

THE HINDU REVIEW

AUGUST 2025

NEWS COVERED

- 79th Independence Day
- RBI's FREE-AI Framework
- Online Gaming Bill 2025 Passed
- 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award
- SEMICON India 2025
- SIMBEX 2025
- National Sports Day
- M.S. Swaminathan Global Award for Food and Peace
- Miss Universe India 2025



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National News

RBI Monetary Policy Statement 2025-26: Full Analysis

The 56th meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) took place from August 4–6, 2025, chaired by Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The other members present included Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Shri Saugata Bhattacharya, Prof. Ram Singh, Dr. Poonam Gupta, and Dr. Rajiv Ranjan.

The MPC’s core decision: keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.50%.

- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 5.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate: 5.75%

The decision aligns with the RBI’s goal of maintaining CPI inflation at 4% within a ±2% range while supporting economic growth.

Growth Outlook

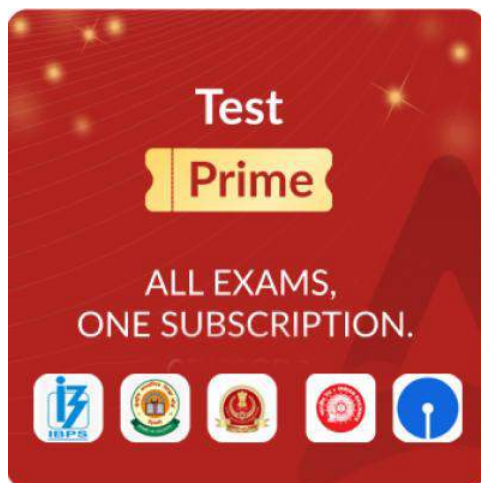
Global Scenario: Global growth remains muted despite an upward revision by the IMF. Disinflation has slowed, and some advanced economies are witnessing an uptick in inflation. Trade negotiations and tariff changes remain a concern.

Domestic Economy: Economic growth is resilient, driven by private consumption (especially rural demand) and fixed investment (supported by strong government capital expenditure).

1. **Agriculture:** Supported by a steady southwest monsoon and strong kharif sowing.
2. **Services Sector:** Continues to perform well, led by construction and trade.
3. **Industrial Sector:** Growth uneven; electricity and mining are lagging.

GDP Growth Projection 2025-26: 6.5%

1. Q1: 6.5%
2. Q2: 6.7%
3. Q3: 6.6%
4. Q4: 6.3%
5. Q1 2026-27: 6.6%



Inflation Outlook

Current Situation (June 2025):

1. CPI inflation at 2.1% (77-month low) – eighth consecutive month of decline.
2. Food inflation in negative territory (-0.2%) for the first time since February 2019 due to good agricultural output and supply-side measures.
3. Core inflation rose slightly to 4.4% in June, partly due to rising gold prices.

Projection for 2025-26: 3.1%

1. Q2: 2.1%
2. Q3: 3.1%
3. Q4: 4.4%
4. Q1 2026-27: 4.9%

Key Risks:

1. Weather-related shocks affecting crops.
2. Global uncertainties and trade disputes.
3. Demand pressures from policy measures in later quarters.

Rationale for Keeping Repo Rate Unchanged

1. **Inflation Control:** Inflation is currently below target but expected to rise above 4% in late FY2025-26 due to seasonal and demand-side factors.
2. **Economic Growth Stability:** Growth remains in line with projections at 6.5% for 2025-26.
3. **Impact of Previous Rate Cuts:** RBI has already reduced rates by 100 basis points since February 2025. The full benefits of these cuts are still filtering through the economy.
4. **Uncertain Global Conditions:** Tariff and trade tensions could affect exports and global capital flows.
5. **Neutral Monetary Policy Stance:** MPC will monitor data closely before making future changes.

Key Takeaways for Exam Preparation

- Repo Rate: 5.50% (unchanged)
- GDP Growth 2025-26: 6.5%
- Inflation 2025-26: 3.1% (expected to rise above 4% in Q4)
- Reason for no rate change: Waiting for earlier cuts to take full effect; inflation likely to rise later.
- Major Risks: Weather shocks, trade tensions, global inflation trends.
- Next MPC Meeting: September 29 – October 1, 2025.

India’s Top 10 Safest Cities 2025: Check If Your City Made the List

Safety is one of the most crucial factors in determining a city’s livability, and in 2025, India’s urban safety map has shown some interesting patterns. According to the mid-2025 Numbeo Safety Index, India ranked 67th globally with a safety score of 55.8. While the overall national ranking leaves room for improvement, some cities have emerged as beacons of safety, offering their residents a secure and peaceful environment.

The latest report places Mangalore at the top of the list as India’s safest city, followed closely by Vadodara, Ahmedabad, and Surat—showcasing Gujarat’s strong presence in safety rankings. On the flip side, cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) like Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad continue to face major safety challenges.

Top 10 Safest Cities in India 2025

The Numbeo Safety Index evaluates cities based on factors such as crime rates, law enforcement efficiency, and public perceptions of safety. A higher Safety Index indicates lower crime and better public security.

India Rank	City, State	Safety Index	Crime Index	Global Rank
1	Mangalore, Karnataka	74.2	25.8	49
2	Vadodara, Gujarat	69.2	30.8	85
3	Ahmedabad, Gujarat	68.2	31.8	93
4	Surat, Gujarat	66.6	33.4	106
5	Jaipur, Rajasthan	65.2	34.8	118
6	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra	63.5	36.8	126
7	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	61.1	38.9	149
8	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	60.3	37.9	158
9	Pune, Maharashtra	58.7	41.3	167
10	Chandigarh	57.4	42.6	175

Highlights

- Mangalore not only tops in India but ranks 49th globally for safety.
- Gujarat dominates the list with three entries—Vadodara, Ahmedabad, and Surat.
- Southern cities like Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, and Mangalore perform well, reflecting better urban governance and community discipline.

The Other Side of the Coin – Least Safe Cities

While the top cities shine in terms of safety, the National Capital Region continues to lag. Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad remain among India’s least safe cities, with high crime rates and safety concerns impacting residents’ quality of life.

How India Compares Globally

Globally, Abu Dhabi continues to hold the crown as the world’s safest city for the ninth consecutive year, with a stellar safety index of 88.8. The list of the world’s safest cities is dominated by the Middle East, with Doha, Dubai, and Sharjah also in the top five.

Top 5 Safest Cities in the World (2025)

1. Abu Dhabi, UAE – 88.8
2. Doha, Qatar – 84.3
3. Dubai, UAE – 83.9
4. Sharjah, UAE – 83.7
5. Taipei, Taiwan – 83.6

How the Safety Rankings Were Calculated

The Numbeo Safety Index is based on public perceptions of safety in daily life, both during the daytime and at night. Respondents rate their cities based on experiences and concerns related to,

- **Personal safety:** Risk of mugging, robbery, car theft, physical attacks by strangers, and harassment in public places.
- **Discrimination:** Based on factors like skin colour, ethnicity, gender, or religion.
- **Property crimes:** Including vandalism, burglary, and theft.
- **Violent crimes:** Such as assault and homicide.

These inputs are then converted into a Safety Index (higher scores mean safer cities) and a Crime Index (higher scores mean less safe).

Revised Income Tax Bill, 2025: What Taxpayers and Investors Need to Know

Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has formally withdrawn the old draft of the Income Tax Bill, 2025, from the Lok Sabha and introduced a revised version in Parliament. This new draft is the result of extensive feedback and scrutiny, including around **285 recommendations** from a Select Committee, aiming to modernize and simplify India’s direct tax framework, replacing the existing Income Tax Act, 1961.

Why Was the Earlier Bill Withdrawn?

The original bill, introduced during the Parliament’s Budget session in February 2025, was immediately referred to a Select Committee for thorough review. Major reasons for withdrawal:

- **Drafting inconsistencies** and technical errors needed correction.
- **Terminology clarifications** and improved legal language were necessary to convey the correct legislative intent.
- **Stakeholder and committee feedback** was extensive, demanding a consolidated, clearer bill that avoids confusion between multiple versions.

Structure and Key Features of the New Bill

- **Simplified Language:** The bill’s legal terminology has been rewritten for clarity. Provisions that were ambiguous or contradictory have been removed to reduce disputes—a common issue under the old law.
- **Organized Provisions:** There are now **536 sections and 16 schedules** organized for easy navigation, compared to the older act’s 298 sections.

- **Introduction of “Tax Year”:** The new bill attempts to **eliminate the dual system** of “Previous Year” and “Assessment Year,” introducing the concept of a single “Tax Year” for better clarity and administration.
- **Digital-first Approach:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) gets enhanced powers to make rules promoting digital administration and automation, including faceless processes to reduce the scope for corruption and unnecessary litigation.
- **No Immediate Tax Slab Changes:** The revised bill **does not change tax rates** or income categories at this stage but focuses on simplifying processes and paperwork.

Major Select Committee Recommendations

The Select Committee’s detailed 4,500-page report suggested significant reforms. Key recommendations now likely included in the revised bill:

Taxpayer Benefits & Relief

- **Refunds on Late Returns:** Taxpayers can now claim refunds even if their returns are filed after the deadline, helping individuals who miss filing due to genuine reasons.
- **Dividend Deduction (Section 80M):** Reintroduction of inter-corporate dividend deductions, easing tax burden on companies receiving dividends from other domestic companies.
- **NIL-TDS Facility:** Taxpayers with no tax liability can obtain advance NIL-TDS (tax deducted at source) certificates, reducing compliance hassle.
- **Tax Relief for Vacant Property:** Additional tax burden based on deemed rent for vacant house properties is removed.
- **Clear 30% Deduction for House Property:** The deduction is now applicable only after subtracting municipal taxes; also, home-loan interest deduction is available for let-out (rented) properties.

Compliance & Procedural Changes

- **Simplified Advance Ruling Fees:** Making advance tax rulings more accessible by altering the fee structure.
- **Clarifications on Penal Powers and TDS:** Clear rules about when penalties apply, especially for provident fund withdrawal and other procedural aspects.
- **Definition Alignment:** MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) definition is now linked directly to the MSME Act, reducing confusion.
- **Legal Drafting Improvements:** Numerous linguistic and technical errors have been corrected, including clause numbering and property terminology.
- **Expanded Pension Deduction:** Commuted pension deduction (previously only for employees) is now extended to non-employee individuals.

Top 10 Changes at a Glance

1. Refund claim possible even for late returns.
2. Reintroduction of Section 80M deduction for inter-corporate dividends.
3. Facility for NIL-TDS certificates to those with no liability.
4. Removal of ‘deemed rent’ tax for vacant properties.
5. Clear calculation of 30% deduction after municipal taxes for house property.
6. Extension of home-loan interest deduction to let-out properties.
7. Improved transparency and clarity in procedural rules.
8. Alignment of MSME definition with the MSME Act.
9. Correction of legal language and clause references.
10. Wider scope for commuted pension deduction to non-employee individuals.

What Does It Mean for Taxpayers and Investors?

- **Simplification and Transparency:** The bill aims to make tax compliance easier, with fewer technical hurdles and clearer rules. This helps taxpayers plan their finances with more certainty and reduces disputes with tax authorities.
- **Reduced Litigation:** Many ambiguous provisions that often led to legal battles have been removed, and the law is now organized to reduce opportunities for misinterpretation.
- **Support for Digital India:** The emphasis on digital processes and automation will make tax filing and refunds quicker, improve convenience, and support a faceless, corruption-free environment.
- **Investor Confidence:** By clearly aligning definitions (such as MSMEs and house property), the bill promotes investment by reducing uncertainties in tax rules affecting businesses and individuals.

Operation Sindoor: Gallantry Awards Announced for Armed Forces Heroes

On the eve of Independence Day 2025, the Government of India announced gallantry awards for officers of the Indian Armed Forces who played pivotal roles in Operation Sindoor—a tri-services mission targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The awards recognise exceptional bravery, operational excellence, and distinguished service during one of India’s most decisive counter-terrorism missions.

Background: Operation Sindoor

Operation Sindoor was launched in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians. The attack was claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy for Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The operation involved coordinated Army, Navy, and Air Force action,

- The Indian Army destroyed nine terrorist bases linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and PoK.
- The Indian Air Force executed precision strikes on four targets inside Pakistan and five in PoK.
- The Indian Navy provided operational support from Indian soil.

Major Awards Announced

1. Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (SYSM) – Highest wartime distinguished service award

Awarded to four officers, including senior IAF leadership,

1. Air Marshal Narnadeshwar Tiwari – Air Staff
 2. Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra – Western Air Commander
 3. Air Marshal Awadhesh Bharti – DG Air Operations
 4. Vice Admiral SJ Singh – Former Western Naval Commander
- Additionally, two senior Indian Army officers were selected for SYSM.

2. Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (UYSM)

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti – Deputy Chief of Naval Staff

3. Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) – For distinguished service during war

Thirteen IAF officers, including,

1. Air Vice Marshal Joseph Soares
2. Air Vice Marshal Prajwal Singh
3. Air Commodore Ashok Raj Thakur

4. Vayu Sena Medal (VM) – For exceptional courage in air operations

Awarded to 26 officers, such as,

1. Group Captain Ankur Hakim
2. Group Captain Varun Bhoj (Flying)
3. Wing Commander Mayank Paliwal (Flying)
4. Squadron Leader Kaustubh Nalawade (Flying)
5. Flight Lieutenant A. Naveen Chandar (Administration/Fighter Controller)

5. Veer Chakra – Gallantry award for acts of exceptional bravery

Awarded to officers including,

1. Group Captain Ranjeet Singh Sidhu
2. Group Captain Manish Arora
3. Squadron Leader Sarthak Kumar
4. Flight Lieutenant Arshweer Singh Thakur

Significance

These honours not only commend individual bravery and skill but also mark Operation Sindoor as a milestone in India’s counter-terrorism operations. The mission showcased,

- Tri-services coordination
- Indigenous operational capability under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- Strategic precision strikes without crossing international borders

PM Modi’s 79th Independence Day Whole Speech Key Points: Roadmap to a Viksit Bharat 2047

On August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the longest Independence Day address in India’s history—a 103-minute speech from the Red Fort—presenting a comprehensive vision for Viksit Bharat 2047. With a strong emphasis on self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat), technological innovation, and citizen empowerment, PM Modi detailed strategic reforms and flagship initiatives across defence, economy, agriculture, energy, and space, positioning India as a confident global leader.

Key Announcements & Policy Highlights

1. Strategic Autonomy and Security

- **Operation Sindoor:** Conducted after the Pahalgam attack using entirely Made-in-India weapons to dismantle Pakistan-based terror networks, sending a message that India will not accept nuclear blackmail.
- **Indus Waters Treaty Stand:** “Blood and water will not flow together” – signalling India’s intent to safeguard its water resources for domestic use.
- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra:** Development of an advanced weapon system to ensure rapid, precise defence responses; a nationwide security shield by 2035.

2. Atmanirbhar Bharat & Technological Self-Reliance

- **Made-in-India Semiconductor:** First domestic chip to be rolled out in 2025.
- **Opening Nuclear Sector to Private Players** to boost innovation and energy generation.
- **Call to Innovate:** Youth urged to design indigenous jet engines, social media platforms, fertilisers, and other critical technologies.

3. Energy & Resource Independence

- **National Critical Minerals Mission:** Exploration of 1,200 sites for key industrial and defence minerals.
- **National Deepwater Exploration Mission:** Harnessing offshore energy to cut foreign fuel dependence.
- **Clean Energy Milestone:** India reached 50% clean energy target in 2025, five years ahead of schedule.
- **Nuclear Expansion:** Plan to increase nuclear capacity 10-fold by 2047 with 10 reactors under construction.

4. Economic & Governance Reforms

- **Next-Generation Economic Reforms Task Force:** Overhaul of laws and regulations.
- Removal of 40,000+ compliances and 1,500 outdated laws.
- **GST Reform by Diwali 2025: Lower taxes on essentials to benefit MSMEs and local vendors.**

5. Employment & Demographic Dividend

- **PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana:** ₹1 lakh crore scheme, ₹15,000 to newly employed youth, targeting 3 crore beneficiaries.
- Focus on converting India’s demographic potential into economic strength.

6. Healthcare & Pharma Leadership

- Push for medicine self-reliance; India to develop its own vaccines and life-saving drugs.
- Encouragement for researchers to secure patents for pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

7. Agriculture & Rural Prosperity

- Recognition of farmers as “backbone of India’s prosperity”.
- PM Dhanya Dhanya Krishi Yojana for 100 backward farming districts.
- India ranks #1 in milk, pulses, jute; #2 in rice, wheat, cotton, fruits, vegetables.
- Agricultural exports have crossed ₹4 lakh crore.

8. Space & Innovation Leadership

- Indian Space Station preparations underway.
- Over 300 space startups innovating in satellite technology and deep space missions.

9. National Integrity & Border Security

- High-Powered Demography Mission to address illegal infiltration and protect border livelihoods.

Vision for Viksit Bharat 2047

PM Modi’s roadmap envisions,

- Technological dominance in critical sectors
- Complete energy self-reliance
- Globally competitive agriculture
- Citizen-led innovation
- Secure borders and internal stability

Ambanis Lead 2025 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List

India’s family-owned business dynasties continue to dominate the economic landscape, with the Ambani family topping the 2025 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list for the second year in a row. With a staggering valuation of ₹28.2 lakh crore, nearly one-twelfth of India’s GDP, the Ambanis remain far ahead of their peers in both scale and influence.

The Birla and Jindal families followed in second and third positions, highlighting the enduring power of legacy-driven enterprises in India’s rapidly evolving economy.

Ambanis at the Helm with ₹28.2 Lakh Crore

Led by Mukesh Ambani, the Reliance Industries empire continues to dominate across energy, telecom, retail, and digital platforms. Founded in 1957, Reliance remains at the heart of India’s industrial might. The Ambanis’ wealth rose 10% year-on-year, underscoring consistent growth even amid global uncertainties. Birlas and Jindals Secure the Next Spots

Kumar Mangalam Birla Family – ₹6.5 Lakh Crore

Rising to second place, the Aditya Birla Group, a fourth-generation conglomerate, expanded its valuation by ₹1.1 lakh crore this year. With roots tracing back to the 1850s, the group’s legacy spans cement, telecom, aluminium, and financial services.

Jindal Family – ₹5.7 Lakh Crore

Spearheaded by Sajjan Jindal, JSW Steel helped the Jindals jump to the third spot. Their 21% growth this year reflects the booming metals and mining sector, essential to India’s infrastructure surge.

Top 10 Indian Family Businesses in 2025

The combined valuation of the top three families—Ambani, Birla, and Jindal—is ₹40.4 lakh crore, equivalent to the GDP of the Philippines.

Ra nk	Family Name	Company	Valuati on (In Crore)	Leader	Sector
1	Ambani	Reliance Industries	28,23,100	Mukesh Ambani	Energy
2	Birla	Aditya Birla Group	6,47,700	Kumar Mangalam Birla	Cement
3	Jindal	JSW Steel	5,70,900	Sajjan Jindal	Metals
4	Bajaj	Bajaj Group	5,64,200	Sanjiv Bajaj	Financial Services
5	Mahindra	Mahindra & Mahindra	5,43,800	Anand Mahindra	Automobiles
6	Nadar	HCL Technologies	4,68,900	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	IT Services
7	Murugappa	Cholamandalam Finance	2,92,400	Vellayana Subbiah	Finance
8	Premji	Wipro	2,78,600	Rishad Premji	IT Services
9	Anil Agarwal	Hindustan Zinc	2,55,000	Anil Agarwal	Metals
10	Dani-Choksi-Vakil	Asian Paints	2,20,900	R. Seshasayee	Chemicals

Trends and Insights

- The threshold to enter the Top 10 jumped by ₹18,700 crore, signaling intense value creation
- The Anil Agarwal family (Hindustan Zinc) saw a 79% rise, marking the highest growth in 2025
- Energy, financial services, and software remain the dominant wealth engines
- Several families operate in multi-generational leadership structures, reflecting long-term governance stability

RBI's FREE-AI Framework: Shaping Ethical AI in the Indian Financial Sector

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rewiring financial services, from **fraud detection** to **credit underwriting**, but without clear guardrails, it can magnify risks. To steer this transition, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** set up a committee in **December 2024** to craft the **Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of AI (FREE-AI)** for the financial sector. The goal is simple but ambitious: **enable innovation while protecting trust, fairness, and stability**.

Committee, Mandate, and Methodology

Chaired by **Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya (IIT Bombay)** with members spanning policy, industry and academia, the Committee was tasked to assess adoption, review global approaches, identify risks, and recommend a governance framework tailored to India. It used a **four-pronged method**: wide **stakeholder engagements**, two **national surveys** (DoS and FTD) across banks/NBFCs/FinTechs, a scan of **global standards and laws**, and a gap analysis of **existing RBI guidelines** (IT, cybersecurity, outsourcing, digital lending, and consumer protection).

The Opportunity: Where AI Adds Value

AI promises **productivity gains** via process automation, **personalised customer experience** (multilingual chat/voice), sharper **risk analytics**, and **financial inclusion** using alternative data. India's diversity argues for **multilingual, domain-tuned models** (including efficient **SLMs** and LTD "trinity" models), and a **GenAI innovation sandbox** to speed safe experimentation.

The Risk Landscape: What Can Go Wrong

The report flags model and operational risks—**bias, opacity, hallucinations, model drift, data poisoning**, adversarial prompts, and **third-party concentration**. It notes systemic concerns (herding, **procyclicality**) and cybersecurity threats (automated phishing, deepfakes). Liability in non-deterministic systems is complex, and **consumer protection** requires clear disclosures and contestability of AI-led decisions.



Global Policy Context and India's Stance

Approaches vary: the **EU AI Act** uses horizontal, risk-tiered rules; **Singapore** blends toolkits (FEAT/Veritas) with guidance; **UK/US** lean principle-based; **China** regulates by AI type. India's line is **pro-innovation with safeguards**, backed by the **IndiaAI Mission (₹10,372 crore)** and the **AI Safety Institute (AISi)** to evaluate models and promote **safe, trusted AI**.

Seven Sutras (Core Principles) and Six Strategic Pillars

The Committee crystallises adoption around seven Sutras: **Trust, People First, Innovation over Restraint, Fairness & Equity, Accountability, Understandable by Design, and Safety, Resilience & Sustainability**. These are operationalised through six Pillars that pair **enablement** with **risk control**:

- **Infrastructure**: shared **data/compute, AI Innovation Sandbox**, sector models.
- **Policy**: proportional, risk-based guidance; clarity on outsourcing and vendor AI.
- **Capacity**: board to frontline **AI literacy**, Centers of Excellence, shared playbooks.
- **Governance**: board-approved **AI policy**, lifecycle controls, documentation.
- **Protection**: consumer **disclosures**, fairness testing, human-in-the-loop.
- **Assurance**: **cybersecurity** augmentation, incident reporting, independent audits.

Twenty-Six Recommendations: What RBI Wants Done (Essentials)

The report clusters actionable steps, notably: create **shared compute/data rails**; launch a **GenAI sandbox**; encourage **indigenous financial-grade models**; require **board-approved AI policies**; extend **product approval** and **audit** scopes to cover AI; strengthen **AI-specific cybersecurity** and **incident reporting**; ensure customers are **told when engaging with AI**; share sector **best practices**; and allow **lighter compliance** for clearly **low-risk** uses to spur inclusion.

Survey Insights: Current Adoption and Gaps

Adoption remains shallow: only **20.8%** (127/612) supervised entities use or are developing AI. **Tier-1 UCBs: 0%**; Tier-2/3 UCBs **<10%**; among **NBFCs, 27%** report usage; **ARCs: 0%**. Typical production/POC use cases: **customer support (15.6%), credit underwriting (13.7%), sales/marketing (11.8%), cybersecurity (10.6%)**. **35%** favour the **public cloud** for scalability. Governance maturity is low: only **~1/3** have **board-level oversight**; **~1/4** have formal **incident handling**. On tooling and controls: **SHAP/LIME 15%, audit logs 18%, bias validation 35%** (mostly pre-deployment), **periodic retraining 37%, drift monitoring 21%, real-time monitoring 14%**. Barriers cited: **talent gaps, costs/compute, data quality, and legal uncertainty**.

What these numbers mean: India risks a two-speed AI economy where large banks move ahead and smaller UCBs/NBFCs lag—precisely why **shared infra**, **clear guidance**, and **capacity building** are central to FREE-AI.

How FREE-AI Interlocks with Existing RBI Rules

The report clarifies fitment with **outsourcing** (vendor AI still needs RE accountability, with AI-specific clauses), **IT/cybersecurity** (extend controls to models, data pipelines, access/audit trails), **digital lending** (auditable, explainable credit models; **data minimisation/consent**), and **consumer protection** (disclosures, grievance redress against AI outcomes). It also proposes model registers, lineage, and traceability to aid supervision.

Way Forward (Exam-Ready Pointers)

Priorities include: operationalising the **AI Sandbox**; issuing a **board-policy template** and **incident reporting format**; promoting **multilingual inclusion models**; scaling **sector training** (boards, risk, audit, tech); and enabling **transparent, auditable AI** with **bias checks** and **human appeal** routes. For low-risk use (e.g., FAQ chat), a **proportional compliance** path can accelerate adoption without diluting safety.

Online Gaming Bill 2025 Passed: E-Sports Encouraged, Real Money Gaming Banned

Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025, marking a transformative moment for India’s digital entertainment landscape. The Bill aims to promote e-sports and online social games, while prohibiting harmful online money gaming platforms that have been linked to addiction, financial ruin, and even suicides. This legislation establishes a central regulatory framework to guide the development of the sector while protecting vulnerable users, particularly the youth.

Key Features of the Online Gaming Bill

Three Broad Categories

- The Bill divides online gaming into three major segments:
- E-sports, which are skill-based, competitive digital games played professionally.
- Online social games, played for recreation without monetary rewards.
- Online money games, involving stakes or deposits promising financial returns.

Encouragement and Regulation

- E-sports and social gaming are actively promoted, with the Bill calling for the creation of an Online Gaming Authority.
- The authority will provide policy coordination, regulatory oversight, and strategic development, including support for game developers and infrastructure building.

Strict Ban on Online Money Games

- A complete ban is placed on offering, operating, or facilitating real money online games, including games like Rummy, Poker, and other card-based gambling apps.
- These platforms often manipulate users with promises of easy money and are now associated with growing instances of suicide, financial distress, and fraud.

Penalties and Enforcement Mechanism

Criminal Liability

- Violation of the online money gaming provisions can result in up to three years imprisonment, a fine of ₹1 crore, or both.
- Repeat offences will invite harsher penalties — including three to five years’ imprisonment and fines up to ₹2 crores.

National-Level Legal Framework

- The Bill establishes a uniform national framework, ending the legal ambiguity that previously allowed such platforms to proliferate.
- It empowers the central government to regulate and restrict online money games in the public interest and in alignment with national security objectives.

Why This Bill Was Necessary

Explosive Growth with Little Regulation

- The past decade of digital expansion has seen a surge in online gaming platforms, many offering real money-based games under the guise of skill gaming.
- The lack of a legal framework led to unregulated growth, creating psychological and financial harm for users.

Social Consequences

- 32 suicides in the last 31 months have been directly linked to financial losses in real money games.
- Families across the country have reported bankruptcy, debt, and mental health disorders due to these platforms.

Economic and Security Risks

- Investigations revealed the use of online money gaming platforms in money laundering and even terror financing, triggering national security alarms.

Government’s Vision and Support

- Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw emphasized that this Bill aligns with the vision of a Digital India that is safe, innovative, and responsible. He noted:
- The rise of start-ups in digital gaming must be supported with a robust regulatory environment.
- The Bill ensures that creativity and entrepreneurship in digital entertainment are encouraged without compromising public welfare.

Speaker's Endorsement

- Speaker Om Birla underlined the urgency of the law, highlighting public demands for action against online gaming abuse and urging cooperation from all parties to support this critical legislation.

List of Outcomes of PM Modi's Visit to Japan 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan (29–30 August 2025) marked a historic milestone in India-Japan bilateral ties. Participating in the 15th Annual India-Japan Summit, the leaders of both nations unveiled a comprehensive list of strategic agreements designed to power the next decade of cooperation. From defense and digital technology to space exploration and clean energy, the visit laid the foundation for security, prosperity, and sustainability for future generations.

Strategic Vision: The Blueprint for the Next Decade
A central highlight was the India-Japan Joint Vision for the Next Decade, which outlines cooperation in eight key sectors,

- Economy
- Economic security
- Green growth
- Technology and innovation
- Health
- Mobility
- People-to-people ties
- State-prefecture collaboration

This vision will serve as a roadmap until 2035, steering joint efforts in strategic, economic, and social development.

Strengthening Defense and Security

India and Japan adopted a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, upgrading defense ties to address modern threats. The move strengthens the ongoing alignment under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership. Additionally, defense collaboration will extend through the India-Japan Human Resource Exchange Plan, aiming to facilitate the movement of 500,000 personnel, including 50,000 skilled workers from India over the next five years.

Technological Collaboration and Digital Future

A defining outcome was the India-Japan Digital Partnership 2.0, backed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that expands cooperation in,

- AI, semiconductors, IoT, and digital public infrastructure
- Talent development and startup incubation
- Research and joint innovation programs

Also launched was the India-Japan AI Initiative, which fosters cooperation on Large Language Models (LLMs) and supports the development of a trustworthy AI ecosystem.

Space and Science: Aiming for the Moon

The two countries finalized the Implementing Arrangement on the Chandrayaan-5 Lunar Polar Mission, deepening collaboration between ISRO and JAXA. Additional scientific engagements include,

- Joint Statement of Intent on Science and Technology
- Exchanges under the LOTUS Programme and Sakura Science
- Enhanced support for researchers and joint startups in quantum tech, biotech, and geospatial sciences

Economic Security and Critical Minerals

A key outcome was the India-Japan Economic Security Initiative, which focuses on,

- Supply chain resilience
- Cooperation in clean energy, semiconductors, telecom, critical minerals
- Development of joint stockpiles and processing technologies

The partnership is backed by a private investment goal of ¥10 trillion over the next decade.

Clean Energy and Sustainability

India and Japan are stepping up green cooperation through,

- The Joint Declaration on Clean Hydrogen and Ammonia
- A Memorandum on the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) for decarbonization
- A new Sustainable Fuel Initiative focused on biogas and biofuels
- MoUs on domestic wastewater management and environmental protection

Enhancing Connectivity and Mobility

- The launch of the Next-Generation Mobility Partnership promotes railways, aviation, shipping, and logistics under the Make in India banner.
- A focus on state-prefecture ties included plans for high-level bilateral exchanges and business forums in the Kansai and Kyushu regions.

Cultural and People-Centric Diplomacy

To nurture societal ties, India and Japan signed a Cultural Exchange MoU, promoting,

- Art exhibitions
- Museum partnerships
- Preservation practices

Education and foreign service ties will grow through an MoU between India's Sushma Swaraj Institute and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

15th India-Japan Annual Summit Joint Statement

At a time of rising global uncertainty, India and Japan reaffirmed their deep-rooted friendship and unveiled a bold vision for a secure, innovative, and prosperous future. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Japan (August 29–30, 2025) for the 15th Annual India-Japan Summit, both nations strengthened their Special Strategic and Global Partnership with a sweeping array of agreements in defense, trade, technology, and people-to-people cooperation. Hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru, the summit marked a defining moment in bilateral relations.

A Decade of Strategic Growth

Both leaders reflected on the decade-long expansion of India-Japan ties, rooted in shared democratic values, civilizational bonds, and a common strategic outlook. With over 70 ongoing dialogue mechanisms, the relationship has evolved into one of Asia's most dynamic bilateral partnerships, encompassing areas from maritime security to clean technology.

Three Pillars of Cooperation: Defense, Economy, and Exchange

The summit introduced three priority areas to shape cooperation over the next decade.

1. Defense and Security Cooperation

- Adoption of a Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation to elevate defense ties.
- Military exchanges and joint exercises like Veer Guardian, Tarang Shakti, and MILAN enhanced interoperability.
- Renewed commitment to joint defense technology development and maritime security.

2. Economic and Technological Partnership

- Launch of the India-Japan Economic Security Initiative focusing on critical goods, supply chain resilience, and cooperation in areas like semiconductors, telecom, and pharmaceuticals.
- Signing of a Memorandum on Critical Minerals, boosting industrial collaboration.
- Target set for ¥10 trillion Japanese private investment in India, doubling the previous goal.
- Upgradation of the India-Japan CEPA to foster more dynamic trade ties.

3. People-to-People and Talent Mobility

- Launch of an Action Plan for Human Resource Exchange to facilitate the exchange of 500,000 individuals, including 50,000 skilled professionals from India to Japan in five years.
- Expanded Japanese language and manufacturing skill education initiatives.
- Opening of India's new Consulate in Fukuoka, deepening regional connections.

Digital & AI Innovation: A New Frontier

The summit heralded the beginning of India-Japan Digital Partnership 2.0, enhancing collaboration in,

- AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) via the new AI Cooperation Initiative.
- Joint R&D projects, startup incubation, and establishment of data centers in India.
- Enhanced digital talent exchange programs and industry-academia platforms.

Clean Energy and Infrastructure Collaboration

- Renewed commitment to Clean Energy Partnership, including a Joint Declaration on Clean Hydrogen and Ammonia.

- Japan to introduce Shinkansen E10 trains and signaling systems in India's Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail.
- Support for sustainable growth through the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

Global and Regional Cooperation

- The two countries reaffirmed their roles as key Indo-Pacific partners, supporting:
- ASEAN centrality, the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision, and QUAD cooperation.
- Regional projects such as Act East Forum and development in Africa through the Japan-India Cooperation Initiative.

Stance on Global Issues

- Called for peace in Ukraine and Gaza, urging diplomacy and humanitarian assistance.
- Condemned North Korea's ballistic tests, and terrorist attacks including the April 2025 Pahalgam incident.
- Reiterated urgency for UN Security Council reforms, supporting each other's permanent membership bids.

Celebrating Milestones and Looking Ahead

As India and Japan approach the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2027, both leaders agreed to commemorate the milestone with mutual collaborations in science, business, and culture. The India-Japan Year of Science, Technology, and Innovation Exchange (2025) marked the 40th anniversary of their S&T cooperation, including the LUPEX lunar mission and advanced academic programs.

Educate Girls Wins 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award

On **August 31, 2025**, Educate Girls, officially known as the **Foundation to Educate Girls Globally**, achieved a historic feat by becoming the **first Indian organisation** to win the **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, one of Asia's most prestigious honours. The award recognises the NGO's relentless efforts in transforming the educational landscape for out-of-school girls in India's remotest regions.

This year's other awardees include **Shaahina Ali** from the Maldives for her work in environmental conservation and **Flaviano Antonio L Villanueva** of the Philippines for supporting marginalised communities.

About Educate Girls: Vision and Achievements

Founded in **2007** by **Safeena Husain**, a graduate of the London School of Economics, Educate Girls was born out of a mission to tackle **female illiteracy** in India. Husain left her corporate career in San Francisco and returned to India with a single-minded focus: to bring every girl child into school.

Impact at Scale

Starting in the desert villages of Rajasthan, Educate Girls identified communities most resistant to girls' education. The NGO's grassroots model led to:

- **Enrolment and retention** of over **2 million girls**
- Expansion to **30,000+ villages** across India
- **School retention rate exceeding 90%**

Innovation: Development Impact Bond (DIB)

In **2015**, the NGO pioneered the **world's first Development Impact Bond in education**, linking investor funds to measurable educational outcomes. This model attracted global attention and catalysed scalable interventions in India's rural education sector.

Pragati: Empowering Young Women

Recognising the educational gap among adolescent girls and young women, Educate Girls launched **Pragati**, an open-schooling programme aimed at learners aged 15–29. Starting with 300 participants, the programme now supports **over 31,500 learners**, helping them resume education and access better life opportunities.

Why the Organisation Was Awarded

According to the **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)**, Educate Girls was selected for its "**commitment to addressing cultural stereotyping through the education of girls and young women, liberating them from the bondage of illiteracy and infusing them with skills, courage, and agency to achieve their full human potential.**"

This recognition reflects the power of grassroots movements and innovative education financing to enact long-lasting social change.

Understanding the Ramon Magsaysay Award**Origins and Prestige**

Established in **1957** by the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** and the **Philippine government**, the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** is often dubbed the "**Asian Nobel Prize.**" It celebrates exemplary **leadership, integrity, and public service.**

Over the years, more than **300 individuals and organisations** across Asia have been honoured. Notable past Indian recipients include:

- **Arvind Kejriwal** (former Delhi CM, 2006)
- **Ravish Kumar** (journalist, 2019)
- **Bezwada Wilson** (activist, 2016)
- **Sonam Wangchuk** (environmentalist, 2018)

The Ceremony and Legacy

The award is formally presented each year on **November 7** at the **Metropolitan Theatre in Manila**, Philippines, and commemorates the birth of **Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay**, former President of the Philippines (born **August 31, 1907**). He was a WWII guerrilla leader, automobile mechanic, and a leader who rose from humble beginnings to become a symbol of people-centric governance.

His presidency was marked by anti-corruption reforms and a deep trust in the common citizen's dignity. His untimely death in a plane crash in **1957** gave rise to the award in his memory, celebrating "greatness of spirit" in public service.

Cabinet Approvals

- The **Union Cabinet** approved **four new components** under the **Central Sector Scheme of Special Development Packages (SDPs)** for **Assam and Tripura** with an outlay of **₹4,250 crore**, focusing on **Adivasi villages (₹500 crore)**, **Dimasa areas (₹500 crore)**, **ULFA groups (₹3,000 crore)** in Assam, and **tribal development in Tripura (₹250 crore)**, aimed at peace, infrastructure, employment, and socio-economic upliftment.
- The Cabinet approved the **MERITE Scheme (Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education)** with an outlay of **₹4,200 crore (2025-30)**, supported by a **₹2,100 crore World Bank loan**, to improve **technical education quality, equity, and governance** across **275 institutions**, benefitting **7.5 lakh students** and strengthening **research, innovation, and employability.**
- The Cabinet sanctioned **₹30,000 crore compensation** to **Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPCL, HPCL)** for **domestic LPG under-recoveries**, incurred due to **high global LPG prices (2024-25)**, ensuring **affordable LPG supply**, financial stability of OMCs, and continued support for schemes like **PM Ujjwala Yojana.**
- The Cabinet approved **targeted subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder** (up to **9 refills per year**) for **PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** consumers in **FY 2025-26** with an outlay of **₹12,000 crore**, benefitting **10.33 crore households**, and improving **LPG usage** among poor households.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the construction of the **4-lane Marakkanam–Puducherry (NH-332A)** stretch (46 km) on **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)** with a cost of **₹2,157 crore**, enhancing **connectivity** between Chennai, Puducherry, and Nagapattinam, boosting **tourism, trade, and employment (18 lakh man-days).**
- The Cabinet approved **Lucknow Metro Rail Project Phase-1B** (11.165 km, **12 stations**) with an outlay of **₹5,801 crore**, improving **connectivity in Old Lucknow**, linking **commercial hubs, King George's Medical University, and heritage sites**, reducing **traffic congestion**, cutting **carbon emissions**, and boosting **economic growth and tourism.**
- The Cabinet approved **semiconductor manufacturing projects** in **Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh** worth **₹4,600 crore**, including **India's first commercial compound fab (SiCSem, Odisha)**, **3D advanced packaging unit (Odisha)**, **ASIP facility (Andhra Pradesh)**, and **CDIL expansion (Punjab)**, expected to generate **2,034 direct jobs** and strengthen **Atmanirbhar Bharat in electronics.**

- The CCEA approved the **700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project** in **Shi Yomi, Arunachal Pradesh** with an outlay of **₹8,146.21 crore** and **72 months completion time**, producing **2,738 MU power annually**, with benefits including **12% free power for the state, local area development fund, infrastructure upgrades, and employment generation**.
 - The CCEA sanctioned construction of a **6-lane Capital Region Ring Road (Bhubaneswar Bypass, 110.875 km, Odisha)** under **HAM mode** at **₹8,307.74 crore**, connecting **Khordha, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack**, integrating with **NH-55, NH-57, NH-655**, and generating over **1.67 crore man-days employment**, boosting **freight efficiency and regional growth**.
 - The Cabinet approved development of a **Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi (Rajasthan)** at **₹1,507 crore**, with facilities including a **20,000 sqm terminal (2 MPPA capacity), 3,200m runway, and 7 aircraft bays**, addressing **traffic growth in Kota – the coaching hub and industrial capital of Rajasthan**, as the existing airport is inadequate.
 - The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** also announced that the **Kota-Bundi Greenfield Airport** will support **A-321 aircraft operations**, ensuring better **air connectivity** for the **education and industrial hub**, with Rajasthan providing **440.06 hectares of land**, making it a **critical infrastructure project** for the region.
 - The **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** reaffirmed the approval of the **6-lane Bhubaneswar Bypass (110.875 km, Odisha)** at **₹8,307.74 crore**, highlighting its role in **decongesting Khordha, Bhubaneswar, and Cuttack**, reducing **logistics costs**, linking to **economic and social nodes**, and creating large-scale **employment opportunities**.
 - The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved India's bid to host the **Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2030** in Ahmedabad, with the Gujarat Government to receive grant-in-aid if the bid is accepted. The city offers world-class stadiums, including the **Narendra Modi Stadium** which hosted the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup Final, and is expected to welcome athletes from **72 countries**, generating jobs, boosting tourism, and creating opportunities across sports, logistics, media, IT, and other sectors, while inspiring youth and fostering national pride.
 - The Cabinet approved the **restructuring and extension of the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme** till **March 31, 2030**, with an outlay of **₹7,332 crore** to benefit **1.15 crore vendors** including 50 lakh new ones. The scheme now offers higher loan amounts (₹15,000, ₹25,000, and ₹50,000), introduces **UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards**, and provides digital cashback up to ₹1,600, while expanding to census and peri-urban areas, continuing its success since 2020 of disbursing ₹13,797 crore loans to 68 lakh vendors and promoting digital, financial, and entrepreneurial empowerment.
 - The Cabinet cleared **four railway projects worth ₹12,328 crore**, including a **new 145 km rail line in Kutch, Gujarat** connecting the Rann of Kutch, Dholavira, Koteswar, and Narayan Sarovar, along with **multi-tracking projects**: Secunderabad–Wadi (₹5,012 crore), Bhagalpur–Jamalpur (₹1,156 crore), and Furkating–New Tinsukia (₹3,634 crore). Together these projects will add **565 km of new tracks**, benefit nearly **47 lakh people**, generate **2.5 crore employment days**, boost freight traffic by 68 MTPA, and reduce CO2 emissions, supporting the **PM Gati Shakti Plan** and enhancing logistics, tourism, and connectivity.
- ### State-wise August Month Important Events
- #### Andhra Pradesh
- 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](#))
 - **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](#))
- #### Assam
- The **Lok Sabha** has passed the **Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, which seeks to establish a new **IIM at Guwahati, Assam** — a key educational hub in the **North-Eastern region**. **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** announced a **financial grant of ₹550 crore** for the institute, fulfilling a **long-standing regional demand**. He also highlighted that **21 IIMs** currently operate in India and are gaining international recognition, with an **IIM Dubai campus** set to launch next month. The bill was passed **without discussion** due to **opposition uproar over the SIR issue**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- #### Bihar
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth **₹12,000 crore** in **Gaya, Bihar** on **22 August 2025**, focusing on **connectivity, energy, healthcare, urban development, and tourism**. Major highlights include the **Aunta–Simaria Bridge** and **Bakhtiyarpur–Mokama highway upgrade**, the **₹6,880 crore Buxar Thermal Power Plant**, the **Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital** in Muzaffarpur, **Namami Gange projects**, and new **Amrit Bharat Express** and **Buddhist Circuit Trains**. Additionally, housing for over **16,000 PMAY beneficiaries** was delivered. ([Click here to read article](#))

Chhattisgarh

- In a landmark discovery, **Deccan Gold Mining Limited** found a significant **Nickel–Copper–Platinum Group Elements (Ni–Cu–PGE) sulphide deposit** in the **Bhalukona–Jamnidih block, Chhattisgarh**, marking a major step toward securing **strategic minerals** vital for India's **clean energy** and **industrial future**. This discovery, part of a growing **critical mineral hub** alongside the adjacent Vedanta block, supports the government's push for **sustainable exploration** and aims to boost India's position in the **global strategic mineral supply chain**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Gujarat

- 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

- 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](#))

Maharashtra

- Mumbai is hosting the **largest-ever 18th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics**, with around **300 students** from **64 countries**—including **12 first-time participants**—competing in a **10-day event** organized by the **Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education**. The Olympiad promotes **global friendship and learning in astronomy,**

featuring **exams, team challenges, and sky observations**, while welcoming **war-affected nations** and achieving a **record number of women participants**. ([Click here to read article](#))

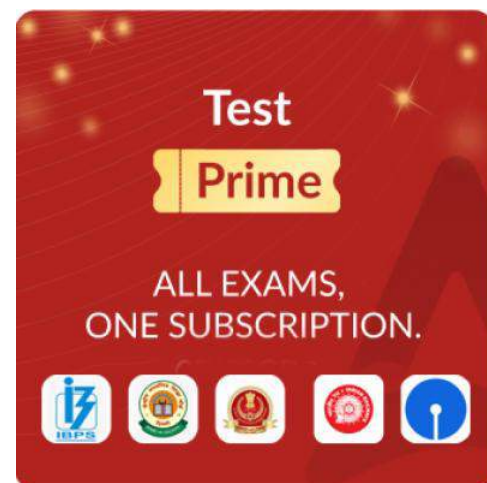
- Maharashtra has taken a significant step towards **inclusive education** by successfully implementing '**Disha Abhiyan**', an initiative aimed at providing **uniform and quality education** for students with **intellectual disabilities**. Developed by the **Jai Vakil Foundation** and approved by the **National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID)**, this innovative curriculum is currently being implemented in **453 special schools** across the state. Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** emphasized that Maharashtra is the **first state in India** to prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities through education. ([Click here to read article](#))

Punjab

- Punjab is set to become the **first state in India** to formally empanel **sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators** under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** and the **POCSO Act, 2012**. This initiative will **bridge communication gaps and strengthen access to justice and rights for children** by supporting court proceedings with trained professionals. These experts will be deployed district-wise and compensated as per legal provisions, ensuring **impartial and transparent outcomes**. The state has already pioneered broadcasting Punjab Vidhan Sabha proceedings in sign language. ([Click here to read article](#))

Rajasthan

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the development of a **Greenfield Airport at Kota-Bundi (Rajasthan)** at an estimated cost of **₹1507 crore**. The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** will develop the airport on **440.06 hectares** of land provided by the **Government of Rajasthan**, with facilities to support **A-321 aircraft, a 20,000 sqm terminal, and capacity for 2 million passengers per annum (MPPA)**. ([Click here to read article](#))



Sikkim

- Sikkim has made history as the **first state in India** to implement a **Sabbatical Leave Scheme for government employees**, offering **365 to 1,080 days of leave with 50% basic pay**, while ensuring **seniority and service continuity**. The scheme covers **both regular and temporary employees** and now includes a **decentralized approval system** to speed up decisions, reflecting the state's commitment to **progressive governance and employee empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Sikkim Chief Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** launched the **'Nari Adalat'** on the occasion of the first **Amma Samman Diwas** at Rongpo. This **community-based forum** is run by women to provide **accessible, informal justice** for minor disputes like **family disagreements, domestic violence, and marital issues**, especially in **rural and semi-urban areas**. The initiative aims to **empower women** by offering a **supportive, non-intimidating environment** that resolves conflicts locally without the need for formal court procedures. ([Click here to read article](#))

Tamil Nadu

- **Tamil Nadu** has unveiled its **State Education Policy (SEP)** as a direct counter to the Centre's **National Education Policy (NEP)**, retaining the **two-language system**, rejecting **public exams in Classes 3, 5, and 8**, and opposing **common entrance tests** for UG admissions. Released by **CM MK Stalin**, the SEP promotes **science, AI, and English**, urges education to be moved back to the **state list**, and emphasizes **investment in public institutions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Centre has approved** the renaming of Uttar Pradesh's **Jalalabad town to Parashurampuri**, as announced by Union Minister **Jitin Prasada**. Locals viewed the old name as a symbol of **"slavery"** ("ghulamii") and welcomed the change to reflect **Sanatan traditions**. The renaming is seen as part of a wider government effort to replace names associated with historical oppression. The official gazette notification for the change is expected soon. ([Click here to read article](#))

West Bengal

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple **development projects worth over ₹5,200 crore** in **Kolkata**, focusing on **modern transport infrastructure** and **urban connectivity**. Key highlights included the launch of **13.61 km of new metro lines**, connecting areas like **Noapara, Jai Hind Airport, Sealdah, and Hemanta Mukhopadhyay**, as well as the **foundation stone** for the **6-lane elevated Kona Expressway**. These developments aim to enhance the **Ease of Living, port connectivity, and economic growth** in **West Bengal**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Jammu and Kashmir

- The **Sawalkote Hydropower Project**, a **2,185 MW run-of-the-river plant** on the **Chenab River**, is being revived by **NHPC and JKSPDC** at a cost of **₹22,704 crore**. As **J&K's largest hydroelectric project**, it aims to generate **7,000 million units annually**, making the region **power-surplus** while also contributing to **flood control**. Its revival follows India's decision to pause the **Indus Waters Treaty**, marking a significant shift in regional water and energy policy. ([Click here to read article](#))

Delhi

- The **Delhi Legislative Assembly** has become the **first in India** to run entirely on **solar power** after commissioning a **500-kilowatt rooftop solar plant**, cutting electricity costs by about **Rs 1.75 crore annually**. Alongside this, it launched the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** under the Centre's **"One Nation, One Application"** initiative, marking a shift to **paperless, digital legislative functioning**. These steps reflect Delhi's move towards **sustainable governance and digital transformation**, with surplus power generation potential and advanced smart legislative tools set to be fully operational from the upcoming Monsoon Session. ([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](#))

August Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** commissioned **India's first indigenous 1MW green hydrogen plant** at Kandla; plans to expand to 10MW.
- **Western Railway** restarted heritage train services on the **Patalpani-Kalakund line** in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** launched **'Apna Ghar'** initiative for truck drivers with hygienic resting spaces.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan**, the first Common Central Secretariat (CCS) building under the Central Vista Project.
- **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** launched the **eSAKSHI portal** for MPLAD Scheme digital integration.
- **Eight major cooperatives** launched **'Bharat' Taxi**, a cooperative-driven ride-hailing service.
- **Indian Railways** conducted a trial run of Asia's longest freight train **'Rudrastra'** (4.5 km).
- **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** launched the logo, brochure, and website of **'Bharat Steel'**, an international steel conference.
- **India achieved 100 GW solar PV module manufacturing capacity** under ALMM, boosted by PLI Scheme.
- **Kargil apricots** made their **international debut in Saudi Arabia** under ODOP initiative.
- **NHAI** launched the **FASTag Annual Pass** across 1,150 toll plazas nationwide.
- **India's longest-route Vande Bharat Express** launched on the **Nagpur–Pune corridor**.
- **India launched its first Drone-AI powered artificial rain experiment** at Ramgarh Dam, Jaipur.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated **Plumeria Garden, Banyan Grove, and Babbling Brook** at **Amrit Udyan, Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
- The **Indian Tricolour** was hoisted for the first time at **Seattle's Space Needle** on **Independence Day**.
- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II)** and the **Delhi section of Dwarka Expressway**, worth ₹11,000 crore.
- A **six-day Indian Cinema Festival** inaugurated at **Eastern University, Sri Lanka**, to showcase India's cinematic diversity.
- **Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II)** project inaugurated to decongest **Delhi-NCR** and connect NH-44, NH-09, and Dwarka Expressway.
- **NABL** launched a **Medical Application Portal** under **ISO 15189:2022** to improve lab accreditation.
- Centre launched the **Anna-Chakra Supply Chain Optimisation Tool** in 30 States/UTs, saving ₹250 crore annually.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan**, the world's **largest tribal grassroots leadership programme**.
- **Press Registrar General** launched the **Press Sewa Portal** for simplified **newspaper registration**.
- India passed the **Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill 2025** to liberalise mining of **lithium and rare earths**.
- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched **28 initiatives** including **ECINET, 100% webcasting, and voter roll cleansing**.
- **Indian Railways** launched India's **first removable solar panel system** and **2x25 kV Electric Traction System**.
- **Union Cabinet** approved the **Online Gaming Bill** to regulate e-sports and ban online **betting**.
- **130th Constitution Amendment Bill** introduced to mandate removal of PM/CMs/Ministers detained for **30+ days**.
- **India Post** launched **IT 2.0 – Advanced Postal Technology (APT)** with **DIGIPIN, QR-payments, OTP delivery**.
- **NCERT** launched **Operation Sindoor educational modules** for schools to highlight **courage, patriotism, and security**.
- Govt launched **SabhaSaar**, an **AI-powered tool** to generate **Gram Sabha minutes** via **BHASHINI platform**.
- **Centre** set up **two high-powered committees** for **Viksit Bharat 2047** and **regulatory reforms**.
- **Kerala** declared **India's first fully digitally literate state**, training **21.87 lakh citizens** under **Digi Kerala**.
- **Ujjain** to host **"रूह मन्तिक" – PHDCCI's 2nd Global Spiritual Tourism Conclave** on 27 Aug 2025, inaugurated by CM Mohan Yadav & Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat; keynote by Gauranga Das Prabhu.
- **NHAI** launches **'Project Aarohan'** with Vertis Infrastructure Trust to support education of toll plaza employees' children, offering scholarships & mentorship (₹1 crore fund).
- **CG Power** inaugurates **OSAT Pilot Line Facility at Sanand, Gujarat** under India Semiconductor Mission; ₹7,600 crore investment, 5,000+ jobs expected.

Miscellaneous National News

- **India ranks 2nd globally in fish production**, announced by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh.
- **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** amended **Cosmetics Rules, 2020**, effective July 29, 2025.
- **Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2025** set a Guinness World Record with **3.53 crore registrations**.
- **Ministry of Textiles** promoting **GI registration** of handloom and handicrafts.
- **SECI** conducted its **first auction for Green Ammonia procurement**, discovering record-low price of ₹55.75/kg.
- **US President Donald Trump** doubled tariffs on **Indian imports to 50%**, citing sanctions enforcement.
- **Parliament** passed the **Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**, replacing the 1925 Act.
- **Kabak Yano**, Arunachal mountaineer, scaled **Mount Kilimanjaro** as part of Seven Summits expedition.
- **Prime Minister Modi's 'Mann ki Baat'** generated **₹34.13 crore revenue** since 2014.
- Over **29,000 deaths on national highways in first half of 2025**; govt targets halving fatalities by 2030.
- **Indian Railways** introduced a **Round Trip Package** with 20% rebate on return tickets during festival rush.

- Cabinet approved ₹8146.21 crore investment for the 700 MW Taro-II Hydro Project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Union Health Ministry launched SHRESTH Index for benchmarking state drug regulatory systems.
- UPSC to celebrate Centenary Year (1925–2026) with reforms and events.
- Lok Sabha passed Indian Ports Bill, 2025, modernizing the 1908 Act.
- Parliament passed National Sports Governance Bill & National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- India sent 5 tonnes of cowpea seeds to Fiji as humanitarian aid under Act East Policy.
- President Droupadi Murmu delivered her 79th Independence Day address highlighting India’s growth journey.
- India to establish global data standards, MoSPI to launch Service Production Index.
- PM Modi delivered 12th consecutive Independence Day speech, breaking Indira Gandhi’s record.
- PM Modi delivered longest-ever Independence Day speech (103 minutes).
- Supreme Court paused Delhi-NCR old vehicle ban pending review.
- NCDRC and 10 States achieved 100%+ case disposal rates;
- Tamil Nadu (277%), Rajasthan (214%), Telangana (158%) led.
- EPFO recorded its highest-ever net addition of 21.89 lakh members in June 2025, led by the 18–25 age group.
- Indian Railways flagged off its first industrial salt rake and expanded freight operations.
- Western Railway introduced Scott Transformer technology for efficient electrification.
- PM Narendra Modi to visit Japan & China (Aug 29–Sept 1, 2025) for India–Japan Annual Summit with PM Shigeru Ishiba and SCO Summit in Tianjin hosted by President Xi Jinping.
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) crosses ₹15 lakh crore GMV milestone, empowering MSEs, startups, women-led & SHG businesses under Digital India.
- India issues first national guidelines for veterinary blood transfusion services, with regulated blood banks, donor rights, and digital tracking.
- Centre forms three high-level committees, chaired by PM Modi, to celebrate 150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Patel & Birsa Munda and centenary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs launches UMEED Portal module for widows, divorced women, and orphans to get maintenance from Waqf-alal-aulad properties via Aadhaar-based system.

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	2023	To provide internship opportunities to youth in various companies across districts; aims to boost employability and inclusiveness. Female participation rose from 31% to 41% in the second round.
Mission Poshan 2.0	Ministry of Women & Child Development	2021	Combines Poshan Abhiyan and ICDS to improve nutrition for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children. Offers Take-Home Ration (THR) for 300 days.
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	Ministry of Women & Child Development	2017	Provides maternity benefits to pregnant women and lactating mothers to reduce maternal and infant mortality. Over 4.05 crore beneficiaries till July 2025.
MERITE Scheme	Ministry of Education	2025	Improve quality and employability in technical education; boost research, innovation, and NEP goals
Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana	Ministry of Labour and Employment	2025	Generate 3.5 crore jobs by 2027; incentives for first-time employees and employer subsidies
PM E-Drive Scheme	Ministry of Heavy Industries	Extended till 2028	Promote electric vehicles, support charging infrastructure, reduce subsidies as market matures
Stand-Up India Scheme	Ministry of Finance (Dept. of Financial Services)	2016	Provides loans to SC/ST & women entrepreneurs for greenfield enterprises in trading, manufacturing, services & allied agriculture sectors.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	Ongoing	Offers interest subvention on short-term crop loans ; in 2024–25, ₹17,811.72 crore disbursed.
Fortified Rice Scheme (extended till 2028)	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	2021 (Pan-India rollout under PM POSHAN)	To fight malnutrition & anaemia ; provides fortified rice, double fortified salt & fortified edible oil in school meals; supported by NDDB's Gift Milk Program .
SASCI – Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (Tourism projects)	Ministry of Tourism	2025	₹3,295.76 crore sanctioned for 40 projects ; promotes lesser-known destinations with 100% central funding; focus on responsible tourism, sustainability, local growth .
Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Lending Regulations	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	2017 (regulatory framework)	RBI-regulated digital lending system ensuring fair practices, transparency & borrower protection .
PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)	2020 (extended till 2030)	Cabinet approved restructuring & extension till 31st March 2030 with ₹7,332 crore outlay. Loan limits enhanced (₹15k, ₹25k, ₹50k), UPI-linked RuPay Credit Cards , cashback incentives, and coverage expanded to census & peri-urban areas , targeting 1.15 crore beneficiaries .
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	Ministry of Finance	2014	Celebrated 11th Anniversary (Aug 28, 2025) ; world's largest financial inclusion programme with 56.2 crore accounts , ₹2.68 lakh crore deposits, 56% accounts held by women , 38.7 crore RuPay cards issued. Strengthened DBT, social security schemes, and reduced financial exclusion.

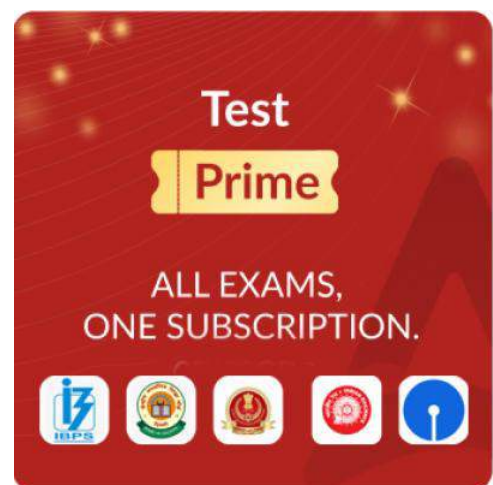
STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0	Assam	2025	Provides monthly financial aid to girl students from HS to PG level in government/aided institutions. Aims to reduce dropout rates and empower female education. Expected to benefit 4 lakh+ students.
Shramshree Scheme	Govt. of West Bengal (Labour Dept.)	2025	Rehabilitation of Bengali migrant workers returning to state; provides ₹5,000/month for 1 year (or until employment), plus skill training, job cards & loans for self-employment.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **Krasheninnikov Volcano** in Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula** erupted today for the first time in **600 years**, sending an **ash plume 4 km high**. Authorities issued an **orange aviation warning**, citing risks to aircraft. The eruption is believed to be linked to a recent **8.7 magnitude earthquake** and subsequent aftershocks in the region. Though **no populated areas are at risk**, officials have urged **residents and tourists** to avoid traveling near active volcanoes. The eruption, last seen around **1463**, is being closely monitored as a **historic geological event**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Hong Kong** has launched a **stablecoin regulatory framework** requiring **full reserves and selective licensing**, reinforcing its ambition to become a **leader in digital finance**. The move ensures **stability, transparency, and innovation**, while aligning with global standards like the **U.S. GENIUS Act** and **EU's MiCA**, marking a new era for **programmable finance and asset tokenization**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- A **high-level delegation from the Philippines**, led by **Secretary of Agriculture Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr.**, met with **Indian trade bodies** including **APEDA** and the **Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF)** to boost **food imports from India**. The Philippines agreed to import more **rice, buffalo meat, vegetables, fruits, and peanuts**, while also committing to **remove restrictions on Basmati rice imports**. This move aims to **reduce reliance on Chinese products, diversify supply chains, and strengthen Indo-Philippine relations**, promoting **food security and economic growth**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- Moldova has become the **107th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, a global initiative launched by India and France in 2015 at COP21. The ISA aims to **boost solar energy investments by 2030** and reduce technology and financing costs. It promotes solar use across sectors like agriculture, health, transport, and power generation. Moldova's ratification was formalized in a meeting between its ambassador to India and ISA officials, highlighting ongoing global cooperation to advance renewable energy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India and Russia** signed a key **protocol to boost industrial cooperation** during the **11th Working Group session** held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Co-chaired by DPIIT Secretary **Amardeep Singh Bhatia** and Russian Deputy Minister **Alexey Gruzdev**, the meeting focused on collaboration in **aluminium, fertilizers, railways, mining**, and emerging areas like **aerospace, carbon fibre, 3D printing, and critical minerals**. Discussions included **joint development of small aircraft engines, a wind tunnel facility, and underground coal gasification**, reaffirming both countries' commitment to **strategic industrial ties and technology transfer**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move**, **Illinois** has become the first U.S. state to **ban AI platforms** like ChatGPT from providing **therapy services without human oversight**, under the **Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources Act**. Signed by **Governor JB Pritzker**, the law prohibits AI from performing core **therapeutic functions** like diagnosis, treatment planning, or emotional assessments unless supervised by a **licensed professional**. This comes amid rising concerns over AI's misuse in **mental health**, echoing warnings from the **American Psychological Association**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially classified **Hepatitis D (HDV)** as a **cancer-causing virus**, citing its strong link to **liver cancer** when co-infected with **Hepatitis B (HBV)**. Since HDV requires HBV to replicate, the **Hepatitis B vaccine** becomes the most effective shield against this dangerous coinfection. HDV significantly accelerates **liver cirrhosis**, increases cancer risk by up to six times, and is spreading through **blood, sexual contact, and childbirth**. With **vaccine coverage in India** still around 50%, experts urge stronger **prevention, screening, and public awareness** to curb HDV transmission and protect vulnerable populations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic peace deal** brokered at the **White House**, **Azerbaijan** and **Armenia** officially agreed to end decades of **conflict** over **Nagorno-Karabakh**, with **President Donald Trump** hosting the summit. The agreement includes reopening **transport routes**, establishing **diplomatic and business ties**, and constructing a new **Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity** linking **Azerbaijan** to its **Nakhchivan exclave**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Aadhaar face authentication** recorded a historic **19.36 crore transactions** in **July 2025**, up from **5.77 crore** in July 2024, showing rapid adoption across **banking, telecom, oil, and government services**. The month saw a **22% increase** over June and a **record 1.22 crore transactions** on **1 July** alone. Over **150 entities** now use the **AI-driven** technology for secure, **contactless verification**, including integration with **NSAP, NMC medical colleges**, and recruitment bodies like **SSC and RRB**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated its **9th anniversary** in 2025, achieving a remarkable **Rs 5.4 trillion Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)** in FY 2024–25. Since its launch in 2016, GeM has onboarded **1.5 lakh women-led enterprises, startups, self-help groups (SHGs), artisans, and micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**, promoting **transparent, inclusive, and efficient public procurement**. Recent reforms include the removal of **caution money, rationalization of vendor fees, and transaction charge reductions**, benefiting **97% of orders**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Cambodia and Thailand** have reached a **consensus on ceasefire details** and signed an agreement during the General Border Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur, with **third-party observers from the US, China, and Malaysia**. Both countries pledged to cease all types of firing, maintain current troop levels without reinforcements along the border, and ensure humane treatment of captured soldiers as per **international humanitarian law**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Australia** will formally **recognise the State of Palestine** at the **UN General Assembly in September**, Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** announced, aiming to support a **two-state solution**, promote a **ceasefire in Gaza**, and isolate **Hamas**. The decision follows similar moves by **France, Britain, and Canada**, and responds to Israel's actions in Gaza and expansion of **illegal settlements**. Albanese emphasized that recognition depends on **Palestinian Authority reforms** and Hamas's exclusion from future governance, signaling growing **international pressure** on Israel for a **political resolution**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- Nepal is offering climbers the chance to scale **97 Himalayan peaks free of charge** for the next two years to boost tourism in its **lesser-known and underdeveloped regions** of **Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces**. These peaks, ranging from **5,970 to 7,132 meters**, aim to attract visitors and promote the country's **unexplored mountain destinations**, supporting local economies through mountaineering tourism. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Singapore held the **3rd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)** in **New Delhi**, led by senior ministers including **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and **Singapore's Deputy PM Gan Kim Yong**, to deepen their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**. The discussions focused on six key pillars: **Digitalization, Skill Development, Sustainability, Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, and Connectivity**. Emphasizing synergy between **government and industry**, the Roundtable also engaged with the **India-Singapore Business Roundtable (ISBR)** to explore next-phase opportunities in trade, investment, and regional cooperation in line with India's **Act East** and **Indo-Pacific Vision**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The U.S. national debt has surged past a historic **\$37 trillion**, reaching this milestone years earlier than expected, driven by pandemic-related borrowing and recent government spending. The **Treasury Department's** latest report highlights the growing fiscal burden on taxpayers. Earlier this year, former President **Donald Trump** signed a Republican tax cut and spending bill projected to add **\$4.1 trillion** to the debt over the next decade, according to the **Congressional Budget Office**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Putin-Trump summit in Alaska** ended without a deal on the **Ukraine conflict** after nearly three hours of talks at the Elmendorf-Richardson military base. While both leaders called the meeting **productive** and expressed hope for future progress, no agreement was reached. **Putin** emphasized ending the conflict by addressing its root causes and warned against sabotage, while **Trump** highlighted the potential for dialogue and said final agreements depend on Ukraine and NATO. The brief joint press conference signaled cautious optimism but no immediate resolution. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **WHO has declared Kenya free of sleeping sickness** (human African trypanosomiasis), making it the **10th country** to eliminate this neglected tropical disease. This achievement follows Kenya's earlier success in eradicating Guinea worm disease in 2018, marking significant progress toward a **Africa free of neglected tropical diseases**. Sleeping sickness, caused by parasites transmitted by tsetse flies, affects neurological health in advanced stages. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued a warning that **extreme heat is impacting millions globally**, stressing the urgent need for early warning systems and heat-health action plans. Key points include Frequent heatwaves and record-high temperatures are being recorded worldwide. July saw prolonged heatwave conditions in Europe, notably Sweden and Finland with temperatures above 30°C. Maximum temperatures exceeded 42°C in regions like West Asia, southern Central Asia, North Africa, southern Pakistan, and southwestern USA. Extreme heat has contributed to devastating wildfires, causing casualties and deteriorating air quality. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In August, India's **Russian oil imports surged to 2 million barrels per day (bpd)**, making up **38% of its total crude oil imports** of 5.2 million bpd. This marks an increase from 1.6 million bpd in July, as Indian refiners prioritized **economic factors** in sourcing. Meanwhile, imports from **Iraq and Saudi Arabia declined**, with Iraq falling to 730,000 bpd from 907,000 bpd and Saudi Arabia dropping to 526,000 bpd from 700,000 bpd in July. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Dubai has launched the **"One Freezone Passport,"** a unified business licensing system allowing companies to operate across all Dubai free zones with a **single license**, eliminating the need for multiple permits. This initiative, announced by the Dubai Free Zones Council, reduces costs and simplifies operations, supporting the **Dubai Economic Agenda D33** to double GDP by 2033. It offers benefits like **tax exemptions, full foreign ownership**, and faster market entry, attracting global firms and startups while boosting Dubai's position as a competitive **global business hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Saudi Arabia have agreed to **deepen maritime relations** by forming a **Joint Working Group (JWG)** focused on cooperation in **shipping and logistics**. This strategic partnership builds on their strong **economic and socio-cultural ties** and aligns with India's **Maritime India Vision 2030**, Saudi Arabia's **Vision 2030**, and India's **Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**. The collaboration aims to boost investment in India's **port and shipping ecosystem**, including projects like **Vadhavan Port** and the **Outer Harbour Project** at VO Chidambaranar Port, leveraging a **USD 3 billion Maritime Development Fund**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and the **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)** — comprising **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia** — signed the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** in **Moscow** to initiate **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** negotiations. The ToR, signed by officials from both sides, aims to **boost exports**, support **MSMEs**, and **diversify market access**. In **2024, India-EAEU trade** reached **\$69 billion**, a **7% increase** over 2023. The agreement is expected to unlock **untapped trade potential**, attract **investments**, and create a **long-term trade partnership**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Fiji Prime Minister **Sitiveni Rabuka** will visit **India** from **August 24–26, 2025**, accompanied by his wife and key officials, including **Health Minister Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu**. During the visit, he will hold **bilateral talks** with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, who will also host an **official lunch** in his honour, and call on **President Droupadi Murmu**. Rabuka is also scheduled to deliver a lecture titled **‘Ocean of Peace’** at the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**. The visit aims to **strengthen bilateral cooperation** and expand **people-to-people ties** between India and Fiji. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Iran has launched a two-day **missile drill** titled **“Sustainable Power 1404”** in the **Gulf of Oman** and **northern Indian Ocean**, marking its **first major military exercise** since the **12-day war in June**. The drills showcased **cruise missiles** like *Nasir* and *Qadir*, and involved **surface/subsurface warships**, **air units**, and **electronic warfare brigades**. Iran’s **IRIS Sabalan** and **IRIS Ganaveh** warships successfully hit sea targets. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Over **500 humanoid robots** from **16 countries** competed at the **World Humanoid Robot Games** in **Beijing**. The four-day event featured **26 competitions** including **track and field**, **soccer**, **dancing**, and **kickboxing**. Highlights included a robot completing the **100-meter sprint** in **21.5 seconds** and impressive agility in kickboxing. However, some challenges surfaced, such as robots collapsing during soccer and relay races, highlighting both the **progress and limitations** in humanoid robotics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Dubai International Airport (DXB) has launched an **AI-powered passenger corridor** that enables travelers to clear immigration in seconds without showing documents, using **facial recognition** and **pre-registered biometric data**. Part of the **“Travel Without Borders”** initiative, this system can process up to **10 passengers simultaneously** in just **14 seconds**, eliminating traditional passport controls. Initially deployed in **Terminal 3’s First and Business Class lounges**, it builds on Dubai’s 2020 **“smart tunnel”** and aims to create a **frictionless, secure travel experience**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- 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](#))

BANKING & FINANCE

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	AU Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU Small Finance Bank (AU) has made history by becoming the first Small Finance Bank in India to receive in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transition into a Universal Bank. • This landmark achievement highlights AU's strong business model, sound governance, and unwavering commitment to financial inclusion. • The approval validates AU's growth into a full-service bank offering a wide range of retail, business, and digital banking solutions.
2.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Baroda has launched global UPI features on its bob ₹ Pay app, enabling cross-border payments for Indian and NRI customers. • Key features include UPI Global Acceptance in eight countries (Mauritius, Singapore, UAE, USA, France, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan), real-time inward remittances from Singapore, and UPI access for NRIs with NRE/NRO accounts. • The app supports seamless international digital transactions with a limit of ₹1,00,000 per transaction, enhancing convenience and flexibility for users worldwide.
3.	ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICICI Bank has reduced its minimum average balance (MAB) requirement for new savings accounts in urban areas from Rs 50,000 to Rs 15,000 following strong customer backlash. • In semi-urban areas, the MAB was cut from Rs 25,000 to Rs 7,500, while for existing customers in rural and semi-urban regions, it remains Rs 5,000. This revision comes shortly after ICICI initially raised the MAB sharply, contrasting with other banks like SBI, which scrapped minimum balance rules, and many others maintaining lower thresholds between Rs 2,000 and Rs 10,000.
4.	ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICICI Bank has reported the lowest employee attrition rate among major private sector banks for the past three fiscal years, dropping to 18% in FY25 from 24.5% in FY24 and 30.9% in FY23. This strong employee retention is credited to competitive remuneration and a better working environment. • Other private peers like HDFC Bank (22.6%), Axis Bank (25.5%), and Kotak Mahindra Bank (33.3%) also showed declining attrition rates, reflecting a broader industry trend due to a stabilized job market and reduced recruitment post-pandemic.
5.	IDFC FIRST Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDFC FIRST Bank has launched RemitFIRST2India, a zero-fee digital remittance platform designed for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to send money to India swiftly and securely. • In partnership with SingX, the platform supports transfers from Singapore and Hong Kong with plans for expansion, offering live transaction tracking, competitive forex rates, and a seamless, paperless experience. New users also receive extra forex margin benefits on their first three transfers.
6.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axis Bank has launched the 'Lock FD' feature to protect customers from digital banking fraud by preventing premature closure of fixed deposits via online channels. • Once activated, customers can only close their fixed deposits by visiting a branch in person with ID verification, blocking any digital closure attempts. • This new security measure adds a crucial layer of protection against phishing, malware, and hacking risks, ensuring safer management of term deposits.

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
7.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) will begin imposing nominal charges on IMPS online transfers above ₹25,000 from August 15, 2025, ranging from ₹2 to ₹10 plus GST, depending on the amount. While branch-based IMPS remains unaffected, salary package account holders and select current account types are exempt. Corporate account holders will see revised charges from September 8, 2025. This move reflects SBI's effort to balance service delivery with cost management while maintaining waivers for key customer segments.
8.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the occasion of the 79th Independence Day, SBI launched a collateral-free personal loan scheme for Agniveers enrolled under the Agnipath scheme, offering loans up to ₹4 lakh with zero processing fees and a flat 10.50% interest rate valid till September 30, 2025. The repayment tenure aligns with the Agnipath service period. Additionally, SBI has revised IMPS charges for online fund transfers above ₹25,000, now ranging from ₹2 to ₹10 plus GST, effective August 15, 2025.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank, effective August 4, 2025. Saraswat Bank will assume all assets and liabilities of New India Co-operative Bank, and its customers will enjoy full protection of their interests. The move, endorsed by the shareholders of both banks, strengthens the cooperative banking framework and expands the service reach for customers.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI's decision to settle a \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap without a rollover highlights the central bank's confidence in India's strong rupee liquidity position, which currently stands at over ₹3.60 lakh crore. By selling dollars and absorbing rupees, the RBI is ensuring liquidity remains stable without disturbing the money markets. Experts believe this is a sound move since the banking system has adequate cash flow, minimizing the risk of market disruptions. (Click here to read article)
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent RBI Survey of Professional Forecasters projects that India's merchandise imports will grow by 2.5% in 2025-26, more than twice the 1.2% growth expected in exports, leading to a widening trade imbalance and a current account deficit of 0.8% of GDP, rising slightly to 0.9% in 2026-27. Despite this, India's economy is forecast to grow steadily, with GDP expanding by 6.4% in 2025-26 and 6.7% the following year. Private consumption and investments are also expected to grow moderately, while inflation is projected to remain manageable, with headline CPI rising from 3.1% to 4.4% over the same period. (Click here to read article)
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed foreign entities holding Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) to invest their surplus rupee balances in central government securities, including treasury bills. This move, part of the updated Master Direction on Non-resident Investment in Debt Instruments, enables unused rupee funds from international trade settlements to be directed into secure Indian debt instruments, enhancing investment flexibility for non-residents.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has introduced three key initiatives to enhance banking convenience and financial inclusion: (1) doorstep re-KYC camps at the panchayat level from July to September to help update customer details and provide financial services like micro-insurance and pension schemes; (2) a simplified claims process for deceased customers, easing fund access for legal heirs and nominees; and (3) upgraded features on the Retail Direct platform to improve user experience. (Click here to read article)

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
6.	RBI Liquidity Management Framework Review 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen control over short-term interest rates, ensure market stability, discontinue 14-day variable repo, retain WACR as operating target, phase out SPDs, and manage surplus liquidity effectively.
7.	RBI Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH) – Sept 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To capture household perceptions of price changes and inflation expectations (3 months & 1 year), providing key input for monetary policy decisions.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
1	SEBI fines ₹10 lakh on Rupesh Satish Dalal HUF for insider trading in HDFC merger shares	Insider trading using UPSI received through son's contact with Deloitte insider; trades on April 1, 2022, exited April 4, 2022; violation of PIT Regulations.	April 2022 (Case investigated for Nov 2021 – Apr 2022, penalty imposed in 2025)
2	SEBI mandates ₹10 lakh minimum investment in Special Investment Funds (SIFs)	AMCs must ensure daily compliance; units frozen on breach; 30-day window to rebalance; auto-redemption if not corrected.	Immediate (as per SEBI notification, 2025)
3	NSE settles charges with SEBI for ₹40.35 crore	Charges of sharing sensitive unpublished information with NDAL and third-party vendors (Feb 2021–Mar 2022). Settlement ends proceedings without admission of guilt.	Settlement in 2025
4	SEBI renews recognition of MCXCCL as clearing corporation	Renewal valid for 3 years (July 31, 2025 – July 30, 2028).	July 31, 2025
5	SEBI proposes threshold-based regulation for Related Party Transactions (RPTs)	Materiality thresholds based on turnover slabs; new ceilings up to ₹5,000 crore; 60% fewer transactions need shareholder nod.	Proposal open for comments till Aug 25, 2025
6	SEBI allows fractional share trading under innovation sandbox	Bengaluru startup Xaults approved to test fractional shares and smart contract settlements; full-scale testing only after regulatory sandbox clearance.	August 2025
7	SEBI approves The Wealth Company (Pantomath Group) to start mutual fund business	First fund house in India founded by a woman (Madhu Lunawat). Certificate of Registration granted.	July 18, 2025
8	SEBI proposes SWAGAT-FI: Unified access portal for trusted foreign investors	Simplifies compliance; extends registration validity to 10 years for verified investors like sovereign funds, central banks, etc.	Proposal (2025)
9	SEBI proposes overhaul of large IPO structure	Retail quota reduced to 25%, QIB allocation increased to 60%; expanded anchor investor framework to include insurers, pension funds.	Proposal (2025)
10	SEBI proposes higher thresholds for RPT shareholder approval	Scale-based norms: up to 10% of turnover, or higher absolute limits (₹2,000–3,000 crore); easing compliance for large firms.	Proposal (2025)
11	SEBI proposes definitions for algorithmic & proprietary trading	Defines algo trading and proprietary trades in stock broker regulations; considers broader broker access to NDS-OM; move linked to Jane Street ban.	Proposal (July 2025)
12	SEBI proposes relaxation of Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rules	Extended timelines (up to 10 years for 25% MPS) based on post-issue market cap buckets.	Proposal (2025)

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
13	SEBI takes action against 886 entities for fraudulent trade practices	Actions under PFUTP Regulations (Apr 2024–Jun 2025); includes mis-statements in financial reports; US-based Jane Street barred.	June–July 2025
14	SEBI proposes reforms to block deal framework	Minimum order size raised to ₹25 crore; wider price band (3%) for non-F&O stocks; same-day disclosure mandate.	Proposal (2025)
15	SEBI Chairman proposes extra incentives for first-time women MF investors	Aim: financial inclusion; tied to AMFI’s campaigns like ‘Investment Ka Sahi Kadam’ and ‘Bharat Nivesh Rail Yatra’.	Announced in 2025
16	SEBI approves LIC’s reclassification as public shareholder in IDBI Bank	LIC’s voting rights capped at 10% despite 49.24% stake; must reduce to 15% within 2 years; no special rights or board control.	Approved in 2025

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per August 2025

- **Fitch Ratings** has revised India’s **FY26 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%**, citing steady demand from **infrastructure spending** but cautioning against risks from **US tariffs** and redirected global supply. While **cement, power, construction, and petroleum** are set to benefit, **export-driven sectors like IT, auto components, and pharma** may face headwinds due to tariff uncertainty. **Telecom, oil & gas, utilities, and construction** remain relatively insulated. Fitch also noted India’s strong stance in **trade negotiations** with the US over **agriculture and dairy concessions**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **Income Tax Department** has awarded the **₹811.5 crore PAN 2.0 project** to **LTIMindtree Ltd**, aiming to **digitally transform PAN and TAN management**. Cleared in **November 2024** and scheduled to go live in **18 months**, the project will enhance **security, efficiency, and taxpayer convenience**, handling services like **Aadhaar-PAN linking, allotment, reissuance, and validation** on a unified digital platform. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India has uncovered **₹7 trillion in GST evasion** across **91,000 cases** between **April 2020 and March 2025**, according to **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**. Of this, only **₹1.29 trillion** has been **voluntarily paid back** by taxpayers. Notably, **₹1.78 trillion** is linked to **fake input tax credit (ITC)**, with just **7% recovery**. The rise in evasion coincides with the government’s deployment of **advanced tech tools**—including **e-invoicing, risk-based audits, facial recognition, and E-way bill tracking**—which have significantly strengthened **GST compliance and fraud detection**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India’s **services sector** surged to an **11-month high** in **July 2025**, with the **HSBC India Services PMI** rising to **60.5**, up from 60.4 in June, according to **S&P Global**. This marks the **48th straight month of growth**, driven by **robust**

- **international demand** and **steady domestic sales**. The **finance and insurance sectors** led the growth, while **real estate and business services** lagged due to cautious spending. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Deloitte India** has forecasted India’s economic growth to range between **6.4% and 6.7%** for the fiscal year 2025-26, building on a solid growth rate of 6.5% in 2024-25. This optimistic outlook is anchored by resilient domestic demand, easing inflation, and strategic global trade initiatives. A dynamic consumer base, resilient capital markets, and a globally competitive workforce. Ongoing and upcoming trade talks with the **UK, US, and European Union** are expected to enhance market access, income, and employment opportunities. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **RBI** has kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.5%** during the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting held on **August 4–6, 2025**, maintaining a **neutral stance**. The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** stands at **5.25%**, and both the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** rate and the **Bank Rate** remain at **5.75%**. This decision follows a **100 bps rate cut** since February and comes ahead of the **festive season**. The **FY26 GDP growth forecast** is retained at **6.5%**, while **inflation** is projected at **3.1%**, down from **June’s 3.7%**, though **CPI** may rise to **4.9% in FY27**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Goldman Sachs** has trimmed India’s **GDP growth forecast to 6.5% for 2025 and 6.4% for 2026**, citing concerns over **US-India trade tensions** after **President Trump’s 25% tariffs** on Indian goods. While the investment bank expects some **tariffs may be negotiated**, it warns that the main risk lies in **policy uncertainty**, which could hurt **investor confidence**. On inflation, **forecasts have been lowered to 3.0%**, driven by easing **vegetable prices**, though Goldman cautions that such **low inflation is rare** in India and remains **vulnerable to shocks**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

ECONOMY NEWS

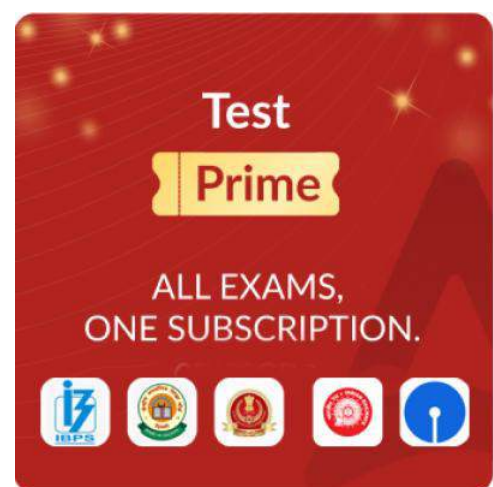
- Karnataka's **GST evasion** surged to **₹39,577 crore** in FY25, over **five times** higher than the previous year, with **1,254 cases** and **9 arrests**. Voluntary tax payments totaled **₹1,623 crore**. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** clarified that **CGST authorities did not issue notices based solely on UPI transactions**, which were sent by state GST offices affecting mainly small traders. This marks a sharp rise in **tax evasion detection** compared to ₹7,202 crore in FY24 and ₹25,839 crore in FY23, highlighting increased efforts to curb evasion while addressing traders' concerns. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is poised to become the **world's most sought-after consumer market**, according to **Morgan Stanley**, driven by a **major energy transition**, rising **credit-to-GDP ratio**, and increased **manufacturing share in GDP**. Key factors include **lower oil intensity**, **growing exports (especially services)**, **fiscal consolidation**, and **declining inflation volatility**, all contributing to **macro stability**, **lower real interest rates**, and a **shift in household investments toward equities**. Catalysts for further growth include a potential **US trade deal**, **capex boosts**, **loan acceleration**, and **improving trade with China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Centre has proposed a **two-slab GST overhaul** with **5% and 18% rates**, alongside a **40% tax on sin goods** like **tobacco and pan masala**, aiming to **simplify the tax structure**, **boost consumption**, and **ease compliance**. Key changes include shifting most **common-use goods** from 12% to 5%, and **aspirational items** like TVs from 28% to 18%. The reform also includes **structural fixes** like correcting **inverted duty structures**, **streamlining classifications**, **faster registrations**, and **automated refunds**, with implementation likely by **Q3 FY 2025-26**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **merchandise exports rose 7.3% to \$37.24 billion in July 2025**, driven by growth in **engineering goods, gems and jewellery, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals**. Notably, **electronics exports surged 34%** to \$3.77 billion. However, imports increased by **8.6% to \$64.59 billion**, pushing the **trade deficit to an eight-month high of \$27.35 billion**. From April to July, exports grew to \$149.20 billion, imports to \$244.01 billion, and total goods and services exports reached \$277.63 billion, up 5.23% year-on-year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bank credit growth has slowed to 1.4% in FY26**, down from 2.3% last year, while **deposit growth remains steady at 3.4%**. According to RBI data, year-on-year, deposits rose **10.2%** and advances **10%** by July 25. The slowdown in credit is mainly due to **weaker corporate demand**, as companies shift toward **market instruments like bonds**. Despite **rate cuts**, **housing loan demand** hasn't picked up significantly, though overall **financial flows to the commercial sector have increased**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **foreign exchange reserves rose by \$4.74 billion** to reach **\$693.62 billion** as of August 8, 2025, driven by increases in **foreign currency assets (\$2.37 billion)**, **gold reserves (\$2.16 billion)**, **special drawing rights (\$169 million)**, and the country's **IMF reserve position (\$45 million)**. Despite a recent dip from a record high of \$704.885 billion in September 2024, the Reserve Bank of India continues to monitor and manage the forex market to maintain **exchange rate stability** and prevent sharp rupee depreciation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **net direct tax collection for FY26 fell 3.95% to ₹6.64 lakh crore**, mainly due to a **10% rise in refunds** totaling ₹1.35 lakh crore, despite a smaller **1.87% dip in gross collections**. Key components include **corporate tax (₹2.29 lakh crore)**, **non-corporate tax (₹4.12 lakh crore)**, and **Securities Transaction Tax (₹22,362 crore)**, with the government targeting a **12.7% increase** in total direct tax collections to ₹25.20 lakh crore. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **retail inflation dropped to an 8-year low of 1.55% in July 2025**, mainly due to a sharp fall in **food prices** (food inflation at -1.76%). This is the first time inflation fell below the RBI's target band in over six years. Despite a recent rise in **fuel prices (2.67%)**, the RBI kept the **repo rate steady at 5.50%**, maintaining a **neutral stance** with an FY26 inflation projection of **3.1%**. The decline offers the RBI flexibility to support growth amid global trade tensions and economic challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **S&P Global Ratings upgraded the long-term credit ratings of 10 Indian financial institutions**—seven banks and three finance companies—following India's **first sovereign rating upgrade in 18 years** to **'BBB/Stable/A-2'**. Citing India's **strong economic growth, improved inflation management, and structural reforms** like the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, S&P highlighted enhanced **credit culture**, **faster bad loan recovery**, and reduced **systemic risk**. India's GDP growth averaged **8.8% (2022-24)**, with projections of **6.8% annually** for the next three years, supporting a positive outlook for the financial sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's WPI inflation remained in the negative zone for the second consecutive month**, registering **-0.58% in July**, largely due to falling prices of **food articles, mineral oils, crude petroleum, and basic metals**, as per the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. The **WPI food index** dropped by **-2.15%**, while **deflation in primary articles and fuel & power** stood at **-4.95%** and **-2.43%** respectively. However, **manufactured products saw inflation rise to 2.05%**. The drop aligns with a cooling **retail inflation (CPI)**, which also hit an **eight-year low of 1.55%** in July. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **GDP growth** is projected at **6.7% in Q1 FY2026**, surpassing the RBI's target of **6.5%**, according to ICRA. While overall growth slows from **7.4% in Q4 FY2025**, the **services sector** leads with an **8.3% rise**, offsetting declines in **industry (4.0%)** and **agriculture (4.5%)**. Strong **government spending**, including a **52% surge in central capital expenditure** and rising state outlays, along with **robust project activity**, support the growth. Improved **monetary transmission** and potential **GST rationalisation** are expected to boost urban consumption ahead. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **eight core industries** grew by **2% in July 2025** compared to last year, driven by higher production of **steel (12.8%)**, **cement (11.7%)**, **fertilisers (2%)**, and **electricity (0.5%)**, according to the **Commerce and Industry Ministry**. These industries, including **coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products**, together form **40.27%** of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. While **coal (-12.3%)**, **crude oil (-1.3%)**, **natural gas (-3.2%)**, and **petroleum refinery output (-1%)** declined due to monsoon effects, the overall steady growth reflects robust demand from **infrastructure projects** and a good **kharif sowing season**. Cumulative growth for April-July 2025 stood at **1.6%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's growth momentum** remains strong despite **US tariff hikes**, says **S&P Global Ratings**, which upgraded India's **sovereign credit rating to "BBB"** with a **stable outlook** — the first upgrade in **18 years**. Citing **robust domestic demand, fiscal consolidation, and infrastructure reforms**, S&P projects **6.8% average GDP growth** over the next three years. India's **low trade dependence** shields it from global shocks. The upgrade also raised ratings for major **banks and NBFCs**, reflecting broad economic **resilience and policy continuity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India suspends 11% cotton import duty** until September 30, signaling willingness to address **U.S. tariff hike** on Indian goods. The move aims to ease pressure on India's **garment industry**, which faces nearly **60% tariffs** on exports to the U.S., and helps maintain competitiveness against **China and Bangladesh**. The waiver may be extended depending on future negotiations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's economy is projected to grow at a **robust 6.7% in Q1 FY26**, driven by **strong government capital expenditure** (up **52% YoY**), **reviving rural demand**, and a **resilient services sector** including **finance, IT, and transport**. While **construction and agriculture** showed solid performance, concerns persist due to **slower industrial output** (IIP growth at **2%**) and **climate/trade disruptions**. Despite these headwinds, the **RBI's 6.5% growth forecast** suggests steady momentum, with official **NSO GDP data due on August 29** expected to confirm this trend. ([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](#))
- 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'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](#))

BUSINESS NEWS

- India's **UPI platform** reached an **all-time high in July 2025** with **1,947 crore transactions worth ₹25.1 lakh crore**, showing a **35% rise in volume** and a **22% growth in value** year-on-year. With **62.8 crore daily transactions** and deeper reach into **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, UPI continues to dominate India's **cashless economy**, driven by **innovations like credit on UPI, recurring payments, and strong government support**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has rolled out **Aadhaar-based face authentication nationwide**, allowing customers to conduct **banking transactions using facial recognition** without fingerprints or OTPs. Developed under **UIDAI**, the feature enhances **financial inclusion and digital security**, especially benefiting the **elderly, differently-abled, and those with worn fingerprints**, while ensuring safe banking during **health emergencies**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Following the resignation of **MD & CEO Girsh Kousgi**, **PNB Housing Finance** has appointed **Jatul Anand** as **Executive Director** and **Valli Sekar** as **Chief Business Officer — Affordable Business**. While Kousgi will step down officially on **October 28, 2025**, he will assist with the transition. Despite an **18% fall in share price**, the company reaffirmed its focus on **growth, asset quality, and margins**, even as it faces the challenge of multiple senior-level exits. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **US decision to impose a 25% tariff** on Indian goods is projected by **SBI Research** to reduce **India's FY26 GDP growth by 25–30 bps**. The tariff will mainly affect **electronics, gems and jewelry, pharmaceuticals, and machinery**, which together make up nearly **half of India's exports to the US**. While this creates **deflationary pressures**, India's **diversified export base** and support from **PLI schemes and GST reforms** may cushion the impact. Experts believe that the **US economy faces higher risks** than India due to this move. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **palm oil imports fell 10% in July 2025**, totaling **858,000 tons**, due to **contract cancellations**, while **soy oil imports surged 38% to 495,000 tons**, the highest in three years, aided by **delayed shipments and competitive prices**. With **sunflower oil imports down 7%**, India's **total edible oil imports still rose 1.5% to 1.53 million tons**, the highest since November. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **tea production dropped 9% in June 2025 to 133.5 million kg**, compared to **146.72 million kg** in June 2024, due to **adverse weather and pest infestations**. Output from both **North and South India** fell, impacting **big planters and small growers alike**. The fall was evident across all major tea types, including **CTC, orthodox, and green tea**, raising concerns for the industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a strategic move to boost its **value-added product portfolio**, **JSW Steel Limited** has committed **₹5,845 crore** to expand **Cold Rolled Grain-Oriented (CRGO)** steel manufacturing in collaboration with **JFE Steel Corporation** of Japan. This expansion includes increasing the **Nashik facility's capacity from 50,000 TPA to 250,000 TPA** at a cost of **₹4,300 crore**, and upgrading the **Vijayanagar unit** in Karnataka from **62,000 TPA to 100,000 TPA** with **₹1,545 crore** investment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Business Confidence Index (BCI) surged to **149.4** in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025-26 (April-June), up from **139.3** in the previous quarter, according to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). This jump reflects strong optimism among Indian businesses about the near-term economic outlook. **Positive expectations across key indicators**, 78.7% of firms expect production to increase. 79.1% anticipate higher domestic sales. 66.5% foresee growth in exports of final products. 54.3% expect increased imports of raw materials, signaling growth in domestic production. Nearly 61% expect pre-tax profits to rise. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major international expansion move, **Tata Motors** has announced its **largest acquisition since Jaguar Land Rover (2008)** by agreeing to acquire **Italian commercial vehicle manufacturer Iveco** for **€3.8 billion** (excluding its defence business). This also marks the **Tata Group's biggest deal since acquiring Corus** in 2007. The acquisition aims to merge the **complementary capabilities** of both companies, with minimal **overlap in geographies or industrial assets**, resulting in a **diversified commercial vehicle giant** with **combined sales of over 540,000 units annually** and revenues of **€22 billion**. The deal gives Tata Motors a stronghold across **Europe (50%), India (35%), and the Americas (15%)**, and strengthens its position in **emerging markets in Asia and Africa**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **electronics exports soared over 47% year-on-year to \$12.4 billion** in **Q1 FY26**, driven largely by a **55% surge in mobile phone exports**, according to the **India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA)**. **Non-mobile electronics**, including **solar modules, networking equipment, and chargers**, also grew by **37%**. With momentum building, ICEA projects **FY26 exports to hit \$46–50 billion**, up from **\$38.6 billion** in FY25. Chairman **Pankaj Mohindroo** emphasized the need for a **domestic supply chain** and **globally competitive Indian brands** to ensure long-term **electronic sector sovereignty and value addition**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Tata AutoComp Systems** has signed an agreement to fully acquire the Slovakia-based **IAC Group** through its British subsidiary, **Artifex Interior Systems Limited**. While the company has not revealed the financial details, the acquisition involves a conditional agreement to purchase 100% of IAC Group's share capital, expanding Tata AutoComp's global footprint in the auto components sector. ([Click here to read article](#))



- India's **soybean imports** are set to rise by **60%** in 2024/25 to a record **5.5 million tons**, driven by **cheaper prices** compared to palm oil. Meanwhile, **palm oil imports** are expected to drop **13.5%** to a five-year low of **7.8 million tons**, and **sunflower oil imports** may fall **20%** to **2.8 million tons**. This shift will increase India's total **edible oil imports** by about **1%** to **16.1 million tons**, impacting **global vegetable oil markets** by boosting soybean prices while pressuring palm oil futures. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** has appointed **merchant bankers and legal advisers** for three years to manage **minority stake sales** in LIC, **public sector banks (PSBs)**, and **insurance firms** at suitable times. This move supports the government's aim to meet **SEBI's minimum public shareholding (MPS)** norm of **10%**, especially for LIC, which currently has only **3.5% public float**. The Centre may sell small stakes in LIC and up to five PSBs, and plans to make LIC eligible for **benchmark indices** by increasing its public float, boosting long-term investment potential. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)** has launched a **paid tax planning and filing feature** on its **JioFinance app**, developed in partnership with **TaxBuddy**. The module offers both **self-service (starting at ₹24)** and **expert-assisted (from ₹999)** tax filing options, aiming to simplify **ITR filing** and improve **deduction accuracy**. Key tools include a **tax planner** for projecting and reducing future liabilities, **regime comparisons**, and guidance on **deductions under sections like 80C and 80D**, helping users save money and avoid dependence on costly intermediaries. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India** is poised to become the **world's most sought-after consumer market**, according to **Morgan Stanley**, driven by a **major energy transition**, rising **credit-to-GDP ratio**, and increased **manufacturing share in GDP**. Key factors include **lower oil intensity**, **growing exports (especially services)**, **fiscal consolidation**, and **declining inflation volatility**, all contributing to **macro stability**, **lower real interest rates**, and a **shift in household investments toward equities**. Catalysts for further growth include a potential **US trade deal**, **capex boosts**, **loan acceleration**, and **improving trade with China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **merchandise exports** rose **7.3%** to **\$37.24 billion** in **July 2025**, driven by growth in **engineering goods, gems and jewellery, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals**. Notably, **electronics exports surged 34%** to **\$3.77 billion**. However, imports increased by **8.6%** to **\$64.59 billion**, pushing the **trade deficit to an eight-month high of \$27.35 billion**. From April to July, exports grew to **\$149.20 billion**, imports to **\$244.01 billion**, and total goods and services exports reached **\$277.63 billion**, up **5.23%** year-on-year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **BEML Limited**, a state-owned Indian company, has secured its **first overseas rail-metro contract** from **Malaysia**, valued at **USD 1 billion**, for the **retrofit and reconditioning** of their **Mass Rapid Transport System**. This milestone coincides with BEML's expansion, including a new **warehousing facility in Bengaluru** supporting aerospace growth. BEML, under the Ministry of Defence, operates across **defence, rail and metro, mining, and construction** sectors, with advanced manufacturing and R&D facilities across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **exports to the US** rose **19.94%** to **\$8.01 billion** in **July 2025**, while **imports increased 13.78%** to **\$4.55 billion**, making the **US India's top trading partner** during **April–July FY26**, with **exports reaching \$33.53 billion (↑21.64%)** and **imports \$17.41 billion (↑12.33%)**. India also recorded **strong export growth to China (↑27.39% in July)**, while trade declined with countries like the **Netherlands, Singapore, and Australia**. A **bilateral trade agreement** with the US is under negotiation, with the **6th round of talks scheduled for August 25**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has committed **\$150 million** to the **H-DREAM Fund** managed by **HDFC Capital Advisors** to develop **25,000 green-certified affordable and mid-income homes** in India. This investment aims to mobilize up to **\$850 million** from institutional investors, supporting sustainable housing projects certified under **EDGE** standards. The fund targets India's significant affordable housing gap, estimated at **18 million units** in Tier-I and Tier-II cities, promoting energy efficiency and bridging the real estate shortfall. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **19th China Brand Festival** held in **Shenzhen**, the **TopBrand 2025 "Top 500 Global Brands"** list was unveiled. **Microsoft** claimed the top spot with a brand value of **\$1,062.5 billion**, followed closely by **NVIDIA (\$1,046.8B)** and **Apple (\$997.7B)**. The rest of the **top 10** includes **Amazon, Alphabet (Google), Saudi Aramco, Walmart, Meta (Facebook), Berkshire Hathaway, and Broadcom**. **PetroChina** emerged as the **highest-ranked Chinese brand**, placing **14th**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To combat rising **UPI fraud**, the **NPCI** has directed all banks and apps to **discontinue peer-to-peer (P2P) 'collect requests'** on UPI by **October 1, 2025**. This change, affecting platforms like **PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm**, will ensure **all P2P transactions are payer-initiated**, eliminating a high-risk feature often exploited in scams. With **Rs 2,000 per transaction caps** proving insufficient to curb fraud, this move enhances **user control, security, and transparency** in India's digital payment ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Foxconn** has begun **iPhone 17 production** at its newly operational **Bengaluru factory**, making it the company's **second-largest iPhone manufacturing unit** globally after China. The **Devanahalli-based facility**, built with a **\$2.8 billion (₹25,000 crore)** investment, is now producing devices on a **small scale**, supplementing output from Foxconn's **Chennai unit**. This marks a major boost for **India's electronics manufacturing** and Apple's **diversification beyond China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's electronics exports** surged **47% in Q1 of FY 2025-26**, reaching **\$12.4 billion**, driven by the 'Make in India' initiative, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced. Electronics production soared from **\$31 billion to \$133 billion** since **2014-15**, with **mobile phone manufacturing** playing a central role—**99.2% of phones sold in India are now made domestically**, up from just **26% in 2014**. India now hosts **300+ mobile factories**, transforming from an importer to the **world's second-largest phone maker**, with **exports rising eightfold to ₹3.27 lakh crore** in 2024-25. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) market** is set to **grow 3.5 times from \$73 billion in FY2025 to \$258 billion by 2030**, driven by rising investments from institutional investors, pension and insurance funds, foreign participation, and greater retail awareness, according to Knight Frank. The rapid expansion in infrastructure spending—central government outlay rising from \$12 billion in FY2015 to \$75 billion in FY2025—is fueling this surge. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **eight core industries** grew by **2% in July 2025** compared to last year, driven by higher production of **steel (12.8%), cement (11.7%), fertilisers (2%), and electricity (0.5%)**, according to the **Commerce and Industry Ministry**. These industries, including **coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products**, together form **40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. While **coal (-12.3%), crude oil (-1.3%), natural gas (-3.2%), and petroleum refinery output (-1%)** declined due to monsoon effects, the overall steady growth reflects robust demand from **infrastructure projects** and a good **kharif sowing season**. Cumulative growth for April-July 2025 stood at **1.6%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **marine fish production** surged to **44.95 lakh tonnes** in 2023-24, growing at **8.9% annually**, with **91.1% sustainable fish stocks** reported by ICAR-CMFRI. The government's **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** drives **climate-resilient strategies**, funding **fishing harbours, cold storage, and post-harvest facilities**. Research under **NICRA** and training via **MPEDA's NETFISH** program support sustainable fishing, improve seafood quality, and boost fisher incomes, strengthening India's marine fisheries sector amid climate challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **interest payments** on government debt are projected to **reach ₹12.76 trillion in FY26**, nearly **tripling** from a decade ago, driven by **high borrowing costs**, especially from **pandemic-era loans**. While **bond yields have eased** since FY24, repayments on earlier bonds are pushing costs higher. The **total government debt** surged from **₹71 trillion (51.5% of GDP) in FY16** to a projected **₹200 trillion (56.1% of GDP) by FY26**. The government is using **buybacks and bond switches** to smooth out repayments and reduce rollover risks. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **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](#))
- 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. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- 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. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- 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. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- At the 48th AGM of Reliance Industries, Anant Ambani announced that Jamnagar and Kutch will become major clean energy hubs, with massive projects like the Dhirubhai Ambani Giga Energy Complex and a 5.5 lakh-acre solar site in Kutch—three times the size of Singapore. The projects include solar, battery storage, and green hydrogen production, aiming to supply 10% of India's electricity in the next decade. By 2026, Reliance will operationalize battery (100 GWh) and electrolyser gigafactories (3 GW), producing green ammonia, green methanol, and sustainable aviation fuel, establishing India as a global clean energy leader. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$4.38 billion to \$690.72 billion for the week ending August 22, 2025, after a previous rise, per RBI data. The decline was driven mainly by a \$3.65 billion drop in foreign currency assets, while gold reserves rose by \$665 million. Reserves with the IMF and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) also slightly decreased. The RBI often intervenes in forex markets to stabilize the rupee, focusing on market orderliness rather than specific exchange rates. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

Partnership/Initiative	Key Focus Areas	Impact/Outcome
BSNL & NRL	Deployment of India's first 5G CNPN in the refinery sector; integration of Industry 4.0 technologies	Enhanced operational efficiency, strengthened cybersecurity, new job and innovation opportunities
Ministry of Ayush & IshVed-Bioplants / AIIA-AIIMS	Conservation of rare medicinal plants through tissue culture; setting up National Medicinal Plants Garden	Biodiversity preservation, public education, and advancement in traditional medicine and healthcare
SAP & Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)	Digital skilling in logistics and transport; curriculum development; fostering research and job creation	Employment enablement, industry-academic collaboration, and enhanced logistics capacity
India & Philippines	MoUs in Defence, Digital Technology, Space, Maritime Cooperation, Tourism, and Cultural Exchange	Strengthened bilateral ties, enhanced cooperation across strategic and cultural sectors

Partnership/Initiative	Key Focus Areas	Impact/Outcome
Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Bhashini	Language inclusivity in innovation; integration of multilingual tools in programs and support for startups	Empowerment of grassroots innovators, inclusive digital ecosystem, vernacular innovation promotion
UIDAI - ISI	Biometric security, fraud & anomaly detection, algorithm improvement	Improved Aadhaar security and reliability
GIFT City - GTU	IFSC education, fintech research, centre of excellence	Skilled workforce and stronger global financial position for Gujarat
BSNL - Global Tech Giants (Ericsson, etc.)	5G, AI training, telecom R&D, digital skills development	Future-ready workforce and support for Atmanirbhar Bharat
NFR - IIT Guwahati	Eco-friendly packaging, biodegradable plastics, sustainability	Reduced plastic waste and greener railway operations
India - Zambia Trade Agreement	Cooperative trade cooperation, export promotion through Indian missions	Strengthened cooperative trade ties with Zambia and boosted export potential
NCEL - Senegal & Indonesia MoUs	Expanding cooperative trade, building global trade alliances	Broadened global reach for Indian cooperatives and enhanced international footprint
UIDAI - Starlink Satellite Communication Pvt Ltd	Aadhaar-based authentication for satellite internet users; secure, paperless KYC	Seamless onboarding, enhanced compliance, demonstrates Aadhaar's scalability in global tech partnerships
Haryana & Rajasthan - Yamuna Water Pipeline Project (MoU)	Joint DPR for underground water pipelines (577 MCM transfer from Hathnikund to Rajasthan districts)	Boosts water availability in arid districts (Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu), promotes inter-state cooperation on water security
Assam Rifles - IIIT Manipur (MoU)	Drone technology for defence & security; Advanced Drone Training & Refresher Course	Enhances surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics; strengthens defence-academia collaboration; DGCA-certified training for personnel
RRU-SSB MoU (Alwar)	Training, academic collaboration, joint R&D, certified education in national security	Blends field expertise with research, strengthens professionalism & leadership in security forces
India-WFP Letter of Intent	Supply of fortified rice, humanitarian food aid, combating hunger globally	Ensures dependable food supply in crisis zones, highlights India as a global food security partner
India-Bhutan MoU (Agriculture)	Agriculture & allied sectors, livestock health, research, post-harvest management, value chain	Enhances food security, promotes sustainable farming, boosts rural prosperity & bilateral cooperation

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
PB Balaji	CEO (effective 17 November 2025)	Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)	Succeeds Adrian Mardell; currently Group CFO of Tata Motors; will lead Reimagine strategy for luxury and sustainability
Rajiv Anand	MD & CEO (Aug 25, 2025 – Aug 24, 2028, pending approval)	IndusInd Bank	Former Deputy MD at Axis Bank; extensive leadership in retail and wholesale banking
S. Radha Chauhan	Chairperson	Capacity Building Commission, New Delhi	Retired IAS officer; former Secretary, DoPT; will advance Mission Karmayogi implementation
Jürgen Westermeier	President & MD for India and South Asia (from Sep 1, 2025)	Airbus	Will lead sales and operations; oversee Airbus-Tata ventures and strengthen Make in India collaborations
Rajiv Pratap Rudy	General Secretary (Administration)	Constitution Club of India	Retained post for 25 years, defeated Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, received cross-party support

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Ravi Narayanan	CEO	SMFG India Credit	First leadership change post-SMFG acquisition, signals new strategic direction for the NBFC
Shah Rukh Khan	Brand Ambassador	Zomato	Leads "Fuel Your Hustle" campaign, highlights hustle culture, appears across media platforms
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	Additional Charge as Governor	Nagaland	Governor of Manipur given additional charge after demise of La Ganesan (80), who passed away in Chennai
Noel N Tata	Director	Tata Sons	Appointed after Ratan Tata's passing; approved at AGM; Shapoorji Pallonji Group supported resolutions
Satish Golcha (IPS, 1992 batch, AGMUT cadre)	Commissioner of Police	Delhi	Replaces Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh (interim); earlier DG (Prisons), ex-CBI, DGP Arunachal Pradesh
Srinivasan K Swamy	President (2025-26)	Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI)	Fourth term; coincides with AAAI's 80th anniversary; Jaideep Gandhi elected Vice-President
Indranil Bhattacharyya	Ex-Officio Member	RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)	Executive Director, Monetary Policy Dept.; replaces Rajiv Ranjan; 28+ years of central banking experience
Anish Dayal Singh	Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)	PMO / India	1988-batch IPS (Manipur cadre), ex-CRPF & ITBP chief, known for anti-Naxal ops & troop welfare initiatives, will report to NSA Ajit Doval.
Justice Alok Aradhe	Judge (recommended)	Supreme Court of India	Currently CJ of Bombay HC; career began in MP HC; served in J&K & Karnataka; SC will reach full strength of 34 judges.
Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi	Judge (recommended)	Supreme Court of India	CJ of Patna HC; originally from Gujarat HC; in line to become CJI in 2031.
Rajiv Ranjan	Vice-President & Chief Risk Officer	New Development Bank (NDB)	Veteran RBI banker with 35+ years' experience; MPC member; appointed for 5 years (from Aug 2025).
Teymur Abasgulyev	CEO	Nayara Energy	CFO of SOCAR Turkiye; replaces Alessandro Des Dorides (resigned due to EU sanctions); Nayara runs Vadinar refinery & 6,750+ petrol pumps.
Arjun Chowdhry	MD & CEO	Grihum Housing Finance	Ex-Citibanker & Axis Bank leader in retail lending/credit cards; succeeds Manish Jaiswal (stays advisor till Dec 2025).
Girish Kousgi	CEO (expected)	IIFL Home Finance	Outgoing MD of PNB Housing Finance; will succeed Monu Ratna.
S Krishnan	Non-Executive Chairman (till Mar 2028)	J&K Bank	Ex-MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank & Tamilnad Mercantile Bank; 40+ years of banking experience.
Dinesh K Patnaik	High Commissioner of India	Canada	Senior diplomat, currently Ambassador to Spain; appointment signals thaw in Indo-Canada ties.
Christopher Cooter	High Commissioner of Canada	India	Appointed by new Canadian PM Mark Carney; reflects effort to reset ties after strained relations.
Raghav Gupta	Education Head (India & APAC)	OpenAI	Former Coursera APAC MD; to lead AI-driven education initiatives, India AI Mission partnerships.
Urjit Patel	Executive Director (3-year term)	International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Former RBI Governor (2016-2018); will represent India & constituency at IMF, effective Aug 28, 2025.

AWARDS

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
M.S. Swaminathan Global Award for Food and Peace	Dr. Arenare	Food Security and Peace	Launched by PM Modi to honour scientists from developing countries; Dr. Arenare recognized for fighting hunger in Nigeria
Equator Initiative Award 2025	Bibi Fatima Women's SHG, Dharwad	Biodiversity Conservation	Only Indian group among 10 global winners from 103 countries
Gallantry and Service Medals 2025	1,090 Police, Fire, Civil Defence & Correctional personnel	Public Safety and National Security	Includes 233 Gallantry Medals, 99 President's Medals, 758 Meritorious Medals, mostly to J&K and LWE areas
National Anubhav Awards 2025	15 retired government employees	Public Administration Storytelling	8th edition, marks 10 years of Anubhav Portal, notable one-third women representation
Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2025	Neeraj Ghaywan (Best Film & Director for <i>Homebound</i>)	Cinema and Film Direction	Film explores displacement and emotional return; stars Janhvi Kapoor and others
Miss Universe India 2025	Manika Vishwakarma	Beauty & Pageantry / Modeling	Model from Ganganagar, Rajasthan; previously Miss Universe Rajasthan 2024; crowned in Jaipur; will represent India at the 74th Miss Universe in Thailand; praised by Urvashi Rautela & Riya Singha among 50 contestants

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summit	BIMSTEC Summit 2025	Thailand	PM Modi announced the cultural initiative 'SaptaSur'; promotes regional unity through arts and culture among BIMSTEC nations.
Event	BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival – 'SaptaSur'	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Organized by ICCR; inaugurated by EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar; features performers from 7 BIMSTEC nations; enhances regional cultural diplomacy.
Conference	M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference	New Delhi	Inaugurated by PM Modi; themed " Evergreen Revolution – The Path to Bio-Happiness "; honors Dr. Swaminathan's contributions to agriculture and food security.
Workshop	WHO-IRCH Workshop on Herbal Medicine Safety & Regulations	Hotel Fortune, Ghaziabad	Held from Aug 6–8, 2025 ; organized by Ministry of Ayush and WHO; attended by 15+ countries including USA, Japan, Brazil; focuses on global herbal medicine safety.
Initiative	Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI) Strategic Plan	Ramsar COP15 (Global Platform)	Developed by Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam with IUCN; aims to protect wetlands, build resilience, and conserve biodiversity across borders till 2030.
Summit	SEMICON India 2025 (4th edition)	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi	Inaugurated by PM Modi on 2 Sept 2025 ; Theme: "Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse"; 350+ exhibitors, 50+ global CXOs, 33 nations; organized by SEMI & India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) under MeitY; focus on fabs, packaging, AI, smart manufacturing, design innovation
Leadership	India elected Chairman of Executive Board, AIBD	23rd General Conference, Phuket, Thailand	India re-elected to chair after 2016; AIBD (est. 1977 under UNESCO) has 92 members from 45 nations; theme: "Media for People, Peace & Prosperity"; reinforces India's leadership in Asia-Pacific broadcasting cooperation & policy-making

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
International Parliamentary Meet	68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC), 2025	Barbados (Oct 5–12, 2025)	Led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla ; delegation includes Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh; discussions on democracy, tech in governance, climate change, financial transparency & multilateralism; Birla to address General Assembly on “ <i>The Commonwealth: A Global Partner</i> ”; youth roundtable on cyber-bullying & gang violence.
Defence / Medicine	MILMEDICON-2025 (International Military Medicine Conference)	Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi	Inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth ; organized by DGMS (Army); part of Indian Army’s <i>Year of Reforms</i> ; focus on innovations, challenges & reforms in military medicine; themes: trauma care, AI in healthcare, battlefield response, women in combat leadership; marks Centenary of Military Nursing Service celebrating <i>Nari Shakti</i> .

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Report Name / Ranking	Submitted By / Source	Key Notes
Unlocking a \$200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India	NITI Aayog (released by Shri Rajiv Gauba)	Highlights India’s EV sales growth (50,000 in 2016 → 2.08 million in 2024); targets 30% EV penetration by 2030 ; stresses cross-sector collaboration & data-driven policies to unlock \$200 bn EV opportunity. (<i>Released on 4 Aug 2025</i>)
India becomes World’s 5th Largest Aviation Market (2024)	International Aviation Data (2024 report)	Carried 241 million passengers in 2024 (11.1% growth YoY); Mumbai–Delhi route ranked 7th globally ; premium travel up 11.8%; aircraft dominance: Boeing B737 & Airbus A320.
Housing Price Index (HPI) – Q1 2025	Housing.com–ISB	HPI rose 8 points YoY to 132 (March 2025) across 13 major cities; reflects healthy consolidation; driven by cautious buyers, supply adjustments, and global headwinds; foundation for sustainable growth.
Forest Cover Study (2015–2019)	IIT Bombay	India lost 18 sq km forest for every 1 sq km gained ; all states saw net loss; >50% new forests fragmented and ecologically weak; calls for prioritizing continuous, connected forests for biodiversity.
Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways	NITI Aayog + IAMAI	Strategic roadmap for homestays/BnBs; focus on local entrepreneurship, cultural tourism, light-touch regulations, safety & sustainability ; emphasizes digital integration & public-private collaboration.
Report on Criminal Records of Chief Ministers (2025)	Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)	40% of CMs face criminal cases ; 12 out of 30 CMs declared cases; Telangana CM Revanth Reddy (89 cases) & TN CM MK Stalin (47 cases) top list; 33% face serious charges (murder attempt, bribery, kidnapping).

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
SIMBEX 2025	India-Singapore	The Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy concluded SIMBEX 2025 , held from July 28 to August 1 , with joint exercises in the South China Sea . Featuring ships, aircraft, and professional exchanges, this 32nd edition strengthened maritime security cooperation as both nations marked 60 years of diplomatic relations . (Click here to read article)
SLINEX-25	India and Sri Lanka	Indian Naval Ships INS Rana and INS Jyoti arrived in Colombo for the 12th edition of SLINEX-25 , a bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka , aimed at boosting interoperability, maritime cooperation, and exchange of best practices .

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Operation Alert		The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched Operation Alert , a high-intensity security drive along the Rajasthan border from August 11 to 17, 2025 , ahead of Independence Day . The operation focuses on strengthening border security , rehearsing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) , and countering potential threats through intensified patrols, technology-driven surveillance , and full force deployment on August 15.
Exercise Bright Star 2025	India-Egypt	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.

TESTING

- 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](#))

DEAL & MoU's

- India received the **final Airbus C-295MW transport aircraft** from **Spain**, completing the delivery of the first 16 planes under the **2021 contract**. The aircraft, capable of carrying **5–10 tonnes** with **11-hour endurance**, will replace the **ageing Avro fleet** of the IAF. The remaining **40 aircraft** will be **manufactured in India** at the **TATA Aircraft Complex, Vadodara**, India's **first private Final Assembly Line for military aircraft**. This programme strengthens India's defence self-reliance under the **Make in India initiative** and marks a **historic milestone in aviation manufacturing**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, has approved proposals worth **₹67,000 crore** to bolster India's military capabilities. For the **Indian Army**, **Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sights** for **BMPs** were cleared to enhance night mobility. The **Indian Navy** will procure **Compact Autonomous Surface Craft, BrahMos Fire Control Systems**, and upgrade the **BARAK-1 Missile System**. The **Indian Air Force** will get **Mountain Radars** and upgrades to **SAKSHAM** and **SPYDER Weapon Systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has launched **Operation Alert**, a high-intensity security drive along the **Rajasthan border** from **August 11 to 17, 2025**, ahead of **Independence Day**. The operation focuses on **strengthening border security**, rehearsing **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, and countering potential threats through **intensified patrols, technology-driven surveillance**, and **full force deployment** on August 15.
- India has cleared a **₹62,000 crore deal** for **97 Tejas Mark 1A fighter jets** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, significantly boosting **indigenous defence manufacturing** under the **Make in India** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** missions. The jets, with **over 65% indigenous components**, will **replace ageing MiG-21s**, raising the total IAF Tejas Mark 1A fleet to **180 aircraft**. Developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, the aircraft features **advanced avionics and radar systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is partnering with France's **Safran** to domestically manufacture advanced **jet engines** for the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**, a fifth-generation fighter jet designed indigenously. Announced by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, this collaboration aims to develop a new engine with a powerful **110 Kilo Newton thrust**, surpassing current global standards. The project, approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Security** and backed by **DRDO**, is a decade-long effort and part of the **Rs 15,000-crore plan** to boost India's defence technology and self-reliance in aerospace manufacturing. ([Click here to read article](#))



- India successfully test-fired the **Agni-5 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** on August 20, 2025 from Chandipur, Odisha, under the **Strategic Forces Command**, validating its **operational readiness** and enhancing India's **nuclear deterrence**. The **three-stage, solid-fuelled, canisterised** missile has a range of **over 5,000 km** and can carry **nuclear or conventional warheads**, reinforcing India's **No First Use (NFU)** policy and strengthening its **nuclear triad**. ([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](#))

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- 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](#))

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITE LAUNCHES

- **ISRO** is preparing to launch the **6,500 kg BlueBird communications satellite**, developed by **AST SpaceMobile (USA)**, aboard the **LVM3** from **Sriharikota** in **late 2025**. This mission follows the successful **NISAR** launch and reflects the strengthening **Indo-U.S. space collaboration**. It also aligns with India's broader space goals, including the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** and the target to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035**.
- **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](#))

NATIONAL

- **ISRO** conducted a **10-day high-altitude space simulation at 14,000 feet in Ladakh** under its **Gaganyaan programme**. Held at the newly inaugurated **HOPE (Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration)** facility by **Protoplanet**, the study focused on **isolation, cold stress, and mental health** impacts. Two participants, **Rahul Mogalapalli and Yaman Akot**, were selected from **135 applicants**, mimicking **astronaut routines**.

- To improve agricultural resilience, **ICRISAT**, in collaboration with **ICAR** and under the **Monsoon Mission III**, launched an **AI-powered climate advisory** in **Maharashtra**. Using an **AI-enabled WhatsApp bot**, the service provides **hyper-local weather insights** to **smallholder farmers**, with plans for a **national and international rollout**.
- The **IndiaAI** and **National Cancer Grid (NCG)** launched the **CATCH Grant Program**, offering **pilot grants up to ₹50 lakh** and **scale-up funding up to ₹1 crore**. The program, open until **September 2, 2025**, supports **AI-driven solutions in cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment**, encouraging **responsible AI development and clinical validation**.
- **BharatGen AI**, under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, will support **all 22 languages** of the **Eighth Schedule** by **June 2026**. This initiative, part of the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems**, aims to ensure **digital inclusivity** and promote **multilingual AI ecosystems** across India.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated **India's first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory** at **NIAB, Hyderabad**, marking a major leap in **veterinary biotechnology**. He also laid the foundation for new infrastructure worth **₹19.98 crore** to support research. The lab, built at **₹1.85 crore**, will focus on **regenerative medicine and cellular therapies** for livestock. He also launched **five innovative veterinary diagnostic tools** to combat **antimicrobial resistance** and support the **'One Health'** approach. Praising **PM Modi's BioE3 policy**, the minister emphasized India's leadership in **biotech-driven growth**, aiming for an **Evergreen Revolution in animal husbandry** and agriculture. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Rare Blue Pinkgill mushroom, native to New Zealand, discovered in Telangana's Kagaznagar forest**, showcasing its striking sky-blue colour due to rare azulene pigments. Additionally, the **shuttlecock mushroom spotted for the first time in Eastern Ghats** (Kawal Tiger Reserve), highlighting the region's **rich fungal diversity** and unique ecological conditions. ([Click here to read article](#))
 - **ISRO has inaugurated a cutting-edge space laboratory** at Mechuka Government Higher Secondary School in **Shi-Yomi district**, Arunachal Pradesh. Opened by **Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona**, the lab—established in collaboration with **ISRO and Muskaan Foundation**—aims to **spark interest in space science** among students through hands-on learning. Named **Pasang Wangchuk Sona ISRO Space Laboratory** after the minister's father, the initiative honors his belief in the power of education to transform lives. ([Click here to read article](#))
 - **Deep Ocean Mission Record**: Aquanaut **Jatinder Pal Singh** descended **5,002 metres** in the North Atlantic, marking India's deepest dive under the **Deep Ocean Mission**. Supports the indigenous **Matsya 6000** (trials by Dec 2027).
 - **India's 6G Roadmap**: Govt unveiled a **6G rollout plan by 2030**, guided by the **Bharat 6G Vision Document** and ITU-R M.2160. Initiatives include **100 5G labs**, the **TTDF Scheme (₹275.88 Cr for 104 projects)**, **Bharat 6G Alliance**, and a **Tech Hub at IIIT Bangalore**.
 - **ISRO – Gaganyaan Update**: First manned mission test flight in **Dec 2025**; 80% of tests completed. ISRO achieved **196 milestones**, including **GLEX-2025 propulsion system** and a **6,500 kg US comm satellite launch**.
 - **Bharatiya Antariksh Station & Moon Mission**: India targets **space station by 2035** and **crewed lunar mission by 2040**. Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** hailed **IAF Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla's ISS mission**.
 - **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](#))
- INTERNATIONAL**
- India, in collaboration with **UK scientists**, has identified the **world's rarest blood group — CRIB**, in a **38-year-old woman from Bengaluru**. Part of the **Cromer blood group system**, the blood lacks a common antigen, making **transfusions extremely difficult**. The discovery may revolutionize **critical care, prenatal diagnostics**, and **rare blood donation systems** globally.
 - To combat **hidden hunger**, India is introducing **iron-enriched bio-fortified potatoes** with support from the **International Potato Center (CIP)**. The initiative complements efforts for **Vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes**, all part of **ICAR's biofortification programme** covering **61 crops**. It strengthens **nutrition security** and showcases India's leadership in **climate-smart agriculture**.
 - **Russia's Venera-D Mission**: Russia to launch **Venus exploration mission (2034–2036)** with **lander, balloon probe, and orbiter**. Preliminary design starts **Jan 2026** under **IKI & Lavochkin Association**.
 - **Parag Agrawal's Startup**: Ex-Twitter CEO launched **Parallel Web Systems**, an AI startup building a **"web for machines."** Its APIs outperform **OpenAI's GPT-5** in benchmarks like **BrowseComp & DeepResearch Bench**.
 - **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](#))

SPORTS

Here's a well-structured Sports Current Affairs Digest (Aug 2025) with all your provided content neatly organized under categories. I've included your cricket add-ons inside the Cricket section and grouped the rest for exam-ready use.

🏆 Sports Current Affairs – August 2025

🏏 Cricket

- **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** won gold in **50m rifle 3P** at the **16th Asian Shooting C'ship (Shymkent, Kazakhstan)** with 462.5 points; India also bagged **silver in team event**.
- **NorthEast United FC** retained **Durand Cup 2025** (Kolkata) with a 6–1 win over debutants **Diamond Harbour FC**, first team in 25 years to defend title.
- **Sunil Gavaskar's statue** unveiled at **Wankhede Stadium**; **MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum** inaugurated.
- **Mirabai Chanu** won gold at **2025 CW Weightlifting C'ships (Ahmedabad)**, lifting 193kg (new records in all categories), direct qualifier for **CWG 2026 Glasgow**.
- **Hockey Men's Asia Cup 2025** trophy unveiled by **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**; to be held at **Rajgir, Bihar (Aug 29–Sept 7)**, direct qualifier for **FIH WC 2026**.
- **FIDE World Cup 2025** to be hosted in **Goa (Oct 30–Nov 27)**; \$2M prize pool, 206 players, 3 spots for **2026 Candidates Tournament**.
- **R Ashwin** retired from IPL after 2025 season (221 matches, 187 wickets); eligible to play overseas leagues.
- **Cheteshwar Pujara** retired from all cricket on **Aug 24, 2025**; played 103 Tests, scored 7,195 runs, key to India's 2018-19 series win in Australia.
- **Union Cabinet approved India's bid for CWG 2030**, Ahmedabad as host city.
- **Minerva Academy FC (Mohali)** felicitated by **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** after historic **European treble** – Gothia Cup (Sweden), Dana Cup (Denmark), Norway Cup (Norway).

🏏 Cricket Highlights (Other Events)

- **WCL 2025 Final (Edgbaston)**: **AB de Villiers** (58-ball 100*) led South Africa Champions to a **9-wicket win vs Pakistan Champions** (Sharjeel Khan 76).
- **David Warner milestone**: Overtook Virat Kohli as **5th-highest T20 run-scorer (13,545 runs)** while playing for London Spirit in The Hundred 2025.
- **ICC Players of the Month (July 2025)**:
 - **Men's: Shubman Gill** – 567 runs in 3 Tests vs England (including 269 as debut Test captain).
 - **Women's: Sophia Dunkley** – 144 T20I + 126 ODI runs vs India.

🏹 Archery & Shooting

- **India's first Archery League** (Oct 2025, Delhi) announced; 6 franchise teams, backed by World Archery.
- **Rishabh Yadav** won **bronze** in men's compound archery at **World Games 2025 (Chengdu, China)**.

🏃 Athletics & ⚽ Football

- **Annu Rani (Javelin)**: Won gold in **Poland meet (62.59m)**, season best; target 64m for **World Championships 2025 Tokyo**.
- **FIFA Talent Academy (Hyderabad)**: India's first **residential academy for girls**, at Gachibowli Stadium.
- **Real Madrid** remains **world's most valuable football club 2025** (€1.921 bn).
- **Minerva Academy FC (India)** won **U-14 Norway Cup 2025**, scoring 130 goals in 8 matches, beating SIF 14-1 in final.

♟️ Other Sports

- **Hungarian GP 2025**: **Lando Norris** beat **Oscar Piastri** by 0.698s, 5th win this season.
- **Chess Esports World Cup (Riyadh)**: **Magnus Carlsen (Team Liquid)** defeated **Alireza Firouzja (Team Falcons)**; inaugural champion + \$250k prize.
- **Quantbox Chennai GM 2025**: **Vincent Keymer (Germany, 20)** won title, enters world Top 10.
- **Wushu (World Games 2025, Chengdu)**: **Namrata Batra** reached women's 52kg final, India's first-ever medal in Wushu (Silver/Gold pending).
- **Boxing – Asian U19 & U22 C'ships 2025 (Bangkok)**: India won **27 medals (4 Gold, 11 Silver, 12 Bronze)**; notable gold – **Ritika** (80+ kg, U19).
- **Asian Open Short Track Speed Skating Trophy 2025 (Dehradun, Aug 20–23)**: India hosted 1st edition, 11 nations, 9 events.
- **Khelo India Water Sports Festival (Dal Lake, Aug 21–23)**: 400+ athletes, mascot Himalayan Kingfisher, events in rowing, canoeing, kayaking, dragon boat race.
- **Ahmedabad 2025 Events**: Hosting **CW Weightlifting (Aug 24–30)**, **Asian Aquatics (Sept–Oct)**, **AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers (Nov 22–30)**.

🎾 Tennis

- **Iga Świątek** won **Cincinnati Open 2025**, defeating **Jasmine Paolini** (7-5, 6-4); 24th career title, back to World No. 2.

- **Carlos Alcaraz** won men's **Cincinnati Open 2025**, his 6th title this year, beating Jannik Sinner (retired ill); now leads ATP Race to Turin.

Awards

- **Mohamed Salah (Liverpool):** Won **PFA Player of the Year (3rd time)**, also claimed Golden Boot, Playmaker Award & PL Player of the Season.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
M.S. Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India	Priyambada Jayakumar	Biography of M.S. Swaminathan, father of the Green Revolution; covers his formative years, choice of science over IPS, role in making India food self-sufficient; blends history, personal anecdotes, and scientific milestones.
A Treatise for the Remarkable Rohit	R. Kaushik	Life story of Rohit Sharma; from U-17 cricket to becoming India's all-format captain; highlights setbacks (missed 2010 Test debut, 2011 World Cup) and triumphs (ODI double centuries, 2019 Test opening success, leading India to 2024 T20 WC & 2025 Champions Trophy). Warm, personal narrative with voices of teammates and coaches.
The Conscience Network	Sugata Srinivasaraju	Story of Indian diaspora resistance during the Emergency (1975–77); focuses on Indians for Democracy (IFD) in the U.S.; their nonviolent protests, lobbying, and advocacy for Indian democracy abroad; highlights diaspora patriotism and moral courage.

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Shibu Soren	Politics (Tribal Leader, JMM Founder)	Nemra, Jharkhand	Passed away on August 4, 2025 , aged 81 ; known as " Dishom Guru "; played a key role in the creation of Jharkhand ; served three terms as CM .
2	Satya Pal Malik	Politics (Former Governor)	Hisawada, Uttar Pradesh	Died on August 5, 2025 , aged 79 ; last Governor of J&K during Article 370 abrogation ; also served as Governor of Goa, Meghalaya, Bihar .
3	La Ganesan	Politics	Tamil Nadu, India	Former Governor of Nagaland & Manipur, ex-Rajya Sabha MP, promoter of Tamil culture
4	Jaswinder Bhalla (65)	Punjabi Comedian & Actor	Ludhiana, Punjab	Cultural icon of Punjabi cinema; famous for <i>Carry On Jatta</i> , <i>Gaddi Chaldi Hai Chhalla Maarke</i> ; known for wit & social satire.
5	Achyut Potdar (91)	Hindi & Marathi Actor	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Appeared in 125+ films (<i>3 Idiots</i> , <i>Tezaab</i> , <i>Rangeela</i>); known for his famous line " Kehna kya chahte ho? "; transitioned from Marathi theatre to cinema.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Hiromasa Urakawa	Boxing	Japan	Died from brain injuries post-knockout; third boxing fatality in 2025
2	Dr Vece Paes	Sports Medicine / Hockey	India	Olympic hockey medallist, noted sports doctor, father of Leander Paes
3	Bob Simpson (89)	Cricketer & Coach	Sydney, Australia	Played 62 Tests (1957–1978); scored 4,869 runs, 10 centuries; Ashes & World Cup-winning captain; inducted into Australian Cricket Hall of Fame.
4	Judge Frank Caprio (88)	Judge & TV Personality	Providence, Rhode Island, USA	Known as the " Nicest Judge in the World "; star of <i>Caught in Providence</i> ; served nearly 40 years in court; social media sensation for his compassionate judgments.

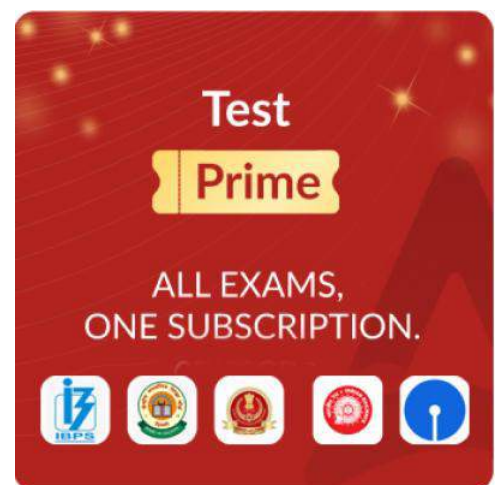
IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
August 1, 2025	World Breastfeeding Week (Aug 1–7)	Theme: “Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems” ; emphasizes long-term support, public acceptance, and policy for accessible breastfeeding.
August 1, 2025	National Mountain Climbing Day	Celebrates the feat of Bobby Mathews and Josh Madigan (2015) ; promotes physical and mental fitness and environmental value of mountains.
August 1, 2025	World Lung Cancer Day	Highlights awareness, prevention, and early detection of lung cancer, including risks from smoking, pollution, and genetics.
August 1, 2025	World Wide Web Day	Theme: “Empowering the Future: Building an Inclusive, Safe, and Open Web” ; focuses on digital inclusion, ethical AI, and universal access.
August 3, 2025	Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day	Raises awareness about CLOVES syndrome , a rare disorder; promotes early diagnosis, treatment, and community support.
August 6, 2025	Hiroshima Day	Marks the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima ; promotes peace, non-violence, and nuclear disarmament; honors Hibakusha (survivors).
August 7, 2025	National Handloom Day	Theme: “Handlooms – Empowering Women, Empowering the Nation” ; celebrates Indian weavers and commemorates the Swadeshi Movement of 1905 ; initiated in 2015 by PM Modi.
August 9, 2025	World Sanskrit Day	Celebrates ancient Sanskrit; promotes preservation and education among youth
August 9, 2025	Nagasaki Day	80th anniversary of atomic bombing; stresses peace, disarmament, and global remembrance
August 10, 2025	World Lion Day	Highlights lion conservation, threats from habitat loss and poaching
August 12, 2025	International Youth Day	Theme: “Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond” ; focuses on youth participation
August 12, 2025	World Elephant Day	Theme: “Bringing the World Together to Help Elephants” ; stresses conservation efforts
August 15, 2025	Independence Day (India)	79th celebration; honors freedom struggle and India’s vision for a \$5 trillion economy
Aug 19	World Humanitarian Day	Theme: “Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities” ; honors humanitarian workers and global aid efforts.
Aug 19	World Photography Day	Theme: “MY FAVORITE PHOTO” ; celebrates photography’s art, history & impact; part of <i>World Photography Week (Aug 12–26)</i> .
Aug 20	World Mosquito Day	Marks Sir Ronald Ross’s 1897 discovery linking malaria to female Anopheles mosquito; raises awareness on malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Zika, etc.
Aug 21	World Entrepreneurs’ Day	Celebrated in 170+ countries; honors innovation, job creation & resilience of entrepreneurs.
Aug 21	World Senior Citizens’ Day	Theme: “Empowering Elderly Voices for an Inclusive Future” ; promotes dignity, respect, and inclusion of older adults.
Aug 21	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism	Theme: “United by Hope: Collective Action for Victims of Terrorism” ; shows solidarity and promotes human rights.
Aug 22	Madras Day	Marks founding of Madras (Chennai) in 1639; celebrates heritage, culture, and civic pride.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
Aug 22	International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/296; honors victims of violence due to religion or belief; promotes freedom of religion and peaceful assembly.
Aug 23	National Space Day (India)	Marks Chandrayaan-3's 2023 soft landing; Theme: "Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities". Highlights India's space achievements & future missions.
26 August	Women's Equality Day	Marks certification of the 19th Amendment (1920) granting US women right to vote; rooted in Seneca Falls Convention (1848); recognised in 1973; honours women's suffrage & ongoing fight for gender equality.
23 September	Ayurveda Day	Shifted from Dhanteras to fixed date; Theme: "Ayurveda for People & Planet"; led by Ministry of Ayush for global awareness on holistic health & ecological harmony.
29-31 August	National Sports Day (India)	3-day campaign under Fit India Mission honouring Major Dhyan Chand; Theme: "Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main" (fitness movement); also highlighted as "Sport to Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies".
26 August	International Dog Day	Founded in 2004 by Colleen Paige; raises awareness on dog welfare, adoption, and contributions in service, law enforcement, and emotional support; officially recognised in New York (2013).
29 August	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	Established by UN in 2009; marks closure of Semipalatinsk Test Site (Kazakhstan, 1991); raises awareness on effects of nuclear testing, promotes disarmament.
30 August	International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances	UN observance to highlight human rights violation of enforced disappearances; calls for truth, justice, and end to impunity.
30 August	National Small Industry Day (India)	First celebrated in 2001 after 2000 policy package; honours SSIs' role in economic growth, entrepreneurship, rural upliftment, and cultural heritage.

Miscellaneous

- To mark **50 years of the iconic film *Sholay***, the **Maharashtra Postal Circle** released **special picture postcards**, a **presentation pack**, and an **exclusive golden cancellation on Independence Day 2025**. The commemorative items were unveiled by **Amitabh Singh**, Chief Postmaster General, and presented to **director Ramesh Sippy**. The event, attended by film and postal dignitaries, drew **philatelists and cinema lovers**, showcasing the film's **enduring cultural impact**. India Post has previously honoured **sports icons** like **chess champion D Gukesh** and **India's 2025 Cricket Champions Trophy** win with similar **special cancellations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- M.S. Swaminathan**, known as the "**Man who fed India**," played a pivotal role in India's **Green Revolution**, transforming the country from **food dependency** under **PL 480** imports to self-sufficiency by introducing **dwarf wheat varieties** with seeds from **Norman Borlaug**. Despite **bureaucratic delays** and **political opposition**, strong leadership by **Prime Ministers Shastri and Indira Gandhi** backed his efforts, leading to a major increase in wheat production by 1968. His legacy highlights the critical importance of **scientific innovation**, **political will**, and **institutional support**. Today, challenges like **climate change**, **low R&D funding**, and **lack of institutional autonomy** threaten progress, emphasizing the need for closer engagement between **scientists and policymakers** to secure India's agricultural future. ([Click here to read article](#))



Static Takeaways

Sr. No.	Static Name	Static Details
1	Reliance Industries	Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
2	RBI (Reserve Bank of India)	Governor – Sanjay Malhotra (2024–)
3	ISRO	Chairman – V. Narayanan (appointed 2025)
4	SBI (State Bank of India)	Chairman – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty (appointed 2025)
5	OpenAI	CEO – Sam Altman
6	Mastercard	CEO – Michael Miebach
7	Suzuki Motor Corporation	CEO – Toshihiro Suzuki
8	Yes Bank	CEO – Prashant Kumar
9	IndusInd Bank	CEO – Rajiv Anand (appointed 2024)
10	AU Small Finance Bank	CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
11	ICICI Bank	MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi
12	Axis Bank	MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhary
13	IDFC First Bank	MD & CEO – V. Vaidyanathan
14	PNB Housing Finance	CEO – Girish Kousgi (appointed 2025)
15	Bank of Baroda (BoB)	MD & CEO – Debadatta Chand
16	Jio Financial Services	CEO – Hitesh Sethia
17	Paytm	CEO – Vijay Shekhar Sharma
18	Deloitte India	CEO – Romal Shetty
19	JSW Steel	CEO – Jayant Acharya
20	Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)	CEO – Adrian Mardell (not P.B. Balaji; he is CFO of Tata Motors)
21	Tata Motors	CEO – Guenter Butschek (till 2025; new appointee may change)
22	Airbus India	CEO – Rémi Maillard (correct; not Jurgen Westermeier)
23	Goldman Sachs	Chairman & CEO – David Solomon
24	Rapido	CEO – Aravind Sanka
25	FIFA	President – Gianni Infantino
26	BIMSTEC	HQ – Dhaka, Bangladesh
27	Microsoft	CEO – Satya Nadella
28	NVIDIA	CEO – Jensen Huang
29	Apple	CEO – Tim Cook
30	Alphabet (Google)	CEO – Sundar Pichai
31	Amazon	CEO – Andy Jassy
32	Russia	President – Vladimir Putin; Capital – Moscow
33	USA	President – Donald Trump (as per your list, though in reality Joe Biden till 2025); Capital – Washington, D.C.
34	China	President – Xi Jinping; Capital – Beijing
35	South Korea	President – Yoon Suk-yeol (not Lee Myung, corrected); Capital – Seoul
36	Japan	PM – Shigeru Ishiba (not “President”); Capital – Tokyo
37	Oman	Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq; Capital – Muscat
38	Lithuania	PM – Ingrida Šimonytė (not Inga Ruginiene); Capital – Vilnius
39	Fiji	PM – Sitiveni Rabuka; Capital – Suva

Sr. No.	Static Name	Static Details
40	Iran	Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei; Capital – Tehran
41	Saudi Arabia	Crown Prince & PM – Mohammed bin Salman; Capital – Riyadh
42	France	President – Emmanuel Macron; Capital – Paris
43	UAE	President – Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Capital – Abu Dhabi
44	Azerbaijan	President – Ilham Aliyev; Capital – Baku
45	Armenia	President – Vahagn Khachaturyan; Capital – Yerevan
46	Cambodia	PM – Hun Manet; Capital – Phnom Penh
47	Thailand	PM – Paetongtarn Shinawatra; Capital – Bangkok
48	Mexico	President – Claudia Sheinbaum (<i>first woman President</i>); Capital – Mexico City
49	Moldova	President – Maia Sandu; Capital – Chisinau
50	Zambia	President – Hakainde Hichilema; Capital – Lusaka
51	Australia	PM – Anthony Albanese; Capital – Canberra
52	Singapore	PM – Lawrence Wong (<i>2024-</i>); Capital – Singapore City
53	Kenya	President – William Ruto; Capital – Nairobi
54	Assam	CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma (<i>not Hemanta Sarma</i>); Governor – Gulab Chand Kataria
55	Punjab	CM – Bhagwant Mann; Governor – Banwarilal Purohit (<i>updated, not Gulab Chand Kataria</i>)
56	Delhi (NCT)	CM – Arvind Kejriwal (<i>not Rekha Gupta</i>); Lt. Governor – Vinai Saxena
57	Odisha	CM – Mohan Charan Majhi (<i>appointed 2024</i>); Governor – Raghubar Das (<i>not Haribabu Khambhupati</i>)
58	Bihar	CM – Nitish Kumar (<i>corrected from "Mumar"</i>); Governor – Rajendra Arlekar (<i>not Arif Khan</i>)
59	Kerala	CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor – Arif Mohammed Khan (<i>not Arlekar</i>)
60	Gujarat	CM – Bhupendra Patel; Governor – Acharya Devvrat
61	Andhra Pradesh	CM – N. Chandrababu Naidu (<i>2024-</i>); Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer
62	Sikkim	CM – Prem Singh Tamang (Golay); Governor – Lakshman Prasad Acharya
63	Chhattisgarh	CM – Vishnu Deo Sai (<i>2023-</i>); Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan (<i>not Khambhupati</i>)
64	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha (<i>no CM currently</i>)
65	Madhya Pradesh	CM – Mohan Yadav (<i>2023-</i>); Governor – Mangubhai Patel
66	Tamil Nadu	CM – M.K. Stalin; Governor – R. N. Ravi
67	Maharashtra	CM – Eknath Shinde (<i>not Devendra Fadnavis, he is Dy CM</i>); Governor – Ramesh Bais (<i>not Radhakrishnan</i>)
68	West Bengal	CM – Mamata Banerjee; Governor – C.V. Ananda Bose