WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATION

01 Aug – 07 Aug 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

55 key articles · 16 categories · 7 days

Curated from official releases, national dailies and ministry sources

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

11 articles

Ariha Pangambam Wins India's First Senior Gold at Aerobic Gymnastics Asian Championships

07 Aug

- Ariha Pangambam of Imphal, Manipur, won India's first senior gold medal in the individual women's category at the Aerobic Gymnastics Asian Championships on 7 August 2026.
- The championship was held in Tagaytay City, Philippines, from 4 to 7 August 2026 under the sanction of the Asian Gymnastics Union.
- She won the final with a score of 19.100 — 8.650 for artistry, 7.600 for execution and 2.850 for difficulty.
- The event brought together more than 400 athletes and officials from 11 countries.
- Pangambam had finished fourth in both the 2022 and 2024 editions of the Asian Championships.

Ashish Yadav Wins Silver in Javelin at World Athletics U20 Championships

07 Aug

- Ashish Yadav won silver in the men's javelin throw at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon, with the final held on 7 August 2026.
- His best throw measured 74.09 metres, achieved on his third attempt.
- He became India's second medallist in the event and the first Indian silver medallist in the men's U20 javelin throw.
- Neeraj Chopra had won gold in the same event at the 2016 edition.
- Jan-Hendrik Heymans of South Africa took gold with 80.50 metres; Addison James of Dominica won bronze with a national record of 73.89 metres.

Suraj Kumar Chand Wins India's First FISU World University Squash Gold

06 Aug

- Suraj Kumar Chand became the first Indian to win gold in the men's individual category at the FISU World University Squash Championships on 6 August 2026.
- He beat Hungary's Benedek Takács in a five-game final, 5-11, 11-8, 11-5, 6-11, 11-4.
- The championships were held at Somaiya Vidyavihar University in Mumbai, where Chand studies.
- It was his second medal at the event, having won men's singles bronze at the previous edition in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- He had earlier won gold at the National School Games Squash Championship.

India Finishes Fourth at Commonwealth Games 2026 with 39 Medals

02 Aug

- India finished fourth in the medal standings at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, which concluded on 2 August 2026.
- The Indian contingent won 39 medals in total: 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze.
- The Games ran from 23 July to 2 August 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland.
- Boxing was India's strongest discipline, delivering a record seven gold medals.
- Gulveer Singh became the first Indian track and field athlete to win two medals at a single edition of the Games.

Glasgow Hands Commonwealth Games Flag to Ahmedabad for 2030 Centenary Edition

02 Aug

- The Commonwealth Flag was handed over to India at the closing ceremony of the Glasgow 2026 Games on 2 August 2026.
- Amdavad, or Ahmedabad, will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, the centenary edition of the event.
- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha received the flag on India's behalf.
- Boxing gold medallist Jaismine Lamboria carried the Indian tricolour in the athletes' parade.
- It will be India's second time hosting the Games, after New Delhi in 2010.

Ankur Bhattacharjee and Yashaswini Ghorpade Win Commonwealth TT Singles Titles

02 Aug

- Ankur Bhattacharjee won the men's singles title at the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 2026, held in New Delhi.
- He beat compatriot Payas Jain 4-3 in an all-Indian final.
- Yashaswini Ghorpade won the women's singles title, defeating Paris 2024 Olympian Sreeja Akula 4-1.
- Both singles finals were contested between Indian players, and India took almost every title at the championships.
- India had already swept the men's and women's team titles earlier in the competition.

Tanvi Sharma Wins Maiden BWF World Tour Title at Taipei Open 2026

02 Aug

- Tanvi Sharma won the women's singles title at the Taipei Open 2026, her maiden BWF World Tour title.
- The 17-year-old beat sixth-seeded Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam, ranked World No. 21, by 21-16, 21-16 in 36 minutes.
- At 17 years and 222 days she became the youngest champion in Taipei Open history.
- She is the first Indian woman since Saina Nehwal in 2008 to win the Taipei Open women's singles title, ending an 18-year wait.
- The Taipei Open is a BWF World Tour Super 300 tournament, held at the Taipei Arena.

India Wins Record Seven Boxing Golds at Commonwealth Games 2026

01 Aug

- Indian boxers won seven gold and three silver medals at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, with the finals contested on 1 August.
- No country has ever won more boxing gold medals at a single edition of the Commonwealth Games.
- The gold medallists were Sakshi Chaudhary, Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Priya Ghanghas, Arundhati Choudhary, Sachin Siwach and Ankush Panghal.
- Lovlina Borgohain, Jadumani Singh and Narender Berwal took silver; Lovlina lost a split decision to Emma-Sue Greentree in the women's 75kg final.
- The haul surpassed India's previous best boxing performances at Delhi 2010, Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022.

Praveen Chithravel and Selva Prabhu Give India a Triple Jump Double Podium

01 Aug

- Praveen Chithravel won silver and Selva Prabhu Thirumaran bronze in the men's triple jump at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games on 1 August.
- Praveen's best effort was 16.58m, achieved on his fourth attempt.
- Selva Prabhu, competing at his first Commonwealth Games, jumped 16.52m in the fifth round.
- Gold went to Jamaica's Jordan Scott with 16.72m.
- The result was part of India's 16-medal haul on the final day of athletics.

Gulveer Singh Becomes First Indian to Win Two Athletics Medals at One Commonwealth Games

01 Aug

- Gulveer Singh won bronze in the men's 5000m at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games on 1 August.
- He held off Kenya's Cornelius Kemboi by just 0.04 seconds to take the medal.
- He had already won silver in the men's 10000m earlier at the same Games.
- He is the first Indian track and field athlete to win two medals at a single edition of the Commonwealth Games.
- The result formed part of India's 16-medal day on 1 August.

Soman Rana Wins Para Shot Put Gold as India Takes Top Two Places

01 Aug

- Soman Rana won gold in the men's F57 shot put at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games on 1 August.
- Shubham Juyal took silver in the same event, giving India the top two places.
- The one-two finish contributed to India's 16-medal haul on the day.
- F57 is a para athletics classification for seated throwers with limb impairments affecting the lower body.

2. Awards & Honours

2 articles

Annapurni Subramaniam Wins COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026, First Indian Woman to Do So

04 Aug

- Astrophysicist Annapurni Subramaniam has been awarded the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal for 2026.
- She is the first Indian woman scientist to receive the medal, the fourth Indian overall, and only the third woman globally.
- She is Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru — the first woman to head the institute — and her work covers stellar populations, star clusters and galaxy evolution.
- The medal was instituted in 1990 in honour of Vikram Sarabhai and is awarded jointly by COSPAR and ISRO to scientists from developing countries.
- Earlier Indian recipients were U.R. Rao (1996), Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014) and Anil Bharadwaj (2024).

NSA Ajit Doval Conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 in Pune

01 Aug

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 in Pune on 1 August 2026.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the honour, which recognised Doval's contribution to national security and strategic leadership.
- The award is conferred by the Tilak Smarak Trust and comprises a memento, a citation and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.
- It is presented every year on 1 August, the death anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who died on that date in 1920.
- Ajit Doval has been India's National Security Advisor since May 2014, the longest tenure in the post.

3. Appointments

6 articles

Cabinet Secretary Somanathan and Home Secretary Govind Mohan Get One-Year Extensions

05 Aug

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has granted one-year extensions to Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan.
- Somanathan, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, continues as Cabinet Secretary beyond 30 August 2026; he took charge on 30 August 2024, succeeding Rajiv Gauba.
- Govind Mohan, a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Sikkim cadre, continues as Union Home Secretary beyond 22 August 2026.
- Mohan's extension was granted by relaxing Fundamental Rule 56(d) and Rule 16(1A) of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.
- Before becoming Cabinet Secretary, Somanathan served as Finance Secretary and as Secretary in the Department of Expenditure.

RBI Appoints Monisha Chakraborty as Executive Director with Effect from 3 August

04 Aug

- The Reserve Bank of India appointed Monisha Chakraborty as Executive Director with effect from 3 August 2026.
- She will oversee the Foreign Exchange Department and the Financial Markets Regulation Department.
- She was previously Chief General Manager-in-Charge of the Department of Supervision.
- She has over three decades of service at the RBI, spanning supervision, foreign exchange, government and bank accounts, and a stint as Banking Ombudsman.
- She holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and a master's in Business Economics, both from the University of Delhi.

Willie Walsh Takes Charge as IndiGo CEO, Succeeding Pieter Elbers

03 Aug

- Willie Walsh took charge as Chief Executive Officer of IndiGo on 3 August 2026, succeeding Pieter Elbers.
- He had served as Director General of the International Air Transport Association since April 2021, concluding that tenure on 31 July 2026.
- IndiGo's board appointed him on 31 March 2026, subject to regulatory approvals.

- Walsh previously headed International Airlines Group, the parent of British Airways and Iberia, and earlier led British Airways and Aer Lingus.
- Pieter Elbers resigned following the airline's operational crisis of December 2025.

Vishwesh Negi Appointed India's Next Ambassador to Iran

03 Aug

- Vishwesh Negi was appointed India's next Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 3 August 2026.
- He is an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 2002 batch.
- He has been serving as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- The appointment comes at a period of heightened tension in West Asia.

Varsha Ashok Aglawe Becomes First Woman Director General of the Geological Survey of India

03 Aug

- Varsha Ashok Aglawe has assumed charge as the 54th Director General of the Geological Survey of India.
- She is the first woman to head the organisation in its 176-year history.
- She succeeds Asit Saha, who served as Director General from 27 July 2024 to 31 July 2026.
- A palaeontology and palynology specialist, she joined GSI in 1992 after service with the Indian Bureau of Mines.
- She was previously Additional Director General and Head of Department, Eastern Region, Kolkata.

Varsha Ashok Aglawe Becomes First Woman Director General of Geological Survey of India

01 Aug

- Varsha Ashok Aglawe has assumed charge as the 54th Director General of the Geological Survey of India.
- She is the first woman to head the organisation since its founding in 1851.
- She succeeds Asit Saha, who served as Director General from 27 July 2024 to 31 July 2026.
- She joined GSI in 1992 after a stint with the Indian Bureau of Mines and was most recently Additional Director General and Head of Department, Eastern Region, Kolkata.
- A specialist in palaeontology and palynology, her research covers Late Cretaceous-Palaeocene sediments, the K-T boundary and the Satpura-Gondwana basins.

4. Important Days

1 article

12th National Handloom Day Observed; President Presents Sant Kabir Handloom Awards

07 Aug

- India observed the 12th National Handloom Day on 7 August 2026, a date chosen to mark the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on 7 August 1905.
- President Droupadi Murmu presented 22 awards at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre — 3 Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards for 2025.

- The handloom sector supports 35.22 lakh weavers and allied workers, of whom over 72% (25.46 lakh) are women.
- Four commemorative postage stamps on India's weaving traditions were released along with two publications.
- The e-Pehchan portal, launched in January 2025 for digital weaver identity cards, had approved about 84,000 additional workers by July 2026.

5. Ranks & Reports

2 articles

Punjab Tops NITI Aayog School Education Quality Index 2026

06 Aug

- Punjab secured the first rank in the NITI Aayog School Education Quality Index 2026, ahead of states such as Kerala.
- The state government presented the ranking in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh on 6 August 2026.
- Punjab rose from 27th place in 2020 to 1st place in 2026 on the published ranking metrics.
- The state recorded 82% proficiency in Class III language skills and 78% in mathematics.
- Punjab became the first state in India to introduce Artificial Intelligence as a core subject from Classes I to XII.

India Records 20,138 Organ Transplants in 2025, Tamil Nadu Leads Deceased Donation

04 Aug

- India performed 20,138 organ transplants in 2025, the first time the annual total crossed 20,000, according to NOTTO.
- The figure compares with 18,911 in 2024 and 4,990 in 2013, a fourfold rise over twelve years.
- India now ranks third in the world in total organ transplants after the United States and China, and first in living donor transplants.
- Delhi-NCR recorded the highest number of transplants at 4,564, followed by Tamil Nadu at 2,796.
- Tamil Nadu led in deceased organ donation with 266 deceased donors and has the country's largest transplant network with 172 centres.

6. Summits & Conferences

3 articles

16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting Concludes in Jaipur, Adopts Jaipur Consensus

07 Aug

- The 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting concluded on 7 August 2026 at Sawai Man Mahal in Jaipur, Rajasthan, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- It was chaired by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.
- Ministers adopted the Jaipur Consensus and Guiding Principles for MSME credit to address the estimated $2.5 trillion global trade finance gap.

- Officials finalised the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership 2030 for submission to BRICS leaders at the upcoming summit in New Delhi.
- A Global Value Chains action plan for 2026-2030 was endorsed, including a BRICS Technical Council and the BRICS Connect initiative.

India Hosts 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting in Bhubaneswar

05 Aug

- India is hosting the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting along with the 3rd BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from 5 to 7 August 2026.
- The meetings are being convened by the Ministry of Education as part of India's BRICS chairship for 2026.
- Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi is leading the Indian side, with more than 200 delegates and around 40 senior officials expected.
- The agenda covers Early Childhood Care and Education, collaborative research, innovation and start-ups, mutual recognition of qualifications and academic leadership.
- India's BRICS chairship carries the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

Hyderabad to Host BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group Meetings

03 Aug

- Hyderabad will host the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group on 4 and 5 August 2026.
- The second meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery will be held alongside it.
- The meetings are organised by the Department of Personnel and Training.
- They form part of India's BRICS Presidency programme.

7. Schemes & Committees

1 article

Centre Launches e-Pratyaropan Platform to Digitise Organ Donation and Transplantation

04 Aug

- The e-Pratyaropan digital platform was unveiled at the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day event in New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel.
- It is a unified national platform connecting hospitals, transplant surgeons, donors, waiting-list recipients and regulatory bodies.
- The platform builds a unified national waiting list, enables transparent allocation and supports nationwide donor matching and post-transplant outcome tracking.
- NOTTO is the apex implementing agency, working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- A year-long awareness campaign, Jug Jug Jiyo Abhiyaan, was launched alongside it.

8. Defence

5 articles

IAF Concludes Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia with Rafale Debut

07 Aug

- Exercise Pitch Black 2026 concluded on 7 August 2026, with the Indian Air Force stating its contingent had 'accomplished the mission'.
- The exercise ran from 20 July to 7 August 2026 at Royal Australian Air Force bases at Darwin, Tindal and Amberley in northern Australia.
- It brought together roughly 100 aircraft and more than 2,500 personnel from 21 participating nations and partners.
- The Indian contingent comprised four Rafale fighter aircraft, two C-17 transport aircraft and over 120 Air Warriors.
- Pitch Black is a biennial multinational exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force.

Vice Admiral Manish Chadha Takes Over as Director General Naval Operations

04 Aug

- Vice Admiral Manish Chadha, AVSM, VSM, assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations on 3 August 2026.
- The DGNO handles operational planning, maritime security missions and deployment of naval assets.
- A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he was commissioned on 1 July 1991 from the 78th course of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla.
- His command appointments include CGS-05, INS Veer, INS Kirpan and the guided missile destroyer INS Mysore.
- Before this appointment he was Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala.

Indian Army Introduces Indigenous XWG Diesel Usable at Minus 42 Degrees Celsius

03 Aug

- The Indian Army has introduced Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) diesel, developed with Indian technology in partnership with domestic oil companies.
- The fuel remains usable at temperatures as low as minus 42 degrees Celsius.
- Conventional diesel thickens in extreme cold, clogging filters and making engines difficult to start.
- The fuel conforms to BS-VI standards and IS 1460:2025 specifications.
- It is intended for tanks, infantry combat vehicles and logistics vehicles deployed in high-altitude areas such as Eastern Ladakh.

IAF Concludes Exercise ROTOR CLAP III on Counter-Drone Operations at Pokhran

02 Aug

- The Indian Air Force concluded Exercise ROTOR CLAP III at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan, on 1-2 August 2026.
- The exercise was themed on Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems.
- It was a rotary-wing exercise involving multiple helicopter units of the Indian Air Force.
- Pokhran is India's principal field firing range and the site of its 1974 and 1998 nuclear tests.

Indian Navy Launches DSC A24, Fifth and Final Diving Support Craft

01 Aug

- The Indian Navy launched DSC A24 on 1 August 2026, the fifth and final vessel of its Diving Support Craft project.
- The launch took place at the Titagarh Rail Systems Limited shipyard in Kolkata.
- The five-ship programme was contracted by the Ministry of Defence on 12 February 2021.
- The craft support diving operations, including underwater search, salvage and rescue tasks.

9. Science & Tech

5 articles

Astrobase Unveils EVEREST, India's First Private 800 kN Rocket Engine

07 Aug

- Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled EVEREST on 7 August 2026 as India's first privately built 80-tonne-class Full-Flow Staged Combustion rocket engine.
- The engine burns liquid oxygen and liquid methane and produces 800 kilonewtons of thrust.
- It has a specific impulse of about 340 seconds and can be throttled between 50% and 110%.
- Astrobase was selected under IN-SPACe's Technology Adoption Fund on 10 June 2026 for indigenous development of the engine.
- The company was founded in 2024 by former ISRO propulsion engineer Devakumar Thammisetty and CoinDCX co-founder Neeraj Khandelwal.

HAL Airport Becomes India's First to Operationalise Satellite-Guided Helicopter Approach

07 Aug

- HAL Airport in Bengaluru became the first airport in India to operationalise the RNP CAT H satellite-guided helicopter approach procedure on 7 August 2026.
- The precision navigation procedure was designed and developed by the Airports Authority of India.
- It was validated through flight trials by HAL test pilots and approved by the DGCA.
- The procedure cuts helicopter landing approach time from about 12 minutes to approximately four minutes.
- It supports the nearly 50 helicopter movements recorded daily at Bengaluru airport.

Indian-Origin NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Completes His First Spacewalk

06 Aug

- Indian-origin NASA astronaut Anil Menon completed his first extravehicular activity on 6 August 2026 outside the International Space Station.
- The operation, designated US Spacewalk 96, lasted 6 hours and 27 minutes.
- Menon worked alongside Jessica Meir, who was performing her sixth spacewalk, on the Starboard 6 truss segment.
- They installed mounting hardware on the 3B power channel and routed cabling for a future Roll-Out Solar Array.
- It was the 281st spacewalk dedicated to ISS assembly and maintenance.

India Releases First Indigenous African Swine Fever Vaccine Developed by ICAR

04 Aug

- India's first indigenous vaccine against African Swine Fever, developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, was released on 4 August 2026.
- It was dedicated to the nation by Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- The vaccine is a live attenuated product built on the MA-104 cell line, developed by ICAR-NIHSAD from an Indian field isolate of the ASF virus with specific gene deletions.
- Using the widely available MA-104 line rather than a patented proprietary cell line removes dependence on restricted manufacturing platforms and can lower production costs.
- It is administered to healthy pigs above eight weeks of age as a 1 ml intramuscular injection, with a booster after 14 days.

TRAI Launches Revamped MyCall App for Real-Time Call Quality Reporting

03 Aug

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India launched a revamped version of its MyCall mobile application on 3 August 2026.
- The app allows telecom consumers to rate voice-call quality in real time.
- Users can also report technical issues linked to call performance.
- TRAI is the statutory regulator of the telecom sector, established under the TRAI Act, 1997.

10. Environment

6 articles

World's First Release of GPS-Tagged Captive-Bred Slender-billed Vultures in Assam

07 Aug

- Five captive-bred Slender-billed Vultures and five White-rumped Vultures were released into the wild on 7 August 2026 in the Biswanath Wildlife Division of Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- It is the world's first release of captive-bred Slender-billed Vultures fitted with GSM-GPS satellite transmitters for post-release monitoring.
- The birds were released from the Jatayu Soft Release Centre at Tewaripal in Biswanath district.
- They were brought from the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre at Rani, Assam, and underwent a three-month acclimatisation period.
- Both species are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

New Mint-Family Plant Leucas droupadiae Described From Coromandel Coast Dunes

07 Aug

- Botanists have described Leucas droupadiae, a previously unknown plant of the mint family (Lamiaceae), from coastal sand dunes in the Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu on the Coromandel Coast.
- The description was published on 7 August 2026 in the plant-taxonomy journal Phytotaxa, volume 769, by Sugaseelan Akash, Kathavarayan Manikandan, Selvam Srikanth and Authinarayanan Rajesh.

- The species is an erect, unbranched herb about 15 cm tall that anchors itself in loose sand with a shallow web of fibrous roots instead of a deep taproot.
- Its most distinctive feature is its fruit: oblong nutlets that are golden yellow with irregular dark brown spots, unlike those of its closest relatives.
- Because of its very limited known range it has been provisionally assessed as Data Deficient, and it is named in honour of President Droupadi Murmu.

Ladakh Approves India's First Guided High-Altitude Wildlife Safari

06 Aug

- Ladakh approved India's first guided high-altitude wildlife safari on 6 August 2026.
- The plan covers snow-leopard and bird-watching trails in Hemis National Park, Changthang, Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary, Nubra, Zanskar, Sham, Kargil and Drass.
- The decision was taken at the first governing body meeting of the Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature Conservation Society (SHAN), chaired by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.
- Ladakh hosts 477 of India's estimated 718 snow leopards.
- Only trained local drivers and guides will operate the tours, using specially designed open-back jeeps.

Centre Adds Heatwave and Lightning to Notified Disaster List, Taking Total to 14

05 Aug

- The Centre has added heatwave and lightning to the official list of notified disasters eligible for relief funding, taking the total from 12 to 14.
- The move follows a recommendation of the 16th Finance Commission, which held that both hazards are large enough in scale to exceed the coping capacity of affected communities.
- Notified status lets states draw on the main 80% relief component of the State Disaster Response Fund instead of being confined to the 10% window reserved for locally notified disasters.
- It also unlocks the 20% State Disaster Mitigation Fund, which can be spent on longer-term climate-resilience infrastructure such as cooling shelters and lightning arresters.
- India recorded 4,853 heatwave cases between March 2026 and the announcement, underlining the scale of the problem.

Glaw Lake Becomes India's 101st Ramsar Site and Arunachal Pradesh's First

04 Aug

- Glaw Lake, also spelt Glow Lake, in Arunachal Pradesh has been designated India's 101st Ramsar Site.
- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the designation on 3 August 2026; it is the state's first Ramsar Site.
- The lake lies in Lohit district near Wakro, inside the Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, at about 1,168 metres elevation and covering roughly 8 sq km.
- It is the headwater source of the perennial Kamlang River and supports over 150 tree species and 49 orchid species.
- The basin is one of the rare zones where all four big cats of India occur — tiger, leopard, clouded leopard and snow leopard.

India Launches Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan on International Clouded Leopard Day

04 Aug

- India launched a Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan, marked on International Clouded Leopard Day, observed on 4 August 2026.
- The plan was released during the 91st meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life at Coimbatore in July 2026.
- It was prepared under a Government of India-GEF-UNDP initiative, with the Wildlife Institute of India producing the technical report covering the caracal, fishing cat and clouded leopard.
- The plan identifies 14 priority conservation landscapes across Northeast India for habitat restoration and corridor connectivity.
- The clouded leopard has been included under the Species Recovery Programme of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme.

11. Banking & Finance

4 articles

RBI Issues Unified Loan Recovery Framework Effective January 2027

06 Aug

- The Reserve Bank of India issued nine circulars on 6 August 2026 creating a unified framework, the Amendment Directions, for loan recovery practices.
- The directions apply from 1 January 2027, deferred from the originally proposed 1 October 2026 to give lenders transition time.
- Recovery calls and physical visits are permitted only between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM, with at least one day's notice before the first visit.
- Lenders must record all recovery calls and preserve the recordings for at least six months.
- Recovery agents must be certified by the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance before being hired.

RBI Expands Upper Layer NBFC List to 17; REC, PFC, IRFC and HUDCO Added

06 Aug

- The Reserve Bank of India released the updated list of Upper Layer Non-Banking Financial Companies for 2026-27 on 6 August 2026.
- The list contains 17 entities, up from 15 in the previous exercise.
- REC Limited, Power Finance Corporation, Indian Railway Finance Corporation and Housing and Urban Development Corporation entered the Upper Layer for the first time.
- PNB Housing Finance and Sammaan Capital were excluded after failing to meet the revised asset size criterion.
- The RBI revised the identification rule in June 2026, introducing an asset size threshold of Rs 1 lakh crore or more.

RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25% in August Policy, Raises FY27 Growth Forecast to 6.7%

05 Aug

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25% at its August 2026 review, with the decision taken unanimously.
- The MPC also retained the 'neutral' policy stance, leaving it free to move in either direction as data evolves.
- Real GDP growth for 2026-27 was revised upward to 6.7% from the earlier 6.6%, while CPI inflation for the year was trimmed to 5.0% from 5.1%.

- Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the committee wanted greater clarity on the inflation outlook before acting, noting that the rise in headline inflation was driven by food and fuel rather than generalised price pressure.
- This is the fourth consecutive hold of 2026 — the repo rate has stayed at 5.25% through the February, April, June and August policies.

SEBI's Closing Auction Session Replaces VWAP Closing Price for F&O Stocks

03 Aug

- India's equity markets moved to a Closing Auction Session from 3 August 2026, changing how the official closing price of eligible stocks is determined.
- For Category I stocks — those with futures and options contracts — continuous trading now stops at 3:15 PM and the auction runs until 3:35 PM.
- The closing price is now the single equilibrium price at which the maximum quantity of shares can be executed, replacing the volume-weighted average price of the last 30 minutes.
- Category II stocks, which have no F&O contracts, continue to trade until 3:30 PM and retain the old VWAP-based closing method.
- SEBI's stated rationale is that large orders placed in the final minutes of trading could disproportionately move the closing price; pooling orders into an auction improves price discovery and limits manipulation.

12. Economy

1 article

India Discovers Record-Low Rs 5.25 Per Unit Round-the-Clock Renewable Tariff

07 Aug

- India discovered a record-low tariff of Rs 5.25 per unit in round-the-clock (RTC) renewable energy bidding on 7 August 2026.
- The result was announced in New Delhi at the 7th CII International Energy Conference and Exhibition.
- The Solar Energy Corporation of India conducted a 1,000 MW Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy auction under the SECI-FDRE-RTC-V tender.
- Five developers won capacity at Rs 5.25 per kilowatt-hour, while two others secured additional capacity at Rs 5.26 per unit.
- Tender conditions required a minimum of 90% assured power delivery in every time block during peak hours.

13. International

4 articles

Abelardo de la Espriella Sworn In as Colombia's 36th President

07 Aug

- Abelardo de la Espriella was sworn in on 7 August 2026 as the 36th President of Colombia for the 2026-2030 term.
- He succeeded Gustavo Petro, whose presidency was Colombia's first left-wing administration at the national level.
- De la Espriella won the runoff held on 21 June 2026 with 12,960,166 votes, or 49.66% against Iván Cepeda's 48.70%.
- The inauguration was held at the USC Arena at Santiago de Cali University in Cali rather than in Bogotá.

- He announced a hardline approach against drug trafficking and proposed reducing the size of the state by up to 40%.

Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan Sign Mecca Joint Defence Agreement

07 Aug

- Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement, known as the Mecca Defence Pact, on 7 August 2026 in Mecca.
- The agreement provides that an armed attack against any one of the three would be regarded as an attack against all three.
- It builds on the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement of September 2025.
- The detailed text has not been made public, leaving the exact nature of mutual obligations unclear.
- Each partner brings a distinct contribution — Saudi finance and Gulf influence, Pakistani manpower and nuclear capability, Turkish NATO experience and defence industry.

India-China Border Trade Resumes Through Lipulekh Pass After Six Years

05 Aug

- Indian traders crossed the Lipulekh Pass into Tibet on 5 August 2026 and reached the market town of Taklakot, the first crossing on this route in close to seven years.
- The crossing followed the formal resumption of India-China border trade on 1 August 2026 through three Himalayan passes - Nathu La in Sikkim, Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh and Lipulekh in Uttarakhand - after a six-year suspension.
- Lipulekh sits at about 5,334 metres (roughly 17,500 feet) in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, at the tri-junction of India, Nepal and China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
- It was the first Indian border post opened for trade with China, in 1992, followed by Shipki La in 1994 and Nathu La in 2006.
- Nepal lodged a formal protest on 3 May 2026 restating its claim to Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura, a dispute that turns on where the Kali river rises under the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli.

India-China Border Trade Resumes Through Nathu La and Shipki La After Six Years

01 Aug

- India and China resumed border trade through the Nathu La pass in Sikkim and Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh on 1 August 2026.
- The reopening ends a suspension of nearly six years that began in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions.
- Seasonal trade through Nathu La will run Monday to Thursday until November, with the gate opening at 7:30 am.
- Registered traders may transact up to Rs 2 lakh a day, and 38 traders have been issued trade passes this year.
- Nathu La sits at about 4,545 metres and was first reopened for border trade in 2006, after being closed since the 1962 war.

14. Polity & Governance

1 article

Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026 Comes into Force After Presidential Assent

03 Aug

- The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026 has come into force after receiving the assent of President Droupadi Murmu and being notified in the state gazette.
- The law regulates religious conversion and penalises conversions carried out through force, fraud, coercion, misrepresentation, allurement or undue influence.
- A person intending to convert must inform the district magistrate at least 60 days in advance.
- The Bill was passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on 16 March 2026 and by the Legislative Council on 17 March 2026.
- Maharashtra becomes the thirteenth state in India to enact a law of this kind.

15. State News

1 article

Andhra Pradesh Notifies India's First Statewide Pedestrian Safety Policy

07 Aug

- Andhra Pradesh notified the Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy, 2026 on 7 August 2026, after Cabinet approval the previous day.
- It became the first state in India to notify an integrated statewide framework for pedestrian safety.
- The policy implements directions linked to the Supreme Court's ruling in S. Rajaseekaran vs Union of India dated 7 October 2025.
- That ruling recognised safe and obstruction-free footpaths as part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- Pedestrian infrastructure must include a minimum two-metre clear walking zone, slip-resistant surfaces, tactile indicators, wheelchair ramps, Braille and audible signals.

16. History & Culture

2 articles

Karivalamvanthanallur Excavation Reveals Sangam-Era Settlement in Tenkasi District

04 Aug

- Excavation at Karivalamvanthanallur in Tamil Nadu's Tenkasi district has uncovered evidence of ancient settlement, craft production, iron technology and trade.
- The site lies at Malayadipatti on the banks of the Vaippar river and is being excavated by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology.
- Finds include microlithic tools, hematite and iron implements, and a large Sangam-era brick structure measuring about 8.7 by 4.2 metres with descending steps.
- Glass beads, shell bangles and terracotta spindle whorls point to organised bead-making, ornament production and weaving.

- Roman coins, glass beads and burial urns reported from the area nearly a century ago had already indicated ancient trade contact.

Over 13,000 Tribal Performers Set Guinness Record for Largest Dhimsa Dance

01 Aug

- More than 13,000 tribal women and girl students performed the Dhimsa dance at the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram on 1 August 2026.
- Guinness World Records recognised the performance as the largest Dhimsa dance.
- The performance welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the airport.
- Performers came from Araku Valley, Paderu, Rampachodavaram, Sitampeta and Parvathipuram Manyam.
- The record attempt was organised under the leadership of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency, Paderu.