WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATION

08 Aug – 14 Aug 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

41 key articles · 17 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

1 article

India Wins Maiden Commonwealth Fencing Championships Title with 35 Medals

12 Aug

- India won its maiden overall title at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2026 in Lagos, Nigeria.
- The final tally was 35 medals - 13 gold, 8 silver and 14 bronze - across the Under-23 and Senior divisions.
- The performance earned India the Wilkinson Sword Trophy, awarded by the Commonwealth Fencing Federation since 1982 for the best overall showing.
- Taniksha Khatri became the first Indian to win the senior women's epee individual title, beating Khushi Dabhade 15-7 in an all-Indian final.
- India took gold in five of the six senior team events, with a silver in men's foil.

2. Awards & Honours

4 articles

1,057 Police and Fire Personnel Get Gallantry, Service Medals for Independence Day 2026

14 Aug

- The Ministry of Home Affairs announced 1,057 Gallantry and Service Medals on 14 August 2026, the eve of the 80th Independence Day.
- The list has 301 Medals for Gallantry, 92 President's Medals for Distinguished Service and 664 Medals for Meritorious Service.
- Of the 301 Gallantry Medals, 197 went to personnel in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 51 to Jammu and Kashmir and 12 to the North-East.
- Chhattisgarh Police took the largest share among state forces with 141 Gallantry Medals; three medals were awarded posthumously.
- The 2026 total of 1,057 is higher than the 1,037 medals announced for Independence Day 2024.

President to Confer Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards on 115 Artists

12 Aug

- The President of India will confer the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for 2024 and 2025 on August 13, 2026.
- A total of 115 artists have been selected across music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal arts, puppetry and instrument making.
- The ceremony will be held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The Akademi's highest honour is the Fellowship, also called Akademi Ratna, carrying Rs 3 lakh.
- An Akademi Award carries Rs 1 lakh along with a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

Deepak Dhar Awarded 2026 ICTP Dirac Medal, Second Indian to Receive It

12 Aug

- Indian theoretical physicist Prof. Deepak Dhar was awarded the 2026 Dirac Medal by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics.

- He shares it with Bernard Derrida, Marc Mezard and Haim Sompolinsky for work on statistical mechanics and complex physical systems.
- He is only the second Indian to receive the medal, after string theorist Ashoke Sen in 2012.
- The medal, first awarded in 1985, is given annually on Dirac's birthday, August 8, and carries US $5,000.
- By statutory rule it is not awarded to current Nobel Laureates, Fields Medallists or Wolf Prize winners.

Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 Conferred at National World Elephant Day Event in Visakhapatnam

12 Aug

- The Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 were conferred at the national World Elephant Day celebration in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh presented the awards; it was the first time Andhra Pradesh hosted the national event.
- Seven mahouts from Jaldapara in West Bengal were honoured for rescuing captive elephants and displaced rhinoceroses during severe floods.
- The Ministry released '30 Giant Steps', a document listing achievements and policy initiatives under Project Elephant.
- A Regional Action Plan for managing human-elephant conflict in Southern India was launched for Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

3. Appointments

2 articles

Oceanographer Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Takes Charge as Earth Sciences Secretary

11 Aug

- Oceanographer Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala assumed charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences on August 10, 2026.
- He succeeds Dr N. Kalaiselvi, who held the post in an additional charge capacity; the previous full-time incumbent was Dr M. Ravichandran.
- He served as Director of ESSO-INCOIS, Hyderabad from August 2020 and later headed the UNESCO-IOC Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Secretariat in Perth.
- He was Project Manager of India's tsunami early warning system built after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.
- He takes charge as India scales up the Deep Ocean Mission, climate modelling and multi-hazard early warning systems.

Deepti Gaur Mukerjee Appointed Secretary, Department of Higher Education

11 Aug

- Deepti Gaur Mukerjee was appointed Secretary of the Department of Higher Education on August 10, 2026.
- She is a 1993-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre and holds a Master's degree in Economics from JNU.
- She succeeds Vineet Joshi, who moved to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in July 2026.
- She had served as Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs since August 2024.
- The order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training as part of a wider senior-level reshuffle.

4. Important Days

5 articles

India Observes Partition Horrors Remembrance Day on 14 August 2026

14 Aug

- India observed Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, or Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas, on 14 August 2026.
- The observance was announced by the Government of India in 2021 and first marked on 14 August 2021, making 2026 the sixth observance.
- It commemorates those killed, displaced or dispossessed during the Partition of British India in 1947.
- Partition was given legal effect by the Indian Independence Act, 1947, with the boundary drawn by Sir Cyril Radcliffe.
- Punjab and Bengal were the two provinces split by the Radcliffe Line, which was published only on 17 August 1947.

International Youth Day 2026 Observed with Theme 'Different Contexts, Common Aspirations'

12 Aug

- International Youth Day is observed every year on August 12, a United Nations observance.
- The 2026 theme is 'Different Contexts, Common Aspirations'.
- It was first celebrated on August 12, 2000.
- The theme stresses that young people differ by country, culture and circumstance but share aspirations for education, work, healthcare and inclusion.
- The day frames youth as partners in development, not merely its beneficiaries.

World Elephant Day 2026: India's DNA-Based Census Puts Wild Elephants at 22,446

12 Aug

- World Elephant Day was observed on 12 August 2026 with the theme 'Bringing the world together to help elephants'.
- The observance was launched in 2012 to draw global attention to threats facing African and Asian elephants.
- India's Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2021-25 puts the wild elephant population at 22,446.
- Karnataka leads with 6,013 elephants, followed by Assam (4,159) and Tamil Nadu (3,136).
- India maintains 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 states and about 150 identified elephant corridors.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day: August 14 Marks the Human Cost of 1947

11 Aug

- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, or Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas, is observed on August 14.
- The Government of India declared the day in 2021 to remember those killed, displaced or subjected to violence during the 1947 Partition.
- Partition produced one of the largest mass migrations in modern history.
- Punjab and Bengal were the worst-affected regions, as the new boundary cut through communities and families.
- The boundary was drawn by the Radcliffe Commission after Viceroy Lord Mountbatten announced the Partition plan on June 3, 1947.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2026 Honours Indigenous Midwives

09 Aug

- The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, also called World Tribal Day, is observed on 9 August every year.
- The 2026 theme is 'Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being'.
- The date marks the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, held in Geneva in 1982.
- The United Nations General Assembly designated 9 August for the observance in December 1994.
- Indigenous peoples form under 6% of the world's population but at least 15% of the extremely poor, while guarding 28% of the Earth's land surface.

5. Ranks & Reports

1 article

Ambani Family Tops 2026 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List

11 Aug

- The 2026 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List was released on 11 August 2026, with all valuations frozen as of 30 June 2026.
- The Ambani family (Reliance Industries) retained the top rank at Rs 25,82,800 crore, ahead of the Birla family (Rs 8,13,700 crore) and the Jindal family (Rs 8,01,800 crore).
- India's 300 most valuable family businesses are together worth Rs 138 lakh crore (USD 1.46 trillion) - up 27.5% and nearly Rs 30 lakh crore since the 2024 edition, an average of Rs 4,076 crore added every day.
- A newly introduced list of 100 first-generation family businesses, worth Rs 77.8 lakh crore, is led by the Adani family at Rs 19.6 lakh crore.
- The 300 families employ over 54 lakh people, earn Rs 56 lakh crore in revenue and pay Rs 1.9 lakh crore in taxes - about 17% of India's corporate tax collections.

6. Books & Authors

1 article

PM Modi Releases Ram Nath Kovind's Autobiography 'Triumph of the Indian Republic'

12 Aug

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on August 12, 2026.
- The book is titled 'Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles'.
- Kovind served as the 14th President of India and was earlier Governor of Bihar.
- He chaired the High-Level Committee on One Nation, One Election after his presidency.
- PM Modi described the book as a cherished legacy for Indian democracy and society.

7. Summits & Conferences

2 articles

8th BRICS Ocean and Polar Science Working Group Meeting Opens in Goa

12 Aug

- The 8th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Ocean and Polar Science and Technology (OPST) opened in Goa on 12 August 2026 and runs to 14 August 2026.
- It is hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, as part of India's BRICS Presidency in 2026.
- NCPOR Director Dr Thamban Meloth chaired the meeting as Working Group Chair; Dr M. Rajeevan, Vice Chancellor of Atria University and former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, delivered a keynote on India's Blue Economy initiatives.
- Delegations from Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and India are taking part.
- The agenda is the shift from bilateral arrangements to integrated multilateral research programmes, covering joint research, capacity building, scientific exchanges and shared use of polar research infrastructure.

BRICS Education Ministers Adopt Bhubaneswar Declaration Under India's Chairship

11 Aug

- The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting concluded in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with the adoption of the Bhubaneswar Declaration.
- It was held under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 and chaired by Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi.
- India's Chairship theme is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- The Declaration sets a roadmap across five priority areas including ECCE, skills, research and mutual recognition of qualifications.
- It advances discussions on an MoU for Mutual Recognition of Qualifications to improve academic mobility.

8. Defence

2 articles

Indian Navy's Second NGOPV 'Shruti' Launched at GRSE Kolkata

12 Aug

- GRSE launched 'Shruti', the second Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel, at its Kolkata shipyard on August 11, 2026.
- The vessel is designated Yard 3037 and was launched by Mrs Manika Sadhu.
- It follows Sanghmitra, launched on May 20, 2026 — under three months apart.
- The NGOPV programme covers 11 vessels, of which GRSE is building four and Goa Shipyard Limited the rest.
- The vessels will strengthen maritime surveillance across India's exclusive economic zone.

India, Malaysia Begin Air Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 at Subang Air Base

10 Aug

- The Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force began the bilateral air exercise Udara Shakti 2026 on 10 August 2026 at Subang Air Base, Malaysia, running to 14 August 2026.

- The exercise was inaugurated at the Air Warfare Centre by RMAF Exercise Director Colonel Shamsul Shahreen bin Isa and IAF Exercise Director Group Captain Parijat Jha, with Indian Defence Adviser Colonel Praveen Sukumaran present.
- It involves 83 personnel and 11 aircraft: four IAF Rafales of No. 101 Squadron and two C-17 Globemaster III transports of No. 81 Squadron, against two RMAF Su-30MKMs, two F/A-18Ds and one A400M.
- This is the Rafale's first participation in Udara Shakti since its induction into the IAF in 2020.
- Training covered dissimilar air combat manoeuvring, air-to-air refuelling and strategic airlift, with Subject Matter Expert Exchanges continuing through the flying phase.

9. Science & Tech

2 articles

IISc Releases SraVaani, Open-Source Speech AI for 65 Indian Languages

13 Aug

- The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru released SraVaani-1.0, an open-source automatic speech recognition model covering 65 Indian languages and dialects.
- It was built by the SPIRE Lab and ARTPARK at IISc with support from Google, and is hosted on Hugging Face under the permissive MIT licence.
- The 65 languages include the 22 tongues listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution plus 43 regional and tribal varieties such as Garo, Kokborok, Tulu and Bundeli.
- Training used Project Vaani, a speech corpus of 31,255 hours recorded from 156,534 speakers across 165 districts in 28 states and 3 union territories.
- For Garo, a language with almost no existing speech technology, SraVaani reported a 9.5% word error rate against 69.4% for the next-best system tested.

New Bacterium Microbacterium pollutisoli Found in Toxic Pesticide Dumpsite Soil

09 Aug

- Researchers have described a new bacterial species, Microbacterium pollutisoli, from soil at a hexachlorocyclohexane dumpsite in Uttar Pradesh.
- The name combines the Latin words 'pollutus' (contaminated) and 'solum' (soil), meaning the Microbacterium of polluted soil.
- It forms shiny, yellow circular colonies, is short rod-shaped, and grows between 12°C and 46°C in highly alkaline conditions.
- Its genome carries biosynthetic gene clusters capable of producing carotenoids, ectoine and beta-lactones.
- Hexachlorocyclohexane is a banned organochlorine pesticide whose dumpsites remain a long-term soil contamination problem.

10. Environment

8 articles

CAG Audit Finds Green India Mission Missed Forest-Cover Target by 97.57%

13 Aug

- A CAG performance audit of the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), tabled in Parliament on 13 August 2026, found the mission achieved only 0.03409 million hectares of forest-cover increase against a target of 1.4 million hectares — a shortfall of 97.57%.
- On improving the quality of existing forest and tree cover the mission reached 0.114 million hectares against the same 1.4 million hectare target, a shortfall of 91.87%.
- Budgetary support over the decade 2015-16 to 2024-25 was Rs 1,149.14 crore, only 47.88% of the approved outlay of Rs 2,000 crore under the 12th Plan plus Rs 400 crore from the 13th Finance Commission.
- GIS-based checks of sampled plantation sites showed no discernible change attributable to the mission at about 70% of them; eight states and UTs did not maintain annual accounts.
- The audit covered 16 states and Union Territories and matters because GIM is the forestry arm of India's NDC pledge to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2030.

Rare Himalayan Bee Colletes bhutanicus Recorded in India for the First Time

12 Aug

- Colletes bhutanicus, a rare solitary Himalayan bee, was recorded in India for the first time in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The species was documented by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India during surveys in the Eastern Himalayas.
- It was first described from Bhutan in 2003 and later recorded from high-altitude areas of China.
- In Tawang it was found between 1,500 and 3,800 metres, visiting 25 flowering plant species across 10 botanical families.
- The finding was published in the International Journal of Tropical Insect Science on August 5, 2026.

Centre Redefines Ganga Floodplain Norms with Three-Zone Regulatory Regime

12 Aug

- The Union Jal Shakti Ministry issued the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities (Second Amendment) Order, 2026 on August 7, 2026, gazetted on August 10.
- It defines the 'Active Floodplain' for the first time as land inundated by a flood with a one-in-five-year return period.
- A 'Regulatory Zone' covers areas flooded once every 5 to 25 years, where construction needs clearances.
- A 'Warning Zone' covers outer areas flooded once every 25 to 100 years, also subject to clearances.
- The blanket no-construction clause of the original 2016 order is replaced by a stratified, approval-based regime.

Three New Cascade Frog Species Described from Northeast India and West Bengal

12 Aug

- Three new cascade frog species were described from Northeast India and West Bengal, published on August 12, 2026 in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.
- The study was led by Prof. S. D. Biju of the Department of Environmental Studies, Delhi University.
- The species are Amolops ammachi (Tripura), Amolops sendenyu (Nagaland) and Amolops bella (West Bengal).
- The work combined DNA analysis, morphological comparison and field surveys across more than 300 geographic populations.

- Five further cascade frog species were recorded in India for the first time.

V.O.C. Port Becomes India's First Scope-2 Emission-Free Major Port

11 Aug

- V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Thoothukudi, became India's first major port to achieve Scope-2 Emission-Free status on August 10, 2026.
- It is also the first Indian port to secure ISO 50001:2018 certification for its Energy Management System.
- Renewable energy met 93.89% of the port's total electricity consumption across FY 2025-26.
- Scope-2 emissions are indirect emissions from purchased electricity, steam, heating or cooling.
- The port operates 7.04 MW of solar and 2 MW of wind capacity, with a Green Hydrogen Hub planned.

New Fern Species Pteris madhusoodananii Discovered in Eastern Ghats, Assessed Critically Endangered

11 Aug

- Pteris madhusoodananii is a newly described fern species published on July 30, 2026 in the Nordic Journal of Botany.
- It is endemic to the Kolli Hills in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.
- It has been preliminarily assessed as Critically Endangered under IUCN Red List guidelines.
- The known population is confined to two small sites across about 8 square kilometres, in an unprotected area.
- The genus Pteris belongs to the fern family Pteridaceae.

Gangaichthys indonepalicus: First Subterranean Fish Described from Gangetic Basin Aquifers in Bihar

11 Aug

- A new genus and species of miniature earthworm eel, Gangaichthys indonepalicus, was formally described in the journal ZooKeys on 11 August 2026.
- It is the first subterranean, or stygobitic, fish recorded from the alluvial aquifers of the Gangetic Basin and the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- All three known specimens came from borewells in Bihar; the animal is about four centimetres long.
- It has eyes reduced and covered by skin, a translucent unpigmented body and an apparent absence of ribs — classic adaptations to permanent darkness.
- A short video posted on social media in 2024 first alerted scientists to the fish.

New Begonia Species Discovered in Arunachal Named After Nyishi Clan

09 Aug

- Researchers described a new flowering plant species, Begonia neelamorum, from Arunachal Pradesh.
- It was named after the Neelam clan of the Nyishi tribe, whose members guided the researchers through rugged terrain to locate the plant.
- The species was found in Keyi Panyor district, growing on steep, moist rock walls along the Keyi River at about 1,000 metres elevation.
- It bears a single light-green serrated leaf and white flowers, and belongs to the family Begoniaceae.
- The Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh, concentrated across eight districts of the state.

11. Banking & Finance

2 articles

Food Subsidy to Move on Programmable Digital Rupee in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

12 Aug

- India is set to launch a Central Bank Digital Currency-based Direct Benefit Transfer system for food subsidies under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana on 14 August 2026.
- Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli will be the first Union Territories to fully operationalise food subsidy transfers through programmable Digital Rupee tokens credited straight to beneficiaries' CBDC wallets.
- The tokens carry built-in conditions restricting their use to designated foodgrains bought from empanelled merchants through QR code scans, creating an end-to-end digital record of the subsidy.
- The model bypasses conventional bank transfers entirely, since the subsidy moves as central bank money into a wallet rather than as a credit into a commercial bank account.
- Earlier CBDC pilot initiatives ran in Gujarat, Puducherry and Chandigarh; the launch event involves Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of State Nimuben Jayantibhai Bambhaniya, with the Dadra & Nagar Haveli phase to be launched remotely from Chandigarh.

BRICS Finance Ministers Meet in Jaipur, Push Cheaper Cross-Border Payments

12 Aug

- The first BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting under India's 2026 chairship was held at Jaipur on 12 August 2026, continuing into 13 August.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra co-chaired it, under the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- Members discussed making cross-border payments faster and cheaper, including linking national fast payment systems and central bank digital currencies, and settling more trade in local currencies.
- Today a payment between two BRICS economies is usually routed through correspondent banks abroad and converted twice, with the US dollar acting as a vehicle currency.
- The talks fed into the 18th BRICS Summit, hosted by India at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 12-13 September 2026.

12. Economy

2 articles

Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Becomes India's First Corporate-Branded Train

13 Aug

- IRCTC has awarded full train-branding rights on the Lucknow-New Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express (82501/82502) to the beverage brand Sprite through a Letter of Acceptance.
- For the branding window the service will be announced as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express at originating, terminating and en-route stations - the first time an Indian train carries a corporate brand in its official name and station announcements.
- The rights run from 19 August to 11 November 2026 and cover station public-address announcements, station signage and exterior vinyl wraps.

- The train stays an IRCTC service: Sprite neither owns nor operates it, and IRCTC continues to pay haulage charges to Indian Railways for tracks and stations.
- The deal is part of Indian Railways' push to grow non-fare revenue, so far limited mainly to advertising wraps rather than naming rights.

NITI Aayog Names 12 Sectors to Make India a Global Manufacturing Hub by 2047

13 Aug

- NITI Aayog has released the first volume of a study titled 'Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub'.
- It shortlists 12 sectors in which India can aspire to global leadership by 2047.
- The opening volume examines four of them in depth: chemicals, textiles, telecom and network equipment, and solar photovoltaic.
- The core recommendation is cluster-based manufacturing and integrated industrial parks to gain scale and cut costs.
- In chemicals, the report identifies phenol, methanol and acetic acid as priority products for import substitution.

13. National

2 articles

Centre Notifies 40 Census 2027 Questions; Caste Enumerated After 1931

14 Aug

- The Union Government notified 40 questions on 14 August 2026 for the Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027.
- Question 10 is an open-ended entry for 'Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST)/Caste' - the first comprehensive enumeration of all castes in independent India.
- The schedule seeks identification details including Aadhaar, voter ID, driving licence and passport numbers, along with digital literacy, bank accounts and place of Covid-19 vaccination.
- Population Enumeration begins on 17 August 2026 in Ladakh and the snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand; the rest of India follows in February 2027.
- Census 2027 is India's 16th census and its first digital census, conducted under the Census Act, 1948.

Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 Runs August 9-17 with Theme 'Spirit of Vande Mataram'

11 Aug

- The fifth edition of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign runs from August 9 to August 17, 2026.
- Its theme is 'Spirit of Vande Mataram', marking 150 years of the national song.
- The campaign was launched in 2022 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, marking 75 years of independence.
- The Ministry of Culture is the nodal ministry coordinating the campaign.
- It forms part of the celebrations of India's 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026.

14. International

1 article

ASEAN Day 2026 Observed as Grouping Marks 59 Years Since Bangkok Declaration

08 Aug

- ASEAN Day is observed on 8 August each year, marking the signing of the Bangkok Declaration in 1967 that founded the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
- The Philippines holds the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2026 under the theme 'Navigating Our Future, Together'.
- ASEAN now has 11 member states after Timor-Leste joined on 26 October 2025.
- The year 2026 also marks the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.
- The ASEAN Charter of 2008 gave the grouping a formal legal personality and a structured governance framework.

15. Polity & Governance

3 articles

Government Scraps 12-Minute Hourly Advertisement Cap for Television Channels

14 Aug

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 14 August 2026 removed the cap limiting television channels to 12 minutes of advertising per hour.
- The ceiling sat in the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, and had been enforced since 2006; it allowed 10 minutes of commercial advertising and 2 minutes of self-promotion.
- The government cited the growth of television from 62 channels in 2006 to more than 900 in 2026, and the absence of any equivalent limit on digital platforms.
- The change takes legal effect only once the amendment to the 1994 Rules is notified in the Gazette of India.
- Stated objectives are a level playing field with digital media, fair competition and ease of doing business.

Revamped India Code Portal Launched With AI Search and 22-Language Access

13 Aug

- The revamped India Code Portal was launched on 13 August 2026 at Kartavya Bhavan 2, New Delhi.
- It was launched by Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice.
- India Code is the official digital repository of Indian legislation, maintained by the Legislative Department.
- The upgraded portal adds AI-assisted search, semantic search and speech-based search, with access in all 22 Eighth Schedule languages.
- It is integrated with the e-Gazette ecosystem and allows users to trace legislative history and track amendments.

India Adds 11 Entry Points for e-Visa Holders, Taking the Total to 88

10 Aug

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has notified 11 additional international ports - two airports and nine land ports - for the entry of foreign nationals holding valid Indian e-Visas.
- The total number of designated e-Visa entry points rises to 88: 37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land ports.

- The new airports are Bhopal and Tirupati; the new land ports are Agartala, Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh and Attari (Road).
- Nine of the eleven additions are land ports, aimed mainly at travellers arriving overland from neighbouring countries.
- India introduced the e-Visa along with Electronic Travel Authorisation in 2014 for nationals of 43 countries; it is now open to citizens of 172 countries across 17 sub-categories.

16. State News

1 article

Himachal Pradesh Levies Widow and Orphan Cess of Rs 0.60 per Litre on Fuel

12 Aug

- Himachal Pradesh notified a Widow and Orphan Cess on petrol and high-speed diesel on August 11, 2026.
- The initial rate is Rs 0.60 per litre, against a statutory ceiling of Rs 5 per litre.
- It is levied under Section 6-A of the Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005.
- Revenue goes to a dedicated Orphan and Widow Welfare Fund.
- The cess is collected from oil dealers at the first point of sale; consumers began paying from August 12, 2026.

17. History & Culture

2 articles

ASI Finds Sangam-Era Irrigation Structure in Kollidam Riverbed

13 Aug

- Archaeological Survey of India archaeologists have found brick structures in the bed of the Kollidam river at Koogur, near Lalgudi in Tiruchirappalli district, Tamil Nadu.
- They have been provisionally identified as the remains of an Early Historic or Sangam-age irrigation structure, dated to around the 3rd-4th century CE.
- Two structures were recorded - a semi-circular brick wall, and a pair of parallel walls that may have formed an entrance or water channel, possibly a sluice, inlet or outlet.
- Large rectangular and wedge-shaped bricks point to Early Historic construction; the remains resemble water-management features found at Vanagiri near Kaveripattinam (Poompuhar).
- Firm dating awaits systematic excavation and scientific analysis.

Quit India Movement Day 2026 Marks 84 Years of the August Kranti

08 Aug

- Quit India Movement Day, also called August Kranti Diwas, was observed on 8 August 2026, marking 84 years since the movement was launched in 1942.
- The Quit India Resolution was passed by the All India Congress Committee at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay, on 8 August 1942, where Mahatma Gandhi gave the 'Do or Die' call.
- The phrase 'Quit India' is attributed to Congress leader Yusuf Meherally, while Gandhi's own call to the nation was 'Do or Die'.
- British authorities arrested Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and Azad in the early hours of 9 August 1942, triggering a leaderless mass uprising.

- The day has no officially announced national theme; it is observed to honour the sacrifices of freedom fighters.