

Weekly One Liners 25th to 31st August, 2025

PM Jan Dhan Yojana: Eleven Years of Financial Inclusion and Direct Benefit Empowerment

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched on August 28, 2014, was a visionary initiative aimed at ensuring universal access to banking facilities, especially for the financially excluded. Eleven years later, it has transformed into the world's largest financial inclusion programme, bridging gaps in banking, boosting savings, and empowering millions through direct benefit transfers (DBT) and digital services.

A Financial Inclusion Revolution

From Exclusion to Inclusion

Before PMJDY, only 59% of Indian households and 35% of adults had access to a bank account. As of 2025,

- Nearly 100% of households and over 90% of adults are banked.
- 56.2 crore PMJDY accounts have been opened, a four-fold increase since March 2015.
- 37.5 crore accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas, while 18.7 crore are in urban regions.
- This financial empowerment has reduced dependence on informal lenders, breaking the cycle of rural debt traps.

Gender Empowerment and Digital Reach

Women at the Forefront

PMJDY has made a strong mark on gender inclusion, with 56% of accounts held by women. This has,

- Enhanced financial independence.
- Increased women's participation in government welfare schemes and self-help groups.

RuPay Cards and Digital Usage

- Over 38.7 crore RuPay cards have been issued, encouraging digital payments.
- PMJDY accounts are now used not only for DBT but also for savings, micro-insurance, and investment products.

Direct Benefit Transfer: No More Middlemen

One of PMJDY's most significant achievements is the elimination of intermediaries in welfare delivery. Subsidies and support payments are now directly credited into bank accounts, making the system,

Faster, reducing delays.

- Corruption-free, eliminating leakages.
- Transparent, enabling easier monitoring.

This system played a vital role during demonetisation and the Covid-19 crisis, delivering emergency financial aid efficiently.

Infrastructure Growth and Banking Access

Doorstep Banking Services

To reach remote areas,

- Over 16.2 lakh bank mitras (business correspondents) have been deployed.
- 99.9% of all inhabited villages have a banking outlet (branch, correspondent, or post bank) within five kilometres.
- This wide outreach has transformed PMJDY into a gateway for integrated financial services, particularly in underserved regions.

Integration with Social Security Schemes

PMJDY accounts now enable easy enrolment in Jan Suraksha schemes,

- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** Life insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh.
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** Accident insurance of Rs 2 lakh.
- These schemes have enhanced the social safety net, especially for those in the unorganised sector, who previously had no financial security.

Global Recognition and National Impact

According to the World Bank's Findex 2024 report, account ownership among individuals aged 15+ in India stands at 89%. The NSS 2022–23 survey places this figure even higher at 94.65%. The total balance in PMJDY accounts has grown to Rs 2.68 lakh crore, a 17-fold increase since 2015—underscoring rising trust in formal banking channels.

National Affairs

- Ujjain will host “**रूह मन्तिक**” – PHDCCI's 2nd Global Spiritual Tourism Conclave on **27 August 2025**, organized with the **Ministry of Tourism and Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board**. **Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav** and **Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** will inaugurate the event, with **Gauranga Das Prabhu** delivering the **keynote address**. Highlights include the release of the **PHDCCI-KPMG Report "Faith & Flow"**, a **Government-Industry Roundtable**, and sessions on **temple economies, wellness, digital spirituality**, and the **Jyotirlinga circuit**. Delegates will also visit **Mahakaleshwar and Kal Bhairav temples** to experience Ujjain's rich **spiritual heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Japan and China** from **August 29 to September 1, 2025**. In **Japan** (Aug 29–30), he will attend the **15th India-Japan Annual Summit**—his **first** with Japanese PM **Shigeru Ishiba**—to strengthen the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership**, focusing on **defence, trade, technology**, and **regional issues**. In **China** (Aug 31–Sept 1), he will attend the **SCO Summit in Tianjin**, hosted by **President Xi Jinping**, and hold **bilateral meetings** with various leaders. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** has surpassed a **₹15 Lakh Crore cumulative GMV** milestone since its **inception in 2016**, showcasing its transformation into a **transparent, efficient, and inclusive** digital platform for **public procurement**. GeM has empowered **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), startups, women-led businesses, SC/ST enterprises, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** by reducing **entry barriers**, encouraging **digital adoption**, and fostering **entrepreneurship**. This aligns with the vision of **Digital India** and **Viksit Bharat**, reaffirming GeM's role in building a **digitally empowered and accountable** procurement ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India** has released its **first national guidelines for veterinary blood transfusion services**, addressing a long-standing gap in animal healthcare. The guidelines, issued by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, set a **scientific framework for animal blood donation, storage, and transfusion**, ensuring **donor screening, blood typing, and biosafety compliance**. Key provisions include **state-regulated blood banks, a Donor Rights Charter, and a National Veterinary Blood Bank Network with digital tracking and emergency helpline**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NHAI** has launched 'Project Aarohan' in collaboration with **Vertis Infrastructure Trust** to support the **education of children of toll plaza employees**. With a fund of **₹1 crore**, the first phase (July 2025–March 2026) will offer **scholarships to 500 students (₹12,000/year) and 50 postgraduate aspirants (₹50,000 each)**. Implemented by **Bharat Cares (SMEC Trust)**, the initiative also includes **mentorship, skill-building, and career guidance** for students from **EWS, SC/ST, OBC, and minority communities**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Centre** has established three high-level committees, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, to celebrate the **150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and tribal leader **Birsa Munda**, along with the **birth centenary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. The committees will oversee plans and programmes nationwide to honor these iconic figures known for their roles in **India's freedom struggle, tribal resistance, and good governance**. Patel is famed as the **Iron Man of India** for uniting 565 princely states; Birsa Munda is revered for leading the **Ulgulan tribal revolution**; and Vajpayee, a respected **poet-statesman**, is remembered for the **Pokhran-II nuclear tests** and is celebrated on **Good Governance Day (25th December)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched a new module on the **UMEED Portal** to help **widows, divorced women, and orphans** apply for **maintenance support from Waqf-alal-aulad properties** under the **UMEED Rules, 2025**. The online system uses **Aadhaar-based authentication** for verification, enabling applications and approvals through State and UT Waqf Boards, with payments directly credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts. This move aims to make Waqf

administration more **transparent, efficient, and people-centric**, reflecting the government's commitment to **inclusive development and social justice** for vulnerable minority groups. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India** marked a **major milestone** in its semiconductor journey with the launch of **one of the country's first end-to-end OSAT Pilot Line Facilities** by **CG Power** at **Sanand, Gujarat**, inaugurated by **Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** and **CM Bhupendra Patel**. The facility, part of the **India Semiconductor Mission**, will support **chip assembly, packaging, testing, and post-test services**. Backed by a **₹7,600 crore investment**, the CG Semi project includes two facilities (G1 & G2), set to generate **5,000+ jobs**, boost **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, and strengthen **India's chip-making ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** announced a **₹1 crore life insurance cover** for regular municipal workers and **₹20 lakh** for outsourced workers, with the same amounts assured in cases of permanent disability. Additionally, **education support up to ₹8 lakh** will be provided for their children. Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** made the announcement during the **SwarnAndhra-SwachhAndhra campaign** rally at **Peddapuram, Kakinada district**, emphasizing the government's commitment to **workers' welfare and cleanliness**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched and dedicated development projects worth over **₹5,400 crore** in **Gujarat**, covering **railways, roads, power, housing, and urban infrastructure**. Key railway projects include doubling and gauge conversion of important rail lines to improve connectivity and freight movement. Modi flagged off new passenger and freight train services to boost local access and industrial logistics. Road projects like six-lane underpasses and overbridges aim to reduce congestion and support trade. Power initiatives under UGVCL focus on modernizing electricity distribution to enhance reliability. ([Click here to read article](#))



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **green mobility initiatives** in **Hansalpur, Gujarat**, launching **Suzuki's first Made-in-India global Battery Electric Vehicle (e VITARA)** for export to **100 countries**, including **Japan and Europe**. He also announced the start of **Hybrid Battery Electrode Manufacturing** at the **TDSG plant**, a **joint venture** between **Toshiba, Denso, and Suzuki**, marking a major step toward **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Make in India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kerala's **Onam celebrations** began with the vibrant **Athachamayam procession** in **Tripunithura**, drawing thousands of spectators under sunny skies. The parade featured **59 traditional art forms** like **theyyam, kathakali, and pulikali**, alongside **floats on social themes, movie character imitations, and a stunning 60-foot Athapookkalam** made with **1,500 kg of flowers**. The event highlighted **religious and communal harmony, with tight security, lively performances, and enthusiastic participation** from artists, students, and tourists alike. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Delhi's economy has shown robust growth over the past decade, with an annual **GSDP growth rate of 5.8%** and a **7% increase in per capita income**. While Delhi's contribution to India's GDP slightly declined from 3.94% in 2011-12 to 3.79% in 2024-25, the overall economic activity has rebounded beyond pre-pandemic levels. Delhi's **per capita income in 2024-25 is Rs 4,93,024**, which is **2.4 times higher than the national average**, reflecting strong economic performance and recovery. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Delhi Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** flagged off the **'U-Special' buses** for college students, reviving the service after years of inactivity. The initiative, aimed at improving **connectivity between homes and Delhi University**, features **electric, air-conditioned buses** equipped with **CCTV cameras and panic buttons** to ensure student safety. Gupta highlighted the scheme's role in boosting the university's vibrancy and promoting cleaner air in Delhi's transport. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Andhra Pradesh's** State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) has approved **30 investment projects worth ₹53,922 crore**, with the potential to generate **83,437 jobs**; major approvals include **HFCL, Apollo Tyres, and Dhirubhai Ambani Green Tech Park**, as **CM Chandrababu Naidu** commits to **personally monitoring** project execution and boosting the state's **ease of doing business and industrial growth**. ([Click here to read article](#))

International News

- Due to the **U.S. Executive Order No. 14324**, which ends the **duty-free exemption** for goods under **USD 800** from **29th August 2025**, the **Department of Posts** has announced a **temporary suspension of postal services to the USA** from **25th August 2025**, except for **letters/documents and gift items under USD 100**. The decision follows **operational issues** and lack of clarity from **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** on duty collection procedures, affecting **U.S.-bound air carriers' ability** to process shipments. Customers can claim **refunds** for undeliverable items. The department is working to **restore services** as soon as possible. ([Click here to read article](#))
- During **Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka's visit to India**, both nations signed multiple **bilateral agreements** including a pact to build a **super-specialty hospital** in Fiji and supply of **Janaushadhi medicines**. Key announcements included Fiji joining the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, establishment of a **Cyber Security Training Cell**, gifting of **ambulances**, and support for **agriculture through drones and soil testing labs**. Cultural, educational, and people-to-people ties were strengthened with the deputation of a **Hindi-Sanskrit teacher**, training for **Fijian Pundits**, and a second **Jaipur Foot Camp**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Japan have reinforced their energy partnership through a **Ministerial-level India-Japan Energy Dialogue** focused on **energy security, clean energy transition, and climate change**. Co-chaired by India's **Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs** and Japan's **Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry**, the dialogue highlighted progress in **energy efficiency, clean hydrogen, ammonia, renewable energy**, and agreed to expand cooperation in **carbon capture, biofuels, green chemicals**, and other advanced energy technologies, strengthening their commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Oman** has set an ambitious goal to attract **one million Indian tourists annually**, up from **700,000 in 2024**, as part of its broader **economic diversification** and tourism expansion strategy. Targeting **high-value segments** like **luxury travel, destination weddings, MICE events, and adventure tourism**, the country is leveraging its **cultural ties with India, diverse landscapes, and enhanced air connectivity**. Campaigns like the **'Focus Oman' roadshow** in Jaipur aim to engage Indian travelers, while **visitor-friendly visa policies** support the initiative. India remains a **priority market**, reflecting strong bilateral relations and tourism growth potential. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Russia is set to welcome **1 million Indian workers** by the end of 2025 to address a severe **workforce shortage** in sectors like **construction, machinery, electronics, and textiles**, especially in industrial hubs like **Sverdlovsk**. The Indian ambassador confirmed rising **consular demand** as more Indians take up these opportunities. Russia plans to increase its **foreign worker quota** by 1.5 times in 2025 to tackle a projected **3.1 million worker deficit** by 2030, making it a new major destination for Indian skilled labor beyond traditional countries. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Lithuanian parliament** has approved **Inga Ruginiene**, current **Minister of Social Security and Labour**, as the country's new **Prime Minister**. A member of the **Social Democrats**, Ruginiene must now present a proposed **cabinet list** within **15 days** for parliamentary approval. She will formally assume office after the **President's decree**. Elected to **parliament in 2024**, she previously served as **chair of the Lithuanian Trade Union Confederation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- South Korea has passed a bill to **ban mobile phones and digital devices in school classrooms** starting March 2026, aiming to tackle **social media addiction** among youth. With **99% internet penetration** and **98% smartphone ownership**, the ban reflects growing concerns about students' mental health and focus. The law, supported across parties, exempts use for **students with disabilities** and **educational purposes**. Critics warn it may infringe on **children's rights**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India-Africa trade has surpassed **USD 100 billion in 2024-25**, marking significant growth from USD 56 billion in 2019-20, with India emerging as one of the **top-five investors in Africa**. India has extended over **USD 12 billion in concessional loans** and **USD 700 million in grants** for African projects, along with offering **50,000 scholarships** to African youth. The partnership theme has evolved to "**Co-creating a Shared Future**", emphasizing mutual trust and collaboration. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** and **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Alwar** have signed an **MoU** to enhance **training and academic collaboration** in **national security**. With over **900 trainees** at SSB, the partnership will blend **field expertise** with **academic research**, enabling **joint training programs, R&D, and certified education**. **RRU's Pro VC Prof. Kalpesh H. Wandra** and **SSB DIG Sanjeev Yadav** highlighted the initiative as a step toward **innovative, knowledge-driven security training**, strengthening **leadership and professionalism** in India's security forces. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India and the **World Food Programme (WFP)** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** to combat **global hunger**, with India offering to supply **fortified rice** to **vulnerable populations** in crisis zones. The partnership highlights India's role as an **agricultural surplus nation** and reflects its commitment to **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (the world is one family). The collaboration follows discussions held in **Rome (Feb 2025)** and will ensure a **dependable food supply** for **humanitarian aid**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Bhutan have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance cooperation in **agriculture and allied sectors**, including **livestock**, aiming to strengthen **food security, sustainable farming, and rural prosperity**. Signed in **Thimphu** by **Devesh Chaturvedi (India)** and **Thinley Namgyel (Bhutan)**, the agreement sets a framework for collaboration in **agricultural research, livestock health, post-harvest management, value chain development, and knowledge exchange**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **India's pharmaceutical exports** rose **5.21%** to **\$7.57 billion** in **Q1 FY26**, driven by **formulations and biologics**, according to **Pharmexcil**. Growth was seen in **NAFTA, Oceania, Latin America, and Africa**, though **US pricing pressures** dented earnings. **Imports** also increased **4.21%** to **\$786 million**, mainly in **bulk drugs and intermediaries**, though this segment shows a **declining trend** due to the **PLI scheme**. In **FY25**, pharma exports had grown **9.39%** to **\$30.47 billion**, but future growth may face **tariff and pricing challenges**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's seafood exports** remained steady at **USD 7.45 billion** in **2024-25**, despite a drop in shipment volume to **16.98 lakh tonnes**. **Frozen shrimp** dominated exports, accounting for nearly **70% of earnings**, with the **US** and **China** as the largest importers—US imports valued at **USD 2.71 billion**. Other key markets include the **EU, Southeast Asia, and Japan**. Major export ports were **Vizag** and **JNPT**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's outbound investments** surged **67.7%** to **USD 41.6 billion** in **FY 2024-25**, driven by a focus on **ESG priorities**, the rise of **GIFT City** as a strategic investment hub, and **global tax reforms**, according to an **EY report**. Indian companies are diversifying globally, expanding beyond traditional hubs like **Singapore** and **Mauritius** to countries such as the **UAE, Luxembourg, and Switzerland**. Sectors like **IT, energy, pharma, and automotive** are key contributors. **GIFT City's** role has doubled, offering **tax benefits** and **regulatory clarity**, aiding Indian multinationals in managing overseas investments efficiently. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) has received RBI approval to acquire up to **24.99% stake** in **Yes Bank**, marking a major **cross-border M&A deal** in India's financial sector. The initial **\$1.6 billion investment** for a **20% stake** is SMBC's largest in India, and the RBI has clarified that **SMBC will not be classified as a promoter**, easing regulatory requirements. This move strengthens **foreign investor confidence** and deepens SMBC's presence in **India's banking sector**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its 2025 **Liquidity Management Framework Review**, proposed major changes via its **Internal Working Group (IWG)** to enhance control over **short-term interest rates** and ensure **market stability**. Key recommendations include **discontinuing the 14-day variable rate repo**, retaining the **Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)** as the operating target despite declining market activity, and improving the **use of reserve averaging** by banks. The IWG also suggests **phasing out standalone primary dealers (SPDs)** from the call money market due to their volatility impact and stresses the need to manage **structural surplus liquidity** more effectively. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's **Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR)** at **'BBB-'** with a **stable outlook**, citing the country's **robust economic growth** and strong external finances. Projected GDP growth remains strong at **6.5% for 2025-26**, well above peers, supported by **solid domestic demand, public capex, and steady private consumption**. While **US tariff risks pose moderate downside concerns**, Fitch expects limited direct impact on GDP but notes potential effects on business sentiment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **crude oil imports** fell by **8.7% in July** to **18.56 million tons**, marking an **18-month low** since February 2024, amid a **4.3% drop in fuel demand** and **U.S. tariff threats** over India's purchase of **Russian oil**. Year-on-year, crude imports declined by **4.3%** and product imports by **12.8%**, while India plans to engage the U.S. with an **open mind** on trade ties despite ongoing **discounted Russian oil buys** by state refiners. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **coal imports** rose marginally by **1.5% to 76.40 million tonnes** in the April-June quarter of 2025 compared to last year, despite government efforts to boost **domestic production**. June imports increased to **23.91 million tonnes**, while state-owned **Coal India Limited's (CIL) production dropped 8.5%** due to monsoon-related challenges. The government assures **adequate coal supply** for the monsoon season, emphasizing sustainable growth and reduced import dependence. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Goldman Sachs projects India's **household savings** will generate **\$9.5 trillion inflows** into financial assets over the next decade, driven by a shift from physical assets like real estate and gold to **long-term savings products, equities, and bank deposits**. This rise in financial savings (around 13% of GDP) will support **corporate investments, long-duration bond markets**, and expand **retail participation** in capital markets, marking a significant deepening of India's financialization trend. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India Post Payments Bank** has achieved an impressive **60–70% annual growth** over the last two years, posting a **₹134 crore profit** with revenues exceeding **₹2,000 crore** and serving over **12 crore customers**. During a performance review, Minister of State for Communications **Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani** emphasized the importance of **digital initiatives, customer convenience, and financial inclusion**, especially focusing on **last-mile reach** to provide affordable, reliable services across **remote areas** through close coordination with **India Post**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the **September 2025 round** of its **Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)** across **19 cities** to gather insights on household perceptions of **price changes and inflation trends**. Conducted **quarterly**, the survey collects both **qualitative and quantitative responses** on inflation expectations over **three months and one year**. Cities like **Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Lucknow** are among those included to reflect diverse **consumption patterns**. The survey, also open **online via RBI's website**, provides **critical input for monetary policy** formulation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Suzuki Motor Corporation** has announced a massive **₹70,000 crore investment in India** over the next **5–6 years** to expand **production**, launch **new models**, and strengthen its position in the **world's third-largest automobile market**. The announcement was made during the launch of the **e-Vitara**, Suzuki's **first electric SUV**, at the **Hansalpur plant in Gujarat**, flagged off by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. ([Click here to read article](#))

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Selection Ka Saathi

- **The Central Government has extended the import duty exemption on cotton (HS 5201) until 31st December 2025**, aiming to **boost availability** for the **Indian textile sector** and **support exporters**. Initially effective from **19th August to 30th September 2025**, this move ensures continued relief amid rising global cotton prices. A **notification will be issued shortly**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Aluminium Company (NALCO)** will invest **₹300 billion (\$3.43 billion)** over the next five years to build a **new aluminium smelter in Odisha** and a **coal power plant**, according to CMD **Brijendra Pratap Singh**. About **₹180 billion** will go toward the smelter, while **₹120 billion** is earmarked for the power plant, for which NALCO is in talks with **Coal India** and **NTPC**. The project will be funded through a mix of **debt and internal accruals**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **3.5% in July 2025**, driven primarily by a **5.4% rise in manufacturing**, as per Quick Estimates released on **28th August 2025**. Sector-wise, **Mining** contracted by **7.2%**, **Electricity** grew **0.6%**, and **Manufacturing** led the surge with **14 of 23 industries** showing positive growth. Major contributors include **basic metals (12.7%)**, **electrical equipment (15.9%)**, and **non-metallic mineral products (9.5%)**. Under **use-based classification**, highest growth was seen in **Infrastructure/Construction goods (11.9%)**, **Intermediate goods (5.8%)**, and **Consumer durables (7.7%)**, positioning these as the top positive contributors to overall IIP growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mastercard** has partnered with **Infosys** to integrate **Mastercard Move's cross-border payment** capabilities into **Infosys Finacle**, enabling **faster, secure, and seamless global transactions** for financial institutions across **200+ countries** and **150+ currencies**, ultimately enhancing **digital payment experiences, customer loyalty, and operational efficiency**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Supreme Court Collegium**, led by **CJI BR Gavai**, has recommended the elevation of **Justice Alok Aradhe** (Chief Justice of Bombay High Court) and **Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi** (Chief Justice of Patna High Court) to the **Supreme Court**. With these appointments, the **top court will regain its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges**. Justice Pancholi, originally from the **Gujarat High Court**, is also in line to become **Chief Justice of India in 2031**, while Justice Aradhe began his career in the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** and has held key positions in **J&K and Karnataka** before Bombay. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rajiv Ranjan**, a veteran central banker with over **35 years of experience** at the **Reserve Bank of India**, including roles as **Executive Director** and **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** member, has been appointed **Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer** of the **New Development Bank (NDB)** for a five-year term starting August 2025. He holds advanced degrees in economics and has held key positions in monetary policy, economic research, and international banking. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Teymur Abasgulyev**, CFO of **SOCAR Turkiye Enerji A.Ş.**, has been appointed as the new **CEO of Nayara Energy**, replacing **Alessandro Des Dorides**, who resigned due to **EU sanctions**. The sanctions, part of the EU's **18th package** against Russia, forced the exit of several **European executives** from **Rosneft-backed Nayara**. Both **Nayara and Rosneft** have criticized the sanctions as **unjust** and a threat to **India's energy security**. Nayara operates a major **refinery in Vadinar, Gujarat**, and over **6,750 petrol pumps** across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Grihum Housing Finance**, backed by **TPG**, is set to appoint **former Citibanker Arjun Chowdhry** as its new **MD & CEO**, following the resignation of **Manish Jaiswal**, who will stay on as an advisor until **December 31**. Chowdhry, who recently exited **Axis Bank** to pursue entrepreneurship, brings expertise in **retail lending and credit cards**, which Grihum sees as crucial for serving **low-income clients**. Meanwhile, **Girish Kousgi**, outgoing **MD of PNB Housing Finance**, is expected to become **CEO of IIFL Home Finance** after **Monu Ratra's** resignation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **J&K Bank** has appointed veteran banker **S Krishnan** as its **non-executive chairman** for a term until March 26, 2028, subject to **RBI approval**. Currently an independent director, Krishnan brings over **40 years of banking experience**, having served as **MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank** and **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank**. He is a **postgraduate in Commerce** and a **qualified Cost Accountant**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Anish Dayal Singh**, a **1988-batch IPS officer** from the **Manipur cadre**, has been appointed **Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)** to **PM Narendra Modi**. A former **CRPF chief**, Singh is known for his leadership in **anti-Naxal operations, election security, and force restructuring**. He has also headed the **ITBP** and served in the **Intelligence Bureau**. During his **CRPF tenure**, he launched key initiatives like **forward bases in LWE areas, battalion realignment**, and **'Samvaad' sessions** to improve troop welfare and operational efficiency. He will now report to **NSA Ajit Doval**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **personal income tax collections** have surpassed **corporate tax** for the first time, driven by increased **formalisation, digitisation,** and stronger **compliance**. The number of individual taxpayers has more than doubled, with **TDS** and **advance tax payments** rising sharply. The introduction of **GST** has further improved tax transparency. Despite this growth, only **6.9%** of the population pays income tax, indicating room for further expansion. ([Click here to read article](#))
- According to an EY report based on IMF projections, **India is set to become the world's second-largest economy by 2038 in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms,** with a projected GDP of **USD 34.2 trillion**. India's advantages include a **young median age of 28.8 years (2025), high savings rate,** and a **declining government debt-to-GDP ratio (from 81.3% in 2024 to 75.8% by 2030)**. Unlike other major economies facing challenges like ageing populations and rising debt, India's **youthful demographics, structural reforms (GST, IBC, UPI), and investments in technology and infrastructure** support a strong growth trajectory. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra** stated that the **Reserve Bank of India** is ready to take necessary **policy measures** to support **economic growth,** especially for **sectors impacted by the new 50% US tariffs** effective Wednesday. Speaking at the **FICCI-IBA banking conclave,** he assured that the RBI has maintained **ample liquidity** and will act decisively if growth is threatened. **Textiles, footwear, leather, MSMEs, and gems & jewellery** are expected to be hit hardest, prompting possible **fiscal support** from the government. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India has appointed senior diplomat Dinesh K Patnaik** as its new **High Commissioner to Canada,** while **Canada has named Christopher Cooter** as its envoy to India — a move that signals a **thaw in diplomatic ties** strained since the **2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar**. Patnaik, currently ambassador to Spain, will take charge in Ottawa shortly. The **reciprocal appointments** follow a shift in Canada's leadership, with **Mark Carney replacing Justin Trudeau,** and reflect efforts by both sides to **restore bilateral relations** and enhance cooperation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **OpenAI** has appointed **Raghav Gupta,** former **Coursera APAC Managing Director,** as its new **Education Head for India and APAC,** aiming to transform **AI-driven education** in the region. Announced at the **OpenAI Education Summit in New Delhi,** the initiative includes **AI learning tools, local programs, and partnerships** like the **India AI Mission,** focusing on **technical training, talent development,** and **public-private collaboration** to position India as a leader in AI education. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Urjit Patel,** former **RBI Governor,** has been appointed as **Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for a **three-year term,** starting **August 28, 2025**. Representing **India and its constituency,** this role marks his return to the **global financial stage**. Patel, who served as the **24th Governor of RBI (2016–2018),** brings extensive experience from the **IMF, private consulting, and economic advisory bodies,** underscoring India's growing leadership in **multilateral financial institutions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- **DRDO** successfully conducted **maiden flight-tests** of the **Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)** on **23 August 2025** off Odisha's coast. This **multi-layered air defence system,** featuring indigenous **QRSAM, VSHORADS** missiles, and a **laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW),** demonstrated its capability by **simultaneously destroying multiple aerial targets,** including UAVs and drones. Controlled by a **Centralised Command Centre,** the system's performance was flawless. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** will commission two advanced **Project 17A** **stealth frigates, Udaygiri and Himgiri,** on **26 August 2025** at **Visakhapatnam,** presided over by **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh**. These frigates, built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL)** and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE),** feature significant improvements in **design, stealth, weapons, and sensors,** with around **75% indigenous content,** supporting the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision. Notably, Udaygiri is the **100th ship** designed by the Navy's **Warship Design Bureau**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Ministry** has signed an **MoU with the Quality Council of India (QCI)** to improve **pension, healthcare, resettlement, and welfare services** for over **63 lakh veterans** and their families. Under the agreement, **QCI** will assist the **Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW)** with **digital evaluations, impact assessments, and evidence-based policy recommendations**. The initiative aims to enhance **healthcare delivery, boost employment and entrepreneurship opportunities,** and strengthen **State and District Sainik Boards**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India will send over **700 soldiers** to participate in **Exercise Bright Star 2025,** a major tri-service military exercise held in **Egypt** from August 28 to September 10. The exercise involves **live firing, command post exercises, and expert interactions,** showcasing the capabilities of the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**. This participation emphasizes India's commitment to **regional peace, military cooperation,** and improving **jointness and interoperability** with allied nations. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** will lead the Indian delegation to the **68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC)** in **Barbados** from October 5-12, 2025. The delegation, including **Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh** and other parliamentary leaders, will engage in discussions on themes like **democratic institutions, technology in governance, climate change, financial transparency, and multilateralism**. Birla will address the General Assembly on **“The Commonwealth: A Global Partner,”** while Indian delegates participate in workshops and a youth roundtable focused on empowering young people against challenges like **cyber-bullying and gang violence**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth** inaugurated **MILMEDICON-2025**, an **international conference** organized by **DGMS (Army)** at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**, focusing on **innovations, challenges, and reforms in military medicine**. Held as part of the **Indian Army’s Year of Reforms**, the two-day event aims to boost **global cooperation** and enhance **trauma care** in military settings. The conference also celebrates the **Centenary of the Military Nursing Service**, showcasing the role of **Nari Shakti**. Key themes include **Advanced Combat Trauma Care, AI in Military Healthcare, Battlefield Medical Response, and Women in Combat Leadership**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **40% of India’s Chief Ministers face criminal cases**, according to a report by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**. Of the **30 CMs**, **12 have declared criminal cases**, with **Revanth Reddy** (Telangana) topping the list at **89 cases**, followed by **MK Stalin** (Tamil Nadu) with **47**. **33% CMs face serious charges** such as **attempt to murder, kidnapping, and bribery**. The report coincides with the government introducing **bills to disqualify top leaders arrested for 30+ days** on serious charges. ([Click here to read article](#))



Sports News

- Indian shooter **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** won the **gold medal** in the **50-meter rifle three-position event** at the **16th Asian Shooting Championship** in **Shymkent, Kazakhstan**, scoring **462.5 points**. China’s **Wenyu Zhao** took silver with **462 points**, and Japan’s **Naoya Okada** earned bronze with **445.8 points**. Earlier, the Indian men’s team—**Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Chain Singh, and Akhil Sheoran**—won **silver** in the team event for the same category. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NorthEast United FC** retained the **Durand Cup title** with a **dominant 6-1 win** over debutants **Diamond Harbour FC** in the final of the **134th edition** held in **Kolkata**. With **six different scorers** including **Asheer Akhtar, Parthib Gogoi, and Alaeddine Ajarai**, the Highlanders showcased attacking prowess and depth. Ajarai starred with **three assists and a goal**, while Diamond Harbour’s lone goal came from a deflected **Jobby Justin header**. This victory marks **NorthEast United’s second consecutive Durand Cup win**, making them the **first team in 25 years to defend the title**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025**, held at **Dal Lake, Srinagar**, marked a historic national-level competition in **kayaking, rowing, and canoeing**, boosting India’s aspirations for the **Los Angeles Olympics 2028**. Top performers from **Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Kerala** showcased exceptional talent, supported by the **Sports Authority of India** and government schemes like **TOPS**. With **24 Olympic event gold medals contested**, this festival is seen as a crucial step towards India’s global success in water sports, inspiring athletes and coaches alike to aim for international glory. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)** honoured cricket legend **Sunil Gavaskar** with a **life-size statue** at **Wankhede Stadium**, and inaugurated the **MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum**, named after the former MCA and BCCI president. Gavaskar, overwhelmed by the tribute, recalled emotional moments from his cricketing journey and shared anecdotes, including his superstitious use of his **Dadar Union cap** during India’s 1981 Melbourne Test win. The museum showcases cricketing memorabilia from **Bapu Nadkarni’s blazer to Rohit Sharma’s World Cup jersey**, and features local elements like a **BEST and Train section**, reflecting Mumbai’s cricketing roots. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mirabai Chanu** clinched **Gold** at the **2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships** in **Ahmedabad**, lifting a total of **193kg—84kg in snatch and 109kg in clean and jerk**—setting **new championship records** in all three categories. The **Tokyo Olympics silver medallist** made a powerful comeback, topping the **women’s 48kg category** and earning **direct qualification** for the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Sports Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** unveiled the **Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025** trophy, with the tournament set to take place from **August 29 to September 7** at the new **Rajgir hockey stadium** in **Bihar**, marking the state's first major **international hockey event**. The championship serves as a **direct qualifier** for the **2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup**, with the winner securing an automatic berth. India aims for its **fourth Asia Cup title**, leveraging home advantage, while legendary players and officials celebrated Bihar's emergence as a growing **sports hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **FIDE World Cup 2025** will be held in **Goa, India**, from **October 30 to November 27**, featuring **206 players**, a **\$2 million prize pool**, and **three spots** for the **2026 Candidates Tournament**. Played in an **eight-round knockout format**, the event highlights India's rise in global chess, following achievements like **D Gukesh's World Championship** and **Divya Deshmukh's Women's World Cup** win. With participation from **90+ countries**, this marks a major **milestone for Indian chess** and cements India's position as a **global chess powerhouse**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ravichandran Ashwin** has **retired from the IPL** after the **2025 season with CSK**, ending a stellar T20 career spanning **221 matches, 187 wickets, and 833 runs**. His decision aligns with **BCCI rules**, enabling him to now join **overseas T20 leagues**. Ashwin, who also retired from **international cricket in December 2024**, thanked the **IPL franchises, BCCI, and his fans** for their support throughout his journey, marking the close of a **remarkable cricketing chapter**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Cheteshwar Pujara**, one of India's most **dependable Test batsmen**, retired from all cricket on **August 24, 2025**. Known for his **calmness, patience, and long innings**, Pujara played **103 Tests**, scoring **7,195 runs with 19 centuries** and an average of **43.60**, making him India's **8th highest Test run-scorer**. His landmark achievement came during the **2018-19 Australia tour**, where his **patient batting (521 runs, 3 centuries)** was pivotal in India's historic first-ever Test series win down under. Raised in **Rajkot**, he debuted in **2010** and earned respect for his grit and resilience on tough pitches. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved India's **bid submission for the 2030 Commonwealth Games**, with **Ahmedabad** proposed as the host city. The plan includes signing a **Host Collaboration Agreement (HCA)** and providing **grant-in-aid to the Gujarat Government** if the bid is successful. Hosting the Games will bring together **athletes from 72 countries**, boost **tourism**, generate **jobs**, and promote **sports participation**. The **Narendra Modi Stadium**, which hosted the 2023 Cricket World Cup Final, strengthens India's case as a capable host for this **prestigious global event**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** felicitated the **young footballers of Minerva Academy FC, Mohali**, celebrating their historic **European treble win** in 2025 by clinching the **Gothia Cup (Sweden), Dana Cup (Denmark), and Norway Cup (Norway)**. The U-14/15 squad went unbeaten in **26 international matches**, scoring **295 goals**, marking a **new beginning for Indian football** on the global stage. Dr. Mandaviya emphasized the importance of **sports science, nutrition, and mental resilience** to sustain success and urged the players to uphold the spirit of **'nation first'**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **restructuring of the PM SVANidhi Scheme**, extending the **lending period to 31st March 2030** with a total outlay of **₹7,332 crore**. Key updates include **increased loan amounts** (₹15,000 in the first tranche, ₹25,000 in the second), **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards**, and **digital cashback incentives**. The scheme now targets **1.15 crore beneficiaries**, including **50 lakh new vendors**, and expands coverage to **census towns and peri-urban areas**, aiming to boost **financial inclusion and digital adoption** among **street vendors**. ([Click here to read article](#))

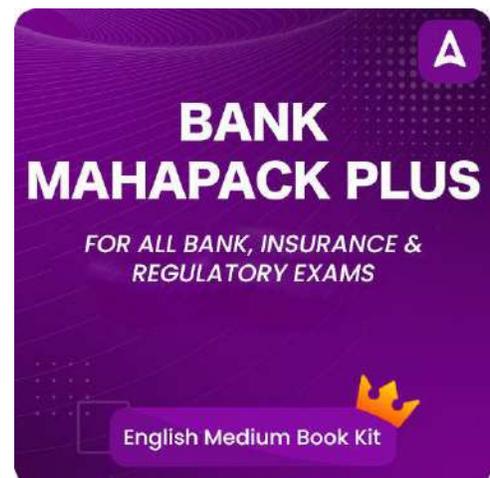
Science and Technology News

- ISRO successfully conducted the **first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01)** for the, showcasing the **parachute-based deceleration system** for human spaceflight. This milestone, achieved with support from the **Indian Air Force, DRDO, Indian Navy, and Coast Guard**, follows the completion of the **Human Rated Launch Vehicle (HLVM3)** and other critical systems like the **Crew Module, Service Module, and Crew Escape System (CES)**. The mission is part of India's broader space vision, aiming for the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035** and a **Moon landing by 2040**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India has become ground zero in the global AI race**, with **OpenAI** leading the charge by launching **ChatGPT Go** at just ₹399/month and announcing its **first India office in New Delhi**. This move, aligned with the **IndiaAI Mission**, intensifies competition with **Google, Microsoft, Perplexity, and xAI**, sparking a **price war** in a rapidly expanding market. OpenAI's localisation—**UPI integration, Indic languages, and education tools**—caters to India's **massive student base and developer ecosystem**. While this surge offers users **affordable AI access**, it also challenges **Indian startups**, forcing them to **collaborate or adapt** in a capital-heavy landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **OpenAI** has confirmed plans to open its **first India office** in **New Delhi** later this year, supporting the government's **IndiaAI Mission** and aiming to build "**AI for India, with India.**" Citing India as its **second-largest user base** and one of the **fastest-growing markets**, CEO **Sam Altman** praised the country's **tech talent** and **developer ecosystem**. The office will help better serve India's **students, professionals, and businesses**, already using OpenAI tools in sectors like **agriculture, recruitment, and governance**. OpenAI is also planning an **Education Summit** and **Developer Day** in India, and is **actively hiring** for local roles. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SpaceX** completed its **10th successful Starship test launch** from **Starbase, Texas**, showcasing progress toward the **world's first fully reusable rocket**. The **Super Heavy booster** achieved a controlled splashdown in the **Gulf of Mexico**, while **Starship's upper stage** performed a **re-ignition in space** and soft-landed in the **Indian Ocean**. Notably, it also **demonstrated payload deployment** using **Starlink simulators**, meeting all key objectives and aiding future missions like **NASA's Artemis III in 2027**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **UN General Assembly** has launched two major initiatives — the **Independent International Scientific Panel on AI** and the **Global Dialogue on AI Governance** — to promote **global cooperation on AI governance**. UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** hailed the move as a "**significant step**" toward balancing AI's **benefits and risks**. The **Scientific Panel** will offer **independent assessments** to guide policy, while the **Dialogue** will serve as an **inclusive platform** for global stakeholders. These efforts support the **Global Digital Compact** under the **Pact for the Future (2024)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Nano Banana** is the code name for **Google's new AI-powered photo-editing tool**, officially launched as **Gemini 2.5 Flash Image**, developed by **Google DeepMind**. It allows users to **blend multiple images**, maintain **character consistency**, and make creative edits like changing hairstyles, adding costumes, or altering backgrounds using natural language prompts. A standout feature, "**Design Mixing**," lets users transfer textures or styles from one image to another for unique effects. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Starting **2025, Ayurveda Day** will be celebrated annually on **23 September**, moving from the traditional **Dhanteras** date to a **fixed calendar identity** for global recognition. The **2025 theme, "Ayurveda for People & Planet"**, emphasizes **holistic health and ecological harmony**. The Ministry of **Ayush** will lead international awareness and wellness activities, reinforcing Ayurveda's relevance in tackling **lifestyle diseases, climate-linked ailments, and stress**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India will celebrate **National Sports Day 2025** from **August 29 to 31** as a **three-day fitness movement** led by **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** under the **Fit India Mission** to honour hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand**. The theme, "**Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main**," encourages citizens to dedicate 60 minutes daily to physical activity, promoting **Olympic and Paralympic values**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Dog Day**, celebrated **annually on August 26**, was founded in **2004** by animal welfare activist **Colleen Paige** to honor and raise awareness about **dogs' welfare, adoption, and their selfless contributions** to society. Inspired by the adoption of her first dog "**Sheltie**", the day promotes rescuing dogs from **puppy mills, unethical breeders, and shelters**. Officially recognized by **New York State in 2013**, it highlights the vital roles dogs play—from **service and law enforcement to emotional support**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India will celebrate National Sports Day 2025 on 29 August** to honour **Major Dhyan Chand**, with the theme "**Sport to Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies**." The day highlights the role of **sports in unity, peace, and fitness**, and includes a **three-day nationwide campaign** by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** and **Fit India Mission**, featuring "**Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main**." ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Neeraj Chopra** secured his **26th consecutive top-two finish** with a dramatic final throw of **85.01m**, placing **second** in the **Zurich Diamond League 2025**, while **Julian Weber** dominated the event with two **throws over 90m**, including a season-best **91.51m**, to clinch **first place**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **Women's Equality Day 2025**, observed on **August 26**, commemorates the **certification of the 19th Amendment** in 1920, granting **American women the right to vote**. Rooted in the **Seneca Falls Convention (1848)** and officially recognized in **1973**, the day honours both the **historic struggle for women's suffrage** and the **ongoing fight for gender equality** in leadership, pay, education, and healthcare. It's celebrated through **events, reflections, and activism**, urging continued progress toward **true social and economic parity**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- Observed annually on **29 August**, the **International Day Against Nuclear Tests** was established by the **UN General Assembly** in **2009** to raise awareness about the **devastating effects of nuclear testing** on **health**, the **environment**, and **global security**. The date marks the closure of the **Semipalatinsk Test Site** in **Kazakhstan** (1991). The day promotes **nuclear disarmament**, urges the **cessation of nuclear explosions**, and is commemorated worldwide through **conferences**, **educational campaigns**, **media outreach**, and **advocacy events**, all aimed at building a **nuclear-weapon-free world**. ([Click here to read article](#))

