WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

22 Aug – 31 Aug 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

22 key articles · 10 categories · 10 days

Compiled from Press Information Bureau releases, Government of India

IN THIS ISSUE

Important Days	1
Ranks & Reports	1
Summits & Conferences	3
Schemes & Committees	2
Defence	5
Science & Tech	2
Banking & Finance	1
National	3
Polity & Governance	3
History & Culture	1

HIGHLIGHTS

RANKS & REPORTS — 25 Aug | p. 3
NITI Aayog Skilling Blueprint Clarifies 8.7 Crore NEET Youth Are Not Unemployed

IMPORTANT DAYS — 29 Aug | p. 3
National Sports Day 2026 Marks Dhyan Chand's 121st Birth Anniversary

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES — 23 Aug | p. 4
BRICS Sports Ministers adopt Joint Declaration at Visakhapatnam under India's 2026 Chairship

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 31 Aug | p. 5
Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 Released at Lakshadweep Fisheries Outreach; Tuna and Seaweed Push Announced

DEFENCE — 31 Aug | p. 6
INS Nipun, Second Nistar-Class Diving Support Vessel, Commissioned at Mumbai

SCIENCE & TECH — 31 Aug | p. 7
Notifications Issued for All Six Pillars of the Semicon 2.0 Scheme

SCIENCE & TECH — 25 Aug | p. 7
CSIR-NAL Unveils Indigenous NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100 Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines

POLITY & GOVERNANCE — 31 Aug | p. 10
Bihar and Jharkhand sign Sone river water-sharing MoU, ending 25-year dispute

HISTORY & CULTURE — 26 Aug | p. 11
Sarnath Becomes India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	Important Days	1 article	3
2	Ranks & Reports	1 article	3
3	Summits & Conferences	3 articles	4
4	Schemes & Committees	2 articles	5
5	Defence	5 articles	6
6	Science & Tech	2 articles	7
7	Banking & Finance	1 article	8
8	National	3 articles	8
9	Polity & Governance	3 articles	10
10	History & Culture	1 article	11

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Important Days

1 article

National Sports Day 2026 Marks Dhyan Chand's 121st Birth Anniversary

29 Aug

- National Sports Day was observed on 29 August 2026 to commemorate the 121st birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, with the national event held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal led the celebrations, which began with floral tribute at Major Dhyan Chand's statue.
- The celebrations centred on the nationwide 'Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein' initiative, urging citizens and especially young people to dedicate at least one hour to sports and physical activity - presented by the Minister as a push for the Fit India Movement.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended greetings to sports lovers and paid homage to Major Dhyan Chand, saying the dedication, passion and determination of sportspersons make the nation proud.
- Cricket, football and tug of war were among the activities; the cricket competition featured Ministry XI, SAI XI, Media XI and Influencers XI, with Ministry XI beating Media XI in the opening match.

2. Ranks & Reports

1 article

NITI Aayog Skilling Blueprint Clarifies 8.7 Crore NEET Youth Are Not Unemployed

25 Aug

- NITI Aayog released 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047', a blueprint for a skilling architecture aligned to the goals of a developed India by 2047.
- The report identifies five key segments of learners and workforce, one of which is NEET youth in the 15-29 age group — Not in Education, Employment or Training.
- NITI Aayog clarified that the report's figure of 8.7 crore NEET youth has been misread as a count of the unemployed. NEET refers to those NOT SEEKING employment; the unemployed form a separate category drawn from a different population base, so the figure cannot be added to the unemployment rate.
- The NEET estimate rests on the NSS 78th Round, collected in FY 2020-21 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when education and employment were disrupted; the youth NEET percentage is significantly lower in the most recent PLFS round (PLFS 2025).
- Ahead of the report's publication, the government had already begun implementing its key reforms through the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, including the Rs 600 crore Integrated Scheme in Skilling Architecture (ISSA) announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.

3. Summits & Conferences

3 articles

BRICS Sports Ministers adopt Joint Declaration at Visakhapatnam under India's 2026 Chairship

23 Aug

- The BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting 2026 concluded at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 23 August 2026 with the adoption by consensus of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration.
- The meeting was held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, whose theme is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- Three initiatives were advanced: a BRICS Working Group on Sports Technology; a BRICS Sports Manufacturing Conclave, with Udaipur proposed as host for its inaugural edition in November 2026; and BRICS Traditional and Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games, proposed for Ahmedabad on 12-13 October 2026 as a non-competitive, culturally focused event.
- The Union Minister announced a forthcoming scheme for the promotion of Sports Goods Manufacturing Clusters and invited global manufacturers to 'Make in India, Play in India and Grow with India'.
- Ahead of the proceedings, ministers and dignitaries from Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, the UAE, Iran and South Africa joined a BRICS Friendship Cycling Event held as the 87th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle, which ran at more than 18,000 locations nationwide.

BRICS adopts Chennai Declaration on science and innovation under India's chairship

22 Aug

- The 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting, chaired by India, adopted the 'Chennai Declaration' unanimously; the announcement was made in the closing session by Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.
- Also called the Chennai Consensus, the document places a 'people-centred and humanity-first' approach at the heart of BRICS STI cooperation, with emphasis on sustainable development, resilient and high-quality growth, social inclusiveness and the use of innovation to improve quality of life.
- It records progress towards operationalising the BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network (BRICS GRAIN) and welcomes the Action Plan and Terms of Reference of the Task Force on research infrastructures and mega-science projects.
- It also welcomes the BRICS Science and Research Repository as a digital public good mapping institutions, researchers, outputs, datasets and infrastructure, and backs the Young Scientist Forum, Young Innovator Prize, the STI Entrepreneurship Partnership and the BRICS Youth Startup Platform.
- The meeting endorsed the BRICS STI Calendar of Activities for 2026-2027; the next STI Ministerial is scheduled under China's chairship in 2027.

BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting concludes at Visakhapatnam with Joint Statement

22 Aug

- The BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting, organised by the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, concluded at Visakhapatnam on Saturday, 22 August 2026, presided over by Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya with MoS Raksha Nikhil Khadse and Secretary (Youth Affairs) Sunil Paliwal.
- The meeting adopted a Joint Statement covering education, training and skills; youth entrepreneurship; science, technology and innovation; social and cultural participation, social work and volunteering; poverty, hunger and inequality; health and sports; youth, environment and sustainability; interfaith youth dialogue; youth exchange; and youth inclusion.

- It capped the BRICS youth engagements under India's 2026 chairship, following the BRICS Youth Summit and BRICS Youth Council Meeting held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 19-20 August 2026; delegates joined an 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drive and visited the Thotlakonda Buddhist monastery, and Mandaviya held bilateral meetings with his South African and UAE counterparts.

4. Schemes & Committees

2 articles

Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 Released at Lakshadweep Fisheries Outreach; Tuna and Seaweed Push Announced

31 Aug

- The Department of Fisheries held a Fisheries Outreach Programme at Agatti, Lakshadweep, on 31 August 2026, where the Vice-President released 'Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031', a Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development.
- Lakshadweep has an estimated fisheries potential of over 1 lakh tonnes including about 94,000 tonnes of tuna and tuna-like species, but current harvest stands at only about 15,000 metric tonnes.
- Fisheries development projects worth over Rs 62 crore have been approved for Lakshadweep under PMMSY; 16 deep-sea fishing vessels costing about Rs 1.2 crore each have been sanctioned with full financial assistance.
- Lakshadweep has been notified as a Seaweed Cluster and a Seaweed Bank approved with ICAR-CMFRI; 575 seaweed cultivation units are being promoted with an investment of about Rs 2 crore.
- India's fish production rose from 95.7 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 to 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, with seafood exports at a record Rs 73,890 crore in 2025-26.

EPFO's Employees' Enrolment Campaign 2026 open until 31 October for uncovered workers

22 Aug

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has urged establishments to use the Employees' Enrolment Campaign, 2026 (EEC 2026), notified with effect from 29 June 2026.
- The campaign is a one-time opportunity to enrol employees who remained outside EPF coverage during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2026, and it closes on 31 October 2026.
- Eligible employees must be alive and continuing in employment with the establishment on the date of declaration.
- Relaxations include waiver of the employee's share of contribution where it was not deducted earlier, subject to the campaign's conditions.
- Enrolment is entirely online: a Face Authentication-based Universal Account Number is generated through the UMANG App for each declared employee, and contributions are remitted through the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR).

5. Defence

5 articles

INS Nipun, Second Nistar-Class Diving Support Vessel, Commissioned at Mumbai

31 Aug

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Nipun, the second Diving Support Vessel of the Nistar class, at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, on 31 August 2026.
- The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, in the presence of Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- The ship was indigenously designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, and supports saturation, air and heliox diving, remotely operated underwater systems, dynamic positioning, and an onboard life-support and medical complex.
- It can support submarine rescue operations, a capability the Chief of the Naval Staff said only a handful of navies possess, positioning India as the 'Preferred Submarine Rescue Partner' in the region and adding to its capacity for underwater salvage and HADR missions.
- INS Nipun will be based on the West Coast under the Western Naval Command; its motto is 'Far Beneath, Few Beyond', and the crew's watchwords are 'Nischay, Nirbhay, Nipun'.

Samarthak, Navy's first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, delivered by L&T Kattupalli

27 Aug

- Samarthak, the first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 27 August 2026.
- The ship carries over 75 per cent indigenous content and has been conceived primarily as a versatile trial and evaluation platform for naval weapons and sensors.
- It is also engineered for maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, offshore patrolling and support to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations; the name 'Samarthak' means 'The Proponent'.

Goa Shipyard Hands Over ICGS Ajit as Navy Prepares to Commission Diving Support Vessel Nipun

25 Aug

- Goa Shipyard Limited formally handed over ICGS Ajit (Yard 1277), a Fast Patrol Vessel, to the Indian Coast Guard on 25 August 2026, built with more than 65 per cent indigenous content.
- ICGS Ajit is 51.43 metres long and 8 metres wide, displaces 330 tonnes at a draught of 2.5 metres, exceeds 27 knots and has an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles, with a crew of 6 officers and 35 sailors.
- The vessel is powered by twin marine diesel engines driving controllable pitch propellers - described by the shipyard as a first-of-its-kind feature in this class of Fast Patrol Vessels - along with an integrated machinery control system.
- Separately, the Indian Navy announced it will commission Nipun, the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, on 31 August 2026 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. Indigenously designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, it was delivered to the Navy on 30 July 2026.
- Nipun is a purpose-built platform for deep-sea diving and underwater intervention, with specialised diving, station-keeping and medical facilities, and will augment the Navy's submarine rescue capability.

Navy receives 'Mangrol', third anti-submarine shallow water craft from Cochin Shipyard

22 Aug

- 'Mangrol', the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 21 August 2026.
- The craft has over 80 per cent indigenous content and is equipped for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare in coastal waters, Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine warfare; it is propelled by waterjets and carries torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, and advanced radars and sonars.
- The name comes from Mangrol, a coastal town and minor port in Junagadh district of Gujarat and a prominent harbour for the marine fishing industry, and revives the name of an earlier Indian Naval minesweeper, INS Mangrol, which served until 2004.

IAF concludes Exercise Pitch Black in Australia and Udara Shakti in Malaysia

22 Aug

- The Indian Air Force announced on 22 August 2026 that it had concluded participation in two international flight engagements - Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia and Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia - in a single back-to-back deployment.
- At Pitch Black 2026, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force, the IAF deployed its frontline Rafale aircraft and flew Large Force Employment (LFE) missions alongside air forces from over 20 participating nations.
- The contingent then deployed directly to Subang, Malaysia, for Exercise Udara Shakti 2026, flying combat sorties with and against the Royal Malaysian Air Force's Su-30MKM and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft.
- Both engagements included subject matter expert exchanges (SMEE), maintenance practices and mission planning exchanges, aimed at interoperability and at strengthening defence partnerships across the Indo-Pacific.

6. Science & Tech

2 articles

Notifications Issued for All Six Pillars of the Semicon 2.0 Scheme

31 Aug

- Notifications for all six pillars of the Semicon 2.0 Scheme were issued, with Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw setting out the government's plan for the next phase of India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- The six pillars — Design; Machines and Materials; Setting up more Fabs; Strengthening the ATMP/OSAT industry; Research and Development; and Talent Development — cover 10 categories in all and extend fiscal and infrastructure support across the whole value chain.
- The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is the nodal agency: it will invite applications, carry out technical and financial appraisal, recommend applicants and oversee implementation, with C-DAC assisting on the design and deployment categories.
- Projects will generally run up to six years, the scheme stays open for applications for three years, and a mid-term assessment follows after three years of implementation.
- Vaishnaw said India met its target of 85,000 semiconductor engineers in four years against a ten-year timeline and has set a fresh target of one lakh more, that students from Tier-II and Tier-III cities have designed over 250 chips, and that the ecosystem is expected to create 50,000-60,000 direct jobs.

CSIR-NAL Unveils Indigenous NJ-05, NJ-50 and NJ-100 Micro and Small Gas Turbine Engines

25 Aug

- CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) unveiled three indigenous micro and small gas turbine engines - NJ-05 with 5 kg thrust, NJ-50 with 50 kg thrust and NJ-100 with 100 kg thrust - at the SSB Auditorium, CSIR Headquarters, New Delhi.
- The engines are intended for tactical unmanned aerial vehicles, drone interceptors and compact missile systems, addressing a class of propulsion India has largely imported.
- The scientific team, led by Shri R. Prathapanayaka, attributed the development to advances in high-RPM turbomachinery and high-temperature combustion technologies.
- Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), was Chief Guest; Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Director General CSIR and Secretary DSIR, and Dr Abhay A. Pashilkar, Director CSIR-NAL, also spoke.
- CSIR-NAL's Director described the laboratory's evolving role as a multi-stage integrator for India's drone ecosystem, and said Indian industry including aerospace start-ups can manufacture these engines at scale.

7. Banking & Finance

1 article

Regional Rural Banks Post Record Rs 10,176 Crore Net Profit in FY 2025-26

25 Aug

- A review meeting on Regional Rural Bank performance, chaired by the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, recorded an all-time high consolidated net profit of Rs 10,176 crore for RRBs in FY 2025-26, up from Rs 6,820 crore in FY 2024-25.
- The total business of all 28 RRBs crossed Rs 13.5 lakh crore, surpassing the business level of a few individual Public Sector Banks; 28 RRBs now operate 22,273 branches across 26 States and 3 Union Territories, covering about 700 districts.
- Gross and Net Non-Performing Assets fell to all-time lows of 5.3 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively, while the Credit-Deposit Ratio reached an all-time high of 75.2 per cent.
- RRBs opened over 54.98 lakh new Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts during FY 2025-26 and met all targets and sub-targets prescribed under Priority Sector Lending.
- The meeting was attended by the Chairman of NABARD, the Chairpersons of all 28 RRBs, officials of the Department of Financial Services, Sponsor Banks, the Reserve Bank of India and SIDBI; sponsor banks were urged to strengthen their RRBs' IT infrastructure.

8. National

3 articles

Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 notified; IST becomes the legal time reference

30 Aug

- The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 on 27 August 2026.
- The Rules make Indian Standard Time the common time reference across the country for legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes.

- They come into force 180 days after publication in the Official Gazette, giving departments and businesses time to reconfigure systems.
- The Rules provide for use of NavIC and other approved Indian timing sources, reducing dependence on foreign satellite-based time.
- Under the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative, a White Rabbit technology-based IST dissemination demonstration network was commissioned at the Regional Reference Standard Laboratory, Bengaluru, in July 2026.

India Post launches upgraded Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa apps, opens 14 redesigned post offices

24 Aug

- The Department of Posts released upgraded versions of the Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa mobile applications and inaugurated 14 renovated post office buildings on 24 August 2026.
- Dak MITRA — Mobile Interface for Transactions and Rural Assistance — is a unified operational platform for more than 1.4 lakh Branch Post Offices, running on Android handheld devices so Branch Postmasters can carry out paperless, real-time postal and financial transactions.
- Dak Sewa gives citizens 24x7 access to tracking, booking, complaints, post office and PIN code locators and financial calculators, in 23 Indian languages through BHASHINI.
- Both were built indigenously by the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology on the Advanced Postal Technology platform, as part of the DoP IT 2.0 modernisation programme.
- Post office buildings are being redesigned under a Design Manual prepared with the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi: 40 post offices across 17 states were taken up as a proof of concept, 27 are complete, and the programme is to be extended to 60 more this financial year.

Centre restricts all Chlorpheniramine-Phenylephrine FDCs for children below four

22 Aug

- The Government has restricted the manufacture, sale and distribution of all Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, requiring a warning that these medicines shall not be used in children below four years of age.
- The notification was issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and takes effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
- It follows the recommendations of an Expert Committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), which noted risks to children under four and the availability of safer alternatives.
- An earlier notification dated 15 April 2025 [S.O. 1717(E)] had restricted certain such FDCs; the new notification extends the requirement to all formulations containing the two ingredients.
- Manufacturers must display the warning 'Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age' on the label, the package insert and all promotional literature.

9. Polity & Governance

3 articles

Bihar and Jharkhand sign Sone river water-sharing MoU, ending 25-year dispute

31 Aug

- Bihar and Jharkhand signed a Memorandum of Understanding on sharing the waters of the Sone river, in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, resolving a dispute the release describes as nearly 25 years old.
- Also present were Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and the Union Home Secretary.
- The agreement is expected to secure irrigation and drinking water for the Bihar districts of Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna, and for Palamu, Garhwa and adjoining areas of Jharkhand.
- This is the FOURTH inter-state water agreement of 2026 brokered through the Inter-State Council mechanism, after the Narmada Award dues settlement (7 July 2026), the Rajasthan-Haryana Yamuna Water Project agreement (29 June 2026) and the six-state Kishau Multipurpose Project consensus (16 June 2026).
- The significance for polity is the route taken: a negotiated MoU under the Inter-State Council (Article 263) rather than adjudication by a tribunal under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

President appoints three judicial officers as judges of Himachal Pradesh High Court

27 Aug

- The President, exercising power under the Constitution and after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, appointed Shri Chirag Bhanu as a Judge of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and Shri Bhupesh Sharma and Shri Yogesh Jaswal as Additional Judges of that Court.
- All three are serving judicial officers elevated to the bench, and the appointments were notified by the Ministry of Law and Justice on 27 August 2026.
- The notification illustrates the two distinct constitutional routes to a High Court bench: Article 217 for a permanent Judge and Article 224 for an Additional Judge appointed for a fixed period not exceeding two years.

Medical Devices Rules amended: loan licence dropped for outsourced sterilisation, EU added as stringent regulator

24 Aug

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 on two counts, notified through the Official Gazette, to simplify compliance in the medical device sector.
- Rule 44 has been amended so that a manufacturer outsourcing sterilisation to another facility that already holds a valid licence under the Rules no longer needs a separate loan licence for that activity; a six-month transition period applies to the accompanying labelling requirement.
- Rule 63 has been amended to add the European Union to the list of recognised stringent regulatory jurisdictions whose approval can waive clinical investigation requirements for medical devices without a predicate device.
- The list previously recognised the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Japan; with the EU added, it now runs to six jurisdictions.
- The stated aims are reduced duplication and compliance cost for manufacturers without in-house sterilisation, faster patient access to advanced devices, and stronger international regulatory convergence.

10. History & Culture

1 article

Sarnath Becomes India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site

26 Aug

- The Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on 25 July 2026 at the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee held in Busan, South Korea.
- It is India's 45th World Heritage property, taking the country's tally to 37 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site — sixth in the world and second in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The inscribed property has two components: the Chaukhandi Stupa, and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath, which include the Dhamek Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulagandhakuti Vihara and the Ashokan Pillar.
- Sarnath was nominated under criteria (iii) and (vi) — enduring spiritual significance as one of the four principal Buddhist pilgrimage destinations, and direct association with the Buddha's first sermon.
- The site had been on India's Tentative List since 1998; the nomination dossier went to the Committee in January 2025, followed by an eighteen-month process including an ICOMOS evaluation mission.