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Prepared By

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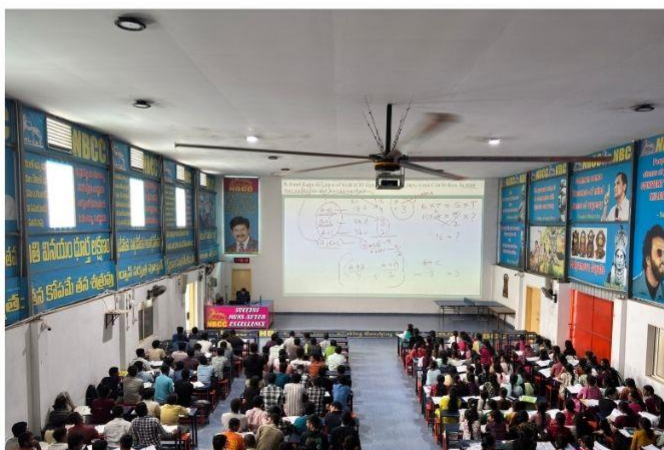
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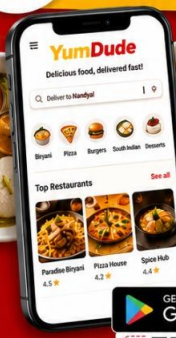
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1. G V Satish Sir- Best Picks

1. 80th Independence Day — PM Modi's 13th Consecutive Red Fort Address

- **PM Narendra Modi** hoisted the national flag for the **13th time**, placing him **third** after **Jawaharlal Nehru (17)** and **Indira Gandhi (16)**.
- He is the **second PM** to deliver 13 consecutive addresses, surpassing Indira Gandhi's **11**; speech lasted **75 minutes** (longest: **103 minutes in 2025**).
- **Har Ghar Tiranga** campaign (launched **2022** for the 75th anniversary) was continued.
- Approved **₹84,084 crore** for deep-sea oil & gas exploration under "**Samudra Manthan**".

2. PM Modi Launches "Saptadhara" (Seven Streams of Strength) Framework

- Seven sectors: **Manufacturing (Earth Dhara)**, **Agriculture (Krishi Dhara)**, **Technology (Gyan Dhara)**, **Gati Shakti, Defence (Raksha Dhara)**, **Green Economy (Urja Dhara)**, **Soft Power (Sanskriti Dhara)**.
- Target under Urja Dhara: **100 GW** new energy capacity by **2047**; **net-zero** by **2070**.

3. Census 2027 — India's 16th Census

- Budget: **₹11,718 crore**; executed by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**.
- **40 questions** notified for the population enumeration phase.
- **Caste enumeration** for the first time since **1931**.

4. Union Cabinet Approves ₹62,500 Crore National Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

- Notified by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- Term: **5 years**, from **1 April 2026 (FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31)**.

5. Modified UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme Extended

- Extended for **10 years**, until **FY 2035-36**.
- Total budget: **₹28,840 crore**.

6. Adi Karmyogi Abhiyan — Decentralised Tribal Leadership

- Launched **17 September 2025** at **Dhar, Madhya Pradesh**; nodal authority: **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- Targets **1,00,000 tribal villages** across **30 States/UTs** and **20 lakh Adi Karmyogis**.
- **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** outlay: **₹79,156 crore**.

7. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Completes 7 Years

- Launched **15 August 2019**; implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**; target **55 litres per capita per day (LPCD)**.
- Deadline extended from **2024 to December 2028**.
- Funding: **100%** Central for UTs without legislature; **90:10** for NE/Himalayan States; **50:50** for others.
- Har Ghar Jal firsts: **Goa (State)**, **Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)**, **Burhanpur, MP (District)**.

8. PM SETU Project — West Bengal Joins Skill India Initiative

- **PM SETU = Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs**.
- Upgrades ITIs on a **hub-and-spoke model**; budget **₹60,000 crore** over **5 years**.

9. AMRUT 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)** launched **25 June 2015**, covering **500 cities**; AMRUT 2.0 outlay **₹2,77,000 crore** (Central share **₹76,760 crore**), administered by **MoHUA**.
- **UCF: Centrally Sponsored Scheme, FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31** (extendable to FY 2033-34); Central Assistance **₹1 lakh crore** to catalyse **₹4 lakh crore**; **₹10,000 crore** proposed for FY26; funding split **25% Centre : 50% market : 25% State/ULB** (via "**Muni Bonds**").

10. Key Appointments of the Fortnight

- **Anurag Jain** — CEO, **NITI Aayog** (2-year tenure); **Jwara Maniya** (Arunachal Pradesh) — first female NE member of NITI Aayog.
- **Shabnam Sinha** — Chairperson, **Airtel Payments Bank**; **Ashish Singh** — MD & CEO, **Manappuram Finance** (from 1 Jan 2027).
- **Priya Nair** — first female CEO of **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)**; **Sundeep Sikka** reappointed **AMFI** Chairman; **Peyman Kargar** — CEO, **TVS Motor**.
- **Rahul Navin** (ED Director) — one-year extension; **Justice T. Mallikarjuna Rao** — Lokayukta, **Andhra Pradesh**.

11. PMJDY Completes 12 Years — 59.09 Crore Accounts

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** launched **28 August 2014**; slogan "**Mera Khata Bhagyavidhata**"; managed by the **Department of Financial Services**.
- Deposits **₹3,16,514 crore**; average deposit **₹5,356**; **41.29 crore RuPay** cards; accident cover **₹2 lakh** (raised from **₹1 lakh** in 2018).

- Overdraft up to ₹10,000 after 6 months; ₹2,000 immediately; OD age limit raised 60 to 65.

12. National Green Hydrogen Mission — ₹292 Crore Spent Till August 2026

- Approved January 2023; outlay ₹19,744 crore.
- Target: 5 MMTPA green hydrogen by 2030.

13. EPFO Launches "Vishwas 2026" One-Time Settlement Scheme

- Open 29 June 2026 to 29 November 2026 (6 months) for defaults before 14 June 2024.
- Reduced penalties: 0.25%/month (up to 2 months), 0.5% (>2 months), 1% (>4 months).

14. TReDS Made Mandatory for CPSEs to Settle MSME Invoices

- Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) regulated by RBI since 2017.
- Ministry of MSME mandated all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to use RBI-authorized TReDS; threshold ₹250 crore (reduced from ₹500 crore in 2024).

15. UPI Celebrates 10th Anniversary — Now in 11 Countries

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) launched 25 August 2016 by NPCI (est. 2008, Mumbai); NPCI CEO Dilip Asbe appointed to the SWIFT Board.
- Countries: Bhutan (1st), Cambodia (9th), Greece (10th, 2nd in Europe after France), Maldives (11th); Qatar — "PosTransfer powered by UPI".
- Revised limits: Capital markets/IPO/insurance/travel/GeM ₹5 lakh/txn, ₹10 lakh/day; credit card bills ₹5 lakh/₹6 lakh; jewellery ₹2 lakh/₹6 lakh; P2P ₹1 lakh.
- UPI Lite X ₹500, UPI Lite ₹1,000, UPI 123Pay ₹10,000/txn, UPI Circle 5 users, ₹5,000/txn, ₹15,000/month.

16. UPI July 2026 Metrics & 30% Market Share Cap

- 23.66 billion transactions worth ₹29.88 lakh crore.
- PhonePe 45.89% (48.33% by value), Google Pay 32.33%, Paytm 8.05%; Navi 4th, Super.money 5th.
- NPCI 30% cap on Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs) from 31 December 2026; UPI is ~84% of digital-payment volume.

17. Standing Committee on Finance

Recommends MDR on P2M Transactions Above ₹2,000

- Committee headed by B. Mahtab; card POS MDR applies above ₹5,000.

- Govt allocated ₹2,000 crore (FY27) for zero-MDR compensation; total cost ₹3,000 crore.
- Split: 40% issuing bank, 40% PSP, 20% network provider.

18. WPI Inflation 9.78% (July 2026); MoSPI to Replace WPI with PPI

- WPI base year 2022-23; basket expanded from 697 to 957 items.
- Producer Price Index (PPI) to replace WPI as GDP deflator; GDP base year revised 2011-12 to 2022-23.

19. India GDP Growth Projections FY27 & S&P Sovereign Rating

- FM Nirmala Sitharaman (Chicago): 7%; India Ratings 6.8%; RBI 6.7%; World Bank/ADB/S&P 6.6%; IMF & Fitch 6.4%; actual FY26 growth 7.6%.
- S&P Global affirmed India's sovereign rating at BBB (stable).

20. PLFS July 2026: Unemployment Falls to 5.1%

- Overall UR 5.1% (from 5.5%); rural 4.5%, urban 6.7%; male 5.0%, female 5.4%.
- LFPR 55.4% (rural 58%); Worker Population Ratio 52.5%.

21. Regional Rural Banks — Record Profit ₹10,176 Crore & 10.3% Credit Growth

- Loans ₹5.78 lakh crore (from ₹5.24 lakh crore); PSL 91.7% vs target 75%; ₹3.49 lakh crore to weaker sections.
- Total business ₹13.5 lakh crore; GNPA 5.3%, NNPA 2.1%; CD ratio 75.2%.
- Ownership 50% Centre : 35% Sponsor Bank : 15% State; consolidated 43 to 28 RRBs (One State One RRB, 1 May 2025).

22. Digital Fraud: 5,85,751 Cases in 5 Years — "MuleHunter.AI" Launched

- Frauds worth ₹3,590 crore; RBI & NPCI set up the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform (DPIP).
- MuleHunter.AI developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to block mule accounts.

23. FAST DS — Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme

- One-time voluntary window for undisclosed foreign assets.
- Category 1 (up to ₹1 crore): 30% tax + 30% penalty; Category 2 (up to ₹5 crore, taxed abroad but unreported): flat ₹1 lakh fee.

24. SEBI in News — IPO Rank, Credit Risk-o-Meter, ITRI

- SEBI Annual Report: India 1st globally in number of IPOs, 3rd in capital raised.

- Proposed colour-coded "**Credit Risk-o-Meter**" (AAA — Irish Green; AA — Chartreuse; B/C/D — Red).
- IT Resilience Index (ITRI)** for Market Infrastructure Institutions; OBPPs allowed to offer **GIFT City IFSC** bonds.

25. IRDAI Bars Four Insurers from Opening New Branches for 6 Months

- Niva Bupa Health, Acko General, Pramerica Life, Edelweiss Life.
- Reason: breach of **Expenses of Management (EoM)** limits.

26. RBI Central Board — New Part-Time Non-Official Directors

- S. Somanath** (ex-ISRO Chairman) appointed; **Anand Mahindra** reappointed.
- Annie George Mathew**, **Syed Akbaruddin**, **Janmejaya Kumar Sinha** appointed.
- Board: up to **21 members** (5 official — Governor + 4 DGs; 16 non-official).

27. Emirates NBD Acquires 60% of RBL Bank; Bank Ratings

- Moody's** rated RBL Bank **Baa2**; **S&P** rated **IDFC First Bank BBB-/A-3**.
- RBI penalised **IndusInd Bank ₹59.20 lakh**; **Razorpay-RBL** launched multi-currency **EEFC** account (FEMA 1999).

28. RBI Monthly Bulletin — NRI Deposits, LRS and Rate Caps

- NRI deposit inflows fell **23.24%** to **\$2.78 billion** (Q1 FY27); cumulative **\$168.51 billion**.
- Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** outflows up **4.5%** to **\$7.23 billion**; limit **\$250,000/year** (launched 2004).
- Interest-rate caps on **FCNR(B)** and **NRE** deposits restored from **1 September 2026**.
- VRRR** auction **₹1,34,625 crore** on 31 Aug 2026; cut-off **5.24%**; 15-day tenor.

29. ADB Loans — Karnataka Schools and Chennai Water Security

- USD 182.89 million** for Karnataka Public Schools; **\$230 million** for Chennai Water Security Project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)**: est. 1966, Manila; President **Masato Kanda**.

30. Major Defence Contracts & GCAP Partnership

- India-US ₹1,943 crore MQ-9B Sea Guardian** drone lease; **₹1,577 crore** loiter munition contract; **FGM-148 Javelin** ATGM contract with the US.
- India secured **dialogue partner status** in the **Global Combat Air Program (GCAP)** (sixth-generation fighter).

31. Mission Sudarshan Chakra — National Air Defence Shield

- Multi-layered air defence shield similar to **Israel's Iron Dome**; completion target **2035**.
- Indrajal Ranger** — India's only approved anti-drone patrol vehicle; **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** first to implement an anti-drone system.

32. AK-203 Rifles Named "Sher"; Delivery Advanced to 2030

- India-Russia agreement (2018) for **6 lakh rifles**; made at **Korwa Ordnance Factory, Amethi (UP)**.
- Timeline advanced from **2032 to 2030**.

33. 15th Maitree Exercise (India-Thailand) & Other Exercises

- Venue **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand**; **Gorkha Rifles** vs **Royal Thai Army**.
- Pitch Black** (Australia, Rafales), **Udara Shakti** (Malaysia), **Vajra Prahar** (US), **PRAGATI** (Umroi), **MILAN** (Visakhapatnam), **Dustlik** (7th, Uzbekistan), **Khanjar** (13th, Assam), **Sahyog Hop Tac** (Vietnam CG, Chennai), **Eagles of Civilization** (Egypt-China).

34. Indian Navy Inductions — Mangrol, Nipun, Samarthak, Arisudan

- Mangrol**: 3rd ASW-SWC by **Cochin Shipyard**; **DSV Nipun** by **HSL Visakhapatnam**, commissioned 31 Aug 2026 (Mumbai).
- Samarthak**: first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel by **L&T**.
- INS Arisudan**: 4th ATV nuclear submarine (Arihant 2016, Arighat 2024, Aridhaman 2026, Arisudan 2027).

35. INS Sudarshini — "Lokayan 26" Transoceanic Expedition

- Sailed **20 January 2026** from **Kochi**; **13 countries, 18 ports**; **Lisbon** = 15th port.
- Reached **Ponta Delgada (Azores)** after 19-day crossing from **Boston** — second Atlantic crossing.

36. Captain Shivani Sehrawat — First Female ADC to Chief of Army Staff

- 5th female ADC** overall; **Lt Ganeve Lalji (2013)** was first woman ADC to an Army Commander.
- NSG** launched first 12-week all-women commando course at **Manesar**; Nepal conferred honorary General rank on Army Chief **Gen Dhiraj Seth**.

37. Mecca (Makkah) Joint Defence Agreement — Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

- Trilateral political and military defence agreement signed 7 August 2026.

38. India Launches "SHANTI" Campaign for UNSC Seat (2028-29)

- SHANTI = Securing Holistic Advancement through Norms, Trust and Integrity.
- India served 8 times as non-permanent member (last 2021-22).

39. BRICS 2026 Under India's Chairship & 18th Summit (12–13 Sept, New Delhi)

- Theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"; 11 members; India hosts 4th time (2012, 2016, 2021) at **Bharat Mandapam**; Xi Jinping confirmed.
- Meetings: Environment (12th, New Delhi), ICT (7th, Pune), Industry/Trade/Tourism (Jaipur), Education (Bhubaneswar), Energy (Gurugram), Agriculture (Indore), Youth & Sports (Visakhapatnam).
- **New Development Bank (NDB)**: Shanghai; head **Dilma Rousseff**; Uzbekistan 10th member.

40. UNCCD COP 17 at Ulaanbaatar — India Launches First "Guide to Grasslands"

- Held 17–28 August 2026; theme "Restoring Land, Restoring Hope".
- 2026 = International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists; UNCCD HQ Bonn (1994), Exec. Secretary **Yasmine Fouad**.

41. PM Modi's Uzbekistan–Kyrgyzstan Visit & 26th SCO Summit

- Uzbekistan (29–30 Aug, 4th visit, Tashkent); 26th SCO Summit at **Bishkek** (1 Sept).
- PM Modi conferred Uzbekistan's "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" (Supreme Order of Friendship).
- SCO: est. 2001, HQ Beijing, 10 members; India & Pakistan joined 2017.

42. Bangladesh — New President, PM and UNGA President

- **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir** (BNP) — 23rd President; **Tarique Rahman** — 11th Prime Minister.
- **Khalilur Rahman** elected 81st President of UN General Assembly (2nd Bangladeshi after Humayun Rashid Choudhury).

43. US Removes Syria from "State Sponsors of Terrorism" List

- Listed since 29 December 1979 (47 years); remaining: Cuba, Iran (1984), North Korea (1988).
- Also: ICC rejected US sanctions on President **Tomoko Akane** (ICC has 125 members); Iceland referendum rejected EU entry (52.8% No).

44. Skyroot Aerospace — Mission Aagman: India's First Private Orbital Launch

- **Vikram-1** rocket launched 18 July 2026 into 450 km LEO from **Sriharikota**.
- **IN-SPACe**: est. 2020, Bopal, Ahmedabad; Chairperson **Pawan Kumar Goenka**.

45. 3rd National Space Day (23 August) — BAS Target 2035

- Theme "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership"; commemorates **Chandrayaan-3** landing at **Shiv Shakti Point** (2023).
- **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)** targeted for 2035; PM inaugurated "Param Pragma" supercomputer at **IIT Delhi Sonipat campus**.
- **Sophie Adenot** — first French woman spacewalk (6 h 23 min); NASA launched **Roman Space Telescope** (30 Aug, Falcon Heavy).

46. Draft SHANTI Rules 2026 — Civil Nuclear Reforms & Nuclear Roadmap

- SHANTI = Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India.
- Roadmap: 22,480 MW by 2031-32; 100 GW by 2047.
- **Kalpakkam 500 MW PFBR** attained criticality April 2026; **Tarapur** first; **Kudankulam** largest (Russia).

47. Sarnath Inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List

- Site of Buddha's first sermon (6th century BCE), Varanasi.
- India now has 45 sites: 37 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed.

48. National Sports Awards 2025 — No Khel Ratna for First Time Since 2014

- **Arjuna** (₹15 lakh, 1961): 17 players incl. **Pullela Gayatri Gopichand**, **Treesa Jolly**, **Divya Deshmukh**, **Vidit Gujrathi**, **Tejaswin Shankar**; **Arumainayagam** — Lifetime.
- **Dronacharya** (1985): Regular ₹10 lakh — **Parveer Singh**, **Chhote Lal Yadav**, **Neha Nandkumar Chavan**; Lifetime ₹15 lakh — **Dharmendra Yadav**, **Virendra Kumar**.
- **Khel Ratna** (1991-92, ₹25 lakh) — not awarded.

49. BWF World Badminton Championships 2026 — New Delhi

- Held 17–23 August at **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**; India hosts after 17 years (2009); mascot "**Peacko**".

- **Gayatri Gopichand–Treesa Jolly** won **Bronze** — first women's doubles medal in 15 years (Jwala–Ashwini, 2011).
- **Winners: Alex Lanier** (France), **An Se-young** (South Korea).

50. Hockey World Cup 2026 & 20th Asian Games Preparation

- **Germany** beat **Spain 1-0** (Wavre, Belgium) — 2nd consecutive, **4th overall** title; Argentina 3rd; India men **8th** (capt. **Harmanpreet Singh**), women **5th**.
- **20th Asian Games, Aichi-Nagoya**: India cleared **503 athletes** (269 men, 234 women); motto "**Imagine One Asia**"; mascot "**Honohon**"; future hosts **Qatar 2030**, **Saudi Arabia 2034**.

2. Amounts & Agreements

1. PM Modi Approves ₹84,084 Crore for Deep Sea Oil & Gas Exploration ("Samudra Manthan")

- **PM Modi** approved **₹84,084 crore** to fund offshore oil and gas exploration in India's deep sea waters under the "**Samudra Manthan**" initiative.
- Announced as part of the Key Targets & Declarations from the **PM's Red Fort Address 2026**.

2. ₹19,216.46 Crore Scholarship Disbursal for Scheduled Caste (SC) Students

- **₹19,216.46 crore** disbursed as scholarships for **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students.

3. PM CARES Fund Trust Balance Rises to ₹8,452 Crore

- **PM CARES Fund** trust balance rose to **₹8,452 crore** as of **31 March 2025**.
- The **PM CARES Fund** was established in **2020** during the **COVID-19** pandemic.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** serves as its **Chairman**.

4. Asian Development Bank (ADB) Approves USD 182.89 Million Loan for Karnataka Public Schools

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a loan of **USD 182.89 million** for **Karnataka Public Schools**.

5. India–ADB Sign \$230 Million Loan for Chennai Water Security Project

- **India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$230 million** loan agreement for the **Chennai Water Security Project**.
- **ADB Profile**: established in **1966**; headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**.
- **Current President**: **Masato Kanda**.

6. India–US Sign ₹1,943 Crore MQ-9B Sea Guardian Drone Lease Deal

- **India** and the **United States (US)** signed a **₹1,943 crore** lease deal for **MQ-9B Sea Guardian** drones.

7. Ministry of Defence Signs ₹1,577 Crore Contract for Loiter Munition Systems

- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract worth **₹1,577 crore** for **loiter munition systems** to support the **Indian Army**.

8. India Signs Contract with US for FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile System

- **India** signed a contract with the **United States (US)** for the **FGM-148 Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile System**.

9. India and Mauritius Sign Two Energy Agreements

- **Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** visited **Mauritius** to sign **two key energy-related agreements** with **Mauritius**.
- **Mauritius Profile**: capital **Port Louis**; a member of **COMESA** and **SADC**; hosts the headquarters of both the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** and the **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)**.

10. World Health Organization (WHO) Releases \$150,000 Emergency Funding for Nepal Flood Victims

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** released **\$150,000** in emergency funding for **Nepal flood victims**.

3. Appointments

1. Ashish Singh Appointed MD & CEO of Manappuram Finance

- **Manappuram Finance** appointed **Ashish Singh** as its next **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a **5-year tenure** starting **January 1, 2027**.

3. Shabnam Sinha Appointed Chairperson of Airtel Payments Bank

- **Shabnam Sinha** was appointed **Chairperson** of **Airtel Payments Bank**.

4. Anurag Jain Takes Charge as CEO of NITI Aayog

- **Anurag Jain** assumed charge as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **NITI Aayog** in **August 2026** for a **2-year tenure**.
- Board Member **Jwara Maniya** (from **Arunachal Pradesh**) is the **first female member** from the **Northeast region** of India to be appointed to **NITI Aayog**.

5. ED Director Rahul Navin Gets One-Year Extension

- **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** Director **Rahul Navin** was given a **one-year extension**.

6. Andhra Pradesh Appoints New Lokayukta — Justice T. Mallikarjuna Rao

- **Andhra Pradesh** appointed **Justice T. Mallikarjuna Rao** as the new **Lokayukta**.
- **Lokpal** and **Lokayukta** are statutory anti-corruption ombudsman bodies.
- **Central Level:** the **Lokpal** was established under the **Act of 2013**, currently chaired by **Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar (A.M. Khanwilkar)**.
- **State Level:** the **Lokayukta** serves as an advisory body investigating corruption allegations against Chief Ministers, Ministers, MLAs and administrative officials.
- **Maharashtra** was the first state in India to establish a Lokayukta in **1971**.

7. RBI Central Board — New Part-Time Non-Official Directors Appointed

- The Government appointed former **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman **S. Somanath** and reappointed **Mahindra Group** Chairman **Anand Mahindra** as **Part-Time Non-Official Directors** on the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Central Board.
- Three new Part-Time Directors appointed to the RBI Central Board:
 - **Annie George Mathew** — former Special Secretary, Department of Expenditure.
 - **Syed Akbaruddin** — former veteran diplomat and India's Permanent Representative to the **United Nations (UN)**.
 - **Janmejaya Kumar Sinha** — Chairman of **BCG India Practice**.
- **RBI Central Board Structure:** consists of up to **21 members**:
 - **5 official members** — the **Governor** and **4 Deputy Governors**.
 - **16 non-official members** — **4 local board directors**, **2 Ministry of Finance officials**, and **10 Government of India nominees**.

8. Ketan Merchant's Tenure as Interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank Extended

- **Ketan Merchant** had his tenure as **Interim CEO** of **Fino Payments Bank** extended for another **3 months**, effective **27 August**.

9. Dilip Asbe Appointed to SWIFT Board

- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** MD & CEO **Dilip Asbe** was recently appointed to the global messaging service **SWIFT Board**.

10. Captain Shivani Sehrawat Becomes First Female ADC to the Chief of Army Staff

- **Captain Shivani Sehrawat** became the **first female Aide-de-Camp (ADC)** to the **Chief of Army Staff**.
 - She is the **5th female ADC** overall in the country.
 - **Lt Ganeve Lalji (2013)** — first woman ADC to an Army Commander (**Central Army Commander Lt Gen Rajan Bakshi**).
- #### 11. Priya Nair — First Female CEO of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)
- **Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL)**'s first female CEO is **Priya Nair**.
- #### 12. Sundeep Sikka Reappointed as AMFI Chairman
- **Sundeep Sikka** was reappointed as **Chairman** of the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**.
 - **AMFI** acts as the apex industry representative body for all **SEBI-registered Asset Management Companies (AMCs)** in India.
- #### 13. Peyman Kargar Appointed CEO and Director of TVS Motor
- **TVS Motor** appointed **Peyman Kargar** as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** and **Director**.
- #### 14. Ashish Shelar Elected President of Esports Games Federation (ESGF)
- **Ashish Shelar** was elected **President** of the **Esports Games Federation (ESGF)**.
- #### 15. AIFF Appoints Anthony Andrews as Assistant Coach of India U-17 Women's Team
- The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** appointed **Anthony Andrews** as **Assistant Coach** of the **India U-17 Women's Team**.
 - **Joakim Alexandersson** remains the **Head Coach** of the **U-17 team**.
- #### 16. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir Becomes 23rd President of Bangladesh
- **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir** (Senior Leader of the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party — BNP**) took office as the **23rd President of Bangladesh**.
 - **Tarique Rahman** of the **BNP** took office as the **11th Prime Minister of Bangladesh**.
- #### 17. Bangladesh's Khalilur Rahman Elected 81st President of UN General Assembly
- **Khalilur Rahman** of Bangladesh was elected **81st President** of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
 - He is only the **second leader from Bangladesh** to ever hold this position, following **Humayun Rashid Choudhury**.
- #### 18. Andras Baka Elected President of Hungary
- Former Hungarian Chief Justice **Andras Baka** was elected as the new **President of Hungary**.
 - **Hungary Profile:** Prime Minister — **Peter Magyar**; Capital — **Budapest**.

19. Hakainde Hichilema Re-elected President of Zambia

- **Hakainde Hichilema** was re-elected as **President of Zambia** for a **second term**.
- **Zambia Facts**: a landlocked country in Southern Africa; Capital — **Lusaka**; Currency — **Kwacha**.

20. Norway's Royal Succession — King Haakon VIII Ascends the Throne

- **Crown Prince Haakon** ascended to the throne as **King Haakon VIII** of Norway.

21. NASA Astronaut Michael (Mike) Fincke Retires

4. Arts & Culture

1. National Handloom Day Initiatives — "Srijan" and IIHT Sutra Conclave

- **National Handloom Day** is observed annually on **August 7** since **2015**.
- **"Srijan: Voices from the Loom"**: organised in **New Delhi** under the **Ministry of Textiles** (Union Minister: **Giriraj Singh**), involving **100 women handloom weavers**, to highlight creativity, assist in moving businesses online, and empower them economically.
- **IIHT Sutra Conclave**: India's first **National Conclave on Handloom Technology**, titled **"IIHT Sutra"**, organised in **New Delhi** by the **Ministry of Textiles**.
- Theme: **"IIHTs: Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector: Educate, Innovate, and Transform"**.

2. Meghalaya Inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Weaving/Handloom in Ri-Bhoi

- CM **Conrad K. Sangma** inaugurated a **Centre of Excellence for weaving/handloom** in **Ri-Bhoi**.
- **Eri silk** is locally known as **Ryndia** in **Meghalaya**.

3. Vice President Inaugurates "Malhar 2026" Monsoon Classical Music Celebration in New Delhi

- **Malhar** is a youth-centric, monsoon-themed celebration of Indian classical music, covering both **Carnatic** and **Hindustani** traditions.

4. Sarnath Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List

- **Sarnath (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)** — the ancient Buddhist site where **Gautam Buddha** delivered his first sermon in the **6th Century BCE** — has been inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
- This inscription increases India's total **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** to **45**, comprising **37 Cultural**, **7 Natural** and **1 Mixed** site.

5. Mizoram Declares 79 Monuments as State Protected Monuments

- **Mizoram** has declared a cumulative total of **79 monuments and archaeological sites** as **State Protected Monuments**.

6. Mizoram University Museum Notified as India's 21st Designated Repository

- **Mizoram University Museum** was notified as **India's 21st Designated Repository**.

7. France to Inaugurate Its First Traditional Hindu Temple near Paris

- Marks the **first traditional Hindu temple** in **France**.
- The temple is the **BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir — Bochasanswasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha**.
- France's President is **Emmanuel Macron**.
- Bilateral exercises with India: **Shakti, Varuna, and Garuda**.

8. Kerala Celebrates Onam Harvest Festival

- **Kerala** celebrated the **Onam** harvest festival.

9. Books in News

- **"India at War"**: a newly featured book authored by **Colonel D.P.K. Pillay**.
- **"The Triumph of the Indian Republic"**: the autobiography of former Indian President **Ram Nath Kovind**, officially released by **PM Narendra Modi**.
- **M. Venkaiah Naidu Biography**: a Hindi biography of former Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** was released, titled **"Janpriya Neta Venkaiah Naidu: Udaygiri se Up-Rashtrapati tak"**; Author: former **Rajya Sabha MP Y. Lakshmi Prasad**.
- **Sonia Gandhi's Upcoming Memoir**: Senior Congress leader **Sonia Gandhi** is releasing her upcoming book **"Belonging: A Journey of Love"**, published by **Alfred A. Knopf**, scheduled for release on **10 November 2026**.
- **"Africa Before America"**: Author — **Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri**, founder of **IIPM**. Previous works by the author: **"2047: A Roadmap to Beating USA and China"**, **"Planning India"**, **"The Great Indian Dream"**.
- **"Sankalp Se Siddhi Ka Modi Yug"**: released by Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** at **Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**; authored by **Ghanshyam Tiwari**; published by **Rupa Publications**.

5. Awards

1. Gaj Gaurav Awards Conferred on World Elephant Day (August 12)

- Key numbers: 33 elephant reserves | 150 elephant corridors | Project Elephant – 1992.
- The Gaj Gaurav Awards were conferred by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) during World Elephant Day celebrations in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The award honoured the Jaldapara forest staff (West Bengal) for outstanding elephant conservation and rescue operations.

2. M.S. Swaminathan Environment Protection Award 2026

- The award was presented in Chennai to two female environmentalists:
 - P. Pechiyammal — honoured for marine conservation (clearing plastics, waste and invasive weed species from the ocean).
 - Govindhammal — honoured for contributions to sustainable farming and agriculture.
- Static Fact: Dr. Swaminathan's birth anniversary on August 7 has been declared "Sustainable Agriculture Day" by the state of Maharashtra.

3. 9th National Anubhav Awards Presented in New Delhi

- Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the 9th National Anubhav Awards to 15 selected awardees — 5 Anubhav awardees and 10 jury certification winners — in New Delhi.

4. 210 Indian Peacekeepers under UNMISS Awarded UN Peacekeeping Medal

- 210 Indian Peacekeepers serving under UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) were awarded the United Nations Peacekeeping Medal on 17 August 2026.

5. Nepal Confers Honorary Rank of General on Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth

- Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel formally conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army on Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth.

6. PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) Industry Awards 2026

- Award Categories & Winners:
 - Overall Industry Champion: Mahindra & Mahindra
 - Top Performing PSUs: NTPC Limited, ONGC, Western Coalfields (WCL)
 - Top Private Partners: Reliance, Infosys Limited, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
 - Pre-Internship Excellence: HDFC Bank

- Internship Management Excellence: Shriram Finance
- Programme Innovation: IBM
- Exit Pathways Innovation: Power Grid

7. Dr. Devulapalli Ramanuja Rao Sahithi Puraskaram 2026

- Awarded to Dr. Nalimela Bhaskar, a famous translator, poet and writer and previously President of Telangana Saraswatha Parishath.

8. National Sports Awards 2025 Announced

- Arjuna Award (started in 1961): cash prize of ₹15 lakh.
- Dronacharya Award (started in 1985, for coaches): Regular category — ₹10 lakh; Lifetime category — ₹15 lakh.
- Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (started 1991-92): cash prize of ₹25 lakh. For the first time since 2014, no athlete was awarded the Khel Ratna in this round.
- Arjuna Award Winners 2025 (17 players selected) include:
 - Pullela Gayatri Gopichand (Badminton – Women's Doubles) — Telugu player who recently won the Philippines International Badminton Tournament.
 - Treesa Jolly (Badminton – Women's Doubles)
 - Dhanush Srikanth (Deaf Shooting) — Telangana-based international Deaf Olympics medallist.
 - Divya Deshmukh (Chess) — Maharashtra-based
 - Vidit Gujrathi (Chess)
 - Tejaswin Shankar (Athletics / Decathlon / High Jump)
 - Priyanka Goswami (Race Walking)
 - Lalremsiami (Hockey)
 - Raj Kumar Pal (Hockey)
 - Surjeet Singh (Kabaddi)
 - Pooja (Kabaddi)
 - Arumainayagam (Football) — honoured with the Arjuna Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dronacharya Award Winners (5 coaches selected):
 - Regular Category: Parveer Singh (Athletics), Chhote Lal Yadav (Boxing), and Neha Nandkumar Chavan (Shooting).
 - Lifetime Category: Dharmendra Yadav (Boxing) and Virendra Kumar (Wrestling).

9. Odia Poet Ashutosh Parida Wins Sarla Puraskar 2026

- Selected Work: his poetry collection "Bishwas De Pruthwi" (Trust the Earth).
- Prize Details: the award consists of a citation, a copper plaque, and a cash prize of ₹7 lakh.
- The Sarla Puraskar is given annually by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPACT).

10. National Teachers' Award 2026 Recipients Announced

- Instituted in **1958**, the award is eligible for regular teachers with a minimum of **10 years** of service.
- **154 candidates** were shortlisted for the national jury.
- The award is presented by the **President** on **5 September (Teachers' Day)**.
- Award components: a cash prize of **₹50,000**, a **silver medal**, and a **certificate**.
- **Sushma Tamang**: Chemistry Post Graduate Teacher (PGT) at **PM SHRI Government Senior Secondary School, Dikling, Sikkim**, was selected.
- **Mohammad Ayaz Raina**: Botany lecturer at **Government Higher Secondary School, Dalhori, Rajouri district, J&K**, selected as the sole recipient representing J&K.
- **World Teachers' Day** is celebrated on **5 October**.

11. Two Indian Doctors Nominated Posthumously for Pakistan's Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam

- **Nishan-i-Quaid-i-Azam** is Pakistan's **highest civilian honour**.
- Two Indian medical professionals — **Dr Jal Rattanji Patel** (physician) and **Dr Jal Daeboo** (radiologist) — have been nominated posthumously.
- Reason: in **1946**, they diagnosed Pakistan's founder **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** with **Tuberculosis (TB)**, keeping this diagnosis hidden from the public to uphold doctor-patient confidentiality.

12. 2026 Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman Announced

- Awarded to Odisha maestro **Guru Durga Charan Ranbir** for lifetime excellence in performing arts.
- Also awarded to sculptor **Damodar Behera**.

13. PM Modi Conferred Uzbekistan's Highest State Award for Foreign Citizens

- **PM Modi** was conferred Uzbekistan's highest state award for foreign citizens, the "**Oliy Darajali Do'stlik**" (Supreme Order of Friendship / Order of Friendship of the Highest Degree).

14. Vivek Raghavan Named in Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential Leaders in AI"

- **Vivek Raghavan**, co-founder of Bengaluru-based AI startup **Sarvam AI**, was named in **Time Magazine's** list of the "**100 Most Influential Leaders in AI**".

15. Roger Federer Selected for International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2026

- **Roger Federer**, 20-time Grand Slam singles champion, retired professionally in **2022**, was selected for the **International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2026**.

16. Publications Division Wins Seven Awards at 46th FIP Excellence Awards

- The **Publications Division** of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** won seven awards at the **46th FIP Excellence Awards**.

17. Kaziah Liz Mejo of Kerala Crowned Miss Universe India 2026

- She is the **first woman from Kerala** to win this title.
- She will represent India at the **75th Miss Universe** pageant in **San Juan, Puerto Rico** in **November 2026**.
- **1st Runner-up: Vaishnavi Ganesh** (Tamil Nadu), will also represent India at **Miss International 2026** as **Miss International India**.
- **2nd Runner-up: Anushree Satwalkar** (Gujarat), who also holds **Miss International India 2026** in some sources.
- **3rd Runner-up: Tejaswini Srivastava** (Maharashtra).

18. Guinness World Records — Indian Skydivers, Lucknow Flag Hoisting and Youngest CA

- **Skydiving Record**: Three Indian skydivers — **Jamsheer Thanalot** (Kerala), **Abhishek Rawat** (Uttar Pradesh) and **Isha Raj** (Bihar) — set a **Guinness World Record** during a skydiving event in **Benghazi, Libya**.
 - The Record: Most skydivers jumping simultaneously with national flags from a single aircraft — an **Ilyushin Il-76 TD** — from a height of **13,000 feet**.
- **Lucknow Flag Hoisting Record**: a massive event was held in **Lucknow** where **2,500 married women** simultaneously hoisted the Indian flag to set a separate record.
- **Lakshmanan Meyyappan** set a Guinness World Record as the **Youngest Male Chartered Accountant** at **16 years and 141 days**.

19. "Parichha Weir" Designated a World Heritage Irrigation Structure

- Location: situated in **Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh**, built across the **Betwa River**.

20. V.O. Chidambaranar Port — First Indian Port to Receive ISO 50001:2018 Certification

- **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority**, located in **Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu**, became the **first port in India** to receive **ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management System)** certification.

6. Banking and Finance

1. TReDS Platform Made Mandatory for CPSEs to Settle MSME Invoices

- **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** has been regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** since 2017.
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** made it mandatory for all **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** to settle invoices of MSME suppliers through **RBI- authorised TReDS platforms**.
- Regulator: **RBI** (since 2017); Threshold: **₹250 crore** (reduced from **₹500 crore** in 2024).

2. SEBI Allows Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs) to Offer GIFT City IFSC Bonds

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has allowed **Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)** to offer regulated securities/bonds issued in **GIFT City IFSC**.

3. UPI Performance Metrics (July 2026)

- Monthly transactions (July 2026): total UPI volume stood at **23.66 billion** transactions, with a total transaction value of **₹29.88 lakh crore**.
- UPI market share (July 2026):
 - **PhonePe**: 10.86 billion transactions; **45.89%** market share by volume (also stated as "over 45%") and **48.33%** by value.
 - **Google Pay**: Second, with **32.33%** market share by volume (also stated as "over 32%").
 - **Paytm**: Third, with **8.05%** market share by volume (also stated as "about 8%").
 - **Navi** and **Super.money** ranked **4th** and **5th** by transaction volume respectively.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has set a market share cap of **30%** for **Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs)**, scheduled to take effect on **December 31, 2026**.

4. UPI Features, Transaction Limits and Global Expansion

- **Offline POS UPI Limit**: up to **₹2,000**.
- **UPI Lite X (offline)**: transactions up to **₹500**;
- **UPI Lite (online)**: up to **₹1,000** without a PIN.
- **UPI 123Pay (feature phones)**: **₹10,000** per transaction and **₹1 lakh** per day.
- **UPI Circle (Secondary Users)**: accounts can designate up to **5 secondary users**, with limits of **₹5,000** per transaction and **₹15,000** per month.
- **UPI One World**: a specialised application designed for foreign tourists to make cashless payments in India.
- **Greece** launched UPI, becoming the **10th country** globally and **2nd in Europe** (after **France**) to do so; **Cambodia** was the **9th** country.

- **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in Qatar** can now send money directly to India using UPI — **PosTransfer powered by UPI**, via **Qatar Post** outlets, launched; it is a postal remittance channel.

5. UPI Celebrates 10th Anniversary

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** was launched on **25 August 2016** by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** under the **RBI**, and celebrated its **10th anniversary** on **25 August 2026**.
- **NPCI Profile**: established in **2008** in **Mumbai**.
- **Global Presence**: UPI is now active and operational across **11 countries**:
 - 1st country — **Bhutan**
 - 9th country — **Cambodia**
 - 10th country — **Greece** (the second European nation after **France**)
 - 11th (latest) country — **Maldives**
- **Revised UPI Transaction Limits**:
 - Capital Markets, IPOs, Insurance, Travel and GeM: **₹5 lakh** per transaction, **₹10 lakh** per day.
 - Credit Card Bill Payments: **₹5 lakh** per transaction, **₹6 lakh** per day.
 - Jewellery: **₹2 lakh** per transaction, **₹6 lakh** per day.
 - Peer-to-Peer (P2P): maximum **₹1 lakh** per transaction and per day.
- UPI share is around **84%** of digital-payment volume.

6. Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)

- The **Standing Committee on Finance**, headed by **B. Mahtab**, recommended that **MDR (Merchant Discount Rate)** apply only to high-value **Person-to-Merchant (P2M)** transactions exceeding **₹2,000**, leaving smaller transactions free.
- For card transactions on POS devices, MDR is charged for amounts exceeding **₹5,000**.
- **MDR Financials**: the government allocated **₹2,000 crore** for **FY27** to compensate banks/PSP operators for zero-MDR. Total estimated cost of managing the MDR structure is **₹3,000 crore**.
- **MDR Division**: **40%** to the issuing bank, **40%** to the **PSP** (e.g., Paytm/PhonePe), and **20%** to the infrastructure/network provider.

7. IDFC First Bank — S&P Assigns 'BBB-' Long-Term and 'A-3' Short-Term Rating

- **S&P** assigned **IDFC First Bank** a **'BBB-'** long-term and **'A-3'** short-term rating — the lowest investment grade.
- **IDFC First Bank**: headquartered in **Mumbai**; MD & CEO: **V. Vaidyanathan**; popular premium credit card named **Ashva**.

8. RBL Bank (Ratnakar Bank Limited) —

Moody's Rating, Emirates NBD Stake and EEFC Account

- **Moody's** assigned **RBL Bank** a similar 'Baa2' rating, equivalent to **BBB**.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Indian Banks:** **Emirates NBD** acquires **60%** of **RBL Bank**.
- **Razorpay** and **RBL Bank** launched a **Multi-Currency EEFC Account** for exporters.
- **EEFC Framework:** the **Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC)** account is regulated by the **RBI** under the **FEMA Act 1999**.

9. RBI Imposes ₹59.20 Lakh Penalty on IndusInd Bank; Bank Launches EazyDiner RuPay Credit Card

- The **RBI** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹59.20 lakh** on **IndusInd Bank**.
- **Violations:** concerning payment of interest on current account deposits and guidelines related to the securitisation of standard assets.
- **IndusInd Bank** launched the "**EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card**".

10. IFSCA Grants Investment Banking Licence to Nexent Capital IFSC

- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** granted an investment banking licence to **Nexent Capital IFSC**.

11. Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Inflation Eases to 9.78% in July 2026

- **WPI inflation** eased to **9.78%** in **July 2026**.
- **Base Year:** **2022-23**; **Basket:** **957 items** (expanded from the historical **697 items**).

12. MoSPI to Replace WPI with Producer Price Index (PPI) as GDP Deflator

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** announced that the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** is being replaced by the **Producer Price Index (PPI)** as the deflator for GDP data where applicable.
- **Base Year Revision:** the GDP base year is being updated from **2011-12** to **2022-23**.

13. India's Trade Data for July 2026

- **Total Exports:** grew **13.31%** year-on-year (YoY) to **\$80.14 billion**, up from **\$70.72 billion** in July 2025, comprising:
 - **\$44.24 billion** in merchandise exports
 - **\$35.89 billion** in services exports
- **Total Imports:** rose **15%** to reach **\$95 billion** in July 2026.
- **Monthly Trade Deficit:** **-\$15 billion**.

14. India's SEZ Exports Grow 11.8% to ₹16.36 Lakh Crore in 2025-26

- **SEZ Definition:** a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** is a specifically designated geographical

area that acts as a business-friendly zone, providing favourable regulatory and economic environments to encourage investments and export-oriented activities.

• Top Exporting States from SEZs:

- **Gujarat** (Highest): **₹4,05,595 crore**
- **Karnataka:** **₹2,69,004 crore**
- **Maharashtra:** **₹2,43,422.50 crore**
- **Tamil Nadu:** **₹2,12,288 crore**

15. Payments Bank Regulatory Framework

- **Payments Banks** may accept demand deposits (savings/current), not conventional term deposits, and the end-of-day balance limit is **₹2 lakh** per individual customer. They are not permitted to undertake lending. Minimum paid-up equity capital is **₹100 crore** and minimum **CAR** is **15%**.
- There are **six RBI-listed Payments Banks:** **Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank, Paytm Payments Bank, Jio Payments Bank** and **NSDL Payments Bank**.

16. Indian Banks Write Off ₹9.95 Lakh Crore of Loans in 12 Years

- Indian banks have written off loans worth approximately **₹9.95 lakh crore** given to large corporates and services over the last **12 financial years**.
- Highest write-off year: **FY 2019**, totalling **₹1.48 lakh crore**.

17. NABARD Launches RSVC "Amrit" Platform for Rural Innovation

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** launched the **RSVC "Amrit"** platform for Rural Innovation.
- Recently secured **28 new Geographical Indication (GI) tags**, taking its cumulative tally of supported GI tags to **176**.

18. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs): 10.3% Credit Growth, Record Net Profit & PSL Performance

- **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** are owned **50%** by the **Central Government**, **35%** by the **Sponsor Bank** and **15%** by the **State Government**.
- Under the **"One State, One RRB"** initiative, the number of RRBs was consolidated from **43** down to **28** as of **1 May 2025**.
- During **FY 2025-26**, RRBs registered a robust **10.3%** credit/loan growth, with gross outstanding loans reaching **₹5.78 lakh crore**, up from **₹5.24 lakh crore** in **FY 2024-25**.
- **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** **Outperformance:** against the RBI-mandated **75%** PSL target for RRBs, they dedicated an average of **91.7%** of their **Adjusted Net Bank**

Credit (ANBC) to priority sectors in FY 2025-26.

- RRBs disbursed **₹3.49 lakh crore** in loans specifically to weaker sections.
- **Ministry of Finance** data shows RRBs achieved an **all-time high consolidated net profit of ₹10,176 crore** for FY 2025-26.
- Total business (Deposits + Loans): reached **₹13.5 lakh crore**.
- Asset quality: **Gross NPA ratio** — 5.3%; **Net NPA ratio** — 2.1%.
- **Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio**: reached an all-time high of 75.2%.

19. Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Targets & Proposed 2% Climate Transition Finance Sub-Target

- Public sector banks proposed that the RBI introduce a **2% sub-target for Climate Transition Finance** within the overall **40% PSL** framework.
- **Bank-wise PSL Targets**:
 - **Scheduled Commercial Banks** (Public, Private and Foreign banks with 20+ branches): **40%** of ANBC.
 - **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**: **75%**.
 - **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)**: **60%** (reduced from 75%).
 - **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**: **60%** (reduced from 75%).
- **The 8 Priority Sectors**: Housing, Renewable Energy, Social Infrastructure, Education, Export Finance, MSME, Agriculture, Others.
- **Renewable Energy Limits under PSL**:
 - Wind / small hydro: capped at **₹75 crore**.
 - Solar photo-voltaic: **₹35 crore**.
 - Overall project cap: **₹100 crore**.
 - Solar rooftop installations: up to **₹2 crore**.
- **Electric Vehicles**: **₹2 lakh** is the proposed limit for personal electric two-wheelers, **₹20 lakh** for personal four-wheelers, **₹25 crore** for charging and battery-swapping infrastructure, and **₹50 crore** for commercial EV fleet operators.

20. NSE Indices Expansion & Launch of BSE "Satvik Index"

- **NSE Indices**: there are now **34 sectorial indices** under NSE Indices, with **11** newly added recently.
- **Satvik Index**: the "Satvik Index" — India's first values and ethics-based stock index — was launched on the **BSE**.

21. The Wealth Company Launches "IFSC Fund of Funds" in GIFT City

- **The Wealth Company** launched an "IFSC Fund of Funds" in **GIFT City**.

22. Digital Fraud: 5,85,751 Online Fraud Cases in 5 Years & "MuleHunter.AI"

- Over the last **5 financial years**, **5,85,751** online fraud cases were recorded, involving **₹3,590 crore**.
- To combat this, the **RBI** and **NPCI** established the **Digital Payments Intelligence Platform (DPIP)**. Introduced "**MuleHunter.AI**", developed by the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, to detect and block "mule accounts".
- **Mule accounts** are accounts owned by one individual but operated by fraudsters to launder money.

23. Bank of India Launches "BOINZ Freedom" Mobile App in New Zealand

- MD & CEO of **Bank of India (BOI)**: **Rajneesh Karnatak**.
- BOI is active in **15 countries**; its first overseas branch opened in **London** in **1946**.

24. Yes Bank Launches "Yes Essence" Credit Card for Women

- **Yes Bank** launched **Yes Essence**, a lifestyle and reward credit card tailored for professional and digital-savvy women aged **21 to 60** with a minimum net salary of **₹30,000**.
- Benefits: offers spending rewards focused on **health and wellness**.

25. FAST DS — Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme

- The government introduced the **FAST DS (Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme)** — a one-time voluntary window for small taxpayers to report previously undisclosed foreign income or assets.
- **Category 1 (Undisclosed up to ₹1 crore)**: for foreign income/assets never disclosed — taxpayers must pay **30% tax** on the fair market value plus an additional **30% penalty**.
- **Category 2 (Taxed but Unreported up to ₹5 crore)**: for foreign assets taxed while the taxpayer was a non-resident but not reported in India — attracts a flat **₹1 lakh** fee instead of standard tax brackets.

26. India's GDP Growth Projections for FY 2026-27

- **India Ratings** projected India's GDP growth rate for **FY 2026-27** at **6.8%**, up from **6.7%**.
- For comparison, actual GDP growth in **FY 2025-26** stood at **7.6%**.
- **S&P** estimated India's GDP growth at **6.6%** for the current fiscal year.
- Addressing the Indian diaspora (**Non-Resident Indians – NRIs**) in **Chicago, USA**, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** announced that India's economy is projected to grow at **7%** for the current fiscal year (**FY27**).
- **Comparative FY27 GDP Growth Projections**:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI): 6.7%
- World Bank / Asian Development Bank (ADB) / S&P: 6.6%
- International Monetary Fund (IMF): 6.4%
- Fitch Ratings: 6.4%

27. S&P Global Affirms India's Sovereign Rating at BBB with Stable Outlook

- S&P Global affirmed India's sovereign rating at BBB with a stable outlook.

28. Exim Bank Designated Implementing Agency for Interest Subvention Scheme

- Exim Bank Profile: the Export-Import (Exim) Bank was established in September 1981, is wholly owned by the government, and is headquartered in Mumbai.

29. Razorpay Launches "Vulcan" — India's First AI-Powered Payments Foundation Model

- Razorpay launched Vulcan, a transformer-based AI foundation model built from scratch for payment processing — India's first AI-powered payments foundation model.

30. Currency in Circulation Data — Jakarta Cash Management Conference

- The Jakarta Cash Management Conference was hosted by the Bank of Indonesia in Jakarta.
- India was represented by Deputy Governor S.C. Murmu.
- India currently has 17,600 crore physical currency notes in circulation.
- Volume-wise: India has the highest volume of physical notes in the world, followed by the US Dollar (5,600 crore notes) and the Euro (3,000 crore notes).
- Value-wise: US Dollar ranks 1st, Euro 2nd, and the Indian Rupee 3rd.

31. SBI Caps Free Cash Withdrawals on Zero-Balance BSBDA and PMJDY Accounts

- The change applies to zero-balance Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts.
- Effective 1 October 2026, the State Bank of India (SBI) is limiting cash withdrawals on these accounts.
- The Limits: holders get only 4 free cash withdrawals per month; from the 5th withdrawal onwards, SBI will charge ₹15 + GST per transaction.

32. NUCFDC Head Office to Shift from Delhi to Maharashtra

- The National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) is the umbrella organisation providing common technology and training to UCBs.

33. Bank Deposit Growth Surges to 15.4% YoY — Highest Since December 2016

- Bank deposit growth surged to 15.4% Year-on-Year (YoY) — the highest jump recorded since December 2016.

34. SEBI Proposes Mandatory Colour-Coded "Credit Risk-o-Meter" for Debt Securities

- Credit ratings of debt securities are currently provided in alphanumeric formats (e.g. AAA, AA+, BBB-).
- Colour-Coded Ratings:
 1. AAA: Lowest credit risk — Irish Green
 2. AA+, AA, AA-: Very low credit risk — Chartreuse
 3. A category: (low credit risk) — (colour not confirmed)
 4. BBB category: (moderate risk) — (colour not confirmed)
 5. BB category: (high risk) — (colour not confirmed)
 6. B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D: High to Very high risk of Default — Red (danger zone)

35. SEBI to Launch IT Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions

- SEBI is to launch an IT Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions.

36. IRDAI Bars Four Insurers from Opening New Branches for 6 Months

- General Insurers — 6-Month Ban: IRDAI barred Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company and Acko General Insurance from establishing any new places of business or branches for 6 months.
- Life Insurer Restrictions: IRDAI similarly barred Pramerica Life Insurance and Edelweiss Life Insurance from opening any new place of business or branches for 6 months.
- Reason: non-compliance with / exceeding the specified Expenses of Management (EoM) limits relative to premium income — e.g. spending ₹12 when the set limit was ₹10 on administrative overheads, branch expansions and employee expenses.

37. Paul Merchants Finance Launches "Loan Against Silver" from Chandigarh

- Paul Merchants Finance Private Limited, a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), launched "Loan Against Silver" from Chandigarh.
- Becomes the first NBFC to open an exclusive silver-only loan branch.

38. RBI Monthly Bulletin: NRI Deposit Inflows Decline 23.24% in Q1 FY 2026-27

- Q1 FY 2026-27 inflows: fell to \$2.78 billion, down from \$3.61 billion in Q1 of FY 2025-26.
- Cumulative deposits: by end of June 2026, total cumulative NRI deposits in India reached \$168.51 billion.

39. RBI Restores Interest Rate Caps on FCNR(B) and NRE Deposits from 1 September 2026

- The **RBI** restored interest rate caps on **FCNR(B)** and **NRE** deposits from **1 September 2026**.

40. SIDBI Posts Highest-Ever Net Profit of ₹5,493 Crore; Holds Conclave with 28 RRBs

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** registered its highest-ever net profit of **₹5,493 crore** in **FY 2025–26**, a **14.2%** growth year-on-year.
- Formed on **April 2, 1990**; operates under the **Ministry of Finance**; headquartered in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Chairman & Managing Director: **Shri Manoj Mittal**.
- SIDBI organized a conclave in **New Delhi** with the heads of all **28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**.
- Objective: to expand **co-lending** arrangements for **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in rural and semi-urban sectors.

41. Outward Remittances Under LRS Rise 4.5% to \$7.23 Billion in Q1 FY 2026-27

- The **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)** was launched by the **RBI** in **2004**.
- It allows a resident individual to remit up to **\$250,000 (\$2.5 lakh)** per financial year for permitted current and capital account transactions.
- Not available to companies, partnership firms, **Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs)** or trusts.

42. Bank of Baroda Introduces UPI Global QR Payment System

- Bank of Baroda (BoB)** introduced the **UPI Global QR Payment** system, also referred to as **UPI Global Reverse Acceptance**.

43. India's Sugar Industry Performance & Duty-Free Raw Sugar Import

- The **Central Government** approved the duty-free import of up to **10 lakh metric tonnes (MT)** of raw sugar until **31 October 2026**.
- Sugar was imported for the "first time in nearly a decade"; India last imported the commodity for domestic use in **2017-18**.
- India is the world's **largest sugar consumer** and the **second-largest producer**; **Brazil** holds the 1st position.
- Sugarcane production rose from **348.44 MMT** in 2015-16 to **500 MMT** in 2025-26, about **43.5%** growth.

44. PMJDY Completes 12 Years; Accounts Reach 59.09 Crore

- August 28, 2026** marks the **12th anniversary** of the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**, launched on **August 28, 2014**, by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.

- Celebrated as the world's most successful and largest financial inclusion initiative.
- Managed by the **Department of Financial Services** under the **Ministry of Finance**.
- Official slogan: "**Mera Khata Bhagya Vidhata**" (or "Mera Khata Bhagya Vidhata").
- Total accounts: **59.09 crore**; Total deposits: **₹3,16,514 crore**; Average deposit per account: **₹5,356**.
- RuPay Debit Cards** issued: **41.29 crore** cards.
- Accidental insurance cover: free RuPay debit card carrying accidental insurance cover of **₹2 lakh** (increased in **2018** from the original **₹1 lakh**).
- Overdraft (OD) Facility**:
 - OD limit up to **₹10,000** after **6 months** of satisfactory account operation.
 - Hassle-free overdraft up to **₹2,000** available immediately with no pre-operational conditions.
 - Maximum age limit to avail the overdraft facility increased from **60 to 65 years**.

45. RBI Schedules ₹1,34,625 Crore Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) Auction

- The **RBI** scheduled a **Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR)** auction worth **₹1,34,625 crore** on **August 31, 2026**; Cut-off Rate: **5.24%**.
- Auction parameters: a **15-day tenor** under the **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)**.

46. Jio Financial Services Announces AI-Powered "Personal CFO" for JioFinance App

- Jio Financial Services (JFS)** announced an AI-powered "**Personal CFO**" for its **JioFinance** app.
- JFS Profile: MD & CEO — **Hitesh Sethia**.

47. CDSL Investor Protection Fund Launches "The Garden of Prosperity" Investor Education Film

- CDSL Investor Protection Fund (IPF)** launched a multilingual investor education film titled "**The Garden of Prosperity**" in collaboration with **Amar Chitra Katha**.
- The film's concept: uses the classic characters of **Akbar and Birbal** to show a newly married couple learning how to wisely invest their wedding gifts.
- CDSL Profile**: "one of India's securities depositories" responsible for holding shares, bonds and other securities in electronic (demat) form; headquartered in **Mumbai**; MD & CEO — **Nehal Vora**; Chairman — **Gurumoorthy Mahalingam**.

7. Defence

1. India Optel Limited Launches "Garud" Binoculars

- **India Optel Limited (IOL)** launched its indigenously manufactured "**Garud**" high-resolution binoculars for the domestic civilian market.

2. Mission Sudarshan Chakra — National Air Defence Programme

- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra:** a national air defence programme aimed at building a comprehensive, multi-layered air defence shield for India — similar to **Israel's Iron Dome** — to neutralise threats like missiles and drones.
- Targeted for completion by **2035**.

3. V.O. Chidambaranar Port — First Indian Port to Implement Anti-Drone System

- **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** became the **first Indian port** to initiate implementation of an advanced **anti-drone system**.

4. Indrajal Ranger — India's Only Approved Anti-Drone Patrol Vehicle

- **Indrajal Ranger** is India's only approved **anti-drone patrol vehicle**.

5. 15th Maitree Exercise 2026 (India–Thailand) and Other Joint Military Exercises

- **Maitree Exercise 2026:**
 - Venue: **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand**.
 - Participants: **Indian Army** (represented by the **Gorkha Rifles**) and the **Royal Thai Army**.
 - Previous Edition: the **14th edition** was held last year at the **Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya**.
- **Other 2026 Exercises:**
 - **PRAGATI:** a multinational military exercise hosted by India at **Umroi, Meghalaya**.
 - **MILAN:** a major multilateral naval exercise held in **Visakhapatnam**, followed by the **International Fleet Review (IFR)**.
 - **Vajra Prahar:** bilateral joint military exercise between **India and the United States**.
 - **Pitch Black:** a multilateral air combat exercise hosted by **Australia**, in which India participated.
- **Bilateral Military Exercises Quick Reference:**
 - **USA:** Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Tiger Triumph
 - **Japan:** Shinyuu Maitri, Dharma Guardian, Veer Guardian, Sahyog-Kaijin, JIMEX
 - **Oman:** Al Nagah, Naseem Al Bahr, Eastern Bridge
 - **Singapore:** SIMBEX, Bold Kurukshetra
 - **Nepal:** Surya Kiran
 - **China:** Hand in Hand
 - **Maldives:** Ekuverin

- **Sri Lanka:** SLINEX, Mitra Shakti
- **Mongolia:** Nomadic Elephant
- **Bangladesh:** Bongo Sagar, Sampriti
- **Indonesia:** Garuda Shakti, Samudra Shakti
- **Malaysia:** Harimau Shakti, Udara Shakti, Samudra Laksamana

6. Indian Air Force Completes Exercises "Pitch Black" and "Udara Shakti"

- **Exercise Pitch Black:** a large-scale multilateral exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** in Australia, where India deployed French-procured **Rafale** fighter jets.
- **Exercise Udara Shakti:** a bilateral exercise hosted by the **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)** in Malaysia.

7. "Aparajita – Parang La 2026": NCC All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek

- Organised by the **National Cadet Corps (NCC)** under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- The "All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek" is a **30-day** land expedition and trekking programme in the **Himalayas**.

8. Indigenous AK-203 Assault Rifles Named "Sher"; Delivery Advanced to 2030

- Under a bilateral agreement signed in **2018**, **India and Russia** partnered to manufacture and deliver **6 lakh (600,000) AK-203 rifles** to the Indian Army by **2032**.
- Under the "**Make in India**" initiative (launched **25 September 2014** to promote indigenous manufacturing), these are manufactured at the **Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The domestically produced AK-203 automatic Kalashnikov-class assault rifles have been officially named "**Sher**".
- Advances the delivery timeline by two years, from **2032 to 2030**.

9. Indian Navy Receives Third ASW-SWC "Mangrol"

- The **Indian Navy** received its third indigenous **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** named "**Mangrol**".
- Builder: constructed by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** in **Kochi, Kerala**.

10. INS Sudarshini Reaches Azores and Lisbon in "Lokayan 26" Transoceanic Expedition

- The ship reached the port of **Ponta Delgada (Azores, an autonomous archipelago of Portugal)** after a **19-day** trans-Atlantic passage from **Boston, USA**.
- This marked the ship's **second Atlantic crossing** during its ongoing deployment.
- It subsequently arrived in Portugal's capital, **Lisbon**, entering through the **Tagus River**.
- Expedition Details:

- Participating in the "Lokayan 26" transoceanic expedition.
- Set sail on **20 January 2026** from Naval Base **Kochi**.
- Designed to cover **13 countries** and **18 sea ports**.
- Lisbon marks its **15th port of call**.
- Once all 18 ports are completed, the ship will return to India.

11. 25th India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) Meeting Held in New Delhi

- The **25th India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG)** meeting was held in New Delhi.

12. Midhani Becomes First Indian Company to Get GE Aerospace S400 Lab Approval

- **Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (Midhani)** is a **Miniratna Category-I Schedule B PSU**, founded in **1973** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

13. SPARSH — Digital Defence Pension Platform

- **SPARSH = System for Pension Administration - Raksha**.
- A digital platform for defence pension management.
- Allows retirees to verify records, trace payments and obtain **Pension Payment Orders (PPOs)** digitally.

14. India-Vietnam Coast Guard Exercise "Sahyog Hop Tac" (Second Edition)

- Venue: **Chennai, Bay of Bengal**.
- Note: the standard army exercise between India and Vietnam is **VINBAX**.

15. INS Arisudan — Fourth Indigenous Nuclear Submarine under ATV Project

- **INS Arisudan** is the fourth indigenous nuclear submarine under the **ATV (Advanced Technology Vessel) Project**.
- India's indigenous nuclear submarine timeline:
 - **INS Arihant** — commissioned in **2016**
 - **INS Arighat** — commissioned in **2024**
 - **INS Aridhaman** — commissioned in **2026**
 - **INS Arisudan** — expected commissioning into the Indian Navy in **2027**

16. DSV Nipun — Diving Support Vessel Commissioned on 31 August 2026

- **DSV Nipun** was indigenously designed and constructed by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **Indian Navy** commissions **Nipun** on **August 31, 2026**, at the **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai**.

17. L&T Delivers "Samarthak" — Indian Navy's First Indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** successfully delivered "**Samarthak**" (the first **Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)**), the Indian Navy's first indigenous MPV, built under the **Samarthak-class MPV project**.

18. Amit Shah Inaugurates 9th National Security Strategies Conference

- Held in **New Delhi**, inaugurated by Home Minister **Amit Shah** and organized by the **Intelligence Bureau (IB)**.

19. NSG Launches First All-Women Commando Conversion Course

- The **National Security Guard (NSG)** launched its first **12-week all-women commando conversion course** at **Manesar, Haryana**.

20. India Secures Dialogue Partner Status in Global Combat Air Program (GCAP)

- India formally secured **dialogue partner status** in the **Global Combat Air Program (GCAP)**, a **sixth-generation fighter jet project**.

21. Indian Coast Guard Decommissions Two Extra Fast Patrol Vessels

- The **Indian Coast Guard** decommissioned two **Extra Fast Patrol Vessels (XFPV)**: **ICGS Meera Behn** and **ICGS Subhadra Kumari Chauhan**.
- Both vessels were constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited** and commissioned in **2006**.

22. Inaugural India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting

- The inaugural **India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** meeting was held in **New Delhi**, co-chaired by Joint Secretary **Amitabh Prasad**.

23. India-Uzbekistan and India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Exercises

- "**Dustlik**" Exercise: joint military exercise between **India and Uzbekistan**; the 2026 edition was the **7th Dustlik** exercise, hosted in **Uzbekistan**.
- "**Khanjar**" Exercise: joint exercise between **India and Kyrgyzstan**; the **13th Khanjar** exercise in 2026 was hosted by India in **Assam**.

24. Egypt-China Launch "Eagles of Civilization 2026" Air Exercise

- **Egypt** and **China** launched the "**Eagles of Civilization 2026**" air exercise.

8. International

1. India Launches "SHANTI" Campaign for UNSC Non-Permanent Seat (2028-29)

- India launched the "**SHANTI**" campaign for a **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** non-permanent seat for the **2028-29** term.
- India has already served as a non-permanent member of the UNSC **eight times**, with its last tenure during the **2021-2022** term.
- **The SHANTI Acronym**: S — **Securing**; H — **Holistic**; A — **Advancement through**; N — **Norms**; T — **Trust and**; I — **Integrity**.

2. Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Sign

"Mecca (Makkah) Joint Defence Agreement"

- Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a landmark trilateral political and military defence agreement called the "Mecca (Makkah) Joint Defence Agreement" on August 7, 2026.

3. Global Weather Disturbances — Hurricane Lala and Typhoon Dolphin

- Hurricane Lala, a Category 1 Hurricane with winds exceeding 120 km/h, struck the Big Island of Hawaii, USA, in August 2026.
- Typhoon Dolphin recently struck the eastern coast of China.

4. Indonesian Independence Day 2026

- Observance: celebrated annually on 17th August.
- 2026 Theme: "Indonesia Berdaulat, Adil, dan Makmur" — "Sovereign, Just, and Prosperous Indonesia."
- Current President of Indonesia: **Prabowo Subianto**.

5. UK and New Zealand Move to Restrict Social Media for Under-16s

- The UK announced a social media ban for under-16s.
- New Zealand Prime Minister **Christopher Luxon** introduced the **Online Safety (Minimum Age and Child Safety Risk Assessment) Bill**.
- Purpose: to restrict high-risk social media platforms for children under 16.
- Australia was the first country to put a nationwide age-restriction ban on social media.

6. Developing and BRICS Nations Oppose EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- What is CBAM? A carbon border tax introduced as part of the European Union's "Fit for 55" package to reduce greenhouse emissions by 55% by 2030.
- The EU is headquartered in **Brussels, Belgium**.
- Impact and Sectors: CBAM levies a carbon tax on carbon-intensive imports across six major sectors: **Iron & Steel, Aluminium, Cement, Fertilizers, Electricity, Hydrogen**.

7. International Criminal Court (ICC) Rejects Unilateral US Sanctions

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected unilateral US sanctions imposed on:
 - ICC President **Tomoko Akane** of Japan.
 - Senior Trial Lawyer **Abdoulaye Seye** of Senegal.
- The ICC has 125 member countries.

8. Cargo Ship "Ocean Winner" Sinks in the Bay of Bengal

- The ship sailed under the national flag of Panama.

9. US Removes Syria from "State Sponsors of Terrorism" List

- Syria had been on the list since 29 December 1979 — a period of 47 years.
- Remaining Nations on the list: only **Cuba, Iran** (added in 1984), and **North Korea** (added in 1988).
- Syria Profile: capital **Damascus**; currency the **Pound**.

10. Thailand Enacts Amnesty Law "Promoting a Peaceful Society BE 2569 (2026)"

- Thailand Prime Minister: **Anutin Charnvirakul**.
- Purpose: to resolve cases arising from internal political conflicts and crises between January 1, 2005 and July 16, 2025.

11. Sibi George Represents India at Uruguay's National Day

- Sibi George, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), represented India at Uruguay's National Day (Independence Day) celebrations on August 25.

12. WHO Confirms End of Polio Type 2 Outbreaks in 5 African Nations

- The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that **Polio Type 2** outbreaks officially ended in 5 African nations: **Burundi, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of the Congo, and Uganda**.
- WHO Background: founded on April 7, 1948; headquartered in **Geneva**; Current Director-General — **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

13. PM Modi to Visit Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan; Attend 26th SCO Summit

- Uzbekistan Visit (August 29–30, 2026): marks the Prime Minister's 4th official visit to Uzbekistan, arriving in the capital city of **Tashkent**.
- Kyrgyzstan Visit & 26th SCO Summit (September 1, 2026): PM Modi will travel to **Bishkek**, the capital of **Kyrgyzstan**, to attend the 26th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.
- SCO Overview:
 - Established in 2001; headquartered in **Beijing, China**.
 - Has 10 member states: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.
 - India and Pakistan joined as permanent members in 2017.

14. Iceland's Referendum Rejects European Union Entry

- Iceland's referendum rejected European Union entry (No — 52.8%, Yes — 47.2%).

9. Meetings

1. BRICS 2026 Under India's Chairship — Ministerial and Working Group Meetings

- BRICS consists of **11 members**, with India serving as the chair in 2026.
- The term "BRIC" was coined by **Jim O'Neill**; South Africa joined later.
- **BRICS 2026 Theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability"** — acting as a letter-by-letter acronym for BRICS.
- The **BRICS Environment Working Group** was established in 2015.
- **12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting:** a two-day conference from **August 17 to August 18, 2026**, hosted by India in **New Delhi**.
- **7th Meeting of the BRICS Working Group for Cooperation in ICT / 7th BRICS ICT Track Summit:** held from **August 17 to August 21, 2026**, in **Pune, Maharashtra**; organised by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** under the theme "**Innovate, Cooperate, and Transform for a Resilient Future**".
- The **BRICS Agriculture Ministers' meeting** was also held recently in **Indore**.
- **10th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting:** hosted in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- **13th BRICS Education Ministers Meeting:** hosted in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **BRICS Wave Bazar:** held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting:** held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** — with cultural working group meetings also held in **Jaipur** and **Varanasi**.
- **BRICS Energy Ministers Meeting:** held in **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- **BRICS Tourism Ministers Meeting:** held in **Jaipur**.
- **Visakhapatnam** hosted two separate meetings: the **BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting** on **22 August** and the **BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting** on **23 August**.
- Venue mapping for revision: **ICT – Pune | Competition – Udaipur | Industry & Trade – Jaipur | Education – Bhubaneswar | Wave Bazar – Mumbai | Energy – Gurugram | Environment – New Delhi**.
- **New Development Bank (NDB):** formerly the **BRICS Development Bank**; headquartered in **Shanghai, China**; currently headed by **Dilma Rousseff**.
- **NDB Membership:** has **10 members**, with **Uzbekistan** joining as the **10th member**.

2. 18th BRICS Heads of State Summit — New Delhi, September 12–13, 2026

- India is hosting the **18th BRICS Summit** in **New Delhi** at **Bharat Mandapam** from **September 12 to 13, 2026**.
- This marks the **fourth time** India is hosting (previously in 2012, 2016 and 2021).
- Theme: "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**".
- Member nations: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE, and Indonesia**.
- Chinese President **Xi Jinping** has officially confirmed his travel to India for this meeting.

3. UNCCD COP 17 Held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia — India Launches First "Guide to Grasslands"

- The **17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17)** of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** was held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, from **17 to 28 August 2026**.
- Theme: "**Restoring Land, Restoring Hope**".
- India launched its first-ever "**Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems**" at UNCCD COP 17.
- The **United Nations (UN)** has declared **2026** as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**.
- **UNCCD:** headquartered in **Bonn, Germany**; established **1994**; Executive Secretary: **Yasmine Fouad**.

4. National Conference on Affordable Housing Held in New Delhi

- A conference focusing on affordable housing reforms was held in **New Delhi**, organised by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- Theme: "**Reimagining Affordable Housing: From Scheme to Sustainable Ecosystem**".

5. Chandigarh University Hosts National Space Technology Conclave with ISRO

- **Chandigarh University** hosted a two-day **National Space Technology Conclave** in collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.

6. Southern States Chief Ministers' Conference Held in Chennai

- The **Southern States Chief Ministers' Conference** was held in **Chennai**.

7. 31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting Held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

- The **31st Southern Zonal Council Meeting** was held in **Tamil Nadu**, at **Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram)** near **Chennai**.

8. India to Host 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in February 2027

• Indian Coast Guard Profile:

- Formed on **18 August 1978**.
- Motto: "**Vayam Rakshamah**" ("We Protect").
- Headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- Led by DG **Paramesh Sivamani**.
- Coast Guard Day** is celebrated on **1 February**.

9. National Conference on Tribal Languages and Museums 2026 Held in Mysore

- Tribal Statistics: based on the **2011 Census**, there are **705 tribal communities** in India, with 75 categorised as **PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups)**.
- PM JANMAN: the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan** was launched on **15 November 2023**, commemorating **Birsa Munda's** birth anniversary, with his **150th birth anniversary** celebrated in **2025**.

10. Global Summits Calendar and Host Nations

- BRICS ICT Track Meeting** — India
- COP 31 (2026)** — Australia (holds the presidency), **Turkey** (host)
- SCO Heads of State** — Kyrgyzstan
- G20** — USA
- G7** — France
- ASEAN** — Philippines
- APEC** — China

11. PM Modi Chairs 53rd PRAGATI Meeting

- PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)** was launched in **2015**.
- It is an **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**-enabled multi-modal governance platform designed to review central/state projects, promote inter-ministerial coordination and address project delays.

10. Miscellaneous

1. Centre Identifies 25 of 58 Tiger Reserves for Priority Conservation

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: **Bhupender Yadav**.
- Zero-Tiger Reserves: Kawal** (Telangana), **Buxa** (West Bengal), **Dampa** (Mizoram) and **Kamlang** (Arunachal Pradesh).
- Recent Tiger Reserves List:
 - 58th** — **Madhav Tiger Reserve** (Madhya Pradesh)
 - 57th** — **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** (Madhya Pradesh)
 - 56th** — **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla** (Chhattisgarh)
 - 55th** — **Dholpur-Karauli** (Rajasthan)
 - 54th** — **Veerangana Durgavati** (Madhya Pradesh)

- Ranipur** (Uttar Pradesh), **Ramgarh Vishdhari** (Rajasthan) and **Srivilliputhur Megamalai** (Tamil Nadu).

2. Borjuli Wild Rice Site (Assam) Declared a Biodiversity Heritage Site

- Located in the **Sonitpur District** of **Assam**.

3. Asia's First Desert Night Safari to Be Established in Gujarat

- Asia's first **Desert Night Safari** will be established in **Juna Disa, Banaskantha, Gujarat**.

4. Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary Emerges as Key Nesting Ground for Black-Necked Stork

- Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary** is located in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.

5. Tamil Nadu Notifies Three Elephant Corridors in Hosur Forest Division

- The corridors:
 - Jawalagiri-Ulibanda-Thaggatti**
 - Jawalagiri-Panai-Anchetty**
 - Billikkal-Jawalagiri**
- Elephant Day** is celebrated on **August 12**.
- Karnataka** holds the highest elephant population in India, followed by **Assam** and **Tamil Nadu**.

6. Google Launches "Back to School" 2026 Campaign in India and South Asia

- Offerings: eligible college students were offered **Google AI Plus** free for **12 months**, including **400 GB** storage and AI services.

11. MoUs

1. Andhra Pradesh Partners with CSIR-NGRI for Lithium and Gallium Exploration

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** partnered with **CSIR-NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad)** for **Lithium and Gallium Exploration**.

2. India and Armenia Sign MoU to Strengthen Bilateral Defence Partnership

- India and Armenia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen their bilateral defence partnership.
- Armenia: Capital — Yerevan; Currency — Armenian Dram**.

3. PhonePe and MeitY Sign MoU to Integrate "PulsePro" with PM Gati Shakti

- PhonePe** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** signed an MoU to integrate PhonePe's enterprise data intelligence platform, "**PulsePro**", with the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**.

4. India and Japan Sign Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on Maritime Security Cooperation

- **India and Japan** signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA)** on **Maritime Security Cooperation**.

5. **India–Brazil Sign MoU on Telecommunications and ICT**

- **India and Brazil** signed an MoU / agreement on **Telecommunications and ICT**.
- Union Minister of Communications: **Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**.
- **Brazil Statistics**: the capital is **Brasilia** (not Rio de Janeiro); Currency — **Brazilian Real (BRL)**.

6. **VinFast India Signs MoU with Federal Bank for Dealer Financing**

- Vietnamese electric automobile manufacturer **VinFast India** signed an MoU with **Federal Bank** for **dealer inventory financing**.
- **Federal Bank Profile**: established in **1931**, headquartered in **Aluva, Ernakulam district, Kerala**. Current MD & CEO is **KVS Manian**.

7. **PNB and Indian Army Sign MoU for Premium Credit Cards**

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** and the **Indian Army** signed an MoU to offer premium credit cards to defence personnel.

8. **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Collaborates with ICAI**

- **Aditya Birla Health Insurance** collaborated with the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** to offer dedicated health insurance policies.

9. **Citi Group Partners with Axis Bank for NRI FCNR Deposit Financing**

- **Citi Group** entered a strategic partnership with **Axis Bank** to finance **Non-Resident Indian (NRI)** investments into **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR)** deposits.

10. **T-Hub Partners with Central Command of Indian Army for Defence Startups**

- Hyderabad-based startup incubator **T-Hub** signed a partnership with the **Central Command of the Indian Army** to support and promote defence startups.

11. **Air India and Drukair Announce Interline Partnership**

- **Air India** and **Drukair, Royal Bhutan Airlines** have announced a new **interline partnership**.

12. National

1. **80th Independence Day of India Celebrated at Red Fort — PM Modi's 13th Consecutive Address**

- The **Har Ghar Tiranga** campaign was originally launched in **2022** to mark the **75th Independence anniversary** and was continued in **2026**.

- **Jawaharlal Nehru** holds the record for hoisting the national flag **17 times**.
- **PM Modi's 13th time** hoisting the national flag — placed him **third** in Indian history, only behind **Jawaharlal Nehru (17 times)** and **Indira Gandhi (16 times)**.
- PM Modi delivered his **13th consecutive Independence Day address** on **August 15, 2026**; he is the **second Prime Minister** in Indian history to deliver 13 consecutive addresses, following **Jawaharlal Nehru** (record holder with **17 consecutive speeches**) and surpassing **Indira Gandhi's** record of **11 consecutive addresses**.
- PM Modi delivered a **75-minute-long** speech, his shortest address in the last four years.
- For context: his longest speech was in **2025 (103 minutes)**.

2. **Census 2027**

- **Census 2027** will be India's **16th Census**.
- Budget: **₹11,718 crore**.
- Executing Authority: **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**.
- The Central Government officially notified **40 questions** for the **Census 2027** population enumeration phase.
- **Caste enumeration** is being conducted for the first time since **1931**.

3. **Telangana Becomes First State to Implement Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) for Rural Roads**

- **Telangana** became the first state to implement the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)** for rural roads.

4. **Rajasthan Approves UCC Bill, Tree Protection Bill and Leave Reforms**

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026**: approved draft bill establishing uniform civil laws for marriage, divorce, inheritance, maintenance and live-in relationships across all religions; **tribal communities** are strictly excluded.
- **Uttarakhand** was the first state to pass the UCC, while **Goa** historically maintained it.

5. **Gujarat Approves Four Centres of Excellence (CoE) for Natural Farming**

- Locations (Villages): **Nani Bhamti** (Vansda, Navsari), **Halvad** (Morbi), **Valavad** (Sihor, Bhavnagar), **Chudel** (Jetpur Pavi, Chhota Udepur).

6. **Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Inaugurates 25 New Atal Canteens**

- Delhi Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** inaugurated **25 new Atal Canteens**, bringing the total to **100 operational canteens** in the National Capital.

7. **J&K Police Activate "Dial 112" Emergency Service Across Jammu Zone**

- The **Jammu & Kashmir Police** officially activated the "**Dial 112**" emergency service across the entire **Jammu Zone**.

8. **India Post Completes First-Ever Drone Delivery of National Flag in a Mountainous Region**

- Route: flown from the **Mandi Head Post Office** to the **Rehardhar Branch Post Office** in **Himachal Pradesh**.

9. **Operation Bhola: EAGLE Busts Ganja Smuggling Network**

- **Operation Bhola** was conducted by **EAGLE** (Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement).

10. **E-Visa Facility Expanded to 88 Ports by MHA**

- The **E-Visa** facility was launched in **2014** for **43 countries** and now covers **172 countries**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** expanded the E-Visa facility to **88 ports** by adding **11 more** international ports.
- Newly Added Ports:
 - **9 Land Ports:** Agartala, Daranga Gate, Bhojdanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh, and Attari Road.
 - **2 Airports:** Bhopal and Tirupati.

11. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Celebrates 10th Foundation Day**

- **GeM** is the digital portal for transparent online government procurement of goods and services.
- Cumulative procurement has crossed **₹20 lakh crore**.
- A new 5-digit helpline shortcode — **14550** — has been introduced.

12. **Maharashtra Declares Snake Bite a "Notifiable Disease"**

- **Maharashtra** declared snake bite a "**Notifiable Disease**".

13. **Supreme Court Orders High-Powered Inquiry Committee on NEET-UG Protests**

- Composition:
 - Chairman: Retired Supreme Court Judge **Justice R. Subhash Reddy**.
 - Member: **Ravi Shanker Jha** — Former Chief Justice of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**.
 - Member: **Rishi Kumar Shukla** — Former **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** Director.
 - Member: **L.R. Bishnoi** — Former **Director General of Police (DGP)** of Meghalaya.
 - Member: **Justice (Retd.) Shalinder Kaur** — former **Delhi High Court** judge.

14. **Central Panel Constituted to Review Teesta Barrage Project**

- The **Teesta River** originates in the **Sikkim Himalayas**, flows through **West Bengal**, and moves into **Bangladesh**.

15. **Chhattisgarh Becomes First Inland State to Export Tilapia Fish to the USA**

- For the first time, **Tilapia** fish products reared in **Chhattisgarh** were exported to the **USA** on **20 August 2026**.

16. **Union Cabinet Approves Dedicated Bench of J&K High Court in Ladakh**

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** announced the Union Cabinet's decision to establish a dedicated bench of the **High Court of J&K** in **Ladakh**.

17. **Supreme Court Reduces Legal Practice Requirement for Civil Judge Exams to 1 Year**

- The mandatory legal practice requirement to sit for **Entry-Level Civil Judge (Junior Division)** recruitment exams was reduced from **3 years** to **1 year**.

18. **Government Restricts FDC Drugs for Children Below 4 Years**

- The Government restricted the manufacturing, sale and distribution of **Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC)** drugs containing **Chlorpheniramine Maleate** and **Phenylephrine Hydrochloride** for children below **4 years** of age.

19. **Andhra Pradesh Raises BC Reservation to 34%**

- **Andhra Pradesh** approved **34% BC reservation** in rural local bodies.

20. **e-Sakshya Portal**

- The **e-Sakshya Portal** is designed to handle digital evidence/records, images/video and associated material, with secure storage.

21. **Imphal–Guwahati Bus Service Resumes after 3-Year Suspension**

- The bus service from **Imphal (Manipur)** to **Guwahati (Assam)** via **Dimapur (Nagaland)** resumed.

22. **Karnataka Bans "Analog Paneer"; Becomes 6th State to Do So**

- The other five states that previously banned it: **Chhattisgarh (1st)**, **Maharashtra**, **Gujarat**, **Madhya Pradesh**, and **Himachal Pradesh (5th)**.

23. **High-Level Committee Formed to Resolve Gorkha Community Issues**

- Chaired by **Pankaj Singh** — former **BSF Director** and former **Deputy National Security Advisor**.

24. **Central Information Commission (CIC) Launches APCOMS 2.0**

- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** launched **APCOMS 2.0 (Appeal and Complaint Management System)**, an upgraded digital workflow portal.

25. DoT Releases New SIM Card Rules 2026

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** released the **New SIM Card Rules 2026** on **August 24, 2026**, under Union Minister for Telecommunications **Jyotiraditya Scindia**.
- SIM card limits per individual:
 - Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and the North-Eastern states** — maximum 6 SIM cards.
 - Rest of India** — maximum 9 SIM cards.

26. PPPAC Approves Privatisation of 11 Airports

- The **Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC)** approved a proposal by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** to privatize **11 airports**.
- Divided into **5 operational bundles**:
 - Amritsar and Kangra-Gaggal
 - Varanasi, Gaya and Kushinagar
 - Bhubaneswar and Hubballi
 - Raipur and Aurangabad
 - Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) and Tirupati

27. West Bengal to Reserve 20% of Posts for Retired Agniveers

- West Bengal** will reserve **20 per cent** of posts in the state police, fire and emergency services, forest department and civil defence for retired **Agniveers**.

28. Uttarakhand: UCC Implementation, High Court Shift and "Fully Literate" Status

- Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**: Uttarakhand became the first state to implement the UCC on **January 27, 2025**.
- High Court relocation**: the Uttarakhand High Court is being shifted from **Nainital** to **Haldwani**.
- "Fully literate"**: the **6th state**, at a literacy rate above **98%**, approved by the Governor on **8 July 2026**.
- Leadership: Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami**; Governor **Gurmit Singh**.

29. Supreme Court Holds Special Lok Adalat "Samadhan Samaroh"

- The **Supreme Court** held a Special Lok Adalat titled **"Samadhan Samaroh"**.

30. Committees in News — Nilekani, Kanchana Devi and Keshav Rao

- Nandan Nilekani Committee**: formed to study examination reforms for major national administrative and competitive examinations (such as **NEET**).
- Kanchana Devi Committee**: appointed by the **Supreme Court of India** to formulate a clear definition of the **Aravalli Mountain Range** across Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Keshav Rao Committee**: appointed by the **Telangana government**, focusing on the

modernisation of **polytechnic (technical) education** in the state to meet modern industrial needs.

31. Railways Raises Train Speed Limit on Chenab Bridge Section to 100 km/h

- Speed limit raised to **100 km/h** (up from **85 km/h**).
- The route features the **Chenab Railway Bridge** (the world's highest railway bridge), the **Anji Khad Bridge** (India's first cable-stayed railway bridge) and **33 tunnels**.

32. Goa Cabinet Approves Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill

- The **Goa Cabinet** approved the **Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill**.

13. Persons in News

1. Sculptor Chandra Shekhar Shilpi Passes Away

- Chandra Shekhar Shilpi (Chandrashekhkar Y. Shilpi)**: National award-winning sculptor passed away at the age of **75**.
- Born in the **Yadgir district** of **Karnataka**.

2. Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan Passes Away

- Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan** passed away.

3. Bengali Filmmaker Raja Sen Passes Away

- Raja Sen**, a **three-time National Film Award**-winning director, passed away.
- His debut feature film **"Damu"** won the **National Film Award for Best Children's Film**.

4. Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar Passes Away

- Sajjan Kumar** was a former Congress leader and **3-time Lok Sabha MP** from **Outer Delhi**.

5. ESPN Founder Bill Rasmussen Passes Away

- The legendary founder of the **ESPN** sports network, **Bill Rasmussen**, passed away.

6. Legendary Actress Sowcar Janki Passes Away

- Sowcar Janki**, the legendary South Indian actress, passed away.

7. Odia Playback Singer Pranab Patnaik Passes Away

- Pranab Patnaik**, legendary Odia playback singer, passed away.

8. Sri Lankan Singer Nanda Malini Passes Away

- Nanda Malini**, the legendary Sri Lankan singer, passed away.

9. Veteran Filmmaker Kuku Kohli Passes Away

- Kuku Kohli** passed away; his real name was **Avtar Kohli**.

10. Country Music Icon Dolly Parton Passes Away

- **Dolly Parton**, the legendary country music icon popularly known as the "**queen of country music**", passed away.

11. King Harald V of Norway Passes Away

- **King Harald V** of Norway passed away.

12. A. Balakrishnan of Vivekananda Kendra Passes Away

- **A. Balakrishnan**, President of **Vivekananda Kendra** and Chairman of **Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari**, passed away.

13. King Oyo Nyimba of Uganda's Tooro Kingdom Passes Away

- **King Oyo Nyimba** of Uganda's traditional **Tooro Kingdom** passed away.

14. Ranks & Reports

1. NITI Aayog Reports — High-Potential Sectors

- **NITI Aayog** was established in **2015** to replace the old **Planning Commission**, whose final **12th Five-Year Plan** ran from **2012 to 2017**.
- The **Prime Minister of India** serves as NITI Aayog's ex-officio **Chairperson**.
- High-potential sectors highlighted: **Textile and Apparel** — a major engine for employment; contributes **2%** of India's total GDP, **11%** of Manufacturing **Gross Value Added (GVA)** and **9%** of merchandise exports.
- India's national target of **500 GW** of non-fossil-fuel electricity capacity by **2030**.

2. SEBI Annual Report: India Ranks 1st Globally in Number of IPOs

- India retained **1st rank globally** in the number of **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)** and ranked **3rd globally** in capital fundraising.

3. PLFS 16th Monthly Bulletin (July 2026): Unemployment Falls to 5.1%

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** 16th Monthly Bulletin: overall Unemployment Rate (UR) dropped to **5.1%** in **July 2026** (from **5.5%** in June).
- **Rural UR**: dropped to **4.5%** (from **5.0%**).
- **Urban UR**: **6.7%**.
- **Male UR**: dropped to **5.0%** (from **5.3%**).
- **Female UR**: dropped to **5.4%** (from **5.9%**).
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**: overall LFPR rose to **55.4%** — an increase of 1 percentage point.
- **Rural LFPR**: reached **58%** — up 1.4 percentage points from **56.6%**.
- **Urban LFPR**: saw a marginal increase.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** rose to **52.5%**.

4. Pew Research Survey: Sri Lanka Records Highest Favourability Towards India (79%)

- **Sri Lanka** recorded the highest favourability towards India at **79%** in a **Pew Research** survey.

5. BofA Fund Manager Survey: India Replaces Indonesia as Asia's Least Preferred Stock Market

- **India** replaced **Indonesia** as Asia's least preferred stock market — **Bank of America (BofA)**'s **August 2026** fund manager survey.

6. Lancet Report on India's Healthcare Workforce Density

- India Stats — per **10,000 population**:
 - **10.5 Doctors**
 - **10.8 Nurses**
 - **8.1 pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants**

7. "Her Harvest 2026" Report — Invisible Work of Women in Indian Agriculture

- Publisher: **Arya.ag** — an agritech and fintech platform headquartered in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Half of the women involved in agricultural operations do not hold official farmer status.
- The **United Nations (UN)** designated **2026** as the **International Year of Women Farmers** and the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**.

8. Coconut Development Board (CDB) Report 2026 — India Ranks No. 1 Globally

- The **Coconut Development Board (CDB)** is headquartered in **Kochi, Kerala**, under the administrative control of the **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, led by Union Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- Global Rank: India ranks **No. 1 globally** in coconut production.
- State Rankings within India:
 - **Kerala** ranks first in total land area dedicated to coconut cultivation.
 - **Tamil Nadu** ranks first in total coconut production volume.
 - **Andhra Pradesh** ranks first in productivity (yield of coconuts per hectare).

9. Most Livable City Report

- Global Winner: **Copenhagen, Denmark**.
- Indian Cities: **New Delhi** scored the highest in India at **120th** globally, followed by **Mumbai (121st)**, **Chennai (123rd)** and **Bengaluru (127th)**.

10. India's Global Intellectual Property (IP) Rankings & Performance

- **Global Innovation Index (2025)**: India ranks **38th** out of **139** nations — index published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.

- **International IP Index:** India ranks **43rd** out of 55 countries — index published by the **US Chamber of Commerce**.
- **Global Patent Filing:** India ranks **6th** in volume worldwide.
- **Industrial Designs:** India ranks **7th**.
- **Global Trademark Filing:** India ranks **4th**.

11. India Health Quotient Survey 2025-26

- **82%** of surveyed urban Indians reported experiencing **stress**.

12. IWG "Work From Anywhere Index" 2026 — Mumbai the Only Indian City in Top 50

- **Mumbai** is the only Indian city in the Top 50, securing the **50th spot** with a score of **77 out of 100**.

Global Leaders:

- 1st: **Bangkok, Thailand** (Score 106.5)
- 2nd: **Tokyo, Japan** (Score 96.5)
- 3rd: **Barcelona, Spain** (Score 95.5)

13. India Tops Global Flexible Workspace Maturity Index with a Perfect Score of 100

- India scores a perfect **100** on **Cushman & Wakefield's** flex workspace maturity index — the highest in the world.

14. Delhi Tops State Own Revenue Share Index for FY25 (Business Standard India State Fiscal Health Tracker)

- The **Own Revenue Share Index** measures the revenue a State or Union Territory generates by itself through its own tax collection and non-tax sources, rather than relying on central devolution.
- **Delhi** topped the list with a fiscal health own revenue share of **93.2%** for **FY25**, according to the **RBI 2025 Handbook**.
- Top states: **Delhi (1st)**, **Haryana (2nd)**, **Telangana (3rd)** and **Karnataka (4th)**.
- Bottom states: **Manipur** (lowest), followed by **Nagaland**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, **Tripura**.

15. India Records 80% Drop in Malaria Cases and Deaths

- Between **2014/2015** and **2025**, malaria cases and deaths in India registered an **80% drop**.
- High-burden malaria districts fell from **155 to 33**.
- As many as **160 districts** recorded zero indigenous malaria cases between **2022 and 2025**.
- **World Malaria Day** is observed on **April 25** (2026 theme: "**Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.**")
- **47 malaria-free countries** exist globally, with **Georgia**, **Suriname** and **Timor-Leste** receiving certifications in **2025**.
- **Elimination Timelines:**
 - **Malaria:** India's targeted year for complete elimination is **2030**.
 - **Tuberculosis (TB):** target was **2025**.

- **Sickle Cell Disease:** target is **2047**.

15. Schemes and Initiatives

1. PM Modi Launches "Saptadhara" (Seven Streams of Strength) Framework

- The Seven Focus Sectors:

1. **Manufacturing / Earth Dhara**
2. **Agriculture / Krishi Dhara**
3. **Technology / Gyan Dhara**
4. **Gati Shakti**
5. **Defence / Raksha Dhara**
6. **Green Economy / Urja Dhara**
7. **Soft Power / Sanskriti Dhara**

- Target: **100 GW** new energy capacity by **2047** and **net-zero** by **2070** under **Urja Dhara**.

2. National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) — Record Honey Production

- Annual honey production rose from **80,530 metric tonnes (MT)** in **FY 2014–15** to **1,51,690 MT** in **FY 2025–26**.
- During **FY 2023-24**, India exported **1.07 lakh metric tonnes** of honey valued at approximately **\$177.55 million**, making India the world's **second-largest honey exporter**.
- NBHM is a **Central Sector Scheme** — **100% funded** by the Central Government with zero State contribution.
- Budget: overall budget of **₹500 crore** for the period **FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26**.

3. Union Cabinet Approves ₹62,500 Crore National Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a new **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme** with a budget of **₹62,500 crore**, notified by **MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and IT)**.
- Term: **5 years**, from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**, running from **1 April 2026 (FY27 to FY31)**.

4. Modified UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme Extended

- Validity Extension: extended for **10 years**, until **FY 2035-36 (FY36)**.
- Total Budget: **₹28,840 crore**.

5. EPFO Launches "Vishwas 2026" One-Time Settlement Scheme for Employers

- Timeline: open for **6 months** — **June 29, 2026 to November 29, 2026**.
- Reduced penalty rates (for defaults occurring before **June 14, 2024**):
 - Delay up to 2 months: **0.25% per month**.
 - Delay of more than 2 months: **0.5% per month**.
 - Delay of more than 4 months: **1% per month**.

6. "Seafarer First" Maritime Emergency Response System Launched

- Launched by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal**.
- Objective: a first-response programme designed to protect Indian seafarers — deck officers, engineers and crew members — during **West Asia** maritime security crises.

7. **Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster at Porbandar & Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar (Gujarat)**

- A **Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster** at **Porbandar** and a **Ship Repair Facility** at **Vadinar** (Gujarat) were announced.

8. **Andhra Pradesh Launches "Pillale Sampada" Initiative**

- Launched by CM **N. Chandrababu Naidu** under the slogan "**Children are Wealth.**"

9. **Karnataka Approves "Sandhya Kiran" Cashless Health Scheme for Pensioners**

- Benefit: cashless treatment / healthcare cover of up to **₹5 lakh** per eligible family per year on a floater basis.
- Target Beneficiaries: retired State Government pensioners (**below 70 years** of age), family pensioners, and their eligible dependent family members.

10. **Adi Karmyogi Abhiyan — Decentralised Tribal Leadership**

- The **Adi Karmyogi Yojana** is a national movement designed to promote decentralised tribal leadership and governance across India.
- Launch Date: officially launched on **17 September 2025** at **Dhar, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Nodal Authority: **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- Coverage: targets **1,00,000 tribal villages** across **30 States and Union Territories (UTs)** to build a massive cadre of trained tribal leaders.
- Key numbers: **1 lakh villages | 30 States & UTs | 20 lakh Adi Karmyogis**.
- **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** has an outlay of **₹79,156 crore**.

11. **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Completes 7 Years**

- The mission was launched on **August 15, 2019**.
- Implemented by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- Core Aim: to provide clean drinking water to every rural household, targeting **55 litres of water per person per day (LPCD)** via a tap connection.
- Extended Target Deadline: the final target to provide tap connections to all rural households has been extended from **2024 to December 2028**.
- Funding Splits: **100%** Central funding applies to UTs without legislatures; **90:10** applies to NE/Himalayan States and UTs with legislatures; **50:50** applies to other States.
- Historical Firsts in achieving "**Har Ghar Jal**" status: **Goa** — first State; **Dadra and Nagar**

Haveli — first Union Territory; **Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)** — first District.

12. **Skill India's PM SETU Project — West Bengal Joins**

- PM SETU stands for **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs**.
- **West Bengal** has joined the project under the **Skill India Programme**.
- Mission & Scope: it is about upgrading ITIs in a **hub-and-spoke model**.
- Budget: **₹60,000 crore** over **5 years**.

13. **Andhra Pradesh Launches AP GREEN Committee and HANUMAN Wildlife Programme**

- **AP GREEN** — **Andhra Pradesh Society for Greening and Reforestation for Ecological Enrichment**.
- **HANUMAN Programme**: Focus — wildlife protection, medical healing and nurturing of wild animals, instead of attacking or killing them.
- **HANUMAN** full form: **Healing And Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid, and Nursing of the Wildlife**.

14. **West Bengal Adopts Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Ayushman Bharat (AB-PMJAY)**

- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** was originally launched in **2015** from **Panipat, Haryana**; **West Bengal** has now formally adopted the central scheme.
- **West Bengal** became the **36th State/UT** to adopt the national healthcare scheme, **Ayushman Bharat (AB-PMJAY)**.
- Governor of West Bengal: **R. N. Ravi**.

15. **SMILE Scheme: Beggary Rehabilitation Progress & National Portal**

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** runs the **SMILE Scheme** — **Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise**.
- Objective: to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate individuals engaged in begging, with the ultimate goal of a "**Bhikshavriti Mukta**" (Begging-free) India.
- Currently active across **216 cities**; aims to expand to **295 cities** by **FY 2030-31**.
- Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment: **Dr. Virendra Kumar** (Constituency: **Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh**).
- Minister of State (MoS): **Ramdas Athawale**.

16. **Karnataka Vidyarthi Sahayahasta Scheme for Rural Government School Students**

- A new educational scheme supporting students of **Classes 1 to 10** in rural government schools.
- Provides an additional **7.5% reservation** (within the existing **15%** rural reservation framework)

for professional courses, including medical and engineering courses.

17. National Green Hydrogen Mission: ₹292 Crore Spent Till August 2026

- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** was approved in **January 2023** with an initial outlay of **₹19,744 crore**.
- Target: production capacity of **5 MMTPA (Million Metric Tons Per Annum)** of green hydrogen by **2030**.

18. AMRUT 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

- **AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)** was launched in **June 2015 (25 June 2015)** as India's first focused national water mission, covering **500 cities and towns**.
- **AMRUT 2.0** is administered by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** for the period **FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31**.
- Mission period: **FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26** — a 5-year mission.
- Total indicative outlay: **₹2,77,000 crore**, including a Central share of **₹76,760 crore**.
- Aims: make cities "water secure" and "self-reliant" through a circular economy of water; provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps in all statutory towns; achieve **100% sewerage and septage management** in the 500 AMRUT cities of Phase I; and rejuvenate urban water bodies under the **Amrit Sarovar** initiative.
- **The Urban Challenge Fund (UCF):**
 - Nodal ministry: **MoHUA**; it is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
 - Period: **FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31**, extendable up to **FY 2033-34** if projects remain incomplete.
 - Central Assistance (CA): **₹1 lakh crore** — designed to catalyse a total investment of **₹4 lakh crore** in the urban sector over five years.
 - Budget allocation: **₹10,000 crore** was proposed for **FY 2025-26**.
 - Funding Split: **25%** Central Government, **50%** raised from market resources, and **25%** from State Governments or Urban Local Bodies — often via municipal bonds, colloquially called "**Muni Bonds**".

19. e-Shram Portal Completes 5 Years; Crosses 31.89 Crore Registrations

- Conceptualized during the **COVID-19** pandemic and officially launched on **August 26, 2021**.
- Registered workers receive a **12-digit Universal Account Number (UAN)**.
- Managed by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** under Minister **Mansukh**

Mandaviya (who also holds the **Sports** portfolio).

20. Ministry of Rural Development Launches "Mission Samriddh Gaon"

- Aimed at developing poverty-free, employment-rich villages equipped with assured basic amenities.
- It will be piloted in **Budni block (Sehore district)** and **Khategaon block (Dewas district)** of **Madhya Pradesh** before nationwide replication.

21. PMFME (Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises) Scheme

- Led by Minister **Chirag Paswan** (Member of Parliament from **Hajipur, Bihar**); scheme outlay of **₹10,000 crore**.
- Union Minister Chirag Paswan inaugurated the **PMFME Bazar** in **New Delhi**.

22. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- **PMFBY** was launched in **2016** with a budget allocation of **₹12,200 crore** for this fiscal year, providing pre-sowing to post-harvest crop insurance.
- Farmer premium contributions:
 - **Kharif crops: 2%**
 - **Rabi crops & oilseeds: 1.5%**
 - **Commercial & horticultural crops: maximum 5%**
- Subsidy sharing: remaining premium shared **50-50** between Central and State Governments. For Himalayan states, North-eastern states and UTs, the ratio is **90:10**.

23. Critical Minerals Innovation Hackathon under National Critical Minerals Mission

- Union Minister of Coal and Mines **G. Kishan Reddy** launched the **Critical Minerals Innovation Hackathon** under the **National Critical Minerals Mission**.
- Conducted by / held at and supported by the **Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (JNARDDC)**, **Nagpur, Maharashtra**, under the **Ministry of Mines**.

16. Science and Technology

1. Nuclear Power Expansion Roadmap & Draft SHANTI Rules 2026

- The government's sanctioned roadmap is to scale nuclear power from current levels to **22,480 MW by 2031-32**, with a long-term goal of **100 GW (1,00,000 MW) by 2047** (Key Targets from PM's Red Fort Address 2026).

- **Draft SHANTI Rules 2026** notified — Civil Nuclear Power Reforms; **SHANTI** stands for **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India**.
- India's Nuclear Power Plants Context:
 - **Tarapur** — India's first nuclear power station.
 - **Kalpakkam** development was the **500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** attaining first criticality in **April 2026**.
 - **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, Tamil Nadu** — the highest capacity station, built with assistance from **Russia**.

2. IN-SPACe Profile

- **IN-SPACe**: established in **2020**; headquartered in **Bopal, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**; Chairperson: **Pawan Kumar Goenka**.

3. Skyroot Aerospace — Mission Aagman

- **Skyroot Aerospace** is a **Hyderabad-based** startup in the private space launch sector.
- **Mission Aagman**: on **July 18, 2026**, Skyroot Aerospace launched **India's first private orbital rocket launch** via the **Vikram-1** rocket into a **450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota**.

4. L&T is to Build India's Largest Nvidia B300 AI Factory in Chennai

5. Dr. Rohan Naidu Discovers Massive Star Orbiting a Black Hole — "MOM BH1"

- Hyderabad-born Indian-origin astronomer **Dr. Rohan Naidu**, Assistant Professor at the **University of Hawaii**, discovered a massive star **100 times more powerful than our Sun** orbiting a black hole.
- The discovery is named **MOM BH1**.

6. Assam Releases Captive-Bred Slender-billed Vultures with GSM-GPS Transmitters

- **Assam** carried out a pioneering/world-first release of captive-bred **Slender-billed Vultures** fitted with **GSM-GPS transmitters**.

7. Madhya Pradesh Inaugurates India's First Virtual Zoo in Indore

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** inaugurated India's first **Virtual Zoo** at the **Kamla Nehru Zoological Garden, Indore**.
- Indore's **Malvi Potato** recently received a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.

8. SRTMU Nanded Granted Patent for Nano Drug Delivery Technology

- **Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (SRTMU)**, Nanded, Maharashtra was granted a Patent for **Nano Drug Delivery Technology** for a nanostructured delivery system for poorly water-soluble anti-tubercular medicines.

9. India Celebrates 3rd National Space Day on 23 August 2026

- 2026 Theme: **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership."**
- India targets **2035** for the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)**.
- National Space Day commemorates the success of ISRO's **Chandrayaan-3** mission and the historic soft landing of the **Vikram Lander** and **Pragyan Rover** on the Moon's South Pole at **"Shiv Shakti Point"** on **23 August 2023**.

10. Sophie Adenot Becomes First French Woman to Complete a Spacewalk

- She spent **6 hours and 23 minutes** performing the spacewalk outside the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- Group captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** created history as the **first Indian to reach the ISS** in a recent mission.

11. Indian Scientists Develop Smart Cancer Drug "RK-251"

12. "MutAIverse" AI Tool Developed for Cancer Research and Treatment

- Jointly developed by researchers from three premier Indian institutes:
 - **IIIT-Delhi** — Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi
 - **NIPER-Guwahati** — National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Guwahati
 - **CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi** — CSIR – Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi

13. World's First IVF-Born Female Calf of Indigenous Lakhimi Breed

- World's first IVF-born female calf of the indigenous **Lakhimi** breed born at **Assam Veterinary and Fishery University**.
- The world's first IVF buffalo calf was **"Pratham"**.

14. Himalayan Plant Named after Nirmal Purja

- A newly discovered Himalayan plant species has been named **"Impatiens nimspurjae"** to honour the late Nepal-born mountaineer **Nirmal "Nimsdai" Purja**.

15. PM Modi Inaugurates "Param Pragya" Supercomputing Facility

- **PM Modi** inaugurated the **"Param Pragya"** supercomputing facility at **IIT Delhi's Sonipat campus (Haryana)**.

16. India's First Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed Launched

- India's first non-genetically modified, high-expansion **popcorn maize hybrid seed** was formally launched by Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**.

- Developed in **Musunuru, Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh**.
- 17. Rare "Himalayan Happy Face Spider" Discovered in Uttarakhand**
- Scientific Name: **Theridion himalayana**.
- Common Name: **Himalayan Happy Face Spider**.
- Features: the species lives at altitudes above **2,200 metres** and is capable of displaying **32 distinct colour variations**.
- 18. Chinese Humanoid Robot "Tiangong Ultra" Breaks Usain Bolt's 100m Record**
- A Chinese humanoid robot named **Tiangong Ultra** clocked **9.39 seconds** in the 100-metre dash.
- Broke **Usain Bolt's** human record of **9.58 seconds**.
- It later improved, eventually running around **8.64 seconds**.
- Achieved at the **World Humanoid Robot Games in Beijing**.
- 19. Hindalco Commissions India's First Greenfield Superfine PPT ATH Plant in Belagavi**
- Hindalco Industries** (Aditya Birla Group, established **1958**, headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**) commissioned India's first greenfield plant for manufacturing superfine **Precipitated Aluminium Trihydrate (PPT ATH)** in **Belagavi, Karnataka**.
- 20. Astronomers Discover Mega-Earth Exoplanet "GJ 523b"**
- Astronomers discovered a Mega-Earth exoplanet named **"GJ 523b"**.
- 21. AP Approves India's First Dedicated Quantum and AI University Campus in Amaravati**
- AP Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** approved the establishment of India's first dedicated **Quantum and AI university campus** in **Amaravati**.
- 22. NASA Launches Roman Space Telescope**
- NASA successfully launched the **Roman Space Telescope** on **August 30, 2026**, aboard a **Falcon Heavy** rocket from the **Kennedy Space Center**.
- 23. First Subterranean Fish of the Indo-Gangetic Plains Discovered in Bihar**

17. Sports

1. India's Historic 600th Test Cricket Match

- India's historic **600th Test** cricket match commenced on **August 15, 2026**, against **Sri Lanka** at the **Galle International Cricket Stadium, Sri Lanka**.

- India became the **first Asian nation** and only the **third team globally** — after **England** and **Australia** — to play **600 Test matches**.
- 2. Cricket Milestones — Hazlewood, Tanzid Hasan, Rishabh Pant, Mitchell Starc**
- Australia's **Josh Hazlewood** became the **9th Australian bowler** to achieve **300 Test wickets**, reaching the milestone against **Bangladesh** in **Darwin**.
- Tanzid Hasan** became the first Bangladesh batsman to score a century on Australian soil.
- Rishabh Pant Sixes Record:** Indian wicketkeeper-batsman **Rishabh Pant** became the **first Indian batsman** and **fourth player globally** to hit **100 sixes in Test cricket**.
- World Test Championship (WTC) Record:** Australian bowler **Mitchell Starc** became the highest wicket-taker in WTC history with **234 wickets**, overtaking teammates **Pat Cummins** and **Nathan Lyon** (228 wickets each).
- 3. Cricket Retirements: Karn Sharma and Aimen Anwar**
- Karn Sharma:** Indian leg-spinner (from **Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**) retired from all formats after a career spanning nearly two decades.
- Aimen Anwar:** Pakistan's fast bowler announced her retirement from all formats of professional cricket.
- 4. Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy Launched in Dehradun**
- Launched in **Dehradun** by Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami**; the official mascots are two peacocks named **Mayur** and **Mayuri**.
- 5. India–New Zealand Complete 100 Years of Sporting Relations**
- Completed **100 years** of sporting relations, dating back to the first Indian hockey team tour in **1926**.
- 6. Ariha Pangambam Wins Gold at Aerobic Gymnastics Asian Championship**
- 22-year-old **Ariha Pangambam** won **Gold** in the **Senior Women's Individual Event** at the **Aerobic Gymnastics Asian Championship** in **Tagaytay City, Philippines**.
- She is the **first-ever Indian gymnast** to secure gold in this senior category.
- Coach: **Yumnam Ranjan Singh**.
- 7. Ashmita Chaliha Wins Maiden BWF World Tour Title at Korea Masters**
- Ashmita Chaliha** clinched her maiden **BWF World Tour** title at the **Korea Masters** — a **Super 300** tournament.
- She is the fourth Indian woman to win a BWF World Tour singles title in 2026, alongside **Devika Sihag** and **Tanvi Sharma**.

8. BWF World Badminton Championships 2026 Held in New Delhi

- Officially commenced in **New Delhi** on **August 17**, running to **August 23, 2026**.
- India hosts the tournament after **17 years** (last hosted in **2009**), at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**.
- The official mascot is "**Peacko**".
- Indian Medal Success: the women's doubles pairing of **Pullela Gayatri** and **Treasa Jolly** won the **Bronze** medal.
- This is India's first women's doubles medal at the World Championships in **15 years**, since **Jwala Gutta** and **Ashwini Ponnappa** won Bronze in **2011**.
- Other Championship Winners:
 - Men's Singles Winner: **Alex Lanier** (France); Runner-up: **Kodai Naraoka** (Japan)
 - Women's Singles Winner: **An Se-young** (South Korea); Runner-up: **Akane Yamaguchi** (Japan)

9. 2028 Indian Open Badminton Shifted from Delhi to Guwahati

- The **2028 Indian Open Badminton** was shifted from **Delhi** to **Guwahati**.

10. Chess — Carlsen, Praneeth M, Praggnanandhaa and Asian Junior Championship

- Magnus Carlsen** won / retained the **Esports World Cup 2026 Chess** title; he has held the World Number One spot for **15 consecutive years**.
- 19-year-old Indian Grandmaster **Praneeth M**, from **Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu**, won the **Kanizsa Open Chess Tournament** in **Hungary**.
- Indian Grand Master **R. Praggnanandhaa** became the **first Indian player** to win the prestigious **Grand Chess Tour** Title.
- Asian Junior Chess Championship 2026** held in **Mumbai**: **Vignesh Vermula** (India) won the Open Blitz title; Girls' Blitz Title Winner: **Saranya Devi** (India).

11. Tennis — Iga Swiatek, US Open 2026

- Iga Swiatek** won the **Canadian Open**.
- Record Prize Money for the 2026 US Open**: a record total prize purse of **\$108 million** (a **20%** rise on 2025's record **\$90 million**).
- Both the men's and women's singles champions will secure **\$5.5 million** each — a **10%** increase from last year.
- US Open 2026 Mixed Doubles Title** won by **Karolina Muchová** and **Jakub Menšík**.

12. Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2026: India Wins 29 Medals

- Hosted in **Lagos, Nigeria**, from **9 to 14 August 2026**.

- India finished with **29 medals** — **8 Gold, 7 Silver, 14 Bronze**.
- Key Winners:
 - Senior Women's Foil: **Kangan Kankalaxmi** (Gold), **Joys Ashita** (Silver)
 - Senior Men's Epee: **Rajendran Shanthimol Sherjin** (Gold)
 - Senior Men's Sabre: **Karan Singh** (Gold)
 - Shared Bronze: India's **Kumaresan Padma Shisho Nidhi** shared the Bronze with Nigeria's **Poluwa Foyami Akinsoye**

13. Black Hawks U21 Win Inaugural Guardian Trophy (Volleyball)

- Black Hawks Under-21 (U21)** won the first-ever **Guardian Trophy**, defeating **Goa Guardians 3-1** in the final at **Panaji, Goa**.

14. FIH Hockey World Cups 2026 — Germany Wins Men's Title

- FIH Hockey World Cups 2026** are jointly hosted by **Belgium** and the **Netherlands** from **15 to 30 August 2026**.
- Germany** defeated **Spain 1-0** in the final match at **Belfius Hockey Arena in Wavre**.
- This is Germany's **second consecutive** and **4th overall** Men's Hockey World Cup title.
- Argentina** finished in **3rd place**.
- The Indian Men's Hockey Team (captained by **Harmanpreet Singh**) finished in **8th place**; the Indian Women's Hockey Team achieved **5th place**.

15. Doping Bans — Shivpal Singh and Swapna Barman

- Prominent Indian javelin thrower **Shivpal Singh** was handed a **10-year ban** by the **NADA Disciplinary Panel**.
- Heptathlete **Swapna Barman** was provisionally suspended for doping; she was India's first-ever heptathlon gold medallist, winning gold at the **2018 Jakarta Asian Games**.

16. East Bengal FC Wins 135th Durand Cup

- The **Durand Cup** is Asia's oldest and the world's third-oldest football tournament, organised by the **Indian Army**.
- East Bengal FC** won the 135th Durand Cup by defeating **Mohun Bagan Super Giant**.

17. Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second at Lausanne Diamond League

- Neeraj Chopra** finished second with a season-best throw of **88.05 metres**.
- He was narrowly defeated by Sri Lanka's **Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage**, who won with an **88.14-metre** throw — beating Chopra by **9 cm**.

18. 72nd Nehru Trophy Boat Race 2026

- Won by the "**Aroma One Chundan**" snake boat team; the Nehru Trophy Boat Race is held in **Kerala**.

19. 20th Asian Games at Aichi-Nagoya, Japan — India Clears 503 Athletes

- A total of **503 Indian athletes** (269 men and 234 women) cleared.
- Official motto/theme: "**Imagine One Asia**".
- Mascot: "**Honohon**", inspired by the mythical creature "**Shachihoko**" — a carp body with a tiger head.
- This is the third time Japan is hosting — previously **Tokyo 1958** and **Hiroshima 1994**.
- Future hosts: **Qatar (2030)** and **Saudi Arabia (2034)**.

20. Ahmedabad to Host 2nd Commonwealth Cue Sports Championship

- **Ahmedabad** will host the **2nd Commonwealth Cue Sports Championship**.

21. Kajal Dhochak Wins Second Consecutive U-20 World Wrestling Title

- Indian wrestler **Kajal Dhochak** secured her second consecutive **U20 World Wrestling** title (Gold) in the **76 kg** category.

22. Lando Norris Wins 2026 Dutch Grand Prix

- Formula One (**Dutch Grand Prix 2026**): held in **Zandvoort**; **Lando Norris (UK)**, driving for **McLaren**, won.

23. FIFA World Cup 2030

- **Morocco, Spain and Portugal** are the official co-hosts.
- The first three matches of the **2030 FIFA World Cup** will be hosted in **Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay** to mark the **100th anniversary** of the first World Cup, held in **Uruguay in 1930**.

24. Indian Squash: Senthilkumar Wins Budapest Open; Abhay Singh Wins Tuanku Muhriz Trophy

- Indian squash player **Velavan Senthilkumar** secured the **Budapest Open** title.
- **Abhay Singh** won the **Tuanku Muhriz Trophy**.

25. Telangana to Host 8th Khelo India Youth Games

- Telangana will host the games across four locations: **Hyderabad, Warangal, Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar**.

18. Static News

1. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Profile

- Established in **2008**, under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- Chairperson: **Punya Salila Srivastava**; CEO: **Rajit Punhani**.

2. Ministry of Communications — Leadership Structure

- Cabinet Minister: **Jyotiraditya Scindia**.

- Minister of State: **C. S. Pemmasani**.

3. NITI Aayog Institutional Profile

- Established on **1 January 2015**, replacing the **Planning Commission**.
- It is a **non-constitutional body / think tank**.
- The **11th Governing Council Meeting** convened in **New Delhi**; the 11th meeting occurred on **11 June 2026**.
- Chairperson: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- Vice-Chairperson: **Ashok Kumar Lahiri**.
- CEO: **Anurag Jain**.

4. National Commission for Women (NCW) Profile

- Established in **1992** under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990**; headquartered in **New Delhi**; currently headed by **Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar**.

5. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Profile

- Established on **May 25, 1981**, in **Abu Dhabi**.
- A **6-nation** union: **Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain**.
- Administrative centre: **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.

6. Important Days (16–31 August)

- **World Never Give Up Day — August 18**.
- **World Humanitarian Day (19 August)**: organised by the **UN**, with the 2026 campaign slogan **#ActForHumanity**; theme — "**Honoring fallen humanitarians and calling for data protection of healthcare**".
- **World Photography Day (19 August)**: 2026 Theme: "**HOME**". Commemorates the **daguerreotype** process developed by **Louis Daguerre** in 1837.
- **World Mosquito Day (20 August)**: the five major mosquito-borne diseases tracked in India:
 - **Dengue** — spread by the **Aedes** mosquito.
 - **Malaria** — caused by the **Plasmodium** parasite, spread by the female **Anopheles** mosquito.
 - **Chikungunya** — spread by the **Aedes** mosquito.
 - **Japanese Encephalitis** — spread by the **Culex** mosquito.
 - **Zika Virus** — spread by the **Aedes** mosquito.
- **Sadbhavana Diwas / Goodwill Day (20 August)**: commemorates the birth anniversary of **Rajiv Gandhi**.
- **National Renewable Energy Day / Akshay Urja Diwas (20 August)**: organised by the **MNRE** to promote transition to renewable energy.
- **35th Manipuri Language Day (20 August)**.
- **World Entrepreneurs' Day (21 August)**.
- **World Senior Citizens Day (21 August)**: 2026 theme — "**Aging with Dignity**".
- **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: 22 August**.

- **National Space Day (23 August)** — observed on 23 August.
- **World Water Week 2026:** observed from 23–27 August (Theme: "**Water for People and Progress**").
- **World Sanskrit Day / Sanskrit Language Day 2026:** celebrated on 28 August.
- **Telugu Language Day (August 29):** marks the birth anniversary of **Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy**.
- **National Sports Day (29 August):** marks the birth anniversary of hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand** (born in 1905), widely known as the "**Wizard of Hockey**"; he led India to three consecutive Olympic Gold Medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936.
- **International Day Against Nuclear Tests (29 August).**
- **National Small Industry Day (30 August).**
- **International Day for People of African Descent (31 August):** 2026 theme — "**Expanding the Human Rights of People of African Descent**".
- **Telangana Language Day (September 9):** honours the birth anniversary of **Kaloji Narayana Rao**.