WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATION

01 Aug – 07 Aug 2026

UPSC EDITION

42 key articles · 13 categories · 7 days

Curated from official releases, national dailies and ministry sources

IN THIS ISSUE

National	4
International	2
Economy	5
Banking & Finance	4
Polity & Governance	8
Science & Tech	4
Environment	5
Schemes & Committees	1
Summits & Conferences	1
Ranks & Reports	2
Appointments	1
Sports	3
State News	2

HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL — 07 Aug | p. 5
Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan Sign Mecca Joint Defence Agreement

BANKING & FINANCE — 06 Aug | p. 9
RBI Issues Unified Loan Recovery Framework Effective January 2027

POLITY & GOVERNANCE — 03 Aug | p. 15
Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026 Comes into Force After Presidential Assent

SCIENCE & TECH — 04 Aug | p. 18
India Releases First Indigenous African Swine Fever Vaccine Developed by ICAR

ENVIRONMENT — 07 Aug | p. 20
World's First Release of GPS-Tagged Captive-Bred Slender-billed Vultures in Assam

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES — 07 Aug | p. 24
16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting Concludes in Jaipur, Adopts Jaipur Consensus

RANKS & REPORTS — 04 Aug | p. 25
India Records 20,138 Organ Transplants in 2025, Tamil Nadu Leads Deceased Donation

APPOINTMENTS — 01 Aug | p. 27
Varsha Ashok Aglawe Becomes First Woman Director General of Geological Survey of India

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	National	4 articles	3
2	International	2 articles	5
3	Economy	5 articles	6
4	Banking & Finance	4 articles	9
5	Polity & Governance	8 articles	12
6	Science & Tech	4 articles	17
7	Environment	5 articles	20
8	Schemes & Committees	1 article	23
9	Summits & Conferences	1 article	24
10	Ranks & Reports	2 articles	25
11	Appointments	1 article	27
12	Sports	3 articles	28
13	State News	2 articles	30

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. National

4 articles

India Assigns Standardised Names to 27 Places and Features in Arunachal Pradesh

07 Aug

- The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh assigned standardised names to 27 places and geographical features on Survey of India maps on 7 August 2026.
- The 27 sites comprise 21 land areas and villages, 4 mountain passes, 1 high-altitude lake and 1 war memorial.
- The passes named are Thag La, Dzo La, Riza La and Pukur La; the lake is Sambho Sarovar and the memorial is the Sher-e-Thapa Memorial.
- The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed India's sovereignty over Arunachal Pradesh on the same day.
- The Survey of India is the national mapping agency and the oldest scientific department of the Government of India.

QUICK FACTS

Date of the exercise	7 August 2026
Agencies involved	Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the Survey of India
Number of sites named	27
Composition	21 land areas and villages, 4 mountain passes, 1 high-altitude lake, 1 war memorial
Passes named	Thag La, Dzo La, Riza La and Pukur La
Lake named	Sambho Sarovar
Memorial named	Sher-e-Thapa Memorial, honouring Trilok Singh Thapa, a war hero of the 1962 conflict
Settlements named include	Longju, Maja, Bisa, Jairampur, Shivaji Nagar and Kamlang Nagar

India Plans Rs 45,000 Crore Railway Upgrade Along China, Pakistan and Bangladesh Borders

03 Aug

- India plans to spend up to Rs 45,000 crore, about $4.7 billion, on railway projects in border areas adjoining China, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- The investment is to be rolled out over the next 18 to 24 months.
- It covers new railway lines and platforms as well as upgrades to existing networks.
- Projects will span Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and other northeastern states.
- The programme is expected to account for nearly 22 per cent of India's total railway infrastructure spending over the next two years.

QUICK FACTS

Outlay	up to Rs 45,000 crore, about $4.7 billion
Timeframe	rolled out over the next 18 to 24 months
Scope	new railway lines and platforms, plus upgrades to existing networks
States covered	Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and other northeastern states
Share of railway infrastructure spending	nearly 22 per cent over the next two years
Borders addressed	China, Pakistan and Bangladesh

Government Tells Rajya Sabha Fresh Survey Found No Manual Scavengers

03 Aug

- The Union Government informed the Rajya Sabha that a fresh nationwide survey found no manual scavengers.

- The survey was conducted under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- The Act defines a manual scavenger narrowly, as a person engaged in manually cleaning, carrying or disposing of human excreta from insanitary latrines.
- That definition is distinct from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, which continues to cause deaths.
- The finding has been contested by activists who point to continuing deaths during sewer and septic tank cleaning.

QUICK FACTS

Statement made to	the Rajya Sabha
Finding	a fresh nationwide survey identified no manual scavengers
Governing law	the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013

- The 2013 Act replaced the earlier Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993
- Manual scavenging is defined in relation to insanitary latrines
- Hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks is a separate category under the same Act

West Bengal Begins Digital Self-Enumeration for India's 16th Census

01 Aug

- West Bengal began the digital self-enumeration phase of India's 16th Census on 1 August 2026.
- Residents can submit household details through a mobile application or the official census portal between 1 and 15 August 2026.
- The houselisting phase in the state will run from 16 August to 14 September 2026, with enumerators visiting households for verification.
- The 16th Census is India's first fully digital census, with the self-enumeration portal available in 16 languages.
- The Census was postponed from 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and is being conducted across 2026 and 2027.

QUICK FACTS

Census	India's 16th Census, referred to as Census 2027
State	West Bengal
Self-enumeration window	1 to 15 August 2026
Houselisting phase	16 August to 14 September 2026
Mode	mobile application and official census portal
Languages available on the portal	16
Distinction	India's first fully digital census

- Postponed from 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

2. International

2 articles

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.

QUICK FACTS

Formal name	Mecca Joint Defence Agreement; commonly the Mecca Defence Pact
Signatories	Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan
Date and place	7 August 2026, at Mecca
Core provision	an armed attack on any one signatory is to be regarded as an attack on all three
Objective	to strengthen collective deterrence and defence cooperation
Precursor	the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) of September 2025
Transparency	the detailed text has not been made public

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.

QUICK FACTS

Date of resumption	1 August 2026
Passes reopened	Nathu La (Sikkim) and Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh)
Duration of suspension	nearly six years, from 2020
Causes of the suspension	the COVID-19 pandemic and India-China border tensions
Trading days	Monday to Thursday, continuing until November
Gate opening time	7:30 am IST
Daily transaction cap per trader	Rs 2 lakh
Registered traders issued passes this year	38
Altitude of Nathu La	about 4,545 metres above sea level
Location	links Sikkim with Yadong county in Xigaze prefecture, Tibet; about 54 km east of Gangtok

3. Economy

5 articles

Government Opens LIC Offer for Sale of Up to 6.5% Stake at Floor Price of Rs 382

04 Aug

- The Government of India opened an Offer for Sale (OFS) in Life Insurance Corporation of India on 4 August 2026 for non-retail investors, with retail bidding on 5 August.
- The OFS covers a base 2.5% stake with a green shoe option of a further 4%, taking the maximum sale to 6.5% of LIC's equity.
- The floor price was fixed at Rs 382 per share, roughly 10% below LIC's 3 August closing price, and the stock fell sharply when bidding opened.
- A full sale would raise about Rs 31,000 crore and cut the government's holding from 96.5% to about 90%.
- The sale is driven by SEBI's minimum public shareholding requirement, for which LIC has time until 16 May 2027 to reach a 10% public float.

QUICK FACTS

Instrument	Offer for Sale (OFS) on the stock exchanges
Seller	Government of India (promoter of LIC)
Base offer	2.5% of equity; green shoe option: additional 4%; maximum 6.5%
Floor price	Rs 382 per share
Discount	about 10% to the 3 August 2026 closing price of Rs 424.35
Non-retail (institutional) bidding day	4 August 2026
Retail and eligible employee bidding day	5 August 2026
Expected mobilisation if fully subscribed	about Rs 31,000 crore
Government stake	96.5% before the sale, falling to about 90% if the green shoe is fully exercised

Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 Introduced to Draw Global Capital

04 Aug

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha on 4 August 2026.
- For offshore funds, the qualifying conditions for an Eligible Investment Fund are cut from 13 to five, so that fund management from India does not create a business connection here.
- Tax exemption for foreign companies supplying machinery and tooling to Indian electronics contract manufacturers is extended by 10 years, taking the total incentive period to 15 years up to FY 2040-41.
- For data centres the Bill removes multiple approval requirements and permits leased data centre models, aimed at large AI data centre investment.
- The Bill also carries the amendment to Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 that would allow MDR on notified digital payment modes.

QUICK FACTS

Bill	Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Introduced in	Lok Sabha, 4 August 2026
Introduced by	Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
Three stated themes	attracting foreign capital, promoting Make in India, simplifying tax compliance
Offshore funds	conditions for an Eligible Investment Fund reduced from 13 to five
Electronics	exemption for foreign suppliers of machinery and tooling extended by 10 years, to a total of 15 years up to FY 2040-41
Covered electronics	mobile phones, laptops, personal computers, tablets and servers
Data centres	multiple approval requirements removed, leased data centre models permitted
Follow-up	the Central Board of Direct Taxes issued a set of FAQs explaining the proposals

India's Manufacturing PMI Falls to 53.5 in July, Lowest Since August 2021

03 Aug

- The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 53.5 in July 2026, its lowest reading since August 2021.
- The index remained above 50, so manufacturing conditions continued to improve, but at the slowest pace in nearly five years.
- New orders grew at their second-weakest pace in more than four years as firms reported tougher market conditions.
- Hiring also slowed, though export orders improved after a slump in June.
- A PMI reading above 50 signals expansion and below 50 signals contraction.

QUICK FACTS

Index	HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)
July 2026 reading	53.5
Significance of the reading	lowest since August 2021

- The index stayed above the 50 mark, indicating continued expansion
- New orders grew at their second-weakest pace in over four years
- Hiring slowed during the month
- Export orders improved after June's slump

GST Collections Rise 15.4% to Rs 2.11 Lakh Crore in July 2026

01 Aug

- Gross GST collections in July 2026 rose 15.4% year-on-year to Rs 2.11 lakh crore, the fastest growth in 14 months.
- Growth was driven by imports: GST on imports jumped 28.8% to Rs 66,511 crore, against 10.1% growth in domestic revenue at Rs 1.45 lakh crore.
- Net GST revenue after refunds rose 15.8% to Rs 1.81 lakh crore; total refunds were Rs 29,968 crore, up 13.1%.
- Cumulative April-July collections for FY 2026-27 stood at Rs 8.43 lakh crore, up 10.1%.
- Haryana led state growth at 25%, while Himachal Pradesh recorded the steepest fall at -22%.

QUICK FACTS

Gross GST collections, July 2026	Rs 2.11 lakh crore
Year-on-year growth	15.4%, the fastest in 14 months
Domestic GST revenue	Rs 1.45 lakh crore, up 10.1%
GST on imports	Rs 66,511 crore, up 28.8%
Net GST after refunds	Rs 1.81 lakh crore, up 15.8%
Total refunds	Rs 29,968 crore, up 13.1%

- April-July FY 2026-27 cumulative gross collections: Rs 8.43 lakh crore, up 10.1%

Centre Front-Loads Rs 1.09 Lakh Crore Tax Devolution to States

01 Aug

- The Union Government released an additional instalment of Rs 1,09,019 crore as tax devolution to state governments on 1 August 2026.
- The transfer was advanced ahead of the regular monthly devolution due on 10 August, to help states step up capital and development spending.
- Uttar Pradesh received the largest share at Rs 17,908 crore, followed by West Bengal at Rs 7,986 crore and Maharashtra at Rs 7,022 crore.
- Tax devolution is the constitutionally mandated transfer of a share of the Centre's divisible pool to states on Finance Commission recommendations.
- The 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya, retained the states' share of the divisible pool at 41% for the 2026-31 award period.

QUICK FACTS

Amount released	Rs 1,09,019 crore (about Rs 1.09 lakh crore)
Nature	an additional instalment, advanced ahead of the regular transfer due on 10 August
Purpose	to strengthen state finances and accelerate capital and developmental expenditure
Largest recipient	Uttar Pradesh, Rs 17,908 crore
Second and third	West Bengal Rs 7,986 crore, Maharashtra Rs 7,022 crore
Governing body	Finance Commission, constituted under Article 280
Current award	16th Finance Commission, 2026-27 to 2030-31

4. 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.

QUICK FACTS

Regulator	Reserve Bank of India
Instrument	nine circulars issued on 6 August 2026, together called the Amendment Directions
Effective date	1 January 2027
Originally proposed date	1 October 2026, deferred for lender transition
Permitted hours for recovery calls and visits	8:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Notice before first physical visit	at least one day
Call recording retention	minimum six months
Agent certification body	Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF)

– Transition period for previously exempt lenders: one year from 1 January 2027

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.

QUICK FACTS

Decision	policy repo rate left unchanged at 5.25%
Vote	unanimous
Stance	'neutral', retained
MPC meeting dates	3-5 August 2026
Announced by	RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra
Real GDP growth projection for FY 2026-27	revised up to 6.7% (from 6.6%)
CPI inflation projection for FY 2026-27	revised down to 5.0% (from 5.1%)
Inflation path	headline inflation expected to peak in the October-December 2026 quarter before easing
Next MPC meeting	5-7 October 2026

Bill in Lok Sabha Clears the Way for MDR on UPI and RuPay Payments

04 Aug

- The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4 August 2026, proposes to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- Section 10A currently imposes a blanket bar on any charge for prescribed electronic payment modes, which is what made UPI and RuPay debit card transactions zero-MDR from January 2020.
- The amendment replaces the blanket bar with a framework under which the Central Government notifies which payment modes stay exempt from MDR.
- The Bill does not itself levy any charge; a levy would require a separate government decision, and MDR is paid by merchants, not by consumers.
- UPI recorded about Rs 29.9 lakh crore across more than 23 billion transactions in July 2026.

QUICK FACTS

Vehicle	Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 4 August 2026
Provision amended	Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007
Present position	zero MDR on UPI and RuPay debit card transactions since 1 January 2020
Proposed position	the Central Government may notify, by executive order, which electronic payment modes remain exempt
Immediate effect on charges	none — the Bill enables, it does not impose
Who pays MDR	the merchant, to the bank or payment service provider; not the customer
UPI volume, July 2026	over 23 billion transactions worth about Rs 29.9 lakh crore

– UPI and RuPay are both operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

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.

QUICK FACTS

Reform	introduction of the Closing Auction Session (CAS)
Effective from	3 August 2026
Regulator	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
Exchanges covered	NSE and BSE
Applies to	Category I stocks — those on which futures and options contracts are available
Category II stocks	all others, which retain the existing method
Old method	closing price computed as the volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of trades in the last 30 minutes
New method	a single equilibrium price at which the maximum quantity of shares can be executed
CAS window	3:15 PM to 3:35 PM
Category II stocks continue trading to	3:30 PM
Index and stock F&O contracts	trading extended to 3:40 PM

– Continuous trading for Category I stocks now ends at: 3:15 PM

5. Polity & Governance

8 articles

Supreme Court to Examine Whether DPDP Act Dilutes the Right to Information

07 Aug

- On 7 August 2026 the Supreme Court sought the Centre's response on petitions challenging the amendment of the RTI Act through the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- The Court granted the Centre two weeks to reply, issued notice, and declined an interim stay.
- The challenge centres on Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act, which amended Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005.
- The amendment removed the 'larger public interest' override, broadly exempting all personal information from disclosure.
- The Court also agreed to examine whether the Act curtails investigative journalism, while clarifying that journalists cannot be treated as a special category.

QUICK FACTS

Date of hearing	7 August 2026
Court	Supreme Court of India
Provision challenged	Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
Provision amended by it	Section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act, 2005
Court's orders	notice issued, Centre given two weeks to respond, interim stay declined
Core question	whether a later central law is repugnant to an earlier central transparency law
Second question	whether the Act separately curtails investigative journalism

Centre Tells Supreme Court Creamy Layer Cannot Be Extended to SCs and STs

06 Aug

- The Centre informed the Supreme Court on 6 August 2026 that the creamy layer concept cannot be extended to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as it has been to OBCs.
- The government argued that SC/ST reservation rests on past discrimination, social backwardness, caste and tribe status and inadequate representation — not on economic criteria alone.
- It contended that applying an income-based exclusion would require a comprehensive review and extensive empirical study.
- The Centre also submitted that framing such a policy is beyond the judicial domain and belongs to the executive and Parliament.
- The petition follows the Supreme Court's 2024 ruling permitting sub-classification within the SC and ST categories.

QUICK FACTS

Date	6 August 2026
Forum	Supreme Court of India
Issue	whether the 'creamy layer' principle applied to OBCs can be extended to SCs and STs
Centre's position	it cannot be extended in the same manner
Grounds cited	past discrimination, social backwardness, caste and tribe status, inadequate representation, persistent social disadvantage
Procedural objection	the petition seeks a mandamus directing the executive to frame policy in a particular manner, which the Centre argued is beyond the judicial domain
Background	the Supreme Court's 2024 judgment permitting sub-classification within SCs and STs

Supreme Court Extends Mandatory Third-Party Cover to Four Years for Cars, Six for Two-Wheelers

05 Aug

- The Supreme Court has directed that the mandatory third-party insurance bought at the time of purchase be extended by one year for new vehicles.
- New private cars must now carry four years of third-party cover instead of three, and new two-wheelers six years instead of five.
- The Court directed the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India to issue the necessary instructions immediately.
- The bench cited the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance for 2024-25, which found that nearly 56% of vehicles on Indian roads are uninsured.
- The Court also asked the Centre to run a pilot project denying fuel to vehicles without valid third-party insurance, and listed the matter for compliance on 18 August 2026.

QUICK FACTS

Court	Supreme Court of India
New private cars	mandatory third-party cover at purchase raised from 3 years to 4 years
New two-wheelers	mandatory third-party cover at purchase raised from 5 years to 6 years
Regulator directed to act	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
Problem cited	nearly 56% of vehicles on Indian roads are uninsured, per the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, 2024-25
Additional proposal	a pilot project linking fuel supply to valid third-party insurance — 'no insurance, no fuel'
Compliance affidavits due	14 August 2026
Next listing	18 August 2026

Rajya Sabha Passes MSME Development (Amendment) Bill 2026 to Tackle Delayed Payments

04 Aug

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 on 3 August 2026; it had been introduced in the House on 28 July 2026.
- The Bill amends the MSMED Act, 2006 to speed up payments to MSMEs, simplify dispute resolution and decriminalise compliance failures.
- Central Public Sector Enterprises must settle all MSME procurement invoices through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).
- Mediation before MSME Facilitation Councils must conclude within 90 days of the first hearing, with arbitration to begin within 30 days if it fails.
- Fixed statutory investment thresholds are removed, empowering the Centre to classify MSMEs by notification, and registration becomes voluntary.

QUICK FACTS

Bill	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Introduced in the Rajya Sabha	28 July 2026
Passed by the Rajya Sabha	3 August 2026
Parent Act amended	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006
Ministry	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Classification	fixed statutory investment thresholds removed; the Centre may classify by notification using investment in plant and machinery or equipment, and turnover
Registration	made voluntary, through a Central Government digital platform, with states permitted to run their own portals
TReDS	mandatory for Central Public Sector Enterprises to settle MSME invoices
Mediation	to be completed within 90 days of the first hearing
Arbitration	to commence within 30 days if mediation fails; award within 90 days of completion of pleadings
Adjudicating authority	Development Commissioner (MSME); appeals lie to the MSME Secretary

Supreme Court Issues Nationwide Directions to Curb Digital Arrest Scams

04 Aug

- The Supreme Court issued a detailed set of nationwide directions on 4 August 2026 to strengthen action against digital arrest scams, in suo motu proceedings titled In Re: Victims of Digital Arrest Related to Forged Documents.
- The Reserve Bank of India was directed to prepare and circulate, within four weeks, a Standard Operating Procedure for banks on mule accounts and accounts linked to cyber-enabled fraud.
- States and Union Territories must operationalise the Grievance Redressal Module and the Money Restoration Module framed under the Ministry of Home Affairs SOP of 2 January 2026, and notify State Cyber Crime Coordination Centres within four weeks.
- The Court noted that the e-Zero FIR mechanism was functional in only 19 states and that just 14 states had notified their Cyber Crime Coordination Centres.
- Complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal fell from 1,23,672 in 2024 to 58,249 in 2025 and to 16,377 by 30 June 2026, with about Rs 18.05 crore restored to victims in 36,290 cases.

QUICK FACTS

Court	Supreme Court of India, bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant
Date of directions	4 August 2026
Case	suo motu proceedings titled In Re: Victims of Digital Arrest Related to Forged Documents
Origin	a senior-citizen couple from Ambala, Haryana defrauded of Rs 1.05 crore by scammers using forged orders of the Supreme Court, the Bombay High Court and the Enforcement Directorate
Direction to the RBI	circulate an SOP on mule accounts within four weeks, including a grievance redressal mechanism, a money restoration module and public awareness measures, with a copy to the Registrars General of all High Courts
Direction to states and UTs	operationalise the Grievance Redressal and Money Restoration Modules under the MHA SOP dated 2 January 2026
Also directed	notify State Cyber Crime Coordination Centres within four weeks and adopt the e-Zero FIR mechanism in consultation with I4C
Compliance gap noted	e-Zero FIR functional in 19 states; only 14 states had notified Cyber Crime Coordination Centres
Idea under consideration	a technological 'kill switch' to cut off or flag unusually long video calls, on which the views of amicus curiae Senior Advocate N.S. Nappinai were sought
Next hearing	16 September 2026, with a fresh consolidated status report to be filed

Lok Sabha Passes Bill Raising Supreme Court Judge Strength from 34 to 38

03 Aug

- The Lok Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, on 3 August 2026, in under ten minutes and without debate.
- The Bill raises the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges, including the Chief Justice of India.
- It increases the number of judges other than the Chief Justice from 33 to 37.
- The Bill replaces the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026, and takes effect retrospectively from 16 May 2026.
- Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal cited pendency of cases as the reason for the increase.

QUICK FACTS

Bill	Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026
Passed by	Lok Sabha, on 3 August 2026
Manner of passage	in under ten minutes, without debate
New sanctioned strength	38 judges including the Chief Justice of India
Previous strength	34 judges including the Chief Justice
Judges other than the CJI	raised from 33 to 37
Replaces	the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026
Retrospective effect from	16 May 2026
Piloted by	Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice

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.

QUICK FACTS

Law	Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Act, 2026
Status	in force following Presidential assent and gazette notification
Assented to by	President Droupadi Murmu
Tabled in the Legislative Assembly	13 March 2026
Passed by the Assembly	16 March 2026
Passed by the Legislative Council	17 March 2026
Prior notice required before conversion	60 days to the district magistrate

– Maharashtra is the 13th state to enact such a law

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan Questions Absence of Reasons in Supreme Court Collegium Resolutions

01 Aug

- Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan publicly questioned the lack of transparency in recent Collegium recommendations on 1 August 2026.
- He noted that the last three Collegium resolutions recommending judicial appointments were issued without any reasons.
- He argued that citizens have a right to know who their judges will be and how those appointments were arrived at.
- The remarks were made at the launch of the Judicial Transparency Index report by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
- The Collegium is a judicially evolved system with no explicit mention in the Constitution, created through the Three Judges Cases.

QUICK FACTS

Speaker	Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, judge of the Supreme Court of India
Date	1 August 2026
Occasion	launch of the Judicial Transparency Index report by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy
Central concern	the last three Collegium resolutions recommending appointments carried no reasons at all
Earlier practice	resolutions typically contained at least brief, if formulaic, explanations
Other issues flagged	confidentiality over deliberations on elevations and transfers, rare disclosure of reasons for rejecting or deferring candidates, and absence of publicly accessible selection criteria beyond the Memorandum of Procedure
Stated risk	erosion of public trust and the possibility of unsuitable candidates entering the judiciary
Collegium composition (Supreme Court)	the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges

6. Science & Tech

4 articles

IXPE Finds Best Evidence Yet for Vacuum Birefringence Around a Magnetar

05 Aug

- A study published in Nature on 5 August 2026 reported the strongest evidence so far for vacuum birefringence, a prediction of quantum electrodynamics that empty space behaves like a crystal when an extreme magnetic field passes through it.
- The evidence comes from the radio-emitting magnetar 1E 1547.0-5408, observed for more than 140 hours between March and April 2025 by NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), together with NASA's NICER telescope and Murriyang, CSIRO's Parkes radio telescope in Australia.
- The X-ray emission showed a polarisation degree of about 65 per cent at 2 keV, rising to nearly 80 per cent at certain rotation phases - almost three times higher than in comparable sources and higher than standard emission models can produce.
- The polarisation direction was found locked to the magnetar's magnetic field in the same way as its radio waves, the second signature the team looked for, and this was the first coordinated radio and X-ray polarisation measurement of a magnetar.
- The prediction being tested dates to 1936, when Werner Heisenberg and Hans Heinrich Euler derived it from quantum electrodynamics; the magnetic fields needed are far beyond anything a laboratory can produce, which is why magnetars serve as the natural laboratory.

QUICK FACTS

Result	the strongest evidence yet for vacuum birefringence, published in Nature on 5 August 2026.
Object	1E 1547.0-5408, a radio-emitting magnetar.
Instruments	NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), NASA's Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER), and Murriyang, CSIRO's Parkes radio telescope in Australia.
Observation	more than 140 hours between March and April 2025 - the first coordinated radio and X-ray polarisation measurement of a magnetar.
Measurement	X-ray polarisation of about 65 per cent at 2 keV, rising to nearly 80 per cent at some rotation phases, roughly three times that of comparable sources.
Second signature	the polarisation direction stayed locked to the magnetic field, matching the behaviour of the radio waves.
Theory	predicted in 1936 by Werner Heisenberg and Hans Heinrich Euler from quantum electrodynamics - a 90-year-old prediction.
IXPE	a NASA mission in partnership with the Italian Space Agency, launched on 9 December 2021.

Chandipura Virus Outbreak in Gujarat Claims 22 Children During Monsoon Season

04 Aug

- Twenty-two children have died in Gujarat during the current monsoon season in an outbreak of Chandipura virus.
- Of 184 suspected cases, 35 children tested positive, with 11 sample results pending as of 3-4 August 2026.
- All confirmed patients are below 15 years of age; six children who tested positive have recovered and been discharged.
- Chandipura virus is an arbovirus of the genus Vesiculovirus, family Rhabdoviridae, transmitted mainly by sandflies, and causes acute encephalitis syndrome.
- It was first identified in 1965 in Chandipura village of Nagpur district, Maharashtra.

QUICK FACTS

Virus	Chandipura virus (CHPV)
Family and genus	Rhabdoviridae; Vesiculovirus
Vector	sandflies (an arbovirus, meaning arthropod-borne)
Principal clinical presentation	acute encephalitis syndrome (AES)
Deaths in the current Gujarat monsoon season	22 children
Suspected cases	184; confirmed positive: 35; results pending: 11 (as of 3-4 August 2026)
Age profile	all confirmed patients below 15 years
Recovered and discharged	six children; seven under super-specialist care
Hospitals involved	civil hospitals at Gandhinagar, Sabarkantha-Himmatnagar, Patan, Rajkot and Bhavnagar
First identified	1965, at Chandipura village, Nagpur district, Maharashtra

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.

QUICK FACTS

Developed by	the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, through ICAR-NIHSAD
Released and dedicated to the nation	4 August 2026
Dedicated by	Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Type of vaccine	live attenuated, based on the MA-104 cell line
Basis	a novel attenuated ASF virus Genotype II strain with specific gene deletions, created from an Indian field isolate
Key advantage	MA-104 is a widely available cell line, unlike the patented proprietary lines other ASF vaccines depend on
Target animals	healthy pigs above eight weeks of age
Dosage	1 ml intramuscular injection, with a booster 14 days later
Testing carried out	sterility, purity, safety, genetic stability, immunogenicity, protective efficacy and virulence reversion studies, plus field validation with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Disease background	African Swine Fever emerged in India in 2020 and has caused widespread losses to the pig farming sector
Global context	only a limited number of ASF vaccines are commercially licensed worldwide, with Vietnam among the few countries to have commercialised one

Over 120 Scientists Resign from ISRO Centres as Private Space Sector Draws Talent

03 Aug

- Reports indicate that between 100 and 120 scientists and technicians have resigned from ISRO centres in recent months.

- Nearly 80 left the UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru and around 20 the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Departures include personnel associated with the Chandrayaan-3 and SpaDeX missions.
- The principal driver is India's rapidly growing private space sector, with over 400 space start-ups.
- The Department of Space issued an order on 14 July 2026 requiring resignations of Group A scientific staff on critical missions to be centrally approved.

QUICK FACTS

Scale	between 100 and 120 scientists and technicians resigned in recent months
UR Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru	nearly 80 departures
Missions affected	personnel associated with Chandrayaan-3 and SpaDeX
Driver	higher salaries and opportunities in the private space sector
India's private space ecosystem	over 400 start-ups
Government response	Department of Space order of 14 July 2026 centralising approval of resignations and VRS for Group A staff on critical missions

– Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram: around 20 departures

7. Environment

5 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.

QUICK FACTS

Date	7 August 2026
Location	Biswanath Wildlife Division, Kaziranga National Park, Assam
Release site	Jatayu Soft Release Centre, Tewaripal, Biswanath district
Birds released	five Slender-billed Vultures and five White-rumped Vultures
World first	the first-ever release of captive-bred Slender-billed Vultures fitted with GSM-GPS satellite transmitters
Source facility	Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre (VCBC), Rani, Assam
Acclimatisation	three months at the Jatayu Aviary, per internationally accepted soft-release protocol
Tagging	colour identification rings and GSM-GPS satellite transmitters
Technical partner	Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

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.

QUICK FACTS

Announced by	the Central Government, August 2026
New additions	heatwave and lightning
Notified disasters before the change	12
Notified disasters after the change	14
Recommending body	the 16th Finance Commission
Funding consequence	access to the main 80% SDRF relief allocation, in place of the restricted 10% local-disaster window
Additional unlock	the 20% State Disaster Mitigation Fund for resilience infrastructure
Scale of the problem	4,853 heatwave cases reported across the country since March 2026

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.

QUICK FACTS

Site	Glaw Lake (Glow Lake), Arunachal Pradesh
Status	India's 101st Ramsar Site; the first in Arunachal Pradesh
Announced by	Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, on 3 August 2026
District	Lohit, near the town of Wakro
Protected area	inside Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary
Elevation	about 1,168 metres above sea level; area about 8 sq km, circumference about 5 km
Type	high-altitude natural freshwater lake in the Eastern Himalayas
Hydrology	fed by perennial high-altitude streams; source of the Kamlang River
Biodiversity	over 150 tree species, 49 orchid species, and all four big cats found in India

Record Wildfires Sweep Southern Europe, Bringing Fire Clouds into Focus

03 Aug

- Intense wildfires swept across southern Europe, particularly Greece, Spain, France, Portugal and Italy.
- Hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest were destroyed and record peacetime evacuations were ordered.
- The fires have drawn attention to pyrocumulonimbus clouds, or fire clouds, generated by the blazes themselves.
- The pattern of abrupt swings between very wet and very dry conditions is described as climate whiplash.
- Mediterranean summers are structurally dry, which makes the region's vegetation highly fire-prone.

QUICK FACTS

Countries most affected	Greece, Spain, France, Portugal and Italy
Damage	hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest destroyed
Displacement	record peacetime evacuations
Phenomenon in focus	pyrocumulonimbus (PyroCb) or fire clouds
Underlying pattern	climate whiplash, abrupt swings between wet and dry extremes
Regional context	Mediterranean climate produces hot, dry summers

Centre Extends Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area Expert Panel by One Year

01 Aug

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change extended the tenure of the expert committee headed by former Director General of Forests Sanjay Kumar until July 2027.
- The committee, constituted in 2022, was set up to resolve state-specific objections to notifying Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Western Ghats.
- The draft notification proposes declaring about 56,825 sq km of the Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area.
- Gujarat and Goa have largely agreed with the proposals; Maharashtra has sought fresh reviews; Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu continue to raise unresolved issues.
- The Western Ghats run through six states and the notification has remained unfinalised since the Kasturirangan committee reported.

QUICK FACTS

Decision	tenure of the Sanjay Kumar expert committee extended by one year, to July 2027
Extended by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
Committee constituted	2022
Chair	Sanjay Kumar, former Director General of Forests
Mandate	address state-specific concerns on Western Ghats ESA notification
States covered	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu

– Area proposed as ESA in the draft notification: about 56,825 sq km

8. Schemes & Committees

1 article

Delhi Launches Lakshmi Yojana Portal for Rs 2,500 Monthly Assistance to Women

01 Aug

- The Delhi government launched the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana portal on 1 August 2026, opening online applications for the scheme.
- Eligible women will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,500.
- Women aged 21 to 60 from families with annual income up to Rs 2.5 lakh qualify; those with more than three living children are excluded.
- The first instalment is to be paid on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan to applicants who complete verification.
- Rs 5,110 crore was allocated in the Delhi Budget for 2026-27, with more than 17 lakh women expected to benefit.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Delhi Lakshmi Yojana
Portal launched	1 August 2026
Benefit	Rs 2,500 per month to eligible women
Age eligibility	21 to 60 years
Income ceiling	annual family income up to Rs 2.5 lakh
Exclusion	women with more than three living children
Budget allocation	Rs 5,110 crore in the 2026-27 Delhi Budget
Expected beneficiaries	more than 17 lakh women
First instalment	on Raksha Bandhan, after verification

9. Summits & Conferences

1 article

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.

QUICK FACTS

Event	16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting
Concluded on	7 August 2026
Venue	Sawai Man Mahal, Jaipur, Rajasthan
Held under	India's BRICS Chairship 2026
Chaired by	Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal
Also present	Minister of State Jitin Prasada and Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal
Next stage	outcomes go to BRICS leaders at the upcoming summit in New Delhi

10. Ranks & Reports

2 articles

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.

QUICK FACTS

Total organ transplants in India, 2025	20,138 — an all-time high
Source	NOTTO Annual Report 2025-26, released during the 16th Indian Organ Donation Day
Comparison	18,911 transplants in 2024; 4,990 in 2013
Global position	third in total transplants after the United States and China
Highest transplants by region	Delhi-NCR with 4,564
Highest deceased organ donation	Tamil Nadu with 266 deceased donors
Pledges	over 2.58 lakh in 2025; cumulative Aadhaar-verified pledges have crossed 5 lakh since the portal began in 2023

- Indian Organ Donation Day is observed on 3 August
- India remains first in the world in living donor organ transplants
- Tamil Nadu has 172 transplant centres, the most of any state

NITI Aayog Report Flags Closure of 94,000 Government Schools in a Decade

03 Aug

- A NITI Aayog report has found that around 94,000 government schools closed over the last decade, an average of about 25 a day.
- Government school enrolment fell by 2.26 crore students over the same period.
- The share of government schools in total enrolment declined from 71% in 2005 to 49.24% in 2024-25.
- Closures have largely occurred through school rationalisation, the merger of low-enrolment schools with others nearby.
- Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh account for the largest numbers, raising concerns about access, equity and compliance with the Right to Education Act, 2009.

QUICK FACTS

Source	a NITI Aayog report
Daily average	about 25 schools
Decline in government school enrolment	2.26 crore students
Principal mechanism	school rationalisation, merging low-enrolment schools with nearby ones
States leading the closures	Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
Concerns raised	educational access, social equity and compliance with the Right to Education Act, 2009

- Government schools closed over the last decade: about 94,000

– Share of government schools in total enrolment: 71% in 2005, down to 49.24% in 2024-25

11. Appointments

1 article

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.

QUICK FACTS

Officer	Varsha Ashok Aglawe
Post	Director General, Geological Survey of India (GSI)
Number in sequence	54th Director General
Milestone	first woman to lead GSI
Predecessor	Asit Saha (27 July 2024 to 31 July 2026)
Joined GSI	1992, after service with the Indian Bureau of Mines
Previous post	Additional Director General and Head of Department, Eastern Region, Kolkata
Specialisation	palaeontology and palynology

12. Sports

3 articles

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.

QUICK FACTS

Games	Commonwealth Games 2026, Glasgow, Scotland
Duration	23 July to 2 August 2026
India's final position	fourth in the medal standings
India's total medals	39
Breakdown	13 gold, 17 silver, 9 bronze
Best discipline	boxing, with a record seven gold medals
Next edition	Amdavad (Ahmedabad), India, in 2030

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.

QUICK FACTS

Occasion	closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2026, Glasgow, on 2 August 2026
Flag handed over to	India, for the 2030 Commonwealth Games at Amdavad
Received by	Neeraj Chopra and Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha
India's flagbearer in the athletes' parade	boxer Jaismine Lamboria

- The 2030 edition marks the centenary of the Commonwealth Games
- The first Games were held at Hamilton, Canada, in 1930
- It will be India's second time hosting, after New Delhi 2010

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.

QUICK FACTS

Games	Commonwealth Games 2026, Glasgow
Boxing finals day	1 August 2026
India's boxing haul	7 gold, 3 silver
Record	the most boxing golds won by any country at a single Commonwealth Games
India's previous best editions	Delhi 2010, Gold Coast 2018, Birmingham 2022

– India also won 16 medals across all sports on 1 August

13. State News

2 articles

Tamil Nadu Tables Maiden TVK Budget with Rs 44,527 Crore for School Education

05 Aug

- Tamil Nadu Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson tabled the state Budget for 2026-27 in the Legislative Assembly on 5 August 2026 — the maiden Budget of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay.
- School education received the single largest highlighted allocation at Rs 44,527 crore, with social welfare allocated Rs 9,818 crore.
- The Budget sets a liquor cess target of Rs 16,000 crore in additional revenue and frames a long-term goal of a 1.5 trillion dollar state economy.
- Rs 300 crore was earmarked for modernising 3,734 government schools and Rs 129 crore for the 'Super Clean, Super Campus' scheme covering an initial 10,000 government schools.
- Rs 125 crore was set aside for infrastructure under the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Model Schools initiative, which will run free residential schools for Classes IX to XII.

QUICK FACTS

State	Tamil Nadu
Budget year	2026-27
Presented on	5 August 2026, in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
Presented by	Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson
Government	Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), led by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay
Status	the first Budget of the TVK government
School education allocation	Rs 44,527 crore
Social welfare allocation	Rs 9,818 crore
Liquor cess revenue target	Rs 16,000 crore in additional revenue
Long-term economic goal stated	a 1.5 trillion dollar state economy

Uttar Pradesh Tables Rs 59,019 Crore Supplementary Budget for 2026-27

04 Aug

- Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna tabled a supplementary budget of Rs 59,019.54 crore for 2026-27 in the state Assembly on 4 August 2026.
- Capital expenditure accounts for more than Rs 41,620 crore of the total and revenue expenditure for more than Rs 17,388 crore.
- The industrial development department received the largest share at more than Rs 22,000 crore, followed by agriculture at over Rs 15,300 crore and energy at over Rs 7,000 crore.
- Rs 12,591 crore was allocated across various heads under the VB-G RAM G rural employment scheme.
- With the annual budget of Rs 9.12 trillion presented on 11 February 2026, the state's total budget for the year now exceeds Rs 9.71 trillion.

QUICK FACTS

State	Uttar Pradesh
Tabled on	4 August 2026, in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly
Presented by	Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna
Size of the supplementary budget	Rs 59,019.54 crore
Capital expenditure component	more than Rs 41,620 crore
Revenue expenditure component	more than Rs 17,388 crore
Industrial development department	more than Rs 22,000 crore
Agriculture	more than Rs 15,300 crore
Energy	more than Rs 7,000 crore
Medical	more than Rs 1,980 crore
VB-G RAM G rural employment scheme	Rs 12,591 crore across various heads

- Annual budget 2026-27, presented 11 February 2026: Rs 9.12 trillion
- Total budget size for the year after this supplementary: more than Rs 9.71 trillion