WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATION

22 Aug – 31 Aug 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

59 key articles · 17 categories · 10 days

Curated from official releases, national dailies and ministry sources

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

10 articles

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Becomes Youngest Duleep Trophy Half-Centurion at 15

31 Aug

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a 15-year-old East Zone batter, became the youngest player to score a half-century in Duleep Trophy history on 31 August 2026.
- He was 15 years and 157 days old, breaking a 57-year-old record set by Laxman Singh in January 1969 at 16 years and 23 days.
- He reached the fifty in 42 balls in the semi-final against Central Zone at the BCCI Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru, and was dismissed for 92 off 81 balls with seven fours and seven sixes.
- A day earlier he had become the youngest captain in Duleep Trophy history, standing in for the injured Ishan Kishan.
- Sachin Tendulkar remains the youngest Duleep Trophy centurion, at 17 years and 262 days.

Germany Beat Spain 1-0 to Retain FIH Men's Hockey World Cup Title

30 Aug

- Germany defeated Spain 1-0 in the final of the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup on 30 August 2026 at the Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre, Belgium.
- Michel Struthoff scored the only goal of the match in the 44th minute, in the third quarter, and Germany defended the lead to retain the title they won in 2023.
- It is Germany's fourth men's World Cup title, taking them level with Pakistan as the joint most successful side in the tournament's history.
- Spain lost their third World Cup final, having also finished runners-up in 1971 and 1998, and are still without a men's World Cup title.
- Argentina took the bronze medal on the same day, beating the Netherlands 2-1, while India finished eighth after losing a shootout to Belgium on 28 August.

Praggnanandhaa Becomes First Indian to Win the Grand Chess Tour

28 Aug

- Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour, defeating Fabiano Caruana 15-13 in the final.
- The 2026 Grand Chess Tour Finals were played at the Saint Louis Chess Club in the United States from 22 to 27 August 2026.
- He entered the last day six points down at 3-9, won both rapid games to lead 11-9, and held the lead through the blitz phase.
- The winner's share was USD 200,000 out of a total Finals purse of USD 450,000.
- Wesley So took third place, beating Vincent Keymer 18-12.

India Finish Eighth at FIH Men's Hockey World Cup After Belgium Shootout Loss

28 Aug

- India ended the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in eighth place after losing the 7th/8th place classification match to co-hosts Belgium 4-3 in a shootout on 28 August 2026 at the Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre.
- The match finished 3-3 in regulation time, with Abhishek Nain scoring in the sixth minute and captain Harmanpreet Singh scoring twice, including an equaliser in the closing seconds that forced the shootout.

- Belgian goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch denied Harmanpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh in the shootout, and Belgium took seventh place.
- Harmanpreet Singh finished his World Cup campaign with eight goals, the highest of any Indian player at the tournament.
- This was the 16th edition of the men's World Cup, held from 15 to 30 August 2026 and co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands with 16 teams.

Hockey India Announces Rs 50 Lakh Reward as Women Finish Fifth at World Cup

28 Aug

- Hockey India announced a cash award of Rs 50 lakh for the Indian women's hockey team on 28 August 2026 after its fifth-place finish at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2026.
- The reward works out to Rs 2 lakh for each player in the squad and Rs 1 lakh for each member of the support staff.
- India sealed fifth place by beating world No. 5 Germany 3-1 in the classification match at Amstelveen, the Netherlands, on 27 August 2026.
- It is India's best result at the Women's World Cup in 52 years, bettered only by the fourth place at the inaugural 1974 edition.
- Navneet Kaur scored twice and Ishika Chaudhary once, all three goals coming in the third quarter after a goalless first half.

US Open 2026 Announces Record $108 Million Purse, Highest in Grand Slam History

27 Aug

- The United States Tennis Association has announced total player compensation of $108 million for the 2026 US Open, a 20 per cent rise over the $90 million of 2025 and the largest purse in Grand Slam history.
- Men's and women's singles champions will each receive $5.5 million, about 10 per cent more than in 2025 and the biggest payout ever to a Grand Slam singles champion.
- First-round main-draw losers get $140,000, up about 27 per cent, with the increases concentrated in singles rather than doubles.
- A separate $2 million has been added to the players' pension fund.
- The tournament is played at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, New York, with singles main draws from 30 August and the finals on 12 and 13 September 2026.

GM Pranesh M Wins Kanizsa Open 2026 Title on Tie-Break in Hungary

23 Aug

- Indian Grandmaster Pranesh M won the Group A title at the Kanizsa Open 2026 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary, on 23 August 2026.
- He finished on 7 points from 9 rounds, level with three other players, and took the title on superior tie-break scores.
- In the final round he beat German Grandmaster Vadim Petrovskiy with the white pieces.
- Or Bronstein of Israel, Andrei Volokitin of Ukraine and India's Karthik Venkataraman finished second, third and fourth on the same 7 points.
- Pranesh, 19, from Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu, became India's 79th Grandmaster in January 2023 by winning the Rilton Cup in Stockholm.

Mitchell Starc Becomes Leading Wicket-Taker in World Test Championship History

23 Aug

- Australia's left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc became the leading wicket-taker in ICC World Test Championship history during the second Test against Bangladesh at Mackay, played on 22-23 August 2026.
- He took his WTC tally to 234 wickets, going past team-mates Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon, who have 228 each.
- Starc returned 6/12 and 4/39 for a ten-wicket match haul; Bangladesh were bowled out for 64 in the first innings after slipping to 12 for 5.
- Australia won by an innings and 51 runs with the match finishing inside two days, and Starc was named Player of the Match.
- The six-wicket haul lifted his overall Test tally to 445, moving him past South Africa's Dale Steyn into the all-time top ten.

Lando Norris Wins Final Dutch Grand Prix as Verstappen Crashes Out

23 Aug

- Lando Norris of McLaren won the 2026 Dutch Grand Prix at Circuit Zandvoort on 23 August 2026, beating Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli by 11.536 seconds.
- George Russell completed the podium in the second Mercedes, 15.906 seconds behind the winner.
- Max Verstappen crashed heavily at the banked final corner at the end of lap one and retired, bringing out a red flag at his home race.
- The race was round 12 of 23 in the 2026 Formula One World Championship and Norris's second successive win, after the Hungarian Grand Prix.
- It was the 36th and final scheduled running of the Dutch Grand Prix before the event leaves the Formula One calendar.

Treesa-Gayatri Win Women's Doubles Bronze at BWF World Championships 2026

22 Aug

- Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand finished with the women's doubles bronze at the BWF World Championships 2026 after losing the semifinal on 22 August 2026 to China's defending champions Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning, 21-18, 13-21, 8-21, in 71 minutes.
- The unseeded Indian pair had sealed the medal a day earlier by beating China's fourth seeds Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian in the quarterfinal, in 69 minutes.
- They are only the second Indian women's doubles pair to win a World Championships medal, after Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's bronze in 2011.
- The result extends India's run of winning at least one medal at every edition of the championships since 2011 to 12 consecutive tournaments.
- The 30th edition was held at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi from 17 to 23 August 2026 - India's first time hosting the event since 2009.

2. Awards & Honours

4 articles

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026 Go to Tommy Koh, Bo Kyi and Runa Khan

31 Aug

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced the 2026 awardees on 31 August 2026: Tommy Koh of Singapore, Bo Kyi of Myanmar and Runa Khan of Bangladesh.
- Tommy Koh, 88, a diplomat and lawyer, was recognised for his role in the negotiations that produced the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Bo Kyi, 61, a former political prisoner from Myanmar's 1988 pro-democracy movement, co-founded the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners in 2000.
- Runa Khan, 67, founded the Bangladeshi organisation Friendship, which began with a single hospital boat serving remote char communities.
- No Indian features among the 2026 awardees; the 68th presentation ceremony is scheduled for 15 November 2026 in Manila.

PM Modi Conferred Uzbekistan's Highest State Honour Oliy Darajali Dostlik

30 Aug

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Order of Oliy Darajali Dostlik, Uzbekistan's highest state honour, on 30 August 2026.
- It was conferred by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Kuksaroy Presidential Palace in Tashkent after delegation-level talks.
- The honour recognises his contribution to strengthening India-Uzbekistan relations; Dostlik means friendship in Uzbek.
- The Indian delegation included External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.
- It adds to a series of foreign state honours conferred on the Prime Minister, including Indonesia's Bintang Adipurna in July 2026.

Kerala's Kaziah Liz Mejo Crowned Miss Universe India 2026 at Jaipur Finale

23 Aug

- Kaziah Liz Mejo, a 19-year-old law student from Kerala, was crowned Miss Universe India 2026 at the finale held at Zee Studios in Jaipur on 23 August 2026.
- She was chosen from 52 national finalists and was crowned by her predecessor, Miss Universe India 2025 Manika Vishwakarma.
- Vaishnavi Gannesh finished first runner-up and was named Miss International India 2026.
- Mejo will represent India at the 75th Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico in November 2026.
- The judging panel included Sushmita Sen, the first Indian to win Miss Universe, along with Urvashi Rautela, Rhea Singha, Celina Jaitly and Pragya Kapoor.

National Teachers Awards 2026: 48 School Teachers Selected for 5 September Honour

22 Aug

- The Ministry of Education has named 48 school teachers as recipients of the National Teachers Awards 2026.
- President Droupadi Murmu will confer the awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 5 September 2026, which is Teachers' Day.

- The 48 awardees come from 27 States, 7 Union Territories and 6 organisations run by the Central Government, and include 26 men and 22 women.
- Selection ran through three stages - district or regional committee, State or organisation committee, and an independent national jury.
- The award was instituted in 1958 and is administered by the Department of School Education and Literacy.

3. Appointments

2 articles

Tim Cook Ends 15-Year Run as Apple CEO; John Ternus Takes Over

31 Aug

- 31 August 2026 was Tim Cook's last day as Chief Executive Officer of Apple Inc., ending a tenure that began on 24 August 2011.
- John Ternus, until then Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering, became Apple's Chief Executive Officer with effect from 1 September 2026 and also joined the company's board of directors.
- Cook has moved to the post of Executive Chairman of Apple's board; Arthur Levinson, the company's non-executive chairman for the previous 15 years, becomes lead independent director from the same date.
- The succession was announced by Apple on 20 April 2026 and approved unanimously by the board after what the company described as a long-term succession planning process.
- Apple's market capitalisation rose from just under 350 billion dollars when Cook took charge in 2011 to about 4 trillion dollars in August 2026, having briefly touched 5 trillion dollars in July 2026.

Government Names Three Non-Official Directors to RBI Central Board

22 Aug

- On 22 August 2026 the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared the appointment of Syed Akbaruddin, Annie George Mathew and Janmejaya Kumar Sinha as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India for a four-year term.
- The appointments were made under Section 8(1)(c) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 - the clause covering the ten directors nominated by the Central Government.
- The additions took the active strength of the RBI's Central Board from 11 members to 14.
- Former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath was appointed and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra re-appointed to the same category of directorship in the same round.
- The RBI, established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act 1934 and headquartered in Mumbai, is headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

4. Important Days

2 articles

National Sports Day 2026 Observed on 29 August With Theme Tribute, Play and Move

29 Aug

- India observed National Sports Day on 29 August 2026, the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- The 2026 observance carries the theme 'Tribute, Play and Move' and runs as a three-day campaign from 28 to 30 August.
- The day has widened from a sporting commemoration into a fitness drive since the Fit India Movement was launched on this date in 2019.
- India has never officially declared a national game; the Government told Parliament in 2012 that no discipline holds that status.
- The country's highest sporting honour was renamed the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in August 2021.

National Space Day 2026: India Marks Third Edition of Chandrayaan-3 Landing

23 Aug

- India observed the third National Space Day on 23 August 2026, three years after the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 soft-landed near the Moon's south pole on 23 August 2023.
- The theme for 2026 is 'Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership'.
- The 2023 landing made India the fourth country to soft-land on the Moon and the first to touch down near the lunar south polar region; the landing site was named Shiv Shakti Point.
- The first National Space Day was observed on 23 August 2024 under the theme 'Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga'; the 2025 theme was 'Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities'.
- ISRO is headed by Chairman V. Narayanan, who is also Secretary, Department of Space; he took charge in January 2025.

5. Ranks & Reports

3 articles

Ladakh Snow Leopard Trek Ranks 4th on the Wildlife Experience Index

31 Aug

- Snow leopard tracking in Ladakh has been ranked fourth in the world on the Wildlife Experience Index released by the travel company Bailey Robinson, scoring 85.5 out of 100.
- The index assessed 30 wildlife experiences on six criteria: rarity, remoteness, conservation importance, exclusivity, accessibility and encounter potential.
- Mountain gorilla trekking in Rwanda and Uganda topped the list with 90 points, followed by emperor penguin expeditions in Antarctica and saiga antelope trips in Kazakhstan.
- Eight of the top ten experiences involve threatened species, which the compilers read as evidence of rising interest in conservation-linked travel.
- India's snow leopard tracking is centred on the Rumbak, Uley and Shang valleys around Hemis National Park in Ladakh, which holds 477 of India's estimated 718 snow leopards.

NITI Aayog Finds 8.7 Crore Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training

25 Aug

- NITI Aayog's report 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' estimates that 8.7 crore Indians aged 15-29 are NEET - not in education, employment or training.
- The figure comes from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey, conducted in 2021.
- The report's sharpest finding is on the education-employment gap: only 8.25% of graduates hold jobs that match their qualifications.
- It recommends moving skilling into the school system - universal General Employability and Entrepreneurship Skills from Class 6 to 12 and vocational Kaushal Tracks from Class 9.
- Fewer than one in twelve secondary schools currently offer vocational subjects, despite NEP 2020 providing for their integration from Class 6.

Mumbai Ranks 50th, Only Indian City in IWG Work From Anywhere Index

24 Aug

- Mumbai entered the fourth annual Work From Anywhere Index published by the International Workplace Group (IWG) in 2026 as the only Indian city in the ranking.
- Mumbai scored 77 and finished 50th globally, ahead of cities including London and Miami.
- Bangkok led the 2026 index with 106.5, followed by Tokyo (96.5) and Barcelona (95.5), with Porto and Vancouver completing the top five.
- Mumbai scored well on transport costs, flexible workspace availability, climate and accommodation, and poorly on broadband speed and quality, local events and the happiness index.
- Cushman & Wakefield data placed India at 100 on a global flexible workspace maturity measure, ahead of the United Kingdom (98), France (97) and the United States (81).

6. Summits & Conferences

3 articles

India to Host 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam on 12-13 September

27 Aug

- India will host the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 12 and 13 September 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs has announced.
- India's chairship theme is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- India assumed the BRICS chairship on 1 January 2026 - its fourth, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.
- More than 350 meetings and high-level engagements have been held across 25 Indian cities during the chairship year.
- The summit falls in the twentieth year of the grouping, which began as BRIC in 2006 and became BRICS when South Africa joined in 2010.

SCO to Hold 25th-Anniversary Summit in Bishkek on 31 August-1 September

26 Aug

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation will hold its Heads of State summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 31 August and 1 September 2026.
- Kyrgyzstan holds the SCO's rotating chairmanship for 2026 and has set the theme '25 Years of the SCO: Together Towards Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity'.

- The summit marks 25 years since the SCO was founded at Shanghai in June 2001.
- Proposals on the table include an International Centre for Combating Organised Crime and an SCO Development Bank, alongside cyber security and transport connectivity.
- The SCO has 10 full members; India and Pakistan joined in 2017, Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

BRICS Adopts Chennai Declaration on Science and Innovation Cooperation

22 Aug

- The 14th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting, held in Chennai under India's BRICS chairship, unanimously adopted the Chennai Declaration, also called the Chennai Consensus.
- The adoption was announced at the closing session by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, who chaired the meeting.
- The Declaration puts a 'people-centred and humanity-first' approach at the core of BRICS science cooperation, linking it to sustainable development, social inclusiveness and quality of life.
- It advances the BRICS Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network (BRICS GRAIN) for shared access to large research facilities, and welcomes a BRICS Science and Research Repository as a digital public good.
- It backs the Young Scientist Forum, the Young Innovator Prize and the BRICS Youth Startup Platform, and flags a possible BRICS Startup Innovation Fund for early- and growth-stage ventures.

7. Schemes & Committees

3 articles

Government Notifies Rs 1.27 Lakh Crore Semicon 2.0 Scheme Across Six Pillars

31 Aug

- The Government of India notified the Semicon 2.0 scheme on 31 August 2026, the second phase of the Semicon India Programme, with a fiscal outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore.
- The scheme is built around six pillars - design, machines and materials, fabrication units, ATMP and OSAT facilities, research and development, and talent development - spread across ten categories.
- Silicon wafer fabs with a minimum investment of Rs 20,000 crore get central fiscal support of 40 per cent of eligible capital expenditure; compound, display and other specialised fabs get 35 per cent.
- On the design side, the Deployment-Linked Incentive reimburses 9 per cent of net sales for up to five years, capped at Rs 30 crore per application and Rs 120 crore per company, and startups and Indian- or OCI-owned companies can apply.
- A high-level expert panel co-chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser and the National Security Adviser will identify strategic chips of national interest; the government expects about Rs 4 lakh crore of investment and Rs 2 lakh crore of production, and targets the training of 1,00,000 more semiconductor engineers.

Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 for Ornamental Fisheries Released in Lakshadweep

31 Aug

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031 Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development at Agatti, Lakshadweep, on 31 August 2026.
- The plan sets nationwide standards for broodstock management, captive breeding, hatchery operations, quarantine, traceability and export of decorative fish.

- It is anchored in the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and aligned with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- Lakshadweep was chosen for the launch: it has about 4,200 sq km of lagoons and an EEZ of nearly 4 lakh sq km, roughly 17% of India's total.
- Fisheries projects worth more than Rs 62 crore have been approved for the Union Territory under PMMSY.

Centre Launches Mission Samriddh Gaon with Pilots in Two Madhya Pradesh Blocks

26 Aug

- Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Mission Samriddh Gaon at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The mission is an integrated rural transformation and livelihood-saturation framework that converges Central and State schemes at the level of the individual family and the Gram Panchayat.
- Pilot models will be developed in Budni block of Sehore district and Khategaon block of Dewas district in Madhya Pradesh, for replication elsewhere if successful.
- Its stated aim is poverty-free, employment-rich villages with assured basic amenities, so that distress migration from village to city is no longer necessary.
- Key elements include family-level eligibility mapping, integrated farming systems, women farmers' enterprise building on the Lakhpati Didi model, and village-level storage and processing infrastructure.

8. Agreements & MoUs

1 article

Bihar and Jharkhand Sign Sone River Water-Sharing Pact, Ending 25-Year Dispute

31 Aug

- Bihar and Jharkhand signed a memorandum of understanding on sharing the waters of the Sone river on 31 August 2026 at Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi, settling a dispute that had run since Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in November 2000.
- The pact divides 7.75 million acre-feet (MAF) of Sone water between the two states, giving Bihar 5.75 MAF and Jharkhand 2.0 MAF.
- That 7.75 MAF is exactly the quantum undivided Bihar had been allotted under the Bansagar Agreement of 1973, so the new pact splits an old share rather than creating a new one.
- The MoU was signed by Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah.
- The settlement was mediated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti through a committee chaired by the Central Water Commission, with the decisive breakthrough coming at the Eastern Zonal Council meeting held in Ranchi on 10 July 2025.

9. Defence

5 articles

Defence Ministry Eases Export SOP and Widens OGEL to Cover Almost All Countries

28 Aug

- The Department of Defence Production announced on 28 August 2026 a package of reforms simplifying the Defence Export Standard Operating Procedure and the Open General Export Licence framework.
- Three separate OGEL SOPs, covering major platforms, parts and components, and intra-company technology transfer, have been merged into a single framework.
- OGEL validity rises from two years to three, and its coverage expands from 41 countries to all countries except sensitive or negative ones and those under UN Security Council sanctions or arms embargoes.
- A new provision lets Indian firms with long-term contracts with Foreign OEMs obtain an OGEL tied to that contract, and civil-end-use exports of specified small-calibre arms parts and protective equipment are now permitted.
- The reforms follow record numbers for FY 2025-26: defence production of Rs 1.78 lakh crore and defence exports of Rs 38,424 crore.

Indian Navy Receives Samarthak, First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, from L&T

27 Aug

- Samarthak, the first indigenously designed and built Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) of the Indian Navy, was delivered by Larsen & Toubro at its Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai on 27 August 2026.
- The ship is 107 m long, 18.6 m wide, displaces over 3,750 tonnes, does 15 knots and carries more than 75% indigenous content.
- It was contracted on 25 March 2022 under the 'Buy (Indian)' category for about Rs 887 crore, covering two vessels.
- Samarthak is a sea-going testbed for developmental weapons and sensors, a target-towing platform for gunnery and anti-submarine warfare drills, and a mothership for unmanned aerial, surface and underwater vehicles.
- The second ship of the class, Utkarsh, was launched on 14 January 2025 and is under trials.

DRDO Tests Military Combat Parachute System at 22,000 Feet in Ladakh

26 Aug

- DRDO carried out a high-altitude trial of the indigenous Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) at the Nyoma-Mudh drop zone in Ladakh's Leh district, with the jump made from 22,000 feet above mean sea level at about minus 15 degrees Celsius.
- The parachute was deployed at 20,000 feet and the three ADRDE test jumpers landed safely at 13,700 feet.
- The jump was executed by Wing Commander Rahul Jha (Chief Test Jumper), MWO R J Singh and MWO Vivek Tiwari.
- The MCPS was developed by DRDO's Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, with the Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), Bengaluru.
- The system had earlier completed a combat freefall jump from 32,000 feet and is the only parachute system in Indian Armed Forces service capable of deployment above 25,000 feet.

Goa Shipyard Hands Over Indigenous Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS Ajit to Coast Guard

25 Aug

- Goa Shipyard Limited, a defence public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, handed over the indigenously designed and built Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS Ajit to the Indian Coast Guard on 25 August 2026.

- ICGS Ajit is an Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel, 51.43 metres long and 8 metres wide, with a displacement of 330 tonnes.
- It is powered by twin marine diesel engines driving controllable pitch propellers - a first for this class of Fast Patrol Vessel - and reaches a top speed of more than 27 knots with an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles.
- The vessel was built with more than 65 per cent indigenous content and will be operated by a crew of six officers and 35 sailors.
- It is designed for multi-mission roles: Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance, coastal patrol, fisheries protection, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and search and rescue, particularly around India's island territories.

India Test-Fires First Fully Indigenised AK-203 'Sher' Rifle at Amethi

23 Aug

- Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited has test-fired India's first fully indigenised AK-203 assault rifle, named 'Sher', at its Korwa facility in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Every component and raw material in the prototype was sourced from Indian industry, marking a shift from licensed assembly to end-to-end domestic production.
- Indian Army user trials of the fully indigenised rifle are to begin in September 2026, and the plant is being upgraded to turn out one rifle every 100 seconds.
- The AK-203 is chambered in 7.62x39 mm, has an effective range of up to 800 metres and a rate of fire of about 700 rounds per minute; it replaces the INSAS rifle.
- The programme rests on a contract signed on 6 December 2021 for 6,01,427 rifles worth about Rs 5,200 crore, with supply mandated by October 2032.

10. Science & Tech

5 articles

Turkiye Signs Artemis Accords, Becoming the 71st Signatory Nation

31 Aug

- The Republic of Turkiye signed the Artemis Accords on 31 August 2026 at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., becoming the 71st signatory nation.
- Turkiye's Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacir signed on behalf of the republic, with NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman hosting and Turkish Space Agency President Yusuf Kirac present.
- Turkiye is the seventh country from the Middle East to join, after the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan and Israel.
- The Accords, launched in 2020, are a non-binding set of principles for civil space activity covering transparency, interoperability, emergency assistance, registration of space objects and protection of heritage sites in outer space.
- Turkiye is preparing AYAP-1, its first lunar mission, targeted for early 2027, and will host the International Astronautical Congress at Antalya in October 2026.

NASA Launches Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope on a Falcon Heavy

30 Aug

- NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope lifted off at 7:26 a.m. EDT on 30 August 2026 aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy from Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida.
- The USD 4.3 billion observatory separated from the upper stage 31 minutes after liftoff and began a three-month journey to the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2.

- It carries a 300-megapixel Wide Field Instrument with a field of view about 100 times larger than that of the Hubble Space Telescope.
- The mission is designed to study dark energy, dark matter and exoplanets over a planned five-year science phase.
- The telescope is named after Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first Chief Astronomer.

Vice President Launches Gnani Artha, an Indian Sovereign AI Stack With Evon 3.3

28 Aug

- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan launched 'Gnani Artha', an indigenous sovereign artificial intelligence stack, in New Delhi on 28 August 2026.
- The stack has two parts: Evon 3.3, a 30-billion-parameter language model, and Plexus, an agentic platform for building and running AI agents.
- Evon 3.3 uses a mixture-of-experts design that activates only about 3.5 billion parameters for any given token, and was trained on about 2 trillion tokens.
- It supports more than 11 Indian languages and its weights are released under the Apache 2.0 open licence, with 70-billion and 100-billion parameter models planned.
- The stack is built by Gnani.ai, a Bengaluru voice-AI company founded in 2017 and selected under the IndiaAI Mission in 2025 to build a multilingual real-time voice model.

India Launches First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid at Eluru

24 Aug

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched India's first non-genetically-modified, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed on 24 August 2026 at Musunuru in Eluru district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The hybrid was bred through a collaboration between the ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research and the processing firm Gourmet Popcornica that began in February 2021.
- The stated purpose is to end India's dependence on imported popcorn-maize hybrid technology, since no domestic high-expansion line previously existed.

ISRO Targets Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035; First Module Approved

23 Aug

- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said on 23 August 2026, at the third National Space Day celebrations in Ahmedabad, that India will establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) by 2035.
- He confirmed that the first module of the station has already been approved; the module is targeted for launch in 2028.
- BAS is planned as a five-module, roughly 52-tonne station in low Earth orbit at 400-450 km altitude and an inclination of about 51.5 degrees, launched on LVM3 and LVM3-SC vehicles.
- The station is an extension of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme, whose first crewed flight is targeted for 2027; the Union Cabinet approved BAS development on 18 September 2024.
- Narayanan said India's space-based applications now serve citizens across more than 50 fields, from remote sensing and telecommunications to disaster warning and navigation.

11. Environment

8 articles

GCRMN Report Finds Global Coral Cover Down 9.5%, Recovery Window Shrinking

31 Aug

- The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network released Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025, its seventh and most comprehensive edition, on 31 August 2026.
- Average global hard coral cover has fallen from about 30.2% in the 1980-2009 reference period to about 27.3% in 2020-2024, a relative decline of roughly 9.5%.
- The report's central warning is about timing rather than totals: the gap between mass bleaching events has narrowed to about five to six years, from decades earlier, leaving reefs too little time to recover.
- Of the ten GCRMN regions, four are in long-term decline, four show no net change and two are increasing against the reference period.
- The assessment rests on 21.1 million observations from 87,299 surveys at 36,886 reef sites across 124 countries and territories, spanning more than four decades of data.

Dwarf Lilyturf Ophiopogon japonicus Recorded in India for the First Time, in Arunachal's West Kameng

31 Aug

- Ophiopogon japonicus (dwarf lilyturf or mondo grass) has been recorded in India for the first time, from West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh at 2,185 m, in a paper published in Discover Plants on 31 August 2026.
- The record came from researchers of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, and the Uluberia Botanical Institute Herbarium, Howrah.
- It raises India's count in the genus from seven to eight; the genus Ophiopogon (family Asparagaceae) has about 85 species worldwide.
- The herb is native to East Asia; its tuberous roots, called Maidong, are used in traditional Chinese medicine. Its roadside population is threatened by road building and landslides.

UNCCD COP17 Closes in Ulaanbaatar With Rangelands and Grasslands at the Centre

28 Aug

- The 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification concluded in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 28 August 2026 after a two-week session that opened on 17 August.
- The theme was 'Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.', and rangelands and pastoralists were the defining subject because 2026 is the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- India released its first-ever Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems at the session on 17 August 2026, arguing that conservation policy must look beyond forests.
- COP17 mobilised about USD 1.3 billion in new and pipeline financing for land restoration and drought resilience across 23 countries on five continents.
- Parties shifted the drought agenda from crisis response to resilience but did not agree on a new legally binding financial mechanism for drought.

UNCCD COP17 Launches Drought Resilience Investment Facility and Global Drought Resilience Index

27 Aug

- UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, has put in place a new global architecture for drought resilience built around two instruments - a measurement tool and a financing platform.
- The Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF), described as the first global catalytic financing platform dedicated to drought resilience, was launched by the UNCCD and the Government of Luxembourg with support from the International Drought Resilience Alliance.
- Luxembourg committed 5 million euros of catalytic first-loss capital to DRIF, which aims to mobilise up to $400 million in public and private capital for water security, sustainable agriculture, nature-based solutions and land restoration.
- The Drought Resilience Index (DRI), showcased on 19 August 2026, is the assessment tool of the International Drought Resilience Observatory's second phase, letting countries measure their capacity to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to drought.
- COP17 as a whole advanced $1.3 billion in new and pipeline financing for land restoration and drought resilience across 23 countries on five continents.

New Sunflower-Family Species Doronicum sanctum Discovered in Tawang

26 Aug

- Researchers from CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology have described a new plant species, Doronicum sanctum.
- It belongs to the genus Doronicum, commonly called Leopard's Bane, in the sunflower family Asteraceae.
- The plant was recorded in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh at about 4,086 metres above sea level.
- It is the first member of the genus Doronicum documented from Northeast India; earlier Indian records were confined to the Western Himalayas.
- The species epithet 'sanctum' means 'holy' in Latin, after the sacred landscape near the type locality.

Spoon-Tailed Duskhawker Dragonfly Recorded in India for the First Time at Namdapha

26 Aug

- The spoon-tailed duskhawker (Gynacantha basiguttata) has been confirmed from India for the first time, in a paper published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa on 26 August 2026.
- The dragonfly was photographed on 16 October 2024 in roadside vegetation along the Miao-Vijaynagar road inside Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The record is a self-rectification: an image published by the same team in an earlier 2026 paper on Gynacantha khasiaca was re-examined and reassigned to G. basiguttata.
- The species, described by Selys in 1882 and known from the Philippines and parts of Southeast Asia, was not previously listed in India's Odonata fauna, so the find is a range extension.
- Namdapha, India's 15th tiger reserve, is the state forest department's showcase for Eastern Himalayan biodiversity and the only protected area it describes as holding four big cat species.

India's Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity Crosses 300 GW, Over 54% of Total

25 Aug

- India's installed non-fossil fuel power capacity reached 300.50 GW as on 31 July 2026, crossing the 300 GW mark for the first time.
- This is more than 54% of India's total installed generation capacity of about 552 GW, and over 60% of the 500 GW non-fossil target set for 2030.
- Solar leads the non-fossil basket at 164.59 GW, followed by wind at 58.14 GW, hydro at 57.24 GW, bio-power at 11.75 GW and nuclear at 8.78 GW.
- India added a record 55.29 GW of non-fossil capacity in 2025-26, including 44.6 GW of solar and 6 GW of wind.

- Renewable electricity generation rose to 477.79 billion units in 2025-26, from 190.96 billion units in 2014-15.

CSIR-IHBT Describes Doronicum sanctum, First Leopard's Bane From Northeast India

25 Aug

- Researchers at the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, have described a new plant species of the sunflower family and named it Doronicum sanctum.
- The species was collected in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh at an elevation of about 4,086 metres above sea level.
- It is the first member of the genus Doronicum, commonly called Leopard's bane, ever documented from Northeast India; all previous Indian records of the genus were confined to the western Himalaya.
- The specific epithet sanctum, from the Latin for holy or sacred, was chosen because the type locality lies near the Chumi Gyatse holy waterfalls, a site of spiritual importance to local communities.
- The plant carries vibrant yellow flower heads and heart-shaped leaves, and appears to be extremely rare in the wild.

12. Banking & Finance

1 article

NCDEX Launches RAINCHNNAI Weather Futures for Chennai's Northeast Monsoon

31 Aug

- NCDEX launched RAINCHNNAI, a weather futures contract on Chennai's Northeast monsoon rainfall, reported on 31 August 2026 after SEBI approval.
- The contract is cash-settled and references official India Meteorological Department rainfall data from the Meenambakkam and Nungambakkam stations.
- Settlement uses a Cumulative Deviation Rainfall model that measures deviation of actual rainfall from the Long Period Average.
- Tick size is 1 millimetre, the maximum order lot size is 50 lots, and the open interest threshold is 116,400 millimetres.
- Expiries in September, October, November and December are available initially; it follows RAINMUMBAI, India's first rainfall futures contract, launched in May 2026.

13. Economy

3 articles

India's Forex Reserves Hit Record $729.3 Billion in Week Ended 21 August

28 Aug

- India's foreign exchange reserves rose by $12.4 billion to an all-time high of $729.3 billion in the week ended 21 August 2026, according to RBI data released on 28 August.
- The reserves surpassed the previous peak of $728.5 billion recorded in the week ended 27 February 2026.
- Reserves had fallen to $666.9 billion in late June 2026 after the RBI sold dollars to steady the rupee, and have since recovered by about $62.4 billion in eight weeks.

- A concessional swap window opened by the RBI in June had drawn about $72.8 billion by 21 August, with inflows projected at $90-100 billion before it closes on 31 August.
- The reserves now cover more than 11 months of goods imports; India holds the world's fourth-largest reserves after China, Japan and Switzerland.

Centre Runs Kanda Express Onion Rakes From Nashik as Retail Prices Jump 59%

24 Aug

- The Centre began running dedicated Kanda Express railway rakes of buffer-stock onions from Nashik on 24 August 2026 to cool a sharp price rise.
- The national average retail onion price stood at Rs 43.53 per kg on 24 August 2026, about 59% above the Rs 27.37 per kg of a year earlier.
- Buffer onions are being sold to consumers at Rs 35 per kg through NCCF and NAFED in the destination cities.
- The first rakes were routed to Delhi, Chennai, Madurai, Ernakulam and Guwahati.
- Kanda Express began in 2024-25 with 14 rakes carrying about 12,000 tonnes to five cities and scaled to 86 rakes and about 88,000 tonnes across 16 cities in 2025-26.

India Lifts Wheat and Wheat Flour Export Ban Imposed in 2022

24 Aug

- On 24 August 2026 the Directorate General of Foreign Trade moved wheat, durum wheat and a range of wheat flour products from the 'Prohibited' to the 'Free' export category with immediate effect.
- Two notifications were issued: one covering wheat and durum wheat, and one covering atta, maida, semolina (rava), wholemeal atta and resultant atta.
- The decision ends restrictions in force since 13 May 2022 for wheat and since August 2022 for wheat flour products, and follows a record foodgrain output reported for the 2025-26 crop year.

14. National

2 articles

India Sets First National Minimum Standards for Hospital Mortuaries

30 Aug

- India has finalised its first uniform minimum standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure, issued as the Clinical Establishment Act Standards for Mortuary.
- The standards were framed under the National Council for Clinical Establishments, which functions under the Directorate General of Health Services.
- Mortuaries must be on the ground floor, not in basements, and away from hospital waste disposal areas, with a separate entry for body movement.
- Cold storage must be maintained at 4 to 8 degrees Celsius with a minimum capacity of four bodies, each cabin carrying a unique serial number.
- The standards apply to both government and private hospitals, with enforcement resting on State and Union Territory authorities.

India Post Rolls Out Upgraded Dak MITRA and Dak Sewa Apps for Branch Post Offices

24 Aug

- The Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, released upgraded versions of two India Post mobile applications - Dak MITRA for postal staff and Dak Sewa for citizens - at a function in New Delhi.
- Dak MITRA stands for Mobile Interface for Transactions and Rural Assistance, and is the single operational app for more than 1.4 lakh Branch Post Offices, the lowest and most rural tier of the postal network.
- It was built in-house by the Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology on the Department of Posts' Advanced Postal Technology platform, as part of the DoP IT 2.0 modernisation programme.
- The citizen-facing Dak Sewa app gives 24x7 access to tracking, booking, complaints, post office and PIN code locators and financial calculators, and works in 23 Indian languages through the BHASHINI translation platform.
- The same event saw 14 renovated post office buildings inaugurated across the country, including at Vasant Kunj in Delhi, Patliputra in Bihar, Kakurgachi in Kolkata, Sanchi and Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, Shillong in Meghalaya and Kandivali West in Mumbai.

15. International

2 articles

Hague Court Says Indus Waters Treaty Fully in Force; India Rejects Award

31 Aug

- On 31 August 2026 the Court of Arbitration hearing the Indus Waters dispute at The Hague issued two decisions holding that the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty remains fully in force and that India continues to be bound by it.
- The Court held that the Treaty contains no provision for unilateral suspension or termination, and that India's April 2025 decision to hold it in abeyance cannot suspend its operation.
- It also imposed interim measures on the Ratle Hydroelectric Plant on the Chenab, directing India to refrain for now from concreting the dam wall and power-intake structure above specified levels.
- India rejected the award outright, saying the Court was constituted by the World Bank in breach of the Treaty, has no jurisdiction over India's sovereign decisions, and that its pronouncements are null and void.
- The restrictions are to run until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision on the Kishenganga and Ratle projects, expected around July 2027.

India and Uzbekistan Elevate Ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

30 Aug

- India and Uzbekistan elevated their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Tashkent on 30 August 2026.
- The two sides set a target of USD 5 billion in annual bilateral trade by 2030, up from the present level of over USD 1 billion.
- They agreed on a framework for the long-term supply of uranium from Uzbekistan for India's civil nuclear energy programme.
- A Coordination Council at Foreign Minister level was agreed, and the existing Joint Commission is being raised from Secretary level to Ministerial level.
- A Letter of Intent was signed for restoring the Buddhist heritage sites of Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa in Uzbekistan.

16. Polity & Governance

4 articles

NCAHP Notifies Registration Regulations 2026 for Allied and Healthcare Professionals

31 Aug

- The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions notified the Registration of Allied and Healthcare Professionals Regulations, 2026 in the Gazette on 31 August 2026, in force from that day.
- Registration on the Central or State Register is valid for five years; renewal must be sought six months before expiry, or the entry turns 'inactive'.
- Renewal needs continuing professional development of at least 15 hours a year (75 hours over five years); Central Register fees are Rs 2,000 to register and Rs 1,000 to renew.
- NCAHP is a statutory body under the NCAHP Act, 2021 (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), covering professions in 10 recognised categories.

THE 10 RECOGNISED CATEGORIES

No.	Category
1	Medical Laboratory and Life Sciences
2	Trauma, Burn Care and Surgical/Anaesthesia Technology
3	Physiotherapy
4	Nutrition Science
5	Ophthalmic Sciences
6	Occupational Therapy
7	Community Care, Behavioural Health and Other Professionals
8	Medical Radiology, Imaging and Therapeutic Technology
9	Medical Technology and Physician Associates
10	Health Information Management and Health Informatics

Source: NCAHP Act, 2021 Schedule (as listed by the Commission)

Centre Notifies Rules Making Indian Standard Time the Sole Legal Time Reference

30 Aug

- The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 on 27 August 2026 under Section 52 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.
- The rules make Indian Standard Time the sole mandatory time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes across India.
- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi will continue to maintain UTC(NPLI), the primary time scale from which official IST is derived.
- Official time will also be disseminated through Regional Reference Standards Laboratories and ISRO's NavIC satellite navigation system.
- The rules come into force 180 days after publication in the Official Gazette, placing mandatory compliance around March 2027.

President Promulgates Regulation for High Court Bench Sittings in Ladakh

27 Aug

- President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026, on 27 August 2026.

- The regulation was issued under Article 240 of the Constitution read with Section 58(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- Judges and Division Courts of the common High Court may now sit at a place in Ladakh chosen by the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor.
- The principal seat of the High Court is unchanged, and the Chief Justice may still direct that cases arising in Ladakh be heard at Srinagar or Jammu.
- The Union Cabinet had approved the proposal on 20 August 2026; the regulation takes effect on a date to be notified by the Administrator of Ladakh.

Kerala Officially Becomes Keralam as Alteration of Name Act Comes Into Force

26 Aug

- Kerala has been officially renamed Keralam under The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026, which alters the State's entry in the First Schedule of the Constitution.
- The Union Home Ministry issued a gazette notification on 25 August 2026 appointing that same day as the date of commencement.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on 11 August 2026 and the Rajya Sabha on 12 August 2026; the President gave assent on 14 August 2026.
- The change was made under Article 3, which lets Parliament alter a State's name by ordinary law after the President refers the Bill to the State legislature.
- Keralam is the Malayalam name of the State, and the change takes effect in the run-up to Onam.

17. Business

1 article

Hindalco Commissions India's First Superfine PPT ATH Plant at Belagavi

27 Aug

- Hindalco Industries commissioned India's first greenfield Superfine Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH) plant at Belagavi, Karnataka, on 27 August 2026.
- Phase 1 capacity is 30,000 tonnes a year, designed for phased expansion to 60,000 tonnes.
- PPT ATH is a halogen-free flame-retardant filler used in cables, polymer insulators, thermal insulation, composites and paints, suppressing flame spread without releasing halogen acid gases.
- The company describes it as the world's only specialty alumina plant running entirely on renewable energy, drawing on solar, wind and biomass.
- The plant substitutes imports for the wire and cable industry at a time of tightening fire-safety standards and growing electric vehicle and infrastructure demand.