

1. Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDL), a subsidiary of Solar Industries Limited, successfully demonstrated its indigenous counter-swarm drone equipment named "Bhargavastra".

- Rajnath Singh — Defence Minister, representing the Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) constituency.
- Sanjay Seth — Minister of State (MoS) for Defence.

2. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

- NSDC: Headquarters — New Delhi; CEO — Arun Kumar Pillai; Chairman — A.M. Naik.

3. Ladakh Declares 23 Heritage Sites and Protected Monuments

- Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh — Vinai Kumar Saxena

4. NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog was formed in 2015.
- Chairperson — Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Vice Chairman — Ashok Kumar Lahiri; new CEO — Anurag Jain

5. The RBI proposed a new Principle-Based Framework for setting interest rates across all regulated lending entities (banks and NBFCs).

- Objective: make lending rates standard, transparent, uniform and consumer-centric, focusing heavily on prioritizing recovery of the "Principal" amount during loan repayment rather than just extracting high interest.

6. Eligibility Criteria for Multi-State Credit Cooperative Societies to Convert to UCBs:

- o Minimum Operational History — continuous active track record of at least 10 years.
- o Registration — must be registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.
- o Minimum Deposits — at least ₹10,000 crore in member/customer deposits.
- o Minimum Net Worth — at least ₹300 crore.
- o Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) — minimum of 12%.
- o Net NPA Ratio — must not exceed 3%.
- o Financial Health — positive and progressive performance with consistent improvement in operational indicators over the last 5 years.
- Ownership & Governance Norms:
 - o Individual shareholding capped at 5%.
 - o Directors cannot take active executive roles (like CEO, CFO, COO) and must adhere to the "Fit and Proper" criteria.

7. The RBI issued strict new guidelines regarding fixed deposits and bulk deposits in Small Finance Banks (SFBs).

- Bulk Deposit Definition:
 - o For Commercial Banks and SFBs — single term deposits of ₹3 crore and above are classified as bulk deposits.
 - o For Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) — the bulk deposit threshold is ₹1 crore and above.
- Banks are permitted to vary interest rates only on bulk deposits (₹3 crore or more).
- Timeline: the new guidelines become effective from October 1, 2026.
- There are currently 11 operational SFBs in India.
- Capital Small Finance Bank in Punjab was the first SFB in India.

8. RBI Defers Implementation of Revised Basel III Pillar 3 Disclosure Norms

- New Timeline: commencement date extended from the quarter ending September 30, 2026 to April 1, 2027, allowing banks time to update and comply.
- The Three Pillars:
 - o Pillar 1 — Minimum Capital Requirements
 - o Pillar 2 — Supervisory Review
 - o Pillar 3 — Market Discipline, transparency and public disclosures

9. The RBI plans to launch plastic (polymer) banknotes on a pilot basis starting in the financial year 2027–28.

- Denominations: the testing phase will begin with the ₹10 and ₹20 denominations.

10. Neo Forex and Global Pay secured perpetual Authorized Dealer Category 2 (AD2) licences from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- Authorized Dealers (AD) are financial institutions authorized by the RBI to trade in foreign currencies, categorized as AD1, AD2 or AD3.

11. Repco Bank, SBI and LIC Pay Dividends to the Government of India

- Repco Bank presented a dividend cheque of ₹22.90 crore to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Other Major Corporate Dividends to the Government:
 - o State Bank of India (SBI) — ₹8,813 crore
 - o Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) — ₹1,227 crore
- Repco Bank — administered under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

12. The Digital India initiative was launched in 2015

- Initiative Metrics (statistical growth since launch):
 - o Telephone Connections — over 133 crore
 - o Internet Subscribers — 109.27 crore
 - o Aadhaar Holders — 1.44 billion (144 crore)
 - o Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) — ₹52 lakh crore distributed across 38 schemes and 5 ministries
 - o UPI Network — 55.49 crore users, 6.45 crore merchants and 731 participating banks
 - o DigiLocker Users — 71.66 crore
 - o UMANG App — 2,575 services integrated
- Key Cyber Security Agencies:
 - o CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team – India) — national agency for responding to cyber security incidents.
 - o NCCC (National Cyber Coordination Centre) — authority that monitors Indian cyber space and threats.
 - o I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) — handles the overall coordination and management of cybercrime data.

13. Air India Signs Codeshare with Azerbaijan Airlines; Appoints New MD & CEO

- Air India and Azerbaijan Airlines signed a codeshare partnership to boost business tourism, cultural ties and flight connectivity.

Tewelde GebreMariam (former Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopian Airlines Group) has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of Air India, replacing Campbell Wilson.

14. Brookfield launched 'Lumara', a dedicated renewable energy platform in India.

- Brookfield is a global alternative asset manager.

15. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) received two major recognitions from the World Health Organization (WHO):

- o WHO SEAR Regional Centre of Excellence in Pharmacovigilance (drug safety and surveillance).
- o WHO SEAR Technical Centre and Quality (medicine quality control).
- Recognitions conferred at the 10th anniversary meeting of the South East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN) held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The IPC operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

16. 9th India Medical Device Conference, organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

- Organizers: held by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals, in collaboration with FICCI.
- Theme: "Towards Viksit Bharat: Advancing India as a Global Hub for Quality Medical Devices".

17. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) developed India's first T2T (telomere-to-telomere) reference genome of the Pigeonpea (Arhar / Toor Dal) variety, named Asha.

- Helps achieve a pulse production target of 35 million tonnes by 2030–2031.

18. ICAR Develops India's First Indigenous African Swine Fever (ASF) Vaccine

- Developing institute: NIHSAD, Bhopal (under ICAR).

19. International Clouded Leopard Day is observed on August 4th, and was first observed in 2018 to raise awareness for the species.

20. Mining Banned Around Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand)

21. The Himalayan Serow was spotted for the first time in 20 years in the Kalatop Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary, Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh.

22. Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2025 — Shahrukh Khan Reclaims No. 1

- Shahrukh Khan reclaimed the No. 1 spot as India's Most Valued Celebrity Brand of 2025, with a brand value of \$177.9 million, with endorsements increasing from 28 to 36.
- Top 5 Celebrity Brand Value Rankings:
 1. Shahrukh Khan — \$177.9 million
 2. Ranveer Singh — \$162.9 million
 3. Virat Kohli — \$158.4 million (dropping from 1st to 3rd place)
 4. Sachin Tendulkar
 5. Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- Top Women on the List: Alia Bhatt at 6th position (highest-ranked female celebrity), followed by Deepika Padukone at 7th.

23. Hurun India Women Leader List 2026 Released with Kalyan Jewellers

- Honorees: recognizes 117 women across 12 distinct categories.
- Pillars of Evaluation: evaluated across 5 broad pillars — Wealth Creation, Value Creation, Impact, Culture and Startups
- Key Leaders Mentioned: Priya Nair, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Avani Lekhara, Sudha Murty, Preeti Reddy, Chinta Reddy and Meena Mishra.
- Oldest Honoree — Rajni Bector, aged 86 years.
- Youngest Honoree — Sheetal Devi, a 19-year-old para-archer.
- Self-Made: 98 of the 117 honorees are self-made leaders.

24. Annapurni Subramaniam Awarded COSPAR (Committee on Space Research) Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026

- She is the Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.
- She is the fourth Indian and the first Indian woman to receive this international honour.

25. Tourism Ministry Partners with Netflix India to Promote "As Seen on Netflix" Destinations

- The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, hosted a special celebratory event in New Delhi.
- A new section called "As Seen on Netflix" is being integrated into the Incredible India Digital Platform.

26. Key Indian Appointments to International and National Bodies

- Representative to the ICAO: Satyajit Mohanty (currently Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence) has been appointed as the Representative of India to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada, for a tenure of 3 years.
- Senior Advisor to the IMF: Rahul Jain has been appointed as the Senior Advisor to the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington D.C., USA, for a tenure of 3 years.
- SEBI Executive Director: Prasanta Mahapatra assumed charge as the new Executive Director of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), having previously served as the Chief General Manager of SEBI.

27. Harshita Jakhar Becomes First Indian Woman to Ride at Tour de France Femmes

28. New Biological Species Discovered in Kerala and Odisha

- Seahorse Discovery (Kerala): researchers from Kerala identified a new seahorse species named *Hippocampus amandavincenae* (transcribed as *hippocampus amanda vincenate*) in Thoothukudi/Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu
- Catfish Discovery (Odisha): a new catfish species named *Pseudolaguvia khairii* was discovered in Budhabalanga River in Odisha

29. New Book Release — "Bringing the Cheetah Back to India"

- Author — Prashant Agrawal.

30. Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days Observed — 81st Anniversary

- Hiroshima Day is observed globally on August 6th, marking its 81st Anniversary in 2026.
- Theme — "Remembrance, Responsibility and Resilience".

- Nagasaki Day: observed on August 9th (as noted in some source transcripts) or August 9th (as noted in others), marking the day the US dropped the second atomic bomb, codenamed "Fat Man", on Nagasaki.

31. Obituaries

- Dr. D.Y. Patil (The eminent educationist, institution builder and Padma Shri recipient passed away)
- Pradeep Rawat (The veteran actor passed away at the age of 74 after battling cancer)
- Kailash Chandra Pant (prominent Hindi writer passed away)

32. Padma Awards (2026):

- a total of 131 Padma Awards were given, consisting of 113 Padma Shri, 13 Padma Bhushan and 5 Padma Vibhushan.