WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS COMPILATION

22 Aug – 31 Aug 2026

UPSC EDITION

47 key articles · 14 categories · 10 days

Curated from official releases, national dailies and ministry sources

IN THIS ISSUE

National	1
International	11
Economy	6
Banking & Finance	3
Polity & Governance	6
Defence	3
Science & Tech	4
Environment	2
Schemes & Committees	3
Agreements & MoUs	1
Summits & Conferences	2
Ranks & Reports	2
Sports	2
State News	1

HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL — 31 Aug | p. 4
Hague Court Says Indus Waters Treaty Fully in Force; India Rejects Award

ECONOMY — 28 Aug | p. 10
India's Forex Reserves Hit Record $729.3 Billion in Week Ended 21 August

POLITY & GOVERNANCE — 31 Aug | p. 15
NCAHP Notifies Registration Regulations 2026 for Allied and Healthcare Professionals

DEFENCE — 28 Aug | p. 19
Defence Ministry Eases Export SOP and Widens OGEL to Cover Almost All Countries

SCIENCE & TECH — 23 Aug | p. 22
ISRO Targets Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035; First Module Approved

ENVIRONMENT — 25 Aug | p. 23
India's Non-Fossil Fuel Power Capacity Crosses 300 GW, Over 54% of Total

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 31 Aug | p. 24
Government Notifies Rs 1.27 Lakh Crore Semicon 2.0 Scheme Across Six Pillars

AGREEMENTS & MOUS — 31 Aug | p. 26
Bihar and Jharkhand Sign Sone River Water-Sharing Pact, Ending 25-Year Dispute

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	National	1 article	3
2	International	11 articles	4
3	Economy	6 articles	10
4	Banking & Finance	3 articles	13
5	Polity & Governance	6 articles	15
6	Defence	3 articles	19
7	Science & Tech	4 articles	21
8	Environment	2 articles	23
9	Schemes & Committees	3 articles	24
10	Agreements & MoUs	1 article	26
11	Summits & Conferences	2 articles	27
12	Ranks & Reports	2 articles	28
13	Sports	2 articles	29
14	State News	1 article	30

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. National

1 article

FSSAI Proposes Red Hexagon Warning Labels for Packaged Foods High in Sugar, Salt and Fat

29 Aug

- FSSAI has proposed mandatory front-of-pack warning labels for packaged foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fat, setting out the plan in an affidavit before the Supreme Court.
- The warnings would appear as bold red hexagonal symbols reading HIGH FAT, HIGH SUGAR, HIGH SALT or HIGHLY SWEETENED BEVERAGE on the principal display panel.
- Nutrient thresholds are aligned with the Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024, issued by ICMR-NIN.
- Phase I covers products crossing thresholds for two or more target nutrients; Phase II extends it to products crossing even one.
- The proposal replaces FSSAI's earlier plan for a star-rating system, the Indian Nutrition Rating, which had failed to build stakeholder consensus.

QUICK FACTS

Regulator	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the statutory food regulator under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
Symbol	bold red hexagonal warning marks on the front (principal display panel) of the pack.
Declarations	HIGH FAT, HIGH SUGAR, HIGH SALT and HIGHLY SWEETENED BEVERAGE, including combined labels for products high in two nutrients.

- Proposal placed before the Supreme Court in a compliance affidavit, in response to a court direction.
- Font size of the warning must be at least one point larger than that used in the back-of-pack nutrition information table.
- Thresholds drawn from the Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024 (ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition).
- Staple items such as milk, ghee, edible oils, sugar, jaggery and honey are expected to remain exempt.
- The underlying case is a Public Interest Litigation by 3S and Our Health Society, a Kerala-based non-profit, heard by Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran.

2. International

11 articles

US Strikes Larak Island in Hormuz; Iran Hits Jordan and UAE Bases

31 Aug

- United States forces struck two Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps rocket launchers on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz on 30 August 2026, their first military action against Iran in about a month.
- Washington said the launchers were being prepared to fire rockets carrying sea mines into the strait, and that the strike was meant to stop Iranian forces from mining the waterway.
- Hours later the IRGC launched a combined missile and drone operation named Punishment of the Aggressor against the King Hussein and Al Azraq bases in Jordan; Jordan said it intercepted eight missiles at dawn with no injuries, and Iran also struck US military assets in the United Arab Emirates.
- The exchange came as the war involving the United States, Israel and Iran entered its seventh month, with the Strait of Hormuz - which carries about a quarter of the world's seaborne oil - at the centre of the fighting.

QUICK FACTS

Date of US strike	30 August 2026, on Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz.
Target	two IRGC rocket launchers; the US said they were being readied to fire rockets carrying sea mines into the strait.
Casualties	the IRGC reported unspecified Iranian military and civilian casualties; no US casualties were reported.
Iranian response	Operation Punishment of the Aggressor, a missile and drone strike on the King Hussein and Al Azraq bases in Jordan, plus strikes on US assets in the UAE.
Larak Island	about 49 sq km, in the Strait of Hormuz roughly 45 km south-east of Bandar Abbas.

– Jordan's armed forces said eight missiles that entered its airspace at dawn were intercepted, with no injuries.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Date of the decisions	31 August 2026, two decisions issued together
Forum	the Court of Arbitration constituted under Annexure G of the Indus Waters Treaty, sitting at The Hague with the Permanent Court of Arbitration as its Registry
Core holding	the Treaty remains fully in force; it cannot be suspended or terminated unilaterally
Interim measures	India to refrain from concreting the Ratle dam wall and power-intake structure above specified levels and to report changes in the construction schedule
Duration of the measures	until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision, expected around July 2027
India's position	the Court is illegally constituted, its award is null and void, and the abeyance decision stands

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.

QUICK FACTS

Date and place	30 August 2026, Kuksaroy Presidential Palace, Tashkent
Leaders	Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev
Outcome	ties elevated from Strategic Partnership to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
Trade target	USD 5 billion a year by 2030, a roughly fivefold increase

– This was Prime Minister Modi's fourth visit to Uzbekistan, and came as the existing strategic partnership completed 15 years

Trump Announces US Deal for Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves

28 Aug

- On 28 August 2026 US President Donald Trump announced that the United States had entered an agreement giving it majority control of more than 65 billion barrels of Venezuela's proven oil reserves, calling it the biggest oil deal in world history.
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the arrangement would bring nearly $100 billion of private investment into Venezuela; Trump said it came at no cost to American taxpayers and would more than double United States oil reserves.
- The announcement named Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez, who took office in January 2026 after Nicolas Maduro was removed from power and taken to face criminal charges in a United States court.
- Venezuela holds roughly 303 billion barrels of proven crude reserves, the largest of any country and about 17 per cent of the world total, but its output has collapsed after years of underinvestment and infrastructure decay.
- Chevron, the only major American oil company still operating in Venezuela, reported gross output of about 280,000 barrels per day from its joint ventures with the state firm PDVSA and sees room for up to 50 per cent growth by the end of 2028.

QUICK FACTS

Announced by	US President Donald Trump, 28 August 2026
What it covers	majority US control of more than 65 billion barrels of Venezuela's proven oil reserves
Investment projected	nearly $100 billion of private investment into Venezuela, per Secretary of State Marco Rubio
Venezuelan counterpart named	interim President Delcy Rodriguez, in office since January 2026
Venezuela's total proven reserves	about 303 billion barrels, the largest of any country in the world
Trump's claim	the deal comes at no cost to American taxpayers and would more than double US oil reserves

India Flies Second Relief Consignment of 37.5 Tonnes to Flood-Hit Nepal

27 Aug

- India flew a second consignment of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief material to Nepal on 27 August 2026, sending 37.5 tonnes of supplies aboard an Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster.

- The first tranche of 10 tonnes - tents, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and medicines - had gone in a C-130J Hercules on 26 August, hours after the flash flood struck.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced both consignments, and the Ministry of External Affairs said India remains in continuous touch with Nepalese authorities.
- Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the Chief Ministers of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and the NDRF and local agencies were placed on alert in Indian districts along the Nepal border.
- The flood began on 26 August when an ice-and-rock avalanche near the Tibet border dammed a tributary and the natural dam burst, sending water down the Bhote Koshi-Trishuli system through Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts.

QUICK FACTS

Second consignment	37.5 tonnes of HADR material, medicines and food packets, flown 27 August 2026 by an IAF C-17 Globemaster
First consignment	10 tonnes - tents, blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, medicines - flown 26 August 2026 by an IAF C-130J Hercules
Announced by	External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar; MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's commitment to all feasible assistance
Indian domestic response	NDRF and local agencies on alert in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh border districts after Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to both Chief Ministers
Disaster	flash flood of 26 August 2026 in Nepal's Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, along the Trishuli valley
Cause	an ice-and-rock avalanche dammed a tributary near the Tibet border and the natural dam later burst
Toll as officially reported	Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority put the toll at 359 dead in its bulletin of 27 August, with hundreds still unaccounted for

PM Modi to Visit Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan for the 26th SCO Summit

27 Aug

- The Ministry of External Affairs announced on 27 August 2026 that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on a four-day visit.
- He will make a State Visit to Tashkent on 29-30 August at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, his fourth visit to Uzbekistan.
- He will then attend the 26th SCO Heads of State Summit in Bishkek from 31 August to 1 September 2026.
- Kyrgyzstan holds the 2025-26 SCO chairmanship, with the summit themed around 25 years of the SCO and sustainable peace, development and prosperity.
- A bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected on the sidelines, and the Prime Minister is to attend the opening of the sixth World Nomad Games.

QUICK FACTS

Announced by	Ministry of External Affairs, 27 August 2026
Uzbekistan leg	State Visit to Tashkent, 29-30 August 2026, at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev
Kyrgyzstan leg	26th SCO Heads of State Summit at Bishkek, 31 August to 1 September 2026
SCO chair for 2025-26	Kyrgyzstan
India's stated priorities at the summit	security, connectivity and opportunity
Also on the programme	the opening of the sixth World Nomad Games in the Kyrgyz Republic

Flash Flood Sweeps Nepal's Bhote Koshi and Trishuli Valleys After Himalayan Ice Avalanche

26 Aug

- A sudden flash flood swept down the Bhote Koshi and into the Trishuli river system on 26 August 2026, devastating Nepal's Rasuwa district and putting Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Chitwan on alert.

- The surge was traced to a massive ice avalanche in the high Himalaya that fell into the Lhende Khola, a headwater stream on the Nepal-Tibet frontier; a seismic signal was recorded, but the United States Geological Survey assessed the waves as consistent with a landslide rather than a tectonic earthquake.
- By 27 August the confirmed death toll in Nepal had passed 150 with more than 750 people missing, including 133 Indian nationals; three deaths were reported on the Chinese side.
- Six hydropower stations in the Trishuli basin were damaged, the Rasuwagadhi customs post and the Gyirong border crossing were wrecked, and roughly 19 bridges and 40 km of road were destroyed.
- India placed Bihar and Uttar Pradesh on alert as the wave moved downstream into the Gandak, with about 20 NDRF teams on standby and the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu issuing emergency helplines.

QUICK FACTS

Event	flash flood down the Bhote Koshi into the Trishuli river system, 26 August 2026
Trigger	a large ice avalanche near the Langtang Lirung massif falling into the Lhende Khola, close to the Nepal-Tibet border
Districts hit or alerted in Nepal	Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Chitwan; Gyirong county in Tibet was also affected
Toll as of 27 August 2026	more than 150 dead in Nepal and three in China; over 750 missing, including 133 Indians
Infrastructure	six hydropower stations damaged, about 19 bridges and 40 km of roads destroyed
India's response	Bihar and Uttar Pradesh alerted for the Gandak, roughly 20 NDRF teams on standby, embassy helplines opened in Kathmandu

Meta Settles US States' Child Safety Case for Over $17 Billion

26 Aug

- Meta agreed on 26 August 2026 to pay more than $17 billion over a decade to settle child-safety claims brought by 47 US states, Washington DC and other territories, ending a federal trial.
- The states alleged that Facebook and Instagram were designed to keep young users compulsively engaged, that Meta misled the public about the harms, and that it collected data from children under 13 in breach of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), 1998.
- For the settlement's first five years Meta will apply a combined two-hour daily limit for under-18 users across Facebook and Instagram, a 'night mode' block from midnight to 6 am, and notification curbs at night and during school hours.
- Other changes include a non-personalised feed option, likes and reactions hidden by default, curbs on cosmetic-procedure filters and stronger age assurance — some as defaults, others opt-in.
- Meta denies wrongdoing; the settlement records no finding of liability, sets no standard of care, and leaves the Section 230 question unresolved.

QUICK FACTS

Settlement amount	more than $17 billion, payable over the next decade.
Plaintiffs	a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from 47 US states, plus Washington DC and other territories.
Central allegation	the platforms' design — endless feeds, recommendation algorithms, notifications and social metrics such as likes — was built to maximise compulsive engagement by young users.

- The settlement ended the states' federal trial without any judgment on Meta's underlying liability.
- COPPA, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, is a 1998 US federal law enacted before Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or TikTok existed.
- Thousands of related cases remain pending; the agreement explicitly does not serve as precedent elsewhere.

India and China Hold 25th Round of Special Representatives Border Talks

25 Aug

- The 25th round of Special Representatives talks on the India-China boundary question was held in Beijing on 25 August 2026.

- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, India's Special Representative, co-chaired the round with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, China's Special Representative, during a two-day visit that began on 24 August.
- The round took place ahead of an expected visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to New Delhi for the BRICS summit.

QUICK FACTS

Event	25th round of Special Representatives (SR) talks on the India-China boundary question.
Date and venue	25 August 2026, Beijing.
India's Special Representative	National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, who has held the office of NSA since 2014.
China's Special Representative	Foreign Minister Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

- Doval was on a two-day visit beginning 24 August and was also scheduled to call on Chinese Vice President Han Zheng.
- The previous round, the 24th, was held in August 2025.

US Removes Syria from State Sponsors of Terrorism List After 47 Years

25 Aug

- The US Department of State rescinded Syria's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism on 24 August 2026, ending a listing that had run since 29 December 1979.
- On the same day the Department revoked the Specially Designated Global Terrorist designation of the al-Nusrah Front, also known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).
- The Office of Foreign Assets Control removed HTS from its Specially Designated Nationals List and revoked Syria General License 25.
- Cuba, Iran and North Korea remain the only countries on the US State Sponsors of Terrorism list.
- The move followed a 45-day congressional review that began after Secretary of State Marco Rubio notified Congress on 8 July 2026.

QUICK FACTS

Action	Syria's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism rescinded by the US Department of State on 24 August 2026
Duration of designation	from 29 December 1979 — nearly 47 years, the longest of any country on the list
Same-day action	SDGT designation of al-Nusrah Front / Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham revoked
OFAC action	HTS removed from the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List; Syria General License 25 revoked
Process	45-day congressional review, triggered by Secretary of State Marco Rubio's notification to Congress on 8 July 2026
Countries still listed	Cuba, Iran, North Korea

Trump Announces 50% Tariff on Canadian Vehicles, Parts and Steel From 2027

24 Aug

- United States President Donald Trump announced on 24 August 2026 a 50% tariff on Canadian cars, trucks, automotive parts and steel, to take effect on 1 January 2027.
- The announcement followed the collapse of bilateral trade talks in Washington on 21 August and the coming into force on 22 August of 50% tariffs on a broad range of Canadian goods under Section 338 of the US Tariff Act, 1930.
- Those 22 August tariffs covered roughly 5% of Canada's exports to the United States; existing US duties on non-US automobiles and parts stood at 25%, so the new measure would double the top rate on Canadian autos.
- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Canada would retaliate 'dollar for dollar' from 8 September 2026, targeting US steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper and electronics.
- Section 338 is unusual in that USMCA origin gives no exemption - covered goods pay the duty even when they qualify for preferential treatment under the trade agreement.

QUICK FACTS

Announced by	US President Donald Trump, 24 August 2026
Rate and coverage	50% on Canadian cars, trucks, automotive parts and steel; US-built vehicles exempt
Effective date announced	1 January 2027
Existing rate being doubled	25% on non-US automobiles and parts
Canada's response	Prime Minister Mark Carney promised dollar-for-dollar retaliation from 8 September 2026
Canadian retaliation list	US steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, electronics
Backing from the provinces	Ontario Premier Doug Ford publicly supported the retaliation, calling the US terms bad for the auto, steel and manufacturing sectors

3. Economy

6 articles

India Weighs Qualified MFN Clause in Overhaul of Investment Treaty Model

31 Aug

- The Union government is reported to be considering a Qualified Most Favoured Nation provision as part of a broader restructuring of India's bilateral investment treaty framework.
- Rather than restoring the open-ended MFN clause dropped from the 2015 Model BIT, a qualified version would keep non-discrimination but limit which third-country treaty provisions an investor may import.
- The draft also proposes cutting the period for which an investor must pursue domestic remedies before international arbitration from five years to as little as one, and doubling post-treaty protection from five years to ten.
- The stated aim is to answer the objections of partners such as the European Union without reopening the exposure that followed India's first adverse investment-treaty award.

QUICK FACTS

Proposal	a Qualified MFN provision in a remodelled Indian bilateral investment treaty (BIT) framework.
ISDS change proposed	the domestic-remedies period falls from five years to as little as one year.
Survival clause	protection after a treaty expires would double from five years to ten.
Also proposed	a wider definition of what counts as a protected investment.
Context	the current Model BIT dates from 2015 and deliberately left out an open-ended MFN clause and a full fair and equitable treatment standard.

- Qualified MFN retains non-discrimination but specifies which provisions may be imported, whether the clause applies retrospectively, whether settled disputes may be reopened, and what categories of treatment are covered.

India's GDP Grows 7.8% in Q1 FY27, Beats RBI's 7% Estimate

31 Aug

- India's real GDP grew 7.8% in Q1 of FY 2026-27 (April-June 2026), ahead of the RBI's 7% projection and of private forecasts of 7.1-7.3%.
- Real GDP rose to Rs 81.36 lakh crore from Rs 75.46 lakh crore in the same quarter of FY26; nominal GDP grew 10.3% to Rs 88.27 lakh crore.
- Real Gross Value Added grew faster than GDP, at 8.2%, against 7% a year earlier.
- Services led with 10% growth; investment was the standout, with Gross Fixed Capital Formation up 20.4%.
- The estimates were released by the National Statistics Office under MoSPI on 31 August 2026.

QUICK FACTS

Real GDP	Rs 81.36 lakh crore, up from Rs 75.46 lakh crore in Q1 FY26
Nominal GDP growth	10.3%, taking nominal GDP to Rs 88.27 lakh crore from Rs 80 lakh crore
Real Gross Value Added (GVA) growth	8.2%, up from 7% a year earlier; real GVA at Rs 73.82 lakh crore
Nominal GVA	Rs 80.53 lakh crore

- Real GDP growth in Q1 FY27 (April-June 2026): 7.8%
- Released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on 31 August 2026
- Beat the RBI's 7% projection, a Moneycontrol poll at 7.3% and the Reuters survey median of 7.1%

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.

QUICK FACTS

Total reserves	$729.3 billion, an all-time high, for the week ended 21 August 2026.
Weekly increase	$12.4 billion.
Previous record	$728.5 billion in the week ended 27 February 2026.
Import cover	more than 11 months of merchandise imports.
Data source	the RBI's weekly statistical supplement, released on Fridays.

– India ranks fourth globally in foreign exchange reserves, after China, Japan and Switzerland.

PPPAC Clears Leasing of 11 AAI Airports to Private Players in Five Bundles

25 Aug

- The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee has given in-principle approval to leasing 11 Airports Authority of India airports to private players for a 50-year concession period.
- The 11 airports have been grouped into five bundles, with estimated private investment of Rs 8,622 crore.
- The bidding parameter will be a per-passenger fee for domestic travellers; the international passenger fee is fixed at twice the domestic rate.
- AAI will retain air traffic control and communication, navigation and surveillance services; concessionaires must retain at least 60% of existing AAI staff.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed a one-year joint management period after handover.

QUICK FACTS

Approving body	Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), in a meeting chaired by the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
Number of airports	11, grouped into five bundles
Concession period	50 years
Estimated private investment	Rs 8,622 crore
Highest-investment bundle	Bhubaneswar-Hubballi at Rs 2,725 crore
Bidding parameter	per-passenger fee for domestic travellers, with the international rate at twice the domestic rate
Retained by AAI	air traffic control and communication, navigation and surveillance (CNS) services

RBI Bulletin Calls Economy Resilient as MPC Lifts FY27 Growth Forecast to 6.7%

25 Aug

- The Reserve Bank of India released its August 2026 Bulletin on 25 August 2026; its State of the Economy article judges the Indian economy resilient to global headwinds despite renewed US tariffs and geopolitical friction in West Asia.
- The Monetary Policy Committee left the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent in August 2026 - a fourth consecutive hold - and retained its neutral stance under Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The MPC raised its GDP growth forecast for 2026-27 from 6.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent and lowered its CPI inflation projection from 5.1 per cent to 5 per cent.

- The article credits buoyant domestic demand, a broad-based manufacturing recovery, resilient services, a July revival of the southwest monsoon that lifted kharif sowing towards normal, easier liquidity and returning foreign capital.
- The risks it flags are renewed US tariffs, West Asian geopolitics feeding into crude prices, food inflation pushing headline CPI possibly to 5.9 per cent in Q3 of 2026-27, and a merchandise trade deficit that widened in July partly on electronic goods.

QUICK FACTS

Publication	the Reserve Bank of India's monthly Bulletin for August 2026, released 25 August 2026; the assessment appears in its State of the Economy article
Headline judgement	the economy is showing notable resilience despite global headwinds
Repo rate	unchanged at 5.25 per cent in the August 2026 review, a fourth consecutive hold, with a neutral stance retained
RBI Governor	Sanjay Malhotra
Growth forecast for 2026-27	raised from 6.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent
CPI inflation projection for 2026-27	lowered from 5.1 per cent to 5 per cent
Warning	headline inflation could rise to 5.9 per cent in Q3 of 2026-27

- Global uncertainty has moderated for a fourth consecutive month, and financial market volatility in emerging markets has eased

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.

QUICK FACTS

Date of change	24 August 2026, with immediate effect.
Issuing authority	Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
Policy shift	from 'Prohibited' to 'Free' for wheat, durum wheat and specified wheat flour products.
Products covered on the flour side	atta, maida, semolina (rava), wholemeal atta and resultant atta.

- Notification No. 35/2026-27 covers wheat and durum wheat; Notification No. 34/2026-27 covers wheat flour products.
- Wheat exports had been prohibited since 13 May 2022; flour products since August 2022.

4. Banking & Finance

3 articles

HDFC Bank CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan to Retire on 26 October, Declines Reappointment

29 Aug

- Sashidhar Jagdishan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of HDFC Bank, has decided not to seek reappointment and will retire from the bank on 26 October 2026.
- He conveyed the decision to the bank on 29 August 2026, and the Board of Directors took note of it at its meeting the same day after failing to persuade him to reconsider.
- Jagdishan has led India's largest private sector bank since October 2020, when he succeeded Aditya Puri, and his current term was the result of a three-year extension approved by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The board said it would fast-track the selection of a successor so that the appointment is completed well before the retirement date; any new MD and CEO requires prior RBI approval.
- The announcement follows a turbulent year of governance at the bank, including the resignation of part-time chairman Atanu Chakraborty in March 2026 and an internal review into deposits mobilised from the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation.

QUICK FACTS

Who	Sashidhar Jagdishan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, HDFC Bank.
What	he has declined to seek reappointment and will retire from the bank on 26 October 2026.
When announced	the decision was conveyed to the bank on 29 August 2026 and noted by the Board of Directors at its meeting the same day.
Tenure	MD and CEO since October 2020, succeeding Aditya Puri; the term now ending followed a three-year extension approved by the RBI.
Predecessor	Aditya Puri, who led the bank from its inception until October 2020 and was the longest-serving chief executive of any Indian private bank.
Defining event of his tenure	the merger of HDFC Ltd into HDFC Bank, effective 1 July 2023, the largest merger in Indian corporate history.
Board response	the selection of a successor is to be fast-tracked and completed well before the retirement date.
Current part-time chairman	Rajiv Kumar, whose appointment for three years was approved by the RBI with effect from 15 July 2026.

PM Jan Dhan Yojana Completes 12 Years with 59.09 Crore Accounts

28 Aug

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completed 12 years on 28 August 2026, having been launched on 28 August 2014 as the National Mission for Financial Inclusion.
- As on 19 August 2026 the scheme had 59.09 crore accounts holding deposits of Rs 3,16,514 crore, about Rs 3.17 lakh crore.
- Deposits have grown about 12.8 times over the twelve years while the number of accounts grew about 2.3 times.
- Women hold 32.92 crore accounts (55.7 per cent) and 45.95 crore accounts (77.8 per cent) are in rural and semi-urban areas.
- 41.29 crore RuPay cards have been issued, and the average balance per account stands at Rs 5,356, up about 3.4 times.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the National Mission for Financial Inclusion
Launched	28 August 2014; completed 12 years on 28 August 2026
Implementing department	Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance
Accounts as on 19 August 2026	59.09 crore
Deposits as on 19 August 2026	Rs 3,16,514 crore (about Rs 3.17 lakh crore)
Core design	a zero-balance basic savings account with no minimum balance requirement

UPI Completes Ten Years, Handling Half the World's Real-Time Payments

25 Aug

- The Unified Payments Interface completed ten years of public operation on 25 August 2026, having been opened to users through bank apps on that date in 2016.
- Annual transaction volume rose from 1.78 crore in FY 2016-17 to more than 24,162 crore in FY 2025-26, and value from about Rs 0.07 lakh crore to roughly Rs 314 lakh crore.
- UPI was live in 11 countries and accounted for close to half of all real-time payment transactions worldwide, the largest such system by volume.

QUICK FACTS

- UPI completed ten years of public operation on 25 August 2026.
- It was piloted on 11 April 2016 in Mumbai by then RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan with 21 member banks, and opened to the public when banks began releasing UPI apps from 25 August 2016.
- Built and operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), under the regulatory oversight of the Reserve Bank of India.
- It allows instant inter-bank transfer initiated from a mobile device using a virtual payment address, mobile number or account details.
- It supports both person-to-person and person-to-merchant payments and operates around the clock through the year.

5. Polity & Governance

6 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.

QUICK FACTS

Rule notified	Registration of Allied and Healthcare Professionals Regulations, 2026, by NCAHP; published in the Gazette on 31 August 2026 and in force from publication
Registers	a Central Register and State Registers; State Councils handle registration where they are functional
Validity	five years; renewal application due six months before expiry, or the Central Register shows the professional as inactive
CPD	minimum 15 hours a year, 75 hours per five-year cycle
Fees (Central Register)	Rs 2,000 to register, Rs 1,000 to renew
Coverage	57 recognised allied and healthcare professions, such as physiotherapists, medical laboratory professionals and dietitians
Parent law	National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021; administrative ministry: Health and Family Welfare

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.

QUICK FACTS

Instrument	Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026
Notified by	Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Date of notification	27 August 2026
Enabling provision	Section 52 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009
Comes into force	180 days after publication in the Official Gazette, around March 2027

– IST is UTC plus 5 hours 30 minutes; India does not observe daylight saving time

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.

QUICK FACTS

New official name	Keralam, the Malayalam name of the State
Law	The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026, No. 18 of 2026
Constitutional route	Article 3, altering the First Schedule
Gazette notification and date of commencement	25 August 2026
Presidential assent	14 August 2026, by President Droupadi Murmu

SC Judge's Letters on Rajasthan Acting Chief Justice Revive Collegium Question

26 Aug

- Supreme Court judge Justice Sandeep Mehta wrote to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant in letters dated 2, 10 and 17 August 2026, seeking that the Rajasthan High Court be headed by a Chief Justice from outside the state.
- The letters, reported on 26 August 2026, allege manipulation of case listings, misuse of administrative powers and threats to fellow judges by Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, and describe his acting tenure as unusually long.
- The CJI said in a press statement the same day that allegations against a sitting judge must go through the established institutional mechanism and cannot by themselves be treated as findings.
- Justice Sharma has been Acting Chief Justice since late September 2025, a tenure of nearly a year, and the Collegium must now decide how to treat at least four names for High Court judgeships that he has recommended.

- By convention an Acting Chief Justice does not send such recommendations, because vetting candidates needs familiarity with the Bar and time that a short tenure does not allow.

QUICK FACTS

Who wrote	Justice Sandeep Mehta, judge of the Supreme Court and formerly of the Rajasthan High Court.
To whom	Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, with copies to the Collegium and the President.
Subject	Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court since 28 September 2025, due to retire on 26 September 2026.
CJI's response, 26 August 2026	allegations must be handled through the institutional mechanism; an allegation is not a finding, and the judge concerned must have a fair opportunity to respond.
The immediate institutional question	whether the Collegium should act on at least four judicial appointment recommendations sent by an Acting Chief Justice.

- Letters dated 2, 10 and 17 August 2026; reported publicly on 26 August 2026.
- Constitutional basis for an Acting Chief Justice: Article 223 of the Constitution.

Supreme Court to Set Up Special Bench on Centre's OBC Creamy Layer Plea

25 Aug

- On 25 August 2026 a Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, agreed to consider setting up a special Bench to hear the Centre's plea for clarification of the judgment in Union of India v. Rohith Nathan.
- Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court that the Department of Personnel and Training had filed an urgent application seeking directions from a Bench headed by Justice P. S. Narasimha, who delivered the judgment.
- The judgment, delivered on 11 March 2026 by Justices P. S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan, held that creamy-layer status among OBCs cannot be decided on parental income alone and that the status and rank of the parent's post must be considered.
- It struck down the effect of a 2004 clarificatory letter that had allowed the salary of a parent in a public sector undertaking or the private sector to be counted, holding that an executive clarification could not amend the binding DoPT office memorandum of 8 September 1993.
- The Centre argues that applying the ruling retrospectively from the Civil Services Examination of 2012 onwards would unsettle cadre allocations, state cadres and inter-se seniority across many batches, and has asked that it not disturb the allocation of 958 recommended candidates of CSE 2025.

QUICK FACTS

Date	25 August 2026, when the Supreme Court agreed to consider constituting a special Bench.
Bench that heard the mentioning	Chief Justice Surya Kant with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana.
For the Centre	Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on an urgent application by the Department of Personnel and Training.
The judgment in question	Union of India v. Rohith Nathan, delivered on 11 March 2026 by Justices P. S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan.
Core holding	creamy-layer exclusion must be primarily status-based; salary alone cannot exclude a candidate without regard to the nature or rank of the parent's post.
Instrument struck at	paragraph 9 of the clarificatory letter of 2004, which had brought the salary of PSU and private-sector employees into the reckoning without establishing post equivalence.
Immediate concern	958 candidates recommended in CSE 2025 were due to begin their Foundation Course.
Reach of the ruling so far	22 judgments have applied the Rohith Nathan principle and fresh petitions have been filed before the Central Administrative Tribunal.

Centre Forms Committee to Draft Permanent Political Solution for Gorkha Hills

22 Aug

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a tripartite stakeholder meeting at Sukna near Siliguri on 22 August 2026 with the West Bengal government and hill parties on a permanent political solution for the Gorkha issue.

- The Centre constituted a committee headed by Pankaj Kumar Singh — former Director General of the Border Security Force, former Deputy National Security Adviser and the Centre's interlocutor on the issue since October 2025 — to work out the modalities and draft an agreement.
- The committee is to hold political dialogue across the hills, the Terai and the Dooars and submit its proposal to the Union Home Ministry.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari attended, along with hill leaders including Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung and Gorkha National Liberation Front president Mann Ghisingh.
- Amit Shah said any settlement would be within the framework of the Constitution and assured central funding; the meeting fell on the anniversary of the 1988 Darjeeling accord signed on 22 August that year.

QUICK FACTS

Meeting	tripartite stakeholder talks at Sukna, in the Darjeeling foothills near Siliguri, 22 August 2026
Chaired by	Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari
Committee head	Pankaj Kumar Singh, the Centre's interlocutor since October 2025, former BSF Director General and former Deputy NSA
Mandate	examine stakeholder concerns across the hills, Terai and Dooars, finalise modalities and draft an agreement for a Permanent Political Solution
Reports to	Union Ministry of Home Affairs

– Hill leaders present included Bimal Gurung (Gorkha Janmukti Morcha) and Mann Ghisingh (Gorkha National Liberation Front)

6. Defence

3 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.

QUICK FACTS

Announced by	Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, on 28 August 2026.
FY 2025-26 baseline	defence production Rs 1.78 lakh crore, defence exports Rs 38,424 crore, both record highs.

- OGEL is a standing, one-time export authorisation, first introduced in 2019.
- It lets an eligible exporter self-generate export authorisations for multiple consignments of specified defence items instead of applying consignment by consignment.
- Three OGEL SOPs merged into one; validity extended from two years to three.
- Country coverage expanded from 41 countries to all countries, barring negative or sensitive nations and those under UN Security Council sanctions or arms embargoes.
- Stakeholder consultation dropped for non-lethal equipment (except to sensitive destinations) and for items going to international tenders and exhibitions.

HAL and Safran Sign Final Contract for Aravalli Helicopter Engine

26 Aug

- HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines signed the final contract in Bengaluru on 26 August 2026 to develop and produce the Aravalli turboshaft engine.
- The contract is executed through SAFHAL Helicopter Engines Pvt. Ltd., the 50:50 joint venture of the two companies.
- The Aravalli is in the 3,500-4,000 shaft horsepower class and is named after the Aravalli mountain range.
- It will power the 13-tonne Indian Multi-Role Helicopter and its naval variant, the Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter.
- The IMRH is planned to replace the armed forces' Russian-origin Mi-17 medium-lift helicopters.

QUICK FACTS

Engine	Aravalli, a new-generation turboshaft named after the Aravalli mountain range
Power class	3,500 to 4,000 shaft horsepower
Signed	26 August 2026, at Bengaluru
Executing entity	SAFHAL Helicopter Engines Pvt. Ltd., a 50:50 HAL-Safran joint venture
Platforms	Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) and Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH)

Rajnath Singh Clears Transfer of All DRDO Conventional Missile Technologies to Industry

25 Aug

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the transfer of technology of all conventional missile systems developed by DRDO to the Indian defence industry on 25 August 2026.
- The Ministry of Defence described the decision as the shift of these systems from development to large-scale industrial production within the country.
- Eligible Indian companies may manufacture the systems after meeting qualification, certification and regulatory requirements; DRDO continues to support technology absorption.
- The approval opens component, sub-system, fabrication, testing and maintenance work to micro, small and medium enterprises.
- It follows the October 2025 decision that opened development and manufacture of missiles, artillery shells and ammunition to the private sector.

QUICK FACTS

Decision date	25 August 2026; approving authority: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
Scope	transfer of technology (ToT) of ALL conventional missile systems developed by DRDO
Recipients	eligible Indian defence industry firms, subject to qualification, certification and regulatory clearance

- Conventional means non-nuclear - strike, air-defence and tactical roles; strategic systems are not covered
- MSMEs gain entry through components, sub-systems, fabrication, testing and maintenance support
- Builds on the October 2025 policy opening missiles, artillery shells and ammunition to the private sector

7. Science & Tech

4 articles

Copyright Office Rejects AI System DABUS as Author, but Finds the Artwork Original

31 Aug

- The Copyright Office of India rejected an application naming the AI system DABUS as the author of an artwork, in an order passed on 31 August 2026.
- The application, by US computer scientist Stephen L. Thaler, sought registration of the work 'A Recent Entrance to Paradise'.
- The Registrar of Copyrights, Unnat P. Pandit, held that DABUS is neither a natural nor a juristic person and so cannot be an author.
- The Office nevertheless found that the work itself crossed the threshold of originality under Section 13 of the Copyright Act, 1957.
- The order separates originality from authorship: an AI-generated work may be original, but its author must be the person who caused it to be created.

QUICK FACTS

Decided by	the Copyright Office of India; order passed on 31 August 2026 by the Registrar of Copyrights, Unnat P. Pandit
Applicant	Stephen L. Thaler, a computer scientist based in the United States
Work	the artistic work 'A Recent Entrance to Paradise'
AI system named as author	DABUS, the Device for the Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience
Held	DABUS cannot be recorded as author because it is neither a natural person nor a juristic person
Also held	the work crossed the statutory threshold of originality under Section 13 of the Copyright Act, 1957
Governing provision on authorship	Section 2(d)(vi), under which the author of a computer-generated work is 'the person who causes the work to be created'

– On the facts pleaded, Thaler himself is the person who caused the work to be created

Aditya-L1 Spots Pre-Flare Brightenings Hours Before Major Solar Flares

29 Aug

- Scientists using India's Aditya-L1 solar observatory reported small, short-lived brightenings in the Sun's chromosphere that appear hours before a major flare and cluster around the spot where the flare later erupts.
- The study examined seven M- and X-class flares and identified 102 pre-flare transients in the Mg II h (2803 A) images taken by the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT).
- About 28 per cent of these transients had matching X-ray signatures in data from the SoLEXS and HEL1OS payloads, linking chromospheric activity to the corona above it.
- The work was led by the Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences with ISRO and other Indian institutes and was published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

QUICK FACTS

Finding	transient brightenings in the solar chromosphere appear hours before major flares and cluster near the future flare site.
Spacecraft	Aditya-L1, India's first dedicated solar observatory, stationed at the Sun-Earth Lagrange point L1.
Payloads used	SUIT (near-ultraviolet imaging), SoLEXS (soft X-ray spectrometer) and HEL1OS (hard X-ray spectrometer).
Sample	seven M-class and X-class flares; 102 pre-flare transients detected.
Journal	Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (MNRAS).
Lead institution	Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, with ISRO/DoS.

Andhra Pradesh Clears India's First Quantum and AI University Campus at Amaravati

27 Aug

- A CRDA Authority meeting chaired by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approved India's first dedicated Quantum and AI University campus at Amaravati.
- The campus will be established by NIELIT, a deemed-to-be university under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, on 8.5 acres.
- The project is costed at Rs 730.70 crore over five years and is to be funded entirely by Government of India grant-in-aid through MeitY.
- Academic programmes are to begin in September 2026 from a temporary facility at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, while the permanent campus is built.
- The campus targets about 8,250 learners in five years, of whom about 1,650 through degree programmes and 6,600 through skilling and certification.

QUICK FACTS

Decision taken at	a CRDA Authority meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu
Location	Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, on 8.5 acres
Established by	NIELIT, a deemed-to-be university under MeitY
Cost	Rs 730.70 crore over five years, fully funded by Government of India grant-in-aid through MeitY
Start of academic programmes	September 2026, from a temporary facility at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur
Five-year learner target	about 8,250, with annual intake reaching about 3,913 by the fifth year

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.

QUICK FACTS

Announcement	23 August 2026, third National Space Day celebrations, Ahmedabad
Announced by	V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space
Station	Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS), targeted for completion by 2035
Status	first module approved; first module launch targeted for 2028
Planned mass	about 52 tonnes across five modules
Orbit	low Earth orbit, 400-450 km altitude, inclination about 51.5 degrees
Launch vehicles	LVM3 and LVM3-SC
Crew	3-4 astronauts nominally, up to 6 for short durations
Cabinet approval	18 September 2024, as an expansion of the Gaganyaan programme

8. Environment

2 articles

Barrier Lake on Nepal-Tibet Border Overflows, Halting Flood Rescue Operations

28 Aug

- A landslide-dammed 'barrier lake' on the Nepal-Tibet border began overflowing on 28 August 2026, forcing rescue teams on both sides to pull back from the flood zone.
- The lake had formed two days earlier, when debris from an ice-and-rock collapse blocked a river channel near the confluence of the Chhochen Khola and Purepu Tsangpo, on the Lhende river system.
- China's Ministry of Water Resources put the impounded volume at 1.5-2 million cubic metres on 27 August; by 28 August it had swelled past 2.5 million cubic metres and the water level had risen about 0.6 metre.
- The Nepali Army suspended helicopter search-and-rescue in Rasuwa district for 90 minutes, and Chinese rescue personnel withdrew about one kilometre to safe ground in Gyirong County, Shigatse.
- Officials later assessed the overflow as far smaller than the original 26 August flood, but the episode showed how a secondary hazard can freeze an entire relief operation.

QUICK FACTS

Event	landslide-dammed barrier lake began overflowing on 28 August 2026
Location	Nepal-Tibet border — Rasuwa district (Nepal) and Gyirong County, Shigatse (Tibet Autonomous Region, China)
Formation	debris from the 26 August ice-and-rock collapse dammed the channel near the Chhochen Khola-Purepu Tsangpo confluence, on the Lhende river system
Volume	1.5-2 million cubic metres on 27 August, rising past 2.5 million cubic metres on 28 August
Water level rise on 28 August	about 0.6 metre
Response	Nepali Army paused helicopter rescue for 90 minutes; Chinese teams withdrew about 1 km to a safe zone

- Warnings issued by China's Ministry of Water Resources and Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA)

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.

QUICK FACTS

Non-fossil installed capacity	300.50 GW as on 31 July 2026
Non-fossil share of total capacity	more than 54%
Record annual addition in 2025-26	55.29 GW of non-fossil capacity

- Total installed generation capacity on the same date: about 552 GW
- Progress towards the 500 GW by 2030 target: more than 60%
- Domestic solar PV module manufacturing capacity under the ALMM crossed 200 GW in 2026

9. 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.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Semicon 2.0, the second phase of the Semicon India Programme, notified on 31 August 2026.
Outlay	Rs 1,27,500 crore; approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2026 and notified now with the detailed guidelines.
Structure	six pillars across ten categories - design; machines and materials; fabrication units; ATMP and OSAT; research and development; talent development.
Silicon wafer fabs	40 per cent fiscal support on eligible capital expenditure, minimum investment Rs 20,000 crore.
Compound, display and other specialised fabs	35 per cent fiscal support.
Deployment-Linked Incentive	9 per cent of net sales for up to five years, capped at Rs 30 crore per application and Rs 120 crore per company, for new IPs, chips and SoCs with no prior sales.
Product design support	seed funding of up to Rs 15 crore or 50 per cent of project cost for startups and MSMEs, with equity co-investment beyond that; royalty financing for other eligible companies.
Strategic chips panel	co-chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser and the National Security Adviser.
Targets	about Rs 4 lakh crore of investment and Rs 2 lakh crore of production; 1,00,000 more semiconductor engineers to be trained, on top of the 85,000 already trained.

– ATMP is assembly, testing, marking and packaging; OSAT is outsourced semiconductor assembly and test.

PM-SETU Industry Conclave in Lucknow Draws Over Rs 1,500 Crore Commitments

30 Aug

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, held the PM-SETU Industry Conclave in Lucknow to draw industry deeper into the upgrading of Industrial Training Institutes.
- Approved industry partnership proposals under PM-SETU now represent more than Rs 1,500 crore of committed industry-led investment across seven ITI clusters in five states.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged defence public sector undertakings to come on board, and Skill Development Minister of State (Independent Charge) Jayant Chaudhary attended along with Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak.
- The National Skill Development Corporation signed an MoU with the Lucknow Cantonment Board to set up a Shaurya Academy preparing youth for the Armed Forces, police and other uniformed services.

QUICK FACTS

Event	PM-SETU Industry Conclave, held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
Organisers	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
Full form	PM-SETU is Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs.
Headline number	over Rs 1,500 crore of committed industry-led investment across seven clusters in five states.
Key announcement	NSDC-Lucknow Cantonment Board MoU for a Shaurya Academy for uniformed-services aspirants.
Scheme design	hub-and-spoke, with 200 hub ITIs linked to about 800 spoke ITIs, covering 1,000 government ITIs in all.

e-Shram Completes Five Years With 31.89 Crore Unorganised Workers Registered

26 Aug

- The e-Shram portal completed five years on 26 August 2026, with 31.89 crore unorganised workers registered.
- Launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, it is India's first Aadhaar-seeded National Database of Unorganised Workers.
- Every registrant receives a 12-digit Universal Account Number; the database was built by the National Informatics Centre.
- Women account for 54.28% of registrations and 55.21% of registered workers are aged 18-40; about 11.5 lakh platform workers have enrolled.
- The e-Shram One-Stop Solution, launched on 21 October 2024, integrates 15 social security and welfare schemes into the portal.

QUICK FACTS

Portal	e-Shram, the National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)
Launched	26 August 2021, by the Ministry of Labour and Employment
Developed by	National Informatics Centre (NIC)
Registrations as of August 2026	31.89 crore workers
Identifier issued	a unique 12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN)
Platform and gig workers enrolled	about 11.5 lakh
One-Stop Solution launched	21 October 2024, integrating 15 schemes

10. 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.

QUICK FACTS

Event	Bihar-Jharkhand memorandum of understanding on sharing the waters of the Sone river.
Date and venue	31 August 2026, Kartavya Bhavan, New Delhi.
Signatories	Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.
Presided over by	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary was also present.
Allocation	Bihar 5.75 MAF, Jharkhand 2.0 MAF, total 7.75 MAF.
Origin of the dispute	the creation of Jharkhand in November 2000, which left undivided Bihar's 1973 share with two claimants and no formula.
Mediating machinery	a committee chaired by the Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti; the breakthrough came at the Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Ranchi on 10 July 2025.

– Bihar's Cabinet, then headed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, approved the draft agreement on 13 January 2026.

11. Summits & Conferences

2 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.

QUICK FACTS

Event	18th BRICS Summit
Dates and venue	12-13 September 2026, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
India's chairship theme	'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'
Chairship assumed	1 January 2026 - India's fourth, after 2012, 2016 and 2021
Run-up	over 350 meetings and high-level engagements across 25 Indian cities
Milestone	twenty years since the grouping was formed as BRIC in 2006

– Bharat Mandapam also hosted the leaders' sessions of India's G20 Presidency in 2023

Amit Shah Inaugurates 9th National Security Strategies Conference in New Delhi

24 Aug

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the two-day 9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026 in New Delhi on 24 August 2026.
- The hybrid conference drew more than 850 participants from the Intelligence Bureau, the Ministry of Home Affairs and central and state police forces.
- Shah directed agencies to run AI-based analysis on Multi-Agency Centre platforms and build Standard Operating Procedures to counter security threats.
- He ordered strict measures against border infiltration and asked state police chiefs to detect and deport illegal migrants.
- Day one covered counter-terrorism, Pakistan-sponsored proxy warfare, cybercrime and narcotics; day two took up sub-aerial threats, blue economy security, information warfare and bio-security.

QUICK FACTS

Event	9th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2026, inaugurated 24 August 2026, New Delhi
Inaugurated by	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah
Format	hybrid (physical plus virtual), two days, over 850 participants
In person	Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Union Home Secretary, Deputy NSAs, heads of CAPFs and CPOs
Virtually	DGsP of States and UTs, cutting-edge-level young police officers and domain experts

– Before the inauguration Shah laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Column for Intelligence Bureau personnel killed in the line of duty

12. Ranks & Reports

2 articles

Higher Education Enrolment Crosses 4.5 Crore in a Decade, GER Reaches 30 Per Cent

30 Aug

- The Ministry of Education released a decadal performance review of Indian higher education on 30 August 2026, drawing on All India Survey on Higher Education data from 2014-15 to 2023-24.
- Total enrolment rose 31.5 per cent from 3.42 crore to 4.50 crore, and the Gross Enrolment Ratio climbed from 23.7 to 30.0 against the NEP 2020 target of 50 per cent by 2035.
- PhD enrolment grew the fastest of any level, up 192.9 per cent from 1.17 lakh to 3.43 lakh, while integrated programmes rose 301.4 per cent.
- Female GER reached 31.2 against a male GER of 28.9, exceeding it for the seventh consecutive year, and the Gender Parity Index improved from 0.92 to 1.08.
- Persistent gaps remain in graduate employability and in the enrolment of women with benchmark disabilities.

QUICK FACTS

Released by	Ministry of Education, on 30 August 2026
Data source	All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), comparing 2014-15 with 2023-24
Total enrolment	3.42 crore to 4.50 crore, a rise of 31.5 per cent
Gross Enrolment Ratio	23.7 to 30.0
Universities	760 to 1,289, a rise of 69.6 per cent
Colleges	38,498 to 48,246, a rise of 25.3 per cent
Standalone institutions	12,276 to 15,221, a rise of about 24 per cent
Faculty strength	up 17.6 per cent to 17.32 lakh, of which 44.9 per cent are women
International students	42,293 to 58,134, a rise of 37.5 per cent
Annual out-turn of graduates	up 24.1 per cent, crossing 1.09 crore

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.

QUICK FACTS

Report	'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047', released by NITI Aayog in August 2026
Data source for the estimate	78th round of the National Sample Survey, 2021
People trained since 2014-15	over 7.67 crore

- NEET youth (aged 15-29, not in education, employment or training): an estimated 8.7 crore
- Graduates in jobs matching their qualifications: 8.25%
- Secondary schools offering vocational subjects: fewer than one in twelve

13. Sports

2 articles

Lionel Messi Retires From International Football After 207 Caps, 125 Goals

31 Aug

- Lionel Messi announced his retirement from the Argentina national team on 31 August 2026, through a statement on social media.
- He leaves as Argentina's most-capped player and all-time top scorer with 207 appearances and 125 goals across a career that began in 2005.
- The decision followed Argentina's 1-0 defeat to Spain in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final at MetLife Stadium on 19 July 2026, lost in extra time.
- His honours with Argentina include the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the 2021 and 2024 Copa America, the 2022 Finalissima and the 2008 Olympic gold.
- Only Cristiano Ronaldo, with 146 goals, has scored more in men's international football; Messi will continue at club level with Inter Miami.

QUICK FACTS

Announcement date	31 August 2026, via a statement on social media
International appearances	207 - a record for Argentina
International goals	125 - a record for Argentina
Career span	2005 to 2026
Trigger	Argentina's 1-0 loss to Spain in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final on 19 July 2026

- Second-highest men's international goalscorer, behind Cristiano Ronaldo's 146
- Continues to play club football for Inter Miami in Major League Soccer

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.

QUICK FACTS

Event	final of the 16th edition of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.
Date and venue	30 August 2026, Belfius Hockey Arena, Wavre, Belgium.
Result	Germany 1, Spain 0. Scorer: Michel Struthoff, 44th minute.
Tournament	15-30 August 2026, co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands, 16 teams.
Germany's titles	2002, 2006, 2023 and 2026 - four in all.
Pakistan's titles	1971, 1978, 1982 and 1994 - also four, so the two are now level at the top.
Bronze medal	Argentina beat the Netherlands 2-1 on the same day. Tomas Domene scored in the 41st minute, Floris Middendorp equalised in the 49th and Matias Rey struck the winner in the 59th.

- India finished eighth, losing the seventh-place classification match to Belgium 4-3 in a shootout on 28 August after a 3-3 draw.

14. State News

1 article

Meghalaya Assembly Unanimously Passes Resolution Against Uranium Mining

27 Aug

- The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution rejecting uranium exploration, mining and ore-processing in the state, with all 60 MLAs voting in favour.
- The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma and urges the Union Government, the Department of Atomic Energy and Uranium Corporation of India Limited not to permit or undertake any uranium mining operation in Meghalaya.
- It targets the long-stalled Kylleng-Pyndengsohiong-Mawthabah (KPM) project in the West Khasi Hills, where sandstone-hosted uranium reserves were established by the Atomic Minerals Directorate in 1992.
- Opposition rests on health and contamination fears and on Meghalaya's Sixth Schedule land regime, under which land and the minerals beneath it are largely under community, clan and private ownership.
- The stand sets state consent and customary land rights against the Centre's search for domestic uranium for the nuclear power programme.

QUICK FACTS

What	Resolution against uranium exploration, mining and ore-processing in Meghalaya
Where and when	Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, adopted on 26 August 2026
Moved by	Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma
Support	unanimous - all 60 MLAs of the House
Addressed to	Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL)
Project at issue	Kylleng-Pyndengsohiong-Mawthabah (KPM) uranium project, West Khasi Hills
Deposit areas named in the debate	Domiasiat, Lostoin, Mawthabah and Wahkaji in the South West Khasi Hills belt