42°C** for high-altitude deployments.
- **Future Warfare Course:** 4th Tri-Services course began in New Delhi, covering **AI, quantum, cyber, space and autonomous warfare**.
- **Dr Annapurni Subramaniam:** Became the **first Indian woman to receive COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026**.





- **Agni-4:** India successfully test-launched the **medium-range ballistic missile** from Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Bhawana Kanth:** Became the **first woman IAF fighter pilot to complete the Fighter Combat Leader Course**.
- **India-US EOD Exercise:** 8th bilateral Navy EOD exercise held at **Kochi**, strengthening diving and explosive-disposal interoperability.
- **Talisman Sabre 2027:** Australia-US-led multinational military exercise scheduled for **August 9–22, 2027**; India will enhance participation.
- **Su-30MKI:** HAL restarted production at Nashik to manufacture **12 new fighters** for the IAF.
- **Shruti:** GRSE launched the Navy's second **Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel** in Kolkata.
- **Udara Shakti 2026:** India and Malaysia conducted bilateral air exercise involving **Rafale and Su-30MKM fighters**.
- **MQ-9B Sea Guardian:** Defence Ministry signed a **₹1,943 crore** deal to lease two drones for the Indian Navy.
- **Gen Dhiraj Seth:** Received the honorary rank of **General of the Nepali Army**.
- **Exercise MAITREE-XV:** India-Thailand military exercise held in Thailand, focusing on **counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency**.
- **Positive Indigenisation List:** Sixth list contains **405 defence items** with ₹3,070 crore business potential.
- **Mangrol:** Navy received its third indigenous **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft**, with over 80% indigenous content.
- **AK-203 Sher:** First **fully indigenous AK-203 rifle** manufactured and test-fired at Korwa, Amethi.
- **NAL Gas Turbine Engines:** CSIR-NAL unveiled indigenous **NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100** engines for UAVs, drone interceptors and missiles.
- **DRDO Missile Technology:** Technology for conventional DRDO-developed missiles approved for transfer to **Indian defence industries**.
- **Nipun:** Navy's second indigenous **Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel** scheduled for commissioning on August 31.
- **Military Combat Parachute:** DRDO successfully tested indigenous **MCPS at Nyoma-Mudh, Ladakh**, with jumps from 22,000 feet.
- **ICGS Ajit:** Coast Guard received the seventh **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, with over 65% indigenous content.
- **AMCA Engine:** Rolls-Royce offered India **100% technology transfer and IP rights** for joint development of a 120+ kN fighter engine.
- **Samarthak:** Navy received its first indigenous **Multi-Purpose Vessel**, built by L&T with over 75% indigenous content.
- **Javelin Missile:** Indian Army signed its **first contract for FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missiles** through the US FMS route.

Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of September 2026

- 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.

Awards & Recognition of August 2026

- **Dr. Annapurni Subramaniam:** Received **COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026**; became the first Indian woman scientist to receive the honour.
- **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak:** Awarded to **12 rat miners** for bravery during the Silkyara Tunnel rescue.

- **National Handloom Awards:** President Droupadi Murmu presented **Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025**.
- **Deepak Dhar:** Indian physicist awarded the **2026 ICTP Dirac Medal** for contributions to statistical mechanics and complex systems.
- **Climate Stack Challenge:** **SatSure Analytics India** won first prize of ₹15 lakh in NABARD's National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge.
- **Linguistics Olympiad:** India won **4 medals — 1 gold and 3 bronze**; Shrilakshmi Venkatraman won gold.
- **Independence Day Honours:** **301 Gallantry Medals** awarded to Police and Fire Service personnel.
- **Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026:** Seven mahouts from **Jaldapara National Park** honoured for elephant and rhino flood-rescue efforts.
- **POWERGRID:** Won the **PMIS Partner Company Award** for Innovation in Exit Pathways.
- **National Sports Awards 2025:** **17 sportspersons** received **Arjuna Awards**; no Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna was awarded.
- **UN Peacekeeping Medals:** More than **200 Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan** received UN medals for exceptional service.





- **Nishan-e-Imtiaz:** Pakistan proposed Mumbai-based doctors **Dr. Jal Ratanji Patel and Dr. Jal Dhaybho-Koo** for its highest civilian honour.
- **Sarala Puraskar 2026:** Odia poet **Ashutosh Parida** selected for *Bishwas De Pruthwi*; prize includes ₹7 lakh.
- **National Teachers' Awards 2026:** President Murmu to

honour **48 school teachers** on September 5.

- **FIP Awards 2026:** Publications Division received **seven honours** for excellence in book production.
- **Miss Universe India 2026:** Kerala's **Kaziah Liz Mejo** won the title and will represent India at Miss Universe 2026 in Puerto Rico.

Books & Authors

Books & Authors of August 2026

- **Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles:** Autobiography of former President Ram Nath Kovind, released by PM Narendra Modi on August 12, 2026.
- **Kaho Kalidasa!:** Authored by Yugul Joshi; launched by Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at IGNC, New Delhi.

- **Africa Before America: New book** by Arindam Chaudhuri, focusing on African history, civilisations, economic development and global inequality.
- **Bringing the Cheetah Back to India: How Diplomacy Made Conservation's Big Mission Possible:** Authored by IFS officer **Prashant Agrawal**; documents the diplomatic, logistical and ecological efforts behind Project Cheetah.

Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of September 2026

- **ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027:** Sri Lanka lost hosting rights due to a governance dispute with the ICC.
- **Women's Hockey World Cup 2026:** **Argentina** defeated the Netherlands in a shootout to win the title.
- **FPAI Awards 2026:** **Lallianzuala Chhangte** named Indian Footballer of the Year; **Manisha Kalyan** won Indian Women's Player of the Year.
- **Men's Hockey World Cup 2026:** **Germany** defeated Spain 1–0 to win its fourth World Cup title.
- **Deepti Sharma:** Became the **leading wicket-taker in women's T20Is**, reaching 171 wickets.
- **Abhay Singh:** Won the **Tuanku Muhriz Trophy 2026** in Malaysia, his 13th PSA Tour title.
- **Lionel Messi:** Announced retirement from **international football** after a 20-year Argentina career.
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi:** At 15 years and 157 days, became the **youngest player to score a Duleep Trophy fifty**.
- **Olympic City:** Tamil Nadu announced plans to develop a **world-class Olympic City in Chennai**.
- **World Archery Para Series:** India will host a stage for the first time in **Ahmedabad, September 5–9, 2026**.
- **Women's Champions Trophy:** India will host the inaugural **ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027**, scheduled for February 14–28.
- **Keyaa Kunal Banerji:** Won **silver in deadlift** in the Junior Women's 47kg category at the IPF World Championships.
- **Smriti Mandhana:** Became the **highest run-scorer in women's international cricket**, surpassing Mithali Raj.
- **Rohit Yadav:** BCCI banned the Bengal leg-spinner for **two years** over discrepancies in age-related documents.

- **India–Japan Cricket:** India will play a historic **one-match T20I against Japan** on September 22, 2026, named the **Suzuki Cup**.

Sports Current Affairs of August 2026

- **Commonwealth Table Tennis:** India won **4 of 5 gold medals**; Ankur Bhattacharjee and Yashaswini Ghorpade won the singles titles.
- **Commonwealth Games 2026:** India finished **4th with 39 medals** — 13 gold, 17 silver and 9 bronze.
- **Commonwealth Games 2030:** **Ahmedabad** received the hosting flag for the centenary edition; India will host for the second time after Delhi 2010.
- **FIH Hockey World Cup 2026:** Belgium and the Netherlands hosted the men's and women's tournaments from August 15–30.
- **Tanzania Cricket Arena:** ICC Chairman **Jay Shah** inaugurated Tanzania's first ICC-approved international cricket venue in Dodoma.





- **Jos Buttler:** Became the **highest run-scorer in T20 cricket history**, surpassing Kieron Pollard.
- **Asian Rafting Championships 2026:** Boleng, Arunachal Pradesh will host the event on the Simang River from October 5–9.
- **R Praggnanandhaa:** Won his first **Saint Louis Rapid & Blitz 2026** title.
- **Suraj Kumar Chand:** Became the **first Indian to win the FISU World University Squash Championship**.
- **Ashish Yadav:** Won **silver in men's javelin** at the World Athletics U20 Championships with 74.09m.
- **Ariha Pangambam:** Won India's **first senior individual women's aerobic gymnastics gold** at the Asian Championships.
- **Ashmita Chaliha:** Won the **Korea Masters 2026**, her maiden BWF World Tour title.
- **Basant Kumar Meghwal:** Won **U20 World Championships high jump silver** with a personal best of 2.21m.
- **U-23 Commonwealth Fencing:** India won **17 medals on the opening day**, including four gold.
- **TTFI:** Sports Ministry suspended recognition of the **Table Tennis Federation of India** over governance shortcomings.
- **Irani Cup 2026:** Jammu & Kashmir will host Rest of India in Srinagar from October 1–5.
- **Para-Cycling:** India won **12 medals** at the UCI Paraspport Denmark Grand Prix.
- **Asian Junior Blitz Chess:** Vignesh Verma and Saranya Devi won gold in the Open and Girls' sections.
- **Ravindra Jadeja:** Became only the **4th cricketer with 4,000 Test runs and 350 wickets**.
- **Rishabh Pant:** Became the **first Indian to hit 100 Test sixes** and fastest overall to the milestone.
- **Subroto Cup 2026:** 65th edition began in New Delhi with **108 teams**.
- **FIFA Women's World Cup 2027:** Brazil will host the 32-team tournament from June 24–July 25.
- **Treesa Jolly–Gayatri Gopichand:** Reached the **BWF World Championships women's doubles semifinals**, guaranteeing India a medal.
- **U20 Wrestling Worlds:** Mansi Lather won silver, while **Tanvi Magdum and Komal** won bronze.
- **Pranesh M:** Won the **Kanizsa Open 2026** chess title in Hungary.
- **Mitchell Starc:** Became the **leading wicket-taker in World Test Championship history** with 234 wickets.
- **Lando Norris:** Won the **2026 Dutch Grand Prix**, his second consecutive F1 victory.
- **Ravindra Jadeja:** Became the **first Indian and Asian to play 50 WTC matches**.
- **Asian Games Kabaddi:** India named its **12-member men's squad**, featuring Ayan Lohchab, Devank Dalal and Pawan Sehrawat.
- **Saransh Jain:** At 33 years and 145 days, became the **oldest Indian Test debutant of the 21st century**.
- **Durand Cup:** East Bengal beat Mohun Bagan 4–1 to win its 17th title; Edmund Lalrindika scored a hat-trick.
- **Apoorv Kamble:** 17-year-old won a **FIDE-rated rapid chess tournament** in Bengaluru with 8.5/9.
- **Asian Games Esports:** India named a **15-member contingent** for four esports titles.
- **R Praggnanandhaa:** Became the **first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour**, defeating Fabiano Caruana 15–13.
- **Velavan Senthilkumar:** Won the **PSA Budapest Squash Open** in Hungary.
- **Men's Hockey World Cup:** India finished **8th** after losing to Belgium in a shootout.
- **Hockey World Cup Final:** Spain and Germany advanced to the men's final.

Science & Technology

Science & Technology of September 2026

- **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope:** NASA launched the telescope on **August 30, 2026**, aboard SpaceX Falcon Heavy to study dark energy, dark matter and exoplanets.
- **Green Forge Complex:** India inaugurated the first-of-its-kind facility at **BRIC-NABI, Mohali**, for advanced research on genetically modified crops under controlled conditions.
- **Gnani Artha:** Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the indigenous **sovereign AI stack**, developed by GNANI AI; it supports 11 Indian languages.
- **Artemis Accords:** Türkiye became the **71st signatory** to NASA's framework for peaceful space exploration.
- **Himachal Glacial Lakes:** IIT Mandi identified **9–12 potentially critical glacial lakes**, highlighting growing GLOF and landslide risks.
- **Kākāpō Population:** New Zealand's critically threatened **kākāpō population increased to 325 birds** after a successful breeding season.
- **GSLV-F17/EOS-05:** ISRO successfully launched **EOS-05** on September 4, 2026; it is India's first imaging satellite intended to operate from geosynchronous orbit.
- **ChatGPT 6 Astra:** The provided material states that OpenAI launched **ChatGPT 6 Astra** on September 3, 2026, focused on coding, reasoning and autonomous multi-step workflows.
- **Ahuti Mk II:** Hyderabad-based startup Ahuti introduced an advanced **high-speed multirotor UAV** for surveillance, interception and tactical applications.
- **ISRO Launch Plan:** ISRO is targeting **six additional launches** during the current financial year; around 440 startups are operating in India's space sector.





Science & Technology of August 2026

- **Qwen3.8-Max:** Alibaba launched its advanced multimodal AI model with **2.4 trillion parameters** and a one-million-token context window.
- **WHO Carcinogen Classification:** IARC classified **hydrochlorothiazide, voriconazole and tacrolimus** as Group 1 carcinogens; the classification concerns cancer hazard and is not advice to stop treatment.
- **African Swine Fever Vaccine:** ICAR-NIHSAD developed India's **first indigenous ASF vaccine**, a live attenuated Genotype II vaccine.
- **Pigeonpea Genome:** ICAR developed India's first fully annotated **telomere-to-telomere reference genome** of pigeonpea variety 'Asha'.
- **Chhattisgarh AI Mission:** State approved a **₹500 crore AI Mission** for governance, education, research and innovation.
- **Falcon 9 Moon Impact:** A spent SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage reportedly crashed near the Moon's **Einstein Crater**.
- **Anil Menon:** Indian-origin NASA astronaut completed his **maiden spacewalk**, lasting 6 hours 27 minutes.
- **Gaganyaan:** First uncrewed mission carrying humanoid robot **Vyommitra** is scheduled for Q4 2026.
- **E-Eye:** IIT Guwahati developed a **₹3,500 portable device** to detect toxicants and heavy metals in water and biological samples.
- **Param Pragya:** PM Modi inaugurated an **AI-powered high-performance supercomputing facility** at IIT Delhi's Sonipat Campus.
- **NASA-ISRO:** NASA invited ISRO to participate in its **Moon Base programme**, expanding cooperation under the Artemis Accords.
- **Microalgae Technology:** IIT Guwahati developed a two-stage process for **CO₂ capture, biomass and bioenergy production**.
- **Black Hole Star:** JWST helped identify possible "black hole

- star" **MoM-BH-1***, which could offer clues about early supermassive black holes.
- **SraVaani:** IISc Bengaluru released an open-source **speech-recognition model supporting 65 Indian languages and dialects**.
- **India Code Portal:** Revamped portal launched with **AI-assisted and multilingual access to laws in all 22 Eighth Schedule languages**.
- **Space Debris:** ISRO is strengthening its **Debris Free Space Mission and Active Debris Removal** efforts.
- **SpaceX Record:** SpaceX launched **two Falcon 9 rockets just 38 minutes apart**, its shortest interval between orbital missions.
- **Dr. Rohan Naidu:** Indian-origin astrophysicist's research on **MoM-BH-1 "Black Hole Star"** could help explain early supermassive black-hole formation.
- **H1N1 in Delhi:** Cases rose to **1,449 by August 12, 2026**, compared with 229 during the same period last year.
- **Zhuque-3:** China's LandSpace successfully recovered the **first-stage booster of Zhuque-3 Y2**, marking a reusable-launch milestone.
- **Fog Harvesting:** Morocco's **Mount Boutmezguida project** uses CloudFisher mesh nets to convert atmospheric fog into usable water.
- **S301:** Identified as the **fastest star with a securely determined orbit in the Milky Way**, reaching about 25,000 km/s around Sagittarius A*.
- **Sophie Adenot:** Became the **first French woman to conduct a spacewalk**, alongside NASA astronaut Anil Menon.
- **Chang'e-7:** China's lunar mission will explore the **Moon's south pole** using an orbiter, lander, rover and hopping probe.
- **Bharatiya Antariksha Station:** India plans to establish **BAS by 2035**; its first module has already been approved.
- **Popcorn Maize Hybrid:** India launched its first indigenous **non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid** in Andhra Pradesh.

Schemes/ Apps / Portal

National Schemes/ Apps of August 2026

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
GOBARdhan– National Circular Bioenergy Scheme	Union Government	2026	The Union Cabinet approved the scheme with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore through 2035-36 . It aims to convert farm residue, cattle dung, urban organic waste and biomass into Compressed Biogas (CBG), organic manure and rural livelihoods . The scheme provides assured CBG offtake, pricing capped at ₹2,110/MMBTU, financial support of up to ₹2 crore per TPD capacity and a Challenge Fund. It targets a tenfold increase in domestic CBG production, reduced fossil-fuel imports, investment and rural employment. Promotes circularity.




STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Vetri Vaanmagal Scheme	Tamil Nadu	2026	Tamil Nadu launched the scheme on August 6 to promote agricultural drone technology and create technology-based livelihoods for women farmers. The initiative will train 500 individuals, including 100 women , in drone operations and support pilot licensing. The state allocated ₹1.50 crore for training through the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University's Remote Pilot Training Organisation. Another ₹2.50 crore will provide drones to 50 trained women at a 50% subsidy . Agricultural drones can support crop monitoring, mapping, spraying, field surveys and precision agriculture, strengthening technology adoption and opportunities in farming. Creates jobs.
Nijut Moina Scheme	Assam	2026	The Assam government opened applications on August 6 to support students pursuing higher education. Eligibility expanded to include polytechnic girls and integrated postgraduate students. Nijut Moina focuses on girls' education and reducing child marriage . It benefited about 1.6 lakh girls in 2024-25 and four lakh in 2025-26, targeting one lakh more girls this year. The government also aided flood-affected schools and students. The scheme reduces barriers and encourages continued study.
Nijut Babu Scheme	Assam	2026	The Assam government opened applications on August 6 to support students pursuing higher education. Nijut Babu supported 50,000 boys last year, with 70,000 planned additionally. The government also aided flood-affected schools and students. The scheme reduces barriers and encourages continued study.
Delhi Lakshmi Yojana	Delhi	2026	The scheme crossed five lakh registrations within a week of its launch, demonstrating strong participation among women in the capital. Before crossing the milestone, the portal had recorded 4.87 lakh registrations and 1.99 lakh submitted applications. Initially approved as the Mahila Samridhhi Yojana , it was renamed to emphasise women's welfare and economic empowerment. Eligible beneficiaries receive ₹2,500 monthly through two savings options. One option provides ₹1,000 through a CBDC wallet and ₹1,500 through RD/FD, while the other saves the entire ₹2,500 through RD/FD. The scheme combines immediate financial support with long-term savings and economic security.
Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) – West Bengal Implementation	West Bengal	2026	West Bengal officially implemented AB-PMJAY on August 16, 2026 . The scheme provides eligible families with ₹5 lakh annual cashless health coverage and covers over 1.43 crore eligible families, senior citizens aged 70 years and above, and frontline workers including ASHA, AWW and AWH personnel. Beneficiaries can receive treatment at more than 36,000 empanelled public and private hospitals across India, with portability outside West Bengal. Coverage includes pre-existing diseases, secondary and tertiary hospitalisation, and pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses . Registration is available through NHA portals, Aadhaar e-KYC, hospitals and outreach camps.
UP Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana 2026	Uttar Pradesh	2018	The Uttar Pradesh government initiative was launched in 2018 to promote self-employment among educated unemployed youth. Eligible applicants can obtain bank loans of up to ₹25 lakh for manufacturing or industrial projects and up to ₹10 lakh for service-sector businesses . The government provides 25% margin-money assistance , subject to prescribed limits, reducing entrepreneurs' initial financial burden. Applicants generally must be permanent Uttar Pradesh residents, aged 18–40 years , and at least Class 10 pass. They should not be government or private employees or bank defaulters and must meet other eligibility conditions under the scheme.





Important Days

Important Days of September 2026

- **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.

Important Days of August 2026

Date	Day / Observance	Short Key Facts / Theme
Aug 1–7	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme: <i>"Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works."</i> Promotes breastfeeding & child nutrition.
Aug 2	Friendship Day	Celebrated on first Sunday of August in India; promotes friendship, trust and compassion.
Aug 4	International Clouded Leopard Day	Started in 2018; focuses on conservation of vulnerable clouded leopards.
Aug 5	Alaboi Ron Smriti Divas	Marks 357th martyrdom anniversary of Ahom warriors of the Battle of Alaboi (1669) .
Aug 6	Hiroshima Day	81st anniversary; Theme: <i>"Remembrance, Responsibility, and Resilience."</i>
Aug 7	National Handloom Day	Commemorates Swadeshi Movement (1905) ; first observed in 2015.
Aug 9	Nagasaki Day	Remembers 1945 atomic bombing; Fat Man bomb dropped from Bockscar.
Aug 9	World's Indigenous Peoples Day	Theme: <i>"Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being."</i>
Aug 10	World Lion Day	Promotes lion conservation; India is home to wild Asiatic lions in Gujarat.
Aug 12	International Youth Day	Theme: <i>"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations."</i>





Date	Day / Observance	Short Key Facts / Theme
Aug 12	World Elephant Day	Protects African & Asian elephants; India has over 60% of wild Asian elephants .
Aug 13	World Organ Donation Day	Promotes organ donation; first successful living kidney donation in 1954 .
Aug 14	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day	Remembers victims of 1947 Partition ; declared by India in 2021.
Aug 18	Subhas Chandra Bose Death Anniversary	Marks 81 years since Netaji's reported death in 1945 .
Aug 19	World Humanitarian Day	Honours humanitarian workers; commemorates 2003 Canal Hotel bombing .
Aug 19	World Photography Day	Theme: " <i>home</i> ." Marks public release of Daguerreotype process (1839) .
Aug 20	Sadbhavana Diwas	Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary; promotes peace, unity & harmony.
Aug 20	Indian Akshay Urja Day	Promotes renewable energy such as solar, wind, hydro and biomass.
Aug 20	World Mosquito Day	Marks Ronald Ross's 1897 discovery linking mosquitoes with malaria.
Aug 21	World Senior Citizens Day	Promotes dignity, healthy ageing, healthcare and elder rights.
Aug 22	Madras Day	Marks 1639 land grant associated with Madras; observance began in 2004.
Aug 23	National Space Day	Marks Chandrayaan-3 landing (2023) ; 2026 theme focuses on Viksit Bharat & global space leadership.
Aug 26	Eid Milad-un-Nabi	Commemorates birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad .
Aug 26	Onam	Kerala festival associated with King Mahabali ; Thiruvonam on Aug 26.
Aug 27	World Lake Day	UN observance promoting lake conservation; first observed in 2025 .
Aug 28	World Sanskrit Day	Celebrated on Shravana Purnima ; promotes Sanskrit language and heritage.
Aug 28	Raksha Bandhan	Celebrates sibling bond; falls on Shravana Purnima .
Aug 29	National Sports Day	Birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand ; Theme: " <i>Tribute, Play, and Move</i> ."

Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of September 2026

- 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.

Obituaries (National/International) of August 2026

- **Dr. D. Y. Patil**: Former Bihar and Tripura Governor and noted educationist died aged **90**; founded the D. Y. Patil Group of educational institutions.
- **Nirmal "Nims" Purja**: Renowned Nepal-born mountaineer died in an avalanche on **Broad Peak**; famous for completing all 14 eight-thousanders in 6 months and 6 days.
- **Justice M.S. Liberhan**: Former Chief Justice died aged **87**; best known for heading the **Liberhan Commission** investigating the Babri Masjid demolition.
- **Pradeep Rawat**: Veteran actor died aged **74**; known for *Mahabharat*, *Sarfarosh*, *Lagaan* and *Ghajini*.
- **M.P. Parameswaran**: Nuclear scientist and science communicator died aged **92**; former BARC scientist and Kerala Sree Award recipient.
- **Sumit Sarkar**: Prominent historian died aged **87**; noted for works including *Modern India: 1885–1947* and scholarship on nationalism and colonialism.
- **Independence Day 2026**: India celebrated its **80th Independence Day** on August 15 with the theme "**Yuva Shakti**".
- **Raja Sen**: Veteran Bengali filmmaker died aged **71**; his *Damu* won the National Film Award for Best Children's Film.





- **Sajjan Kumar:** Former Congress MP died aged **80** while serving a life sentence in cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.
- **Sowcar Janaki:** Veteran South Indian actor died aged **94**; seven-decade career and recipient of the **Padma Shri 2022**.
- **Nanda Malini:** Renowned Sri Lankan singer died aged **82**; recipient of 11 Sarasaviya Awards and eight Presidential Awards for Best Female Singer.
- **Dolly Parton:** Legendary American country singer-songwriter died aged **80**; 11-time Grammy winner known for *Jolene* and *I Will Always Love You*.
- **Avtar "Kuku" Kohli:** Bollywood filmmaker died aged **77**; directed *Phool Aur Kaante*, which launched Ajay Devgn as a lead actor.
- **Tim Curry:** British actor died aged **80**; famous for playing Dr. Frank-N-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.
- **Yayoi Kusama:** Celebrated Japanese artist died aged **97**; globally known for polka dots, pumpkin sculptures and **Infinity Mirror Rooms**.
- **King Harald V:** The supplied material reports that Norway's monarch died aged **89**, with his son succeeding him as **King Haakon VIII**.

Static Takeaways Current Affairs

State / Country / Organisation / Position	Leader / Office Holder	Governor / Capital / Important Fact
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: Amaravati
Assam	CM: Hemanta Sarma	Governor: Laxman Prasad Acharya; Capital: Itanagar
Maharashtra	CM: Devendra Fadnavis	Governor: Jishnu Dev Verma; Capital: Mumbai
Chhattisgarh	CM: Mohan Majhi	Governor: Ramen Deka; Capital: Raipur
Tamil Nadu	CM: Joseph Vijay	Governor: R. Arlekar; Capital: Chennai
USA	President: Donald Trump	—
Venezuela	President: Delcy Rodriguez	—
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin	—
China	President: Xi Jinping	—
Nepal	PM: Balen Shah	—
RBI	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra	—
HDFC Bank	CEO & MD: Sashidhar Jagdishan	—
DBS Bank	CMD & MD: Rajat Verma	—
ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah	—
Home Minister	Amit Shah	Union Government
Agriculture Minister	Shivraj Singh	Union Government
Finance Minister	Nirmala Sitharaman	Union Government
Glaw Lake	Ramsar Site	Arunachal Pradesh; 101st Ramsar Site & first Ramsar site of the state

