1. August 2026 Recorded as India's Hottest August Since 1901

- India Meteorological Department (IMD): Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES); established in 1875; Director General: Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, known as the "Cyclone Man of India".

2. Bhotekoshi Flood in Nepal Called a "Himalayan Tsunami"

- On 26 August 2026, a massive flood struck the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli river corridors in Nepal.

3. Ladakh: India's First Petroglyph Conservation Park and Project Him Sarovar

- India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park at Sindhu Ghat, Leh, preserves prehistoric rock carvings and animal art.
- Project Him Sarovar: 40 artificial water bodies across Leh and Kargil for snow harvesting and storing glacial meltwater (launched 10 April 2026).

4. UN Climate Change Conferences: COP30 to COP32

- COP30 (2025): Belém, Brazil.
- COP31 (2026): Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026; leaders' summit 11–12 November); COP31 President: Murat Kurum (Türkiye); Australia's Chris Bowen is President of Negotiations; pre-COP in Fiji.
- COP32 (2027): Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

5. Census Rules, 1990 Amended to Widen Pool of Enumerators

- The last Census was held in 2011; the 2021 Census was postponed due to COVID-19.
- Phase 1 – House Listing and Housing Census: 1 April – 30 September 2026 (31 questions; 30-day window per State).
- Phase 2 – Population Enumeration: 40-question schedule.
  - Snow-bound areas (Ladakh and snow-bound parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand): enumeration 1–30 September 2026; reference date 1 October 2026.
  - Main enumeration: 9–28 February 2027; reference date 00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027.
- First caste enumeration since 1931; budget ₹11,718 crore; 8th Census since Independence.
- Census is a Union subject – Entry 69, Union List, Seventh Schedule (Article 246); conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Mascots: Pragati (women) and Vikas (men), unveiled by Amit Shah on 5 March 2026.
- Toll-free helpline: 1855.
- Brand ambassador: sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik (Odisha)

6. India Hosts 61st International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) Meeting

7. Aadhaar Authentication Mandated for PM CARES for Children Scholarship

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Union Minister: Dr. Virendra Kumar) mandated Aadhaar authentication or proof of possession of Aadhaar for students of Classes 1–12 to receive the scholarship under the PM CARES for Children Scheme (October 2026).
- No child will be denied benefits for lack of Aadhaar; an enrolment ID with other documents is accepted.
- Scholarship: ₹20,000 per year (₹1,000 per month plus ₹8,000 per year for academic expenses).

8. Standard Identification Number Formats

- Aadhaar / e-Aadhaar: 12 digits.
- APAAR ID: 12 digits.
- PAN: 10 alphanumeric characters.
- UAN (EPFO) and PRAN (Pension): 12 digits.
- CVV: 3 digits.
- UPI PIN: 4 or 6 digits.
- DGFT Importer Exporter Code (IEC): 10 alphanumeric characters.
- BIS Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID): 6-character alphanumeric.
- Postal PIN Code: 6 digits; DIGIPIN: 10-character alphanumeric.

9. The RBI extended directions on The Konark Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Ulhasnagar (Maharashtra) by 3 months, till 23 January 2027

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10. India approved (16 October 2026) the rollover of the INR 30 billion (₹3,000 crore) currency swap facility for the Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024–27, to provide foreign exchange liquidity support.

11. The RBI issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the merger of REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation) into Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

12. Freecharge Payment Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Axis Bank, received in-principle RBI approval to operate as an online and offline Payment Aggregator (PA)

13. Karnataka Bank (MD & CEO: Raghavendra S. Bhat) launched "Nava Dhamaka 2026 – Enhancing Banking Experience" on 15 October 2026 in Bengaluru, with 9 products across payments, digital channels, credit and investment.

14. Third-Party Application Providers (TPAPs) must limit their share of UPI transaction volume to 30% by 31 December 2026, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

15. The Centre constituted a committee under Prof. Ramesh Chand (former Member, NITI Aayog) on 14 October 2026, following demands of sugarcane farmers from Karnataka and Maharashtra

- Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for 2026-27: ₹365 per quintal.
- NITI Aayog: Non-constitutional body set up on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission; Chairperson: PM Narendra Modi; Vice-Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Lahiri (since 25 April 2026); CEO: Anurag Jain (since July 2026).

16. WTO Raises 2026 Global Merchandise Trade Growth Forecast to 3.9%

- World real GDP growth: 2.6% (2026) and 2.9% (2027).

17. India's GDP Growth Projections (FY27)

- World Bank: 7.1%.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF): 7.0%.
- Fitch Ratings: 6.9% (raised from 6.4% on 23 September 2026).
- UNCTAD: 7.3% (calendar year 2026).
- OECD: 7.1% (Interim Outlook, 24 September 2026).

18. 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting Held in New Delhi

- UK Prime Minister: Andy Burnham (since 20 July 2026).

19. Sudhakar Dalela Appointed Ambassador of India to Nepal

20. World Health Summit 2026 Held in Berlin; Theme: "From Crisis to Resilience: Innovating for Health"

- Fiji declared a national HIV crisis (September 2026); an Ebola (Bundibugyo strain) outbreak in DR Congo spread to Uganda, with South Sudan on preparedness alert.
- World Health Organization (WHO): Founded 7 April 1948 (World Health Day); HQ: Geneva, Switzerland; Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

21. Global Hunger Index 2026: India Ranked 100th

- India ranked 100th of 122 countries (tied with Ethiopia) with a score of 24.1 ("serious" category), improving from 102nd of 123 in 2025.
- Theme: "No Security Without Food Security".
- Top performers: Belarus, China, Chile (among 24 countries jointly ranked 1–24 with scores below 5).
- Bottom: Somalia (122nd), DR Congo (121st), Chad (120th).

22. India's Ranks in Major Global Indices

- 3rd: Global startup ecosystem.
- 4th: Wind energy installed capacity.
- 4th: Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026 (61 unicorns).
- 5th: Military expenditure (SIPRI, 2025 data; US$92.1 billion).
- 9th: Forest area (FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025; 3rd in annual forest gain).
- 13th: Global Terrorism Index 2026.
- 31st: Global Skills Index [Unverified].
- 38th: Global Innovation Index 2026 (of 139).
- 70th: WEF Energy Transition Index 2026 (of 120).

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- 91st: Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 (score 39).
- 94th: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2026.
- 106th: V-Dem Electoral Democracy Index (of 179); EIU Democracy Index 2025: 47th.
- 116th: World Happiness Report 2026.
- 125th: Global Passport Index (Arton Capital, 2026); 84th: Henley Passport Index (October 2026).
- 127th: Global Peace Index 2026.
- 130th: Human Development Index (HDI) (Human Development Report 2025; of 193).
- 131st: WEF Global Gender Gap Index 2026.
- 157th: RSF World Press Freedom Index 2026 (of 180).
- 176th: Environmental Performance Index 2026 (of 180).

23. PM Inaugurates New Terminal at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh

24. India's First Salt Container Train Flagged Off in Gujarat

- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flagged off India's first Salt Container Train on 15 September 2026, along with the inauguration of the Shivlakha Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal.
- Route: Shivlakha (Kutch) to Mithapur, Gujarat.

25. Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2026 Begins in Thiruvananthapuram

- 5th edition of the India–Australia joint military exercise, held at the Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- About 120 personnel each from the Garhwal Rifles (Indian Army) and the 13th Brigade (Australian Army); a New Zealand observer delegation attended for the first time.
- India–Australia naval exercise: AUSINDEX.

26. Assam Regiment Wins Gold at Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2026 held in Wales, UK

27. 3rd edition of India–UAE joint military exercise Mountain Guardian held at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia, Uttarakhand

28. Other Recent Joint Military Exercises of India

- Maitree XV (India–Thailand): Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand (18–31 August 2026); 9 Gorkha Rifles participated.
- Yudh Abhyas (22nd edition, India–USA): Auli (Uttarakhand) and Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan) (from mid-September 2026; 600 personnel per side).
- KONKAN (India–UK naval): off Plymouth, UK.
- Indra 2026 (India–Russia): naval phase with INS Sahyadri at Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan (13–18 October); land phase in Russia.
- Surya Kiran (India–Nepal): annual joint military exercise.

29. Indian Navy's 1st Training Squadron Visits Seychelles

- INS Tir, INS Sujata and ICGS Sarathi made a port call at Port Victoria, Seychelles, and conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Seychelles Coast Guard Ship Andromache before departing on 15 October 2026.

30. INS Sudarshini made a port call at Salalah, Oman (14–17 October 2026) – its second visit there during Lokayan-26.

- Lokayan-26: The 10-month voyage of about 22,000 nautical miles covers 18 ports in 13 countries; flagged off from Kochi on 20 January 2026.

31. Shakti Sharma Becomes First Woman Non-Medical Air Vice Marshal

32. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2024 and 2025) Conferred

- Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat conferred the awards on 106 young artists in New Delhi on 19 October 2026.
- Key awardees: Akram Khan Behrupiya (folk, Rajasthan), Manisha Srivastava (folk music, Bihar), Hito Kiho (choir music, Nagaland), Subhashree Swain (Chhau dance) and Ghanshyam Sahu (playwriting).

33. "Angh" Wins TIFF Platform Prize; "Gondhal" is India's Oscar Entry

- Angh, the debut feature of Nagaland filmmaker Theja Rio, won the Platform Prize (CAD 20,000) at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2026

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- Marathi film Gondhal (directed by Santosh Davakhar) was selected by the Film Federation of India on 18 September 2026 (from 33 films) as India's official entry for the 99th Academy Awards.

34. JioHotstar Launches in Nepal with DGO

- JioHotstar partnered with Nepali platform DGO to launch its OTT streaming services in Nepal from 18 October 2026

35. 5th Asian Para Games 2026 Held in Aichi-Nagoya

- Held on 18–24 October 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan; opening at Paloma Mizuho Stadium.
- Opening ceremony theme: "WABI: We Are Beautiful Individuals".
- Indian contingent: 281 members – 168 athletes (112 men, 56 women) and 113 officials across 11 disciplines.
- Flag bearers: para-badminton player Pramod Bhagat and sprinter Simran Sharma.
- Asian Paralympic Committee HQ: Dubai, UAE.
- India finished with a record 114 medals, including 30 gold.

36. Mighty Marathas Win Archery Premier League Season 2

- Mighty Marathas (led by Dhiraj Bommadevara) beat Kakatiya Knights 6–2 in the final in Hyderabad

37. Kenya's Charles Matata won the men's title at the Delhi Half Marathon on 18 October 2026 in 58:52, breaking the course record of 58:53 set by Amedework Walelegn in 2020.

38. India Wins 6 Medals at U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, USA

39. Braj Mohan Ram Sworn In as Governor of Odisha

- Braj Mohan Ram took oath as Governor of Odisha on 18 October 2026 at Lok Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, administered by Orissa High Court Chief Justice Harish Tandon; succeeds Hari Babu Kambhampati.
- Governors are appointed by the President under Article 155; the oath is administered by the High Court Chief Justice under Article 159.

40. Kaizad Bharucha resigned as Deputy Managing Director of HDFC Bank

41. Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, was elected Chair of IOCINDIO, the IOC-UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean

42. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October): 2026 focus – "Safe Homes for All"; 3-year theme (2026–2028) – "United for Peace and Human Rights".

Important Questions and Answers:

1. **Where will COP31 (2026) be held?**
   Antalya, Türkiye
2. **Where will COP32 (2027) be held?**
   Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3. **What is the reference date for the main Census enumeration?**
   1 March 2027
4. **Who is the brand ambassador of Census 2027?**
   Sudarsan Pattnaik
5. **Where is India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park?**
   Sindhu Ghat, Leh (Ladakh)
6. **Who heads the committee formed on 14 October 2026 after sugarcane farmers' demands?**
   Prof. Ramesh Chand
7. **What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2026?**
   100th (out of 122)
8. **Who has been appointed India's Ambassador to Nepal?**
   Sudhakar Dalela
9. **Where was the World Health Summit 2026 held?**
   Berlin

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10. **Which two countries take part in Exercise AUSTRAHIND?**
    India and Australia
11. **Which two countries take part in Exercise Mountain Guardian?**
    India and UAE
12. **Who became the first woman non-medical Air Vice Marshal?**
    Shakti Sharma
13. **Which film is India's official entry for the 99th Academy Awards?**
    Gondhal (Marathi)
14. **Where were the 5th Asian Para Games 2026 held?**
    Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
15. **Who was sworn in as Governor of Odisha on 18 October 2026?**
    Braj Mohan Ram

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