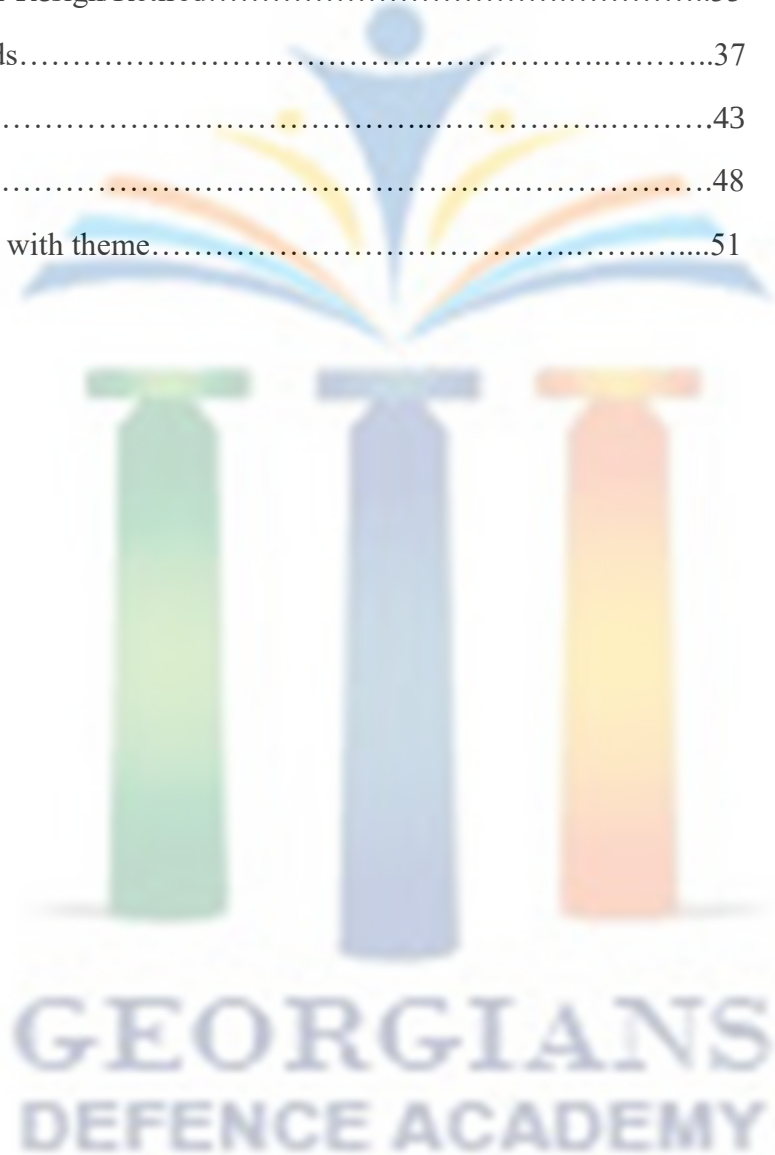


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National

Bihar, Jharkhand Sign MoU to Resolve 25-Year-Old Sone River Water-Sharing Dispute

The Governments of **Bihar and Jharkhand** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in **New Delhi, Delhi**, for sharing the waters of the **Sone River**, resolving a nearly 25-year-old inter-state water-sharing dispute between the two states.

- The MoU was signed on 31 August 2026 in the presence of Union Minister of Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) and Ministry of Cooperation, along with Hemant Soren, Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand; Samrat Choudhary, CM of Bihar; and Union Minister C.R. Patil, Ministry of Jal Shakti(MoJS).

Highlights of the MoU:

Water Allocation: Of the 7.75 Million Acre-Feet (MAF) allocated to undivided Bihar under the 1973 Bansagar Agreement, Bihar will receive 5.75 MAF, while Jharkhand will receive 2 MAF.

Background: The dispute arose after Jharkhand was created from Bihar in November 2000, as the division of the Sone River allocation between the successor states remained unresolved.

Benefits to Bihar & Jharkhand: Bihar's share will support irrigation and drinking water across Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna. Jharkhand's allocation will benefit Palamu, Garhwa and other regions.

Significance: The pact reflects cooperative federalism and the "Team Bharat" vision. It marks the fourth inter-state water agreement in 2026.

4th Inter-State Water Agreement in 2026: The Sone River pact marked the 4th inter-state water agreement in 2026, following agreements/consensus on the Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project (16 June), Rajasthan-Haryana Yamuna Water Project (29 June) and Narmada Award pending-payment settlement among Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan & Madhya Pradesh (7 July).

Agnikawach Safety Launches 'Agni Kawach', India's 1st Indigenous AI Platform to Strengthen Industrial Safety

Agnikawach Safety Solutions Private Limited launched 'Agni Kawach', India's 1st indigenously developed Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered safety platform, designed to build global industrial safety ecosystem.

About Agni Kawach Platform:

Integration: The platform integrates AI, Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)-native computing, adaptive-mesh Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), cloud delivery and risk modelling on a single safety platform, for faster risk analysis.

Ensure Industrial Safety: It provides safety against 8 major industrial hazards, including jet fire, pool fire, flash fire, explosions, Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion (BLEVE) /fireball, toxic dispersion, cryogenic releases and structural domino effects.

Current Status: The prototype has already reached Technology Readiness Level (TRL-5).

Key Applications: The newly launched AI-enabled safety platform can be used across Green Hydrogen, Ammonia, Oil & Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Chemicals, Refineries, and other hazardous industries.

Vodafone Idea Onboards Shah Rukh Khan as Brand Ambassador, Unveils New Logo

Vodafone Idea (Vi), India's third-largest telecom services provider, onboarded Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador and unveiled a refreshed brand identity, signalling a new phase of growth.

- The company also launched a new campaign titled “Vi badal raha hai... tayaar rahiye” (Vi is changing... Be ready), highlighting its transformation strategy.

Highlights of Vodafone Idea's Brand Revamp:

Updation: The logo has been redesigned from “V!” to “Vi”, featuring a dynamic 3D sphere element symbolising evolution and innovation.

Campaign: The campaign reflects the company's transition towards a more customer-centric and tech-driven identity.

Business Strategy: The move aligns with Vi's “Vi 2.0” strategy, focusing on customer growth, revenue expansion, and improved financial performance.

About Vi: Established in 2018, is headquartered in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and is led by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abhijit Kishore.

- Vi reported over 2.4 lakh customer additions in July 2026, marking its highest monthly gain in two years and continued growth momentum.

ASI Declared GollalaGudi Temple in Telangana a Monument of National Importance

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Culture (MoC) declared **GollalaGudi** in Palampet village, Mulugu district, Telangana a ‘Monument of National Importance’, taking the number of sites under the ASI to **10** in Telangana.

- The declaration was made through notification S.O. 4802(E) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958

Temple Architecture Overview

Location: The temple is located south-west of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site KakatiyaRudreshwara (**Ramappa**) Temple in Palampet.

Structure: The temple is a Trikutalaya, meaning a shrine with three sanctum structures.

- **Mandapa:** An east-facing mandapa (pillared hall)
- **Three Sanctums:** It has three garbhagrihas (sanctum sanctorums)
- **Central Sanctum:** The central garbhagriha houses a Shiva Lingam.

Government Constitutes 31-Member JPC under Sanjay Jaiswal to Examine FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026

Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** constituted a **31-member** Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (**FCRA**) Bill, 2026, with Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (**MP**) **Sanjay Jaiswal** appointed as its Chairperson.

- The JPC comprises 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha.

About Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC):

Overview: A JPC is a temporary committee constituted by Parliament to conduct detailed examination and scrutiny of specific Bills, issues, or matters of national importance.

Significance: The JPC will conduct detailed scrutiny of the proposed FCRA amendments, balancing foreign funding regulation and transparency, the functioning of NGOs and social organisations and concerns related to national security and financial accountability.

Timeline: The committee will scrutinise the Bill's provisions and submit its report to the Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session of Parliament (November–December 2026).

Composition:

- **Lok Sabha Members:** Prominent members on the committee include Bhartruhari Mahtab, Tejasvi Surya, Nishikant Dubey, A. Raja, and Supriya Sule, among others.
- **Rajya Sabha Members:** The committee includes Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Sanjay Kumar Jha, Praful Patel, and Menaka Guruswamy, among others.

Chhattisgarh Ranked First in MoJS's Initiative 'JSJB 3.0' under Catch the Rain Campaign

Chhattisgarh has secured the first position nationally in the third phase of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB 3.0) initiative, a community-driven water conservation programme under the Ministry of Jal Shakti's (MoJS) Catch the Rain campaign.

- Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh **Vishnu Deo Sai** presented the state's model at a national summit in New Delhi, Delhi, in the presence of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.

About Chhattisgarh's Water Conservation Achievement:

Overview: Chhattisgarh completed 77,719 out of 79,775 registered water conservation structures and improved from second position in earlier phases.

Phases: Chhattisgarh ranked second in JSJB 1.0 with 4,05,561 structures and in JSJB 2.0 with 23,07,768 completed out of 24,07,456 initiated, before securing first position nationally in JSJB 3.0.

Districts: Five districts of Chhattisgarh 'Surajpur, Mahasamund, Balod, Balodabazar-Bhatapara, and Kabirdham' featured among India's top 10, demonstrating decentralized implementation.

Innovation: The '**5 Per Cent Model**' from Koriya district promotes voluntary allocation of five per cent of agricultural land for groundwater recharge infrastructure through coordinated local participation.

Target: The Government of India (GoI) aims to create **2 crore** new water conservation structures by **May 31, 2027**, with Chhattisgarh contributing significantly.

Birkbeck, University of London Receives UGC Approval to Establish Bengaluru Campus

Birkbeck, University of London, United Kingdom (UK) received the Letter of Approval (LoA) from the University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of India (GoI), to establish and operate its Bengaluru campus, Karnataka, under the 2023 Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) regulations.

- The approval marks the final regulatory step and enabling the university to begin admissions and academic operations while offering globally recognised degrees in India at significantly lower costs.

Highlights of the Approval:

Campus: Located at Sattva Tech Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka, the campus will offer undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) programmes in Business fields, with degrees awarded by the University of London under Birkbeck's academic oversight, at up to 60% lower cost than studying in the UK.

Features: The programmes are research-led, industry-aligned, and maintain global academic standards enhance access to global education, supports the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, strengthens India-UK ties, and reduces the cost of studying abroad.

Partnership: The campus is set up with the Education Centre of Australia (ECA) providing funding and operational support for quality delivery.

Overview of Belgium PM Bart De Wever's Visit to India from September 2 to 4, 2026

Bart De Wever, Prime Minister (PM) of Belgium, undertook a three-day official state visit to India from September 2 to 4, 2026, at the invitation of **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister (PM) of India, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation across trade, investment, defence, technology, and connectivity.

- This marked Belgian PM Wever's 1st ever official visit to India since assuming office in February 2025.

Highlights of the Visit:

Delegation-level Talks: PM Narendra Modi held a high-level delegation meeting with Belgian PM Bart De Wever, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi, reviewing bilateral ties with a focus on trade, investment, clean energy, critical minerals, technology and connectivity.

Defence CEOs Roundtable: Union Minister of State (MoS) Sanjay Seth, Ministry of Defence (MoD), along with his Belgian counterpart Theo Francken, attended the India-Belgium Defence Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) Roundtable and Business-2-Business (B2B) meeting held in New Delhi.

- The event witnessed the exchange of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to use Belgian technological expertise and India's industrial capabilities and manufacturing scale.

Dialogue: On 4 September 2026, PM Bart De Wever visited Mumbai, Maharashtra, and participated in the **India-Belgium High-Level Dialogue** on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (India-EU FTA), focusing on trade, ports, logistics and investment.

VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Books on 'Bhupen Hazarika' and 'Assamese Lexicography'

Vice-President (VP) C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book "Bhupen Hazarika: Hundred Years of a Wandering Songs," edited by Ankuran Dutta and Nani Gopal Mahanta, during the foundation-stone-laying ceremony for Rs 110 crore worth of infrastructure development projects at Gauhati University, Assam.

- He also released the 5th revised and enlarged edition of 'Chandrakanta Abhidhan', an important work of Assamese lexicography.

About Released Books:

Book: The book highlights the life, musical journey and cultural legacy of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, popularly known as the "Bard of Brahmaputra," and commemorates his birth centenary.

- He was honoured with the Bharat Ratna (posthumously) in 2019, Padma Vibhushan in 2012 in the field of Arts, and Dada Sahib Phalke Award in 1992.

Chandrakanta Abhidhan: Published by the Gauhati University Press, the revised edition strengthens Assamese language development and preservation by providing expanded linguistic resources for students, researchers, and language enthusiasts.

GalaxEye Becomes First Indian Startup to Secure US Patent for Satellite Imaging Technology

GalaxEye secured a United States (US) patent for the core technology behind its OptoSAR (Optical Synthetic Aperture Radar) imaging system, becoming the first Indian startup to receive a US patent for satellite imaging technology.

About US Patent:

Coverage: The US patent covers the architecture and system developed by GalaxEye to synchronise optical and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) sensors for coordinated satellite imaging.

Technology: It addresses spatial and temporal differences in separately collected optical and radar images and supports national security, agriculture, infrastructure, insurance, maritime intelligence and disaster management.

About GalaxEye: Galax Eye is a Bengaluru, Karnataka-based space technology startup established in 2021.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Gujarat and Maharashtra on September 08, 2026

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited Gujarat and Maharashtra on September 08, 2026, where he inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stones for several development projects worth over Rs 35,000 crore in Vadodara, Gujarat, and inaugurated the 7th edition of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key Highlights of Visit:

Visit to Vadodara: During his visit, PM Modi virtually inaugurated the last 3 sections Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC), connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi

Mumbai (Maharashtra) with Dadri in Uttar Pradesh (UP), which marks the completion of the project.

- **3 Sections:** The WDFC, developed at a cost of **over Rs 20,700 crore**, comprises 3 sections between Maharashtra and Gujarat: New Sanand (N)-New Makarpura, New Umbergaon-New Saphale, New Saphale-New JNPT, covering 326 route Kilometres (kms).
- **Flagged off Freight Trains:** In addition, PM Modi flagged off freight train services from New Sanand (North), New Makarpura, New Umbergaon and New JNPT, Mumbai, and a new train service between Vadodara(Gujarat) and Tanda Road, which is expected to benefit the people of Vadodara, Chhota Udepur (Gujarat)and Alirajpur districts (Madhya Pradesh, MP)
- **3 Railway Projects:** He also laid the foundation stone for 3 railway projects, estimated to be developed at a cost of **Rs 9,700 crore**, spanning 329 kms, include the Vadodara-Ratlam third and fourth lines, Miyagam Karjan-Choranda-Malsar gauge conversion and the Vishwamitri-Dabhoi doubling project.
- **3 National Highway (NH Projects):** In addition, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for three NH projects with estimated cost of **around Rs 1,780 crore**, including six-laning of the Kamrej-Chalthan section of NH-48; construction of additional structures, including major bridges over the Tapi and Narmada rivers, on the Vadodara-Surat section of NH-48; and grade-separated structures at Abhava, Mindhola and Khajod junctions on NH-53.

Visit to Mumbai: During his visit to Mumbai (Maharashtra), PM inaugurated the 7th edition of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026, held till September 11 2026.

- **Theme:** The 4-day long event was held under the theme of “Potential to Impact: Agentic AI, Tokenisation, Quantum – Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance.”

Karnataka Leading ChipIN Centre with 73 Tape-Outs : MeitY

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) officially released a dataset highlighting **Karnataka** as the leading state in **semiconductor support** under the **ChipIN Centre initiative**, with 81 organisations, 73 chip tape-outs, and 88 lakh hours of Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tool usage.

Key Findings:

Top 5: Following Karnataka, Tamil Nadu (TN) recorded 79 organisations and 33 tape-outs, Telangana 42 organisations and 28 tape-outs, Maharashtra 32 organisations, 24 tape-outs and 15 lakh EDA tool-use hours, and Uttar Pradesh (UP) 24 organisations and 21 tape-outs.

Other States: Other contributing states include Madhya Pradesh (MP) (24 organisations, 18 tape-outs), Kerala, West Bengal (WB), Odisha, and Punjab, showing broad-based participation across India’s semiconductor ecosystem.

ChipIN Centre initiative: Launched by MeitY on 24 February 2023, established at the Centre

for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) as a centralized national hub, supports semiconductor design activities by providing infrastructure, tools, and technical expertise across Indian states to strengthen domestic chip development capacity.

Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Indigenous 'ORV Sagar Manthan' under Deep Ocean Mission

Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), virtually launched **India's first** advanced Ocean Research Vessel (**ORV Sagar Manthan** (Yard 3041) at Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata, West Bengal (**WB**), built at an approximate cost of **Rs. 840 crore**.

- Following naval maritime traditions, the vessel was named by Manju Singh, wife of Dr. Jitendra Singh, and launched into the water by Kavita Ellanti, wife of Dr. Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, Secretary, MoES.

About ORV Sagar Manthan:

Development: The state-of-the-art vessel has been designed, engineered and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (**GRSE**) for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (**NCPOR**) under the **MoES**.

- The vessel will gradually replace the 43-year-old **ORV Sagar Kanya**, which was procured from Germany in 1983.

Construction: Constructed under Vertical-4 (Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration) of the government's flagship Deep Ocean Mission (**DOM**), the vessel is an all-weather, multidisciplinary platform with a projected service life of **30 years**.

Timeline: The construction of ORV Sagar Manthan began with contract signing in July 2024, and the vessel is scheduled for delivery and commissioning in **2028**.

MoF Notifies Implementation of the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 Effective From Oct 1, 2026

Ministry of Finance (MoF) notified implementation of the **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026**, which replaced the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891, governing the use of banking records as evidence.

- The Act received assent from the **President of India Droupadi Murmu**, on 13 August 2026 and will come into force from October 1, 2026.

New Act Details

Objective: The act is aimed at providing a modern framework for the use of banking records as evidence in line with contemporary banking practices and technology.

Technology Neutrality: The Act adopts a technology-neutral approach by recognising banking records maintained in physical, electronic, digital, virtual, cloud-based including backup and disaster recovery sites.

Bank Officials: Greater clarity has been provided on summoning bank officials when the bank is

not a party to the proceedings, requiring the Court to record a “**special cause**” in writing for such summoning.

India, Vietnam Agree to Observe 2027 as ‘Year of India-Vietnam Friendship’

India and Vietnam agreed to observe 2027 as the “Year of India-Vietnam Friendship” to mark 55 years of diplomatic relations, during the 19th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister S. Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Vietnam’s Foreign Affairs Minister Le Hoai Trung.

Key Areas of Cooperation:

Connectivity & Cooperation: India and Vietnam agreed to strengthen trade, investment, supply chains and market access, enhance financial, port and air connectivity, and expand cooperation in space and nuclear energy.

Culture: Promoted Yoga, heritage conservation, seafarer standards, capacity building and people-to-people exchanges.

Defence: Deepened defence and security cooperation, including co-production of Indian defence equipment, under the Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Trade: India and Vietnam agreed to leverage complementary strengths, improve market access and facilitate business activities to achieve the **USD 25 billion** bilateral trade target by 2030.

Overview of Global Fintech Fest 2026 held from September 8 to 11, 2026 in Mumbai, Maharashtra

The 7th edition of Global Fintech Fest (**GFF 2026**), one of the world’s leading fintech gatherings, held from **September 8 to 11, 2026** at the Jio World Centre (JWC), Trident Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, was concluded successfully with launch and announcement of series of new digital initiatives in banking and financial sector.

Key Highlights:

AI Model for Retail Banking: The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) launched India’s 1st sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) compact model called “Finance Model for India (**FiMI**) Banking”, designed specifically for the Indian retail banking use cases.

- It has further announced to collaborate with the **HDFC Bank Limited** to develop the technology for banking use cases.

Cardless Payments: **PhonePe** in collaboration with **Visa** announced the launch of three new payment solutions: **Tap-to-Pay; Cross Border Scan to Pay; and Smart Accept**, creating one of India’s most comprehensive cardless payment experiences, covering online purchases, in-store transactions and overseas travel, for Indians globally.

- With the launch of these new payments solutions, PhonePe becomes the 1st application (app) in India to introduce Cross Border Scan to Pay for international transactions.

MoF Notifies No Charges on UPI Transaction of Upto Rs 2,000

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) notified that banks and payment system providers cannot impose any direct or indirect charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions up to Rs 2,000 and payments made through RuPay-powered debit cards.

Key Details of the Notification:

Act: In exercise of the powers conferred by section 10 A of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007 (51 of 2007), the Central Government (CG) hereby specifies the following electronic modes of payment, namely:

- Debit Card powered by RuPay; and
- UPI transactions upto Rs. 2,000.

Charges: The CG prohibits banks and system providers from imposing, directly or indirectly, any MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) charges on a person making or receiving payments using debit cards powered by RuPay and UPI transactions up to Rs 2,000.

India Hosted 18th BRICS Summit from September 12 to September 13, 2026 in New Delhi

India under the Presidency of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, successfully hosted the 18th edition of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit, held under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability” from September 12 to September 13, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- This year’s summit marked India’s 4th Chairship of BRICS, previously, it hosted the summit in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

Key Highlights:

Key Pillars: 2026 BRICS Summit was structured around 4 main pillars i.e. Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.

PM Modi Addressed Session: While addressing the BRIC leaders’ outreach summit, PM Narendra Modi cautioned that “the weaponisation of technology and critical minerals” could impede progress and emphasized the need for “inclusivity”.

Key Proposal by China: Xi Jinping, President of China, proposed 5-point action plan aimed to boost cooperation in manufacturing, trade and technology across member states.

- **Design and Inscription:** “BRICS: Two Decades of Cooperation, 2006–2026” / “ब्रिक्स: सहयोग के दो दशक, 2006–2026” inscribed on the newly released commemorative stamps, celebrating the evolution of BRICS as a valuable platform for dialogue and cooperation.

Key Outcome: The key outcome of the BRICS 2026 Summit was the unanimous adoption of “New Delhi Declaration”, outlining key global issues ranging from trade and terrorism, to AI and institutional reform.

Dryland Congress 2026 Concludes in New Delhi with Adoption of Delhi Declaration on Drylands

The three-day Dryland Congress 2026 concluded in New Delhi, Delhi, with the adoption of

the ‘**Delhi Declaration on Drylands (3D)**’ on the final day, calling for stronger South–South and triangular cooperation to advance sustainable solutions for dryland agriculture.

- The Congress was organised under the theme “**Transforming Dryland Agriculture with South–South Cooperation**,” focusing on collaborative approaches to sustainable dryland development.

About Dryland Congress 2026:

Organised by: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

- The event also marked 50 years of the ICAR–ICRISAT partnership.

Co-Chairs: The Congress was co-chaired by **Dr. D.K. Yadava**, Deputy Director General (DG), Crop Science, ICAR, and **Dr. Stanford Blade**, Deputy Director General (DDG), Research & Innovation, ICRISAT, who presented the key outcomes and recommendations from the three-day deliberations.

Focus Areas: The Congress focused on sustainable dryland agriculture, food security, climate resilience, and resilient agri-food systems through knowledge exchange, technology sharing, and scaling of innovative solutions.

MoUs: The Congress witnessed the announcement of new agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and ICRISAT signed MoUs with Avior Life Sciences, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Wipro Limited, and the district administrations of Angul and Rayagada, Odisha.

ISSCA Global Awards 2026: The Congress also hosted the inaugural International Solidarity for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA) Global Awards 2026, which received 170 nominations from 34 countries. The awards recognised scalable agricultural innovations from across the Global South.

VP C.P. Radhakrishnan Releases Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan’s Book ‘A Century of Service – The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva’

Vice President (VP) C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book titled “A Century of Service – The RSS in 100 Acts of Seva” authored by Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan, former Governor of Telangana and former Lieutenant Governor (Lt Gov.) of Puducherry, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

About the Book:

Insights: The book presents a collection of **100 acts of seva** (service), highlighting the service initiatives associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) throughout its century-long journey.

- **Theme:** Nation-Building Through Character-Building

Significance: The book highlights social service initiatives, community support activities, and contributions towards nation-building, emphasising the role of seva (service), culture, and national consciousness in strengthening social responsibility and inspiring future generations.

Other Events: VP of India and President of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), C.P.

Radhakrishnan, addressed the 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) Celebrations of ICWA as an Institution of National Importance at Sapru House, New Delhi.

Six States Sign Agreement for Kishau Multipurpose Project

The Chief Ministers (CMs) of Uttar Pradesh (UP), Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana signed the Kishau Multipurpose Project agreement in New Delhi, Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**, Minister of Home Affairs (MHA) and Minister of Cooperation and Union Jal Shakti Minister **C. R. Patil**.

- The agreement aims to advance the long-pending project and support the rejuvenation of the Yamuna River.

Highlights of the Project agreement:

Background: Based on the 1994 Upper Yamuna Basin Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), consensus was reached on June 16, 2026, and the agreement was signed on September 15, 2026. Kishau Corporation Limited, a HP–Uttarakhand joint venture, will implement the project, subject to Union Cabinet approval.

National Project: Declared a National Project, with 90% of the financial burden borne by the Centre and 10% by the six participating states.

Kishau Dam: A 232.6-metre-high concrete gravity dam will be built on the Tons River along the Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border, with 1,562 MCM storage capacity.

GoI Reconstitutes CBFC with 18 Members For Three Years

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) reconstituted the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with 18 members for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier, with immediate effect.

- The previous Board was formally reconstituted in August 2017.

About Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):

Members: The panel will function under the leadership of Shashi Shekhar Vempati, Chairperson, CBFC.

- The new panel includes actors Preity Zinta, Suniel Shetty, Roopali Ganguly, Pallavi Joshi, Pankaj Tripathi, Prosenjit Chatterjee and Grammy-winning musician Ricky Kej, among others

Framework: The reconstitution of the CBFC was carried out by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and rule 3 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024.

Significance: The reconstituted Board will enhance the film certification process through efficient functioning, diverse representation, stronger regulatory mechanisms, and improved engagement with the entertainment industry.

About CBFC: Headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, CBFC is a statutory body under the MIB responsible for examining films and granting certification for public exhibition in India as per prescribed guidelines.

NITI Aayog Releases IEMI 2025; Delhi Again Emerged as Top Performer in adopting e-Mobility

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) released the **2nd** edition of “India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) 2025: Tracking Electric Mobility Trends in Indian States”, measuring the progress of 36 Indian States and Union Territories (UTs) toward electric (e)-mobility transition during the year 2025 i.e. from January 2025 to December 2025.

- As per NITI Aayog’s latest index, **Delhi** with an overall score of **84**, retained top position in the index (up from 77 in previous edition); followed by **Maharashtra (78)** and **Karnataka (73)**, ranked at 2nd and 3rd spots, respectively.

About IEMI 2025:

Developed by: The index was by NITI Aayog developed in partnership with World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

Methodology: The index tracks and evaluates the progress of the States/UTs, using 16 indicators across themes (each weighted in accordance with its importance to the e-mobility transition): Transport Electrification Progress (50%); Charging Infrastructure Readiness (30%) and EV Research and Innovation Status (20%).

Category-wise:

- **Large States:** Maharashtra emerged as the top performer in this category; followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (TN) (61).
- **Hilly and Northeastern States:** Manipur with an overall score of 46, topped this category; followed by Tripura (36); Assam (35).
- **UTs and City States:** Delhi, Chandigarh and Goa were the top States and Uts in this category.

Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2026 to Take Effect From October 1, 2026

Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) notified that the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Amendment Act, 2026 (Act No. 12 of 2026) will come into force from 1 October 2026, following its passage by Parliament and assent by President Droupadi Murmu.

- The Act amends Section 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969, as amended in 2023, to make delayed registration of births and deaths more stringent and streamlined.

About Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2026:

Mandate: The Act makes registration of births and deaths mandatory at the place of occurrence, with the issued certificate serving as legal evidence to establish the birth or death of a person.

Timeline: Births, deaths, and stillbirths are generally required to be reported within **21 days** of occurrence.

Provision: The amendment strengthens **Section 13(3)** of the RBD Act, 1969 (as amended in

2023), requiring approval from the District Magistrate (**DM**), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (**SDM**), or authorised Executive Magistrate for registration of births or deaths reported after **1 year** but within **2 years**, following verification and prescribed fee requirements.

Delayed Registration: For birth or death registrations delayed by **more than 2 years**, registration will require an order from the Judicial Magistrate First Class (**JMFC**), introducing higher judicial scrutiny for delayed registrations.

GFCI 40: GIFT City Jumps to 37th; New York Tops Global Rankings

The Z/Yen Partners, in collaboration with the China Development Institute (CDI), released the 40th edition of the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40), in which Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (**GIFT City**) jumped 9 places to rank **37th globally**, compared to 46th in GFCI 39.

- New York (United State of America,USA) retained the top position, followed by London (United Kingdom,UK), Hong Kong and Singapore at 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions, respectively.

About Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI 40):

Overview: GFCI is a biannual ranking of global financial centres that assesses their competitiveness using quantitative indicators and assessments from financial services professionals.

Coverage: GFCI 40 researched 139 financial centres worldwide, of which 117 centres were included in the main index and 22 were associate centres.

Methodology: GFCI 40 used 144 quantitative measures, known as instrumental factors, from sources including the World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and United Nations (UN), along with 39,531 assessments from 6,147 respondents.

Competitiveness Areas: The index assesses financial centres across five broad areas – Business Environment, Human Capital, Infrastructure, Financial Sector Development and Reputation.

NPCI Releases Revised MDR Framework: 0.4% Charge on UPI Transactions Above Rs 2000

The Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and Services Committee headed by National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) released a revised Merchant Discount Rate (**MDR**) framework, where **0.4%** charge will be charged on UPI transactions exceeding **Rs 2,000**.

- The finalized MDR framework and threshold structure take effect from **15th October 2026**.

MDR Framework Overview

Below Rs 2,000: Both Person-to-Person (**P2P**) and Person-to-Merchant (**P2M**) UPI transactions below **Rs 2,000** will continue to remain free for merchants and users.

P2P: All P2P UPI transactions remain completely free, irrespective of the amount transferred, with no transaction fee, platform fee, or other charge imposed on individuals.

Flat MDR: For specified merchant categories, including railways, telecom services, insurance and fuel, a flat MDR of **Rs 5** per transaction will apply to UPI payments above **Rs 2,000**.

Capital Markets: The MDR for Capital Market transactions, including

payments towards Mutual Funds, Securities, Stockbrokers, and Dealers, is set at a nominal **0.02%** of the transaction value with a maximum capping of **Rs 300**.

HAL Hands Over LCA Tejas FOC Trainers, HTT-40 Basic Trainers & Dhruv NG Helicopters to IAF and Pawan Hans

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) handed over **two** Light Combat Aircraft (**LCA**) Tejas Final Operational Clearance (**FOC**) Twin Seater Trainers, **three** Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (**HTT-40**) Basic Trainer Aircraft to the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) and **four** Dhruv Next Generation (**NG**) helicopters to Pawan Hans Limited (**PHL**).

- The handover ceremony was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, in the presence of Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), and Union Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

Key Details of Handover:

Twin-Seater Trainer: These 2 trainers handed over were the final aircraft under the contract.

- Designed for fighter pilot training, operational conversion, and preparation for frontline operations, the Tejas twin-seater trainer retains the core systems, combat capability, and advanced technologies of the frontline platform.

HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft (Ankur): The handover marked the beginning of deliveries under the MoD contract for 70 HTT-40 aircraft.

- Designed to support basic flying training, aerobatics, general handling, instrument flying, navigation training, night flying, and close formation flying.

Dhruv NG Helicopter: It is India's first indigenously produced civil helicopter compliant with Airworthiness Standards (AS)-4 requirements, making it suitable for offshore operations.

PM Narendra Modi Unveils Logo for Birth Centenary Celebrations of Sri Vishwesha Tirtha Swamiji

The Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** unveiled the **logo** for the birth centenary celebrations of **Padma Vibhushan Yatikula Chakravarti Sri Vishwesha Tirtha Swamiji** in Delhi, New Delhi.

About Sri Vishwesha Tirtha Swamiji:

Early Life: He was born as Venkataramana on April 27, 1931, at Ramakunja in Karnataka and entered the monastic order at a young age.

Pejavara Matha: He served as the head of Sri Pejavara Adhokshaja Matha, one of the Ashta Mathas of Udupi associated with the Dvaita philosophy of Sri Madhvacharya.

- He was noted for performing the Paryaya of the Udupi Sri Krishna Temple five times, a rare distinction among the Udupi seers.

Award: He was conferred the **Padma Vibhushan** posthumously in 2020 in the field of Social work.

Passed Away: He passed away on December 29, 2019.

MoH&FW: AB PM-JAY Completes 8 Years with Over 60 Crore Beneficiaries

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan-Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**) launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) to achieve universal health coverage completed **eight years** with over **60 crore (Cr)** beneficiaries.

About AB PM-JAY:

Launched on: The AB PM-JAY programme was launched by the Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** on 23 September 2018 from the city of Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Purpose: It is the world's largest government-funded public health insurance and assurance scheme, providing up to **Rs 5 lakh** per family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

Funding Structure: This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), with a funding ratio of:

- **60:40** – Centre: States
- **90:10** – Centre: North-Eastern (NE) States, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)
- **60:40** – Centre: Union territories (UTs) with a legislature
- **100%** – By Centre for UTs without legislature.

MoC&I: India-New Zealand FTA to Enter into Force from October 2026

The Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**) announced that India – New Zealand (NZ) Free Trade Agreement (**FTA**) will enter into force on **20 October 2026**, following the completion of ratification and domestic processes in both countries.

India-NZ FTA Details

Signed on: The Agreement was signed on **27th April 2026** at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, New Delhi, by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and NZ's Minister for Trade and Investment Hon. **Todd McClay**.

Duty Free: From the date of implementation, **100%** of India's exports to NZ will receive duty-free access. Key sectors to be benefited are:

- Textiles and apparel
- Leather and footwear
- Gems and jewellery
- Engineering goods and processed foods

Indian manufacturers will also receive duty-free access to inputs including wooden logs, coking coal and metal scrap.

Govt Mandates BIS Certification for Smartphone Screen Protectors from April 2027

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), Government of India (**GoI**) mandated Bureau of Indian Standards (**BIS**) certification for **smartphone screen protectors**, bringing them under the Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021, with effect from **1 April 2027**.

- Smartphone screen protectors must conform to the Indian Standard (IS) 19348:2025 before they can be manufactured, imported or sold in India.

Highlights of the BIS Certification:

Quality Parameters: The standard covers parameters including thickness, dimensions, light transmission, visual defects and strength. Compliant products will be required to carry the BIS Standard Mark.

Compliance: Manufacturers and importers must meet the prescribed standard before sale in India, with a transition period until **March 31, 2027**.

66th Product: Smartphone screen protectors have become the 66th product category covered under the compulsory registration framework. The existing list includes smartphones, laptops, chargers, LED televisions, microwave ovens, printers and set-top boxes.

About Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS): The BIS, established on 1 April 1987 and headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi, is India's National Standards Body under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAFPD).

MoPSW Notified 4 Ports, including Adani's Mundra Port as India's 1st Mega Ports

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) notified 4 major and commercial facilities namely: Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) (Nhava Sheva), Pradip port, Deendayal (Kandla) port, and Adani Group's Mundra port as India's 1st "mega ports" under section 73 of the Indian Ports Act, 2025.

Key Details of Mega Ports Status:

Validity: As per the official notification, the mega port status will remain valid for a period of 5 years, with the classification subject to periodic review.

Criteria: Based on July 2026 notification which defined the criteria for the mega port status:

- A port annually registering 150 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of cargo throughput in the case of a bulk port or;
- 7.5 Million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (MTEUs) in the case of container ports, shall be considered for the status.

Private Port: Apart from 3 government-owned ports, **Mundra Port**, operated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (SEZ), is the 4th and only private-sector owned asset on the list.

Union Minister Amit Shah Flags Off India's First LNG-Powered Train from Sabarmati, Gujarat

Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), flagged off India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered train from Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- During the event, he also inaugurated railway development projects worth **Rs. 1,472 crore** and the Wide Gauge, Alternating Current, Goods (WAG-12) Maintenance Shed for railway locomotive engines worth **Rs. 700 crore** in the presence of Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister (CM), Gujarat.

About India's First LNG-Powered Train:

Technology: The train operates as a diesel-LNG dual-fuel Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU), using both diesel and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which helps reduce diesel consumption by up to 40% and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Development Projects: The other projects inaugurated are inauguration of WAG-12 Locomotive, installation of the Kavach train protection system for Rs.48 crore, Kavach-related work on the Ahmedabad–Palanpur and Ahmedabad–Samakhiali sections.

CJI Surya Kant Inaugurates India's First Victim Rights Centre in Patna, Bihar

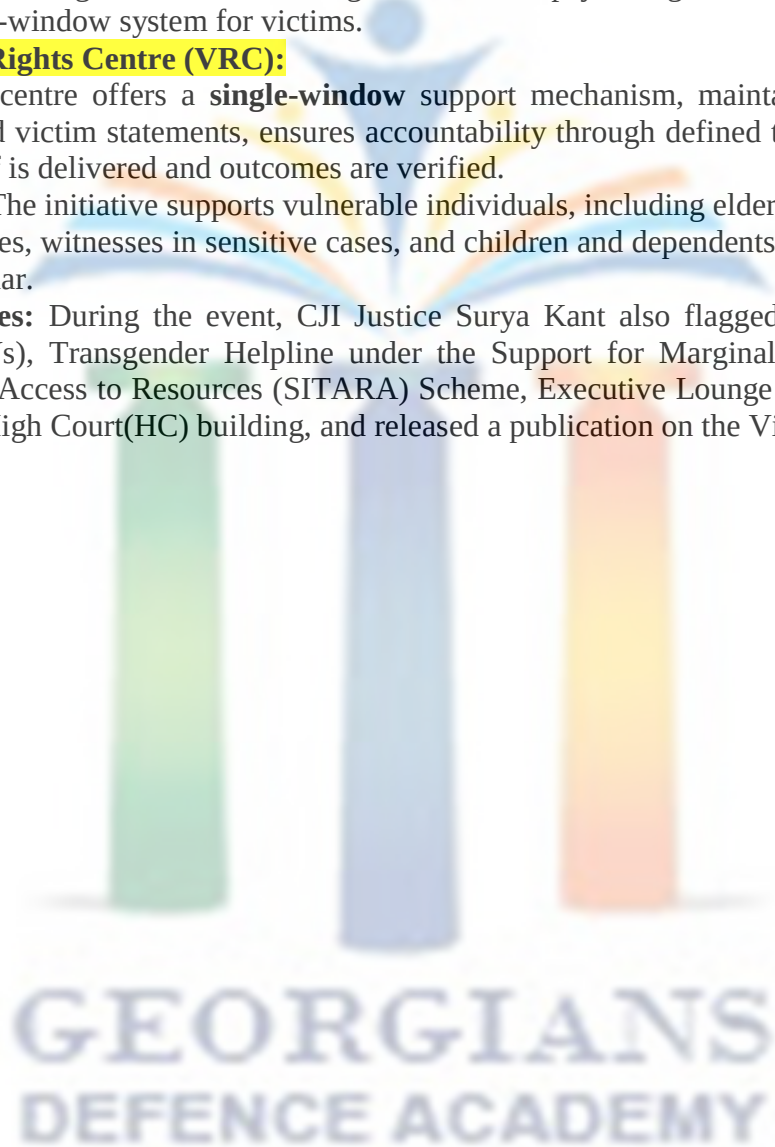
Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice **Surya Kant** inaugurated **India's first** Victim Rights Centre (VRC) at the Bihar State Legal Services Authority (BSLSA) premises in **Patna, Bihar** to provide integrated legal assistance on rights, medical, psychological, and social assistance through a single-window system for victims.

About Victim Rights Centre (VRC):

Features: The centre offers a **single-window** support mechanism, maintains case records to prevent repeated victim statements, ensures **accountability** through defined timelines, and tracks cases until relief is delivered and outcomes are verified.

Beneficiaries: The initiative supports **vulnerable individuals**, including elderly victims, survivors of sexual offences, witnesses in **sensitive cases**, and **children** and dependents of prisoners serving sentences in Bihar.

Other Initiatives: During the event, CJI Justice Surya Kant also flagged off 9 Multi-Utility Vehicles (MUVs), Transgender Helpline under the Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Access to Resources (SITARA) Scheme, Executive Lounge and Waiting Hall at the new Patna High Court(HC) building, and released a publication on the Victim Rights Centre.



International

Türkiye becomes 71st country to join 'Artemis Accords' for space exploration

Türkiye officially became the 71st country to join the United States of America (USA)-led **Artemis Accords** that aimed to promote safe and peaceful exploration of the Moon, Mars and beyond.

- The framework was signed by **Mehmet Fatih Kacir**, Industry and Technology Minister of Türkiye, during the ceremony held at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) headquarters in Washington DC, the USA.

Key Details:

7th West Asian Country: Also, Türkiye became the 7th West Asian country to join the framework after the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel.

About Artemis Accord: The Artemis Accords was jointly launched by NASA and the US Department of State in 2020 with an aim of advancing bilateral and multilateral space cooperation between the signatories.

- It laid down the framework for the implementation of key obligations from the Outer Space Treaty (signed in 1967).
- Artemis Accords are a set of non-binding bilateral principles designed to guide peaceful, safe, and sustainable civil space exploration.

Overview of 26th SCO Summit held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from August 31 to September 1, 2026

The 26th meeting of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit as well as 'SCO Plus meeting', was held from August 31, 2026 to September 1, 2026 at the Yrys-Ordo Congress Hall in **Bishkek**, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, marking the 25th anniversary of the SCO.

- The two-day long summit, chaired by **Sadyr Japarov**, President of Kyrgyzstan, was held under the motto: "25 Years of the SCO; Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity".
- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi represented India at the summit.

Highlights of 26th SCO Summit:

SCO Plus Meeting: On the sidelines of SCO summit, "SCO Plus" meeting was organised under the theme "The UN as a Key Element of a Just World Order: The Contribution of the SCO Plus States to the Formation of a Multipolar World".

Presidency for 2026-27: At the culmination of 26th SCO summit, the presidency for 2026-27 was handed over to **Pakistan**, which is set to be held under the chairmanship theme of "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity".

SCO Tourism Cultural Capital for 2026-27: “Lahore”, city in Pakistan, has been designated as “SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital” for 2026-27.

Key Outcomes: The summit concluded with the adoption of the Bishkek Declaration and approval of 28 documents, including 4 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and over 20 decisions and statements covering areas such as climate, nuclear safety, energy conservation, drug control, SCO Charter amendments and emergency assistance.

- The Bishkek Declaration, featured several India-led or India-supported initiatives such as: English recognised as an official and working language of the SCO; SCO Young Scientists Forum and SCO Young Authors Conference; approval of regulations for the executive committee of the SCO-Anti Narcotics Centre; and SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum (scheduled in India later in 2026).

UNEP Limiting Overshoot Report: 1.5°C warming overshoot is now ‘unavoidable’

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released its latest report titled “Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return”, exploring the risks and impacts related with higher levels of warming.

- The report highlighted that the world is now mostly likely to “overshoot” or temporarily breach the global warming temperature threshold 1.5°C above preindustrial temperatures within the next few years.

Key Findings:

Global Temperature: The report further projected that global surface temperature is expected to peak at about 1.8°C above pre-industrial levels even under an “optimistic scenario”.

It further projected that with current global policies, the global temperature is expected to reach 2.6°C by 2100.

Irreversible Tipping Points: The report highlighted that some impacts from temporary breach of 1.5°C will be irreversible even if global temperatures decline.

Compounding Damage: The report cited that every additional 5 years of sustained high emission could possibly add approximately 0.1°C to peak warming.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi’s visit to Kyrgyzstan from August 31, 2026 to September 1, 2026

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi undertook a two-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, 2nd leg of his two Central Asian countries tour (Uzbekistan) from August 31, 2026 to September 01, 2026, at the invitation of SadyrJaparov, President of Kyrgyzstan, to attend the 26th meeting of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

Highlights of the Visit:

6th Nomad Games: PM Narendra Modi, alongside several visiting SCO leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President MasoudPezeshkian, attended the opening ceremony of the 6th World Nomad Games, a biennial traditional sports event, in Bishkek, held from August 31, 2026 to September 6, 2026.

Bilateral Engagements : PM Modi held bilateral meetings with various SCO leaders, including

Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, MasoudPezeshkian, President of Iran.

Gifts: PM Modi presented 10-volume of English translation of Mahabharata by eminent Indian economist BibekDebroy as well as LadakhiTsugdul Blanket, a traditional woolen textile from Ladakh, to Kyrgyz President SadyrJaparov, while a Dokra artwork presented to AbdylbekKasymaliev, PM of Kyrgyzstan.

- PM Modi presented a sandalwood ShataTantriVeena (popularly known as Santoor), a traditional musical instrument of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K); and two premium variants of Kangra tea (from Himachal Pradesh, HP); and original handwritten scoresheet of chess Grandmaster JavokhirSindarov from the 2025 International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Cup final (Goa, India) to **ShavkatMirziyoyev**, President of Uzbekistan.

Bank of Canada Unveils CAD 20 Note, Featuring King Charles III

Bank of Canada (BoC) unveiled a new **Canadian Dollars (CAD) 20 banknote** which features the image of **King Charles III**, the 1st British monarch to appear on Canadian currency note in over 7 decades, after the death of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022.

- With this, Canada became the **1st Commonwealth country** to feature King Charles on its banknote outside Britain.

Key Features:

Orientation: One of the unique features of the newly unveiled banknote is its **vertical orientation**, which makes it the second vertical banknote issued in Canada's series after the **CAD 10 bill**.

- The USD 10 bill due to its design was selected as best in the world in 2018 by the International Bank Note Society.

Reverse Side: The reverse side of the banknote has an illustrious image of the Vimy Ridge Memorial in France, honouring Canada's role in World War-I.

Floral Motifs: The new banknote features floral emblems of Canada's 13 provinces and territories, along with several culturally important flowers among the country's indigenous population, including wild strawberries, western red cedar, braided sweetgrass and arctic cotton.

Circulation Timeline: As per the BoC, the new USD20 banknote will be in general circulation in early 2027.

UNGA Adopts Resolution to Observe November 27 as International Day Against Child Marriage

India was among the 70 countries who co-sponsored a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declaring November 27 every year as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

- The resolution, A/RES/80/309, led by Sierra Leone, was adopted without a vote during the 80th Session of the UNGA in New York, United States of America (USA), with the support of all 193 UN Member States.

About the Resolution:

Supporters: The idea for a global day to raise awareness against the child, early and forced marriage worldwide was championed by **Fatima Maada Bion**, First Lady of Sierra Leone and President of the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development (**OAFILD**) and **Bhuwan Ribhu**, founder of Just Rights for Children (JRC), a global child rights network committed to ending all forms of child exploitations.

Significance: The resolution would call upon governments all around the world to take decisive action through comprehensive laws, budgeted national action plans or policies, responsible and accountable institutions, among other steps to spread awareness about the consequences of child marriages.

- As per the resolution, the member states are required to develop and implement holistic multisectoral national strategies and action plans to end child, early and force marriage.

First Observance: The first observance of the International Day will take place on **27 November 2026**. The UN has added the day to its official list of international observances.

India's 4 More Heritage Sites Added to UNESCO Tentative List, taking India's total to 73

The Permanent Delegation of India to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced the inclusion of 4 new Indian cultural heritage sites, namely Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble (Assam), the Colonial Penal Settlement (Andaman Islands), Nicobarese Cultural Continuity (in the Central Group of Nicobar Islands), and the Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati (Rajasthan), in the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention (WHC). Category: Cultural

- With this, the total number of Indian sites on the tentative list increases to **73** (including 53 under Cultural category, 3 under Mixed Category and 17 under Natural Category).

Key Details of Sites:

Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble: Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble, a pre-modern urban and cultural landscape is located in the Sivasagar district of Assam, which is about 360 kilometer (km) North-East (NE) of Guwahati, the capital city of the state.

Colonial Penal Settlement: It was introduced in Andaman Islands after the 1857 uprisings, comprises 4 historically connected sites: Chatham Island; Viper Island; Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (NSCB) Island; and Cellular Jail.

Nicobarese Cultural Continuity: Located in Nicobar district, also called as "Nancowry group of islands", comprising 7 islands: Trinket, Katchal, Chowra, Teressa, Kamorta, Nancowrie, and Bompoka islands.

Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati: These haveli towns are mainly located in the semi-arid Shekhawati region in the northern Rajasthan, spanning across 3 districts: Sikar, Jhunjhunu, and Churu.

India Joins 'Global 6G Initiative' with USA and 24 Nations to Boost Secure Next-Gen Networks

India, through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), joined a global sixth-generation **6G initiative 'Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security'** with the United States of America (USA) and 24 countries to strengthen international collaboration to build secure, interoperable, and innovation-driven next-generation telecom networks.

- The decision followed a meeting between Union Minister of State (MoS) **JitinPrasada**, MoC&I and USA Commerce Secretary **Howard Lutnick** at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA, on the sidelines of the Group of Twenty (G20) Innovation Ministerial.

About India's Participation at Global 6G Initiative:

Framework: India joined the **Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security**, led by USA's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as the 26th country committing to collaborative efforts for 6G development over the coming years.

IndiaVision: India is advancing its domestic ambitions through the Bharat 6G Mission, aiming to establish itself as a global hub for 6G intellectual property, telecom products, and affordable solutions by **2030**.

G20Role: At the G20 Innovation Ministerial, India reaffirmed its commitment to partnerships in emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), semiconductors, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and robotics for economic growth.

Inaugural International Space Summit 2026 Held in Paris, France

The inaugural International Space Summit 2026 was held on September 9–10, 2026, at the Grand Palais in **Paris, France** hosted by French President **Emmanuel Macron** in partnership with **Germany**, and aims to open inclusive dialogue to address contemporary challenges in the space sector.

- The summit brought together representatives from nearly 90 countries, including heads of state and government, space agencies, scientists, institutions and private-sector stakeholders.

About International Space Summit 2026:

Themes: The summit highlighted three core themes, fostering international cooperation in the global space economy; advancing science and space exploration; and ensuring space security through dialogue, defense partnerships, and sustainable practices.

Deals: A total of 51 announcements worth about EUR 20 billion including investments, contracts, and collaborations were made, with EUR 5 billion from the private sector and EUR 15.7 billion under the Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite (IRIS²) program.

India-France Agreements: India and France signed three agreements during the summit to expand cooperation in space technologies, including satellite launches, surveillance systems, and microsatellite development with enhanced public-private collaboration, alongside plans to deploy the Space-Based Surveillance-Phase III (SBS-III) constellation between 2027 and 2030.

WEF's Global Gender Gap Index 2026: India Retained 131st rank; Iceland Topped the Index for 17th Consecutive Year

The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 20th edition of its annual report titled “Global Gender Gap Report 2026”. As per the index, India retained 131st spot out of 145 countries, witnessing a marginal increase in its overall score i.e. to 0.645.

- Also, countries like: **Iceland** with an overall score of 0.930 continued to secure top position for the 17th consecutive year, while **Finland**(rank 2nd, 0.872), and **Norway**(rank 3rd, 0.857) retained top spots for the 3rd consecutive year.

About WEF's Global Gender Gap Index:

Background:The Global Gender Gap Report has been released annually by the WEF since 2006. The report provides consistent measures of the present state of gender parity, as well as the long-term evolution of global efforts to close the gender gap.

Key Domains: The Index evaluates gender equality across four main dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity; Educational Attainment; Health and Survival; and Political Empowerment.

Global Gender Gap: Globally, 69.2% of the gender gap has been closed, the highest level to date, up 0.4 percentage points from last year and 5.2 percentage points across 97 economies since 2006.

OAG Megahubs 2026: Delhi Airport Rises to 28th in Global Connectivity Ranking

The Official Airline Guide (OAG), global aviation data provider, released the latest edition of its “OAG Megahubs 2026 report”. As per the report, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) jumped 11 places i.e. from 39th spot (2025) to 28th spot (in 2026), featuring among the world's top 50 most-connected international airports.

- Turkiye's Istanbul Airport (IST) with connections to 337 global destinations, emerged as the world's most connected international airport; followed by London Heathrow Airport (LHR) of the United Kingdom (UK); and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS) of the Netherlands secured 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

About OAG Megahubs Report:

Evaluation: The rankings measure airport connectivity by comparing the number of possible scheduled connections between international flights with the number of destinations served by an airport.

Coverage: OAG analysed the 100 largest airports globally and 100 largest international airports, based on scheduled seats during the 12 months to August 2026.

- The international connectivity ranking was based on flight data for 2 August 2026, the busiest day for global aviation during the period

Key Findings:

Asian Region Dominance: Asia-Pacific region with 8 airports continues to dominate the world's top 20 Megahubs; followed by EMEA (6); North America (5); and Latin America (1).

Low-cost Mega hubs: **Kuala Lumpur Airport (KUL) of Malaysia** with almost 15,000 possible low-cost connections across 154 destinations, topped the Low-Cost Megahubs index; followed by Incheon (ICN) of South Korea and Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen of Turkiye ranked at 2nd

and 3rd spots, respectively.

Megahubs by Region: Separately, the report provides 10 regional megahubs for Asia-Pacific, North America, Latin America, Middle-East and Africa (EMEA), and Europe.

- 8 of the the top 10 Asia-Pacific Megahubs featured among the world's top 25 rankings, including two Chinese airports: Shanghai (PVG) and Baiyun International (CAN).

WEF's 2026 TTDI: India Ranks at 31st Spot; Japan Topped Globally

The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 10th edition of the "Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI 2026): Insight Report September 2026". As per the report, India jumped 9 places i.e. **to 31st spot (in 2026)** with an overall score of **4.42**, driven by its low travel costs, cultural resources and natural attractions.

- Japan, with an overall score of **5.27** topped the index, followed by the United States of America (USA), Spain, Australia and France, ranked at **2nd, 3rd, 4th** and **5th** spots respectively.

About WEF's TTDI:

Background: It is a flagship travel and tourism benchmarking series of WEF, initially launched as the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), published biennially from 2007 to 2019. It was later relaunched in 2022 in its current form.

Prepared by: 2026 TTDI was prepared by WEF in collaboration with Zurich Insurance Group, ranking 110 economies (down from 119 economies in 2025) on the conditions that support travel and tourism.

Bottom 5 Countries: **Mali** with an overall score of 2.75, ranked **lowest** in the index; followed by Sierra Leone (rank 109th, score of 2.91); Cameroon (rank 108th, score of 3.05); Malawi (107th, score of 3.08); and Benin (rank 106th, score of 3.13).

Skytrax World Airline Awards 2026: Singapore Airlines Named World's Best Airline; Air India Tops Indian Airlines

Skytrax, the international air transport rating organisation, announced the World Airline Awards 2026, where Singapore Airlines (Singapore) was named the World's Best Airline at a ceremony held at the Langham Hotel in London, United Kingdom (UK), based on global customer survey results.

- **Qatar Airways** (Qatar) ranked 2nd, **Cathay Pacific Airways** (Hong Kong) 3rd, **ANA All Nippon Airways** (Japan) 4th, and **Turkish Airlines** (Turkey) 5th among the world's top airlines in 2026.

About World Airline Awards 2026:

Background: Introduced in 1999, the awards are widely regarded as the "Oscars of the aviation industry" and remain independent and impartial with no sponsorship involvement.

Qatar Airways: Ranked No.2 and won multiple awards including World's Best Business Class (13th time), Best Business Class Lounge for Al Mourjan Lounge, Best Airline in the Middle East, and World's Best Onboard Wi-Fi.

Air India: Air India ranked 57th globally with a 27-place improvement from 2025, becoming

the highest-ranked Indian airline and topping the India & South Asia regional list. **IndiGo:** IndiGo ranked 61st globally, remained the second-highest Indian carrier despite a decline, and won Best Low-Cost Airline in India & South Asia with strong domestic share and a wide international network.

TakeMe2Space to Launch India's First Orbital Data Centre on Falcon 9 in 2028

TakeMe2Space, a leading Indian spacetechnology, announced to launch India's 1st networked orbital data centre mission on SpaceX's **Falcon 9** in late 2028.

Key Details of Mission:

Launch Agreement: TakeMe2Space signed a launch service agreement with French space tech, **RIDE! Space**, a launch mission management company.

- The space tech plans to build a constellation of 6 satellites over the next few years.

Satellites: The company will launch two 100 kilogram (kg) My Orbital Infrastructure (MOI) constellation satellites on Falcon 9 rocket to a sun-synchronous orbit at about 500 kilometers (kms), as part of the Waymaker 2 rideshare mission which is the 2nd mission in Waymaker dedicated rideshare operated by Satellite & Extraterrestrial Operations & Procedures (SEOPS).

Configuration: Each satellite will feature 10 NVIDIA Thor Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), 100 Terabytes (TB) of storage, and 1.5 kilowatts (kW) of power, while optical inter-satellite links will enable data and workload sharing, making it India's first mission designed for networked in-orbit computing across spacecraft.

About TakeMe2Space: Founded in 2023, TakeMe2Space build orbital edge-computing infrastructure and space data centers, with headquarters in Hyderabad, Telangana.

GEORGIANS
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Defence

IAF Successfully Tests Indigenous Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Khagantak-243'

Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted the drop trial of the indigenously designed and developed Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) **Khagantak-243**, demonstrating enhanced long-range air-to-ground precision strike capability.

About Khagantak-243 Long Range Glide Bomb:

Overview: Khagantak-243 is a **300 kg** (Kilogram)-class airborne Long Range Stand-Off Precision Guided Glide Bomb, designed to enhance the IAF's stand-off strike capability by enabling fighter aircraft to engage targets from safer distances.

Development: The LRGB Khagantak-243 was developed through collaboration between Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), which supplied electronics systems and guidance subsystems, and JSR Dynamics, which developed the bomb body and control systems.

Technology: Glide bombs use aerodynamic surfaces to extend their range and guide the weapon toward targets after release from an aircraft, enabling strikes without requiring aircraft to enter heavily defended areas.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Lays Foundation for Rs 472 Crore T-72 and T-90 Tank Overhaul Facility in Jabalpur, MP

Union Minister, **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), in the presence of Madhya Pradesh(MP) Chief Minister(CM) Mohan Yadav, laid the foundation stone for a **Rs 472 crore T-72 and T-90 Tank Overhaul Project** at Vehicle Factory **Jabalpur**, MP, a production unit of Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL).

About T-72 and T-90 Tank Overhaul Project:

Objective: The facility is being established to strengthen India's indigenous Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) capabilities for the IA's T-72 and T-90 main battle tanks, enhancing their operational availability and lifecycle support.

Overhaul Capacity: The new facility will overhaul **80 tanks** annually, contributing to the Indian Army's (IA) annual requirement of around **230 tanks**.

Existing Capacity: The Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) at Avadi, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), currently has an annual overhaul capacity of 150 tanks.

German's Isar Aerospace Launches 'Spectrum Rocket' into Space

The German startup **Isar Aerospace** successfully launched its **Spectrum rocket** into orbit from Andøya Spaceport in Norway under its second-flight mission, 'Onward and Upward'.

About Spectrum Rocket Mission:

Historic Flight: The Spectrum rocket crossed an altitude of 100 kilometres (km) in less than four minutes and became the first privately developed rocket to reach space from Europe.

Spectrum Rocket: It is a two-stage orbital launch vehicle designed and largely manufactured in-house by Isar Aerospace for launching small and medium-sized satellites and constellations.

- The rocket is 28 metres tall, has a 2-metre(m) diameter, uses 10 engines, and can carry payloads of up to 1,000 kilograms (kg) to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Payloads: The mission carried **five CubeSats**: CyBEESat from Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin), Germany; TriSat-S from the University of Maribor, Slovenia; Platform 6 from EnduroSat, Bulgaria; FramSat-1 from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway; and SpaceTeamSat1 from TU Wien Space Team, Austria.

- It also carried the non-separable **‘Let It Go’ experiment** developed by Dcubed, with payload selection supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) Boost! Programme and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) Microlauncher Competition.

Apollyon Dynamics’ Ahuti Mk II Becomes India’s Fastest Multirotor UAV

Apollyon Dynamics, a defence startup, set a national record after its electric interceptor drone Ahuti Mk II achieved a top speed of 498 kilometres per hour (km/h), becoming India’s fastest multirotor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

About Ahuti Mk II :

Performance: Ahuti Mk II achieved a certified top speed surpassing the previous ~325 km/h benchmark, with the Mk II rebuilt from the 2025 version (300 km/h) to deliver nearly a 66% speed increase within one year.

Technology: Developed as a high-speed interceptor drone to chase and neutralise hostile drones and loitering munitions, it underwent nearly 10 design iterations in frame, propulsion, and motor configuration, and uses a 400-ampere burst current for high-speed performance.

Deployment: The drone has been tested at Indian Army (IA) ranges with support from defence authorities.

About Apollyon Dynamics: Founded by JayantKhatra and Sourya Choudhary, Apollyon Dynamics is a Hyderabad(Telangana)-based defence startup established in 2025.

Adani Defence Signs 5-Year Ammunition Supply Pact for AK-203 Rifle Programme

Adani Defence & Aerospace and Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) signed a five-year agreement for the supply of indigenously manufactured 7.62×39 mm small-calibre ammunition for India’s AK-203 assault rifle programme.

- The pact will provide a domestic source of ammunition and ensure continuity of supply while strengthening India’s indigenous small-arms ecosystem.

Highlights of the Agreement:

Background: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract on 6 December 2021 for 6,01,427 rifles for the Indian Armed Forces.

Manufacturing: The 7.62×39 mm ammunition will be manufactured at Adani Defence’s ammunition facility in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, while the AK-203 rifles are manufactured by IRRPL at its Korwa facility in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

AK-203 Programme: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with IRRPL in December 2021 for over 6 lakh AK-203 rifles.

Indigenisation: IRRPL recently manufactured and test-fired the first 100% indigenous AK-203, named ‘Sher’, using Indian components and input materials.

Features: The 7.62×39 mm gas-operated AK-203 can fire 700 rounds per minute and has an

effective range of up to 800 metres(m). The Indian military is inducting the rifles to replace ageing Indian Small Arms System(INSAS) rifles.

India-Japan Conduct Bilateral Air Exercise 'Veer Guardian-2026' at Jodhpur, Rajasthan

The Indian Air Force (IAF), under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) conducted the **2nd edition** of the bilateral air exercise **Veer Guardian-2026** at Air Force Station **Jodhpur, Rajasthan** from 9-22 September 2026.

- The **14-day exercise** aims to enhance interoperability, tactical proficiency and operational synergy between the two air forces.

Highlights of the Exercise 'Veer Guardian 2026':

Background: Veer Guardian-2026 is the second India-Japan bilateral air combat exercise, following the first edition in Japan in 2023.

Participation: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating with indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Su-30 MKI and Rafale, while the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) is participating with F-2A fighter aircraft; the Japanese contingent includes 3 F-2A aircraft from the 8th Air Wing at Tsuiki Air Base, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, and approximately 110 personnel.

Activities: The exercise includes advanced operational missions, mission planning conferences, Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges, and professional interactions on engineering practices and aerospace safety to strengthen interoperability, expertise and operational synergy.

India-USA Joint Military Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2026' Begins in India

The **22nd** edition of Exercise “**Yudh Abhyas 2026**”, an annual bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army (IA) and United States (US) Army, commenced on 9 September 2026 at **Bikaner, Rajasthan and Auli, Uttarakhand, India**.

- The exercise will continue till 28 September 2026, focusing on enhancing interoperability, operational readiness and cooperation in emerging battlefield technologies.

About Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026:

Background: The 21st edition of the India-United States of America (USA) joint military exercise **Yudh Abhyas 2025** was conducted at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, **USA**.

Framework: The exercise is conducted under the **Operation Pathways** framework, aimed at enhancing interoperability, information sharing, and operational readiness between the IA and US Army.

Exercise Structure: The exercise includes a Command Post Exercise (CPX) for operational planning and coordination, a Field Training Exercise (FTX) featuring tactical drills and joint manoeuvres, and concludes with a **live-fire** demonstration showcasing integrated combat capabilities.

4th edition of India-Malaysia Maritime Exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' held in Lumut, Malaysia

The **4th** edition of Exercise ‘**Samudra Laksamana**’, a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN), was conducted at **Lumut, Malaysia**, to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability between the two navies.

About Samudra Laksamana 2026:

Objective: Conducted under the aegis of India’s operational deployment, the exercise aims to enhance professional knowledge sharing, improve coordination and operational synergy between both navies.

Activities: The exercise comprises a **Harbour Phase** featuring cross-deck visits, Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges, professional discussions, and sporting interactions, followed by a **Sea Phase** involving operational interactions, maritime cooperation activities, and joint training engagements.

Participation:

- The RMN was represented by KD Lekir and KD Gagah Sam

India-Sri Lanka Begin 13th SLINEX-26 Maritime Exercise in Visakhapatnam, AP

The Indian Navy (IN), under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) commenced the **13th edition** of the annual bilateral maritime exercise Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-26) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP), from 17 to 21 September 2026.

- The exercise aims to strengthen maritime cooperation, interoperability and mutual understanding between the two navies.

Background: SLINEX was conceptualised in 2005 and serves as a platform for strengthening maritime cooperation, interoperability and mutual understanding between the two navies.

- The 12th edition, SLINEX-25, was conducted from 14 to 18 August 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

About SLINEX 2026:

Indian Navy Participation: The IN participated with Indian Naval Ship(INS) Kavaratti, an indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette, and INS Jyoti, a Fleet Tanker.

Sri Lanka Navy Participation: The SLN was represented by SLNS Sindurala.

18th India–Mongolia Joint Military Exercise ‘NOMADIC ELEPHANT’ Begins in Uttarakhand

The 18th edition of the annual India–Mongolia Joint Military Exercise ‘**NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2026**’ commenced at the Foreign Training Node(FTN), Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, and will continue until 3 October 2026.

About Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2026:

Participation: Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026 involves 45 personnel each from the Indian Army (IA), predominantly from a battalion of the **ARUNACHAL SCOUTS** and the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Joint Training Focus: The exercise will focus on tactical-level operations, exchange of best

practices, refinement of operational drills and enhanced interoperability between the Indian and Mongolian armies.

Training Activities: The curriculum will include Cordon and Search Operations, Room Intervention Drills, Special Heliborne Operations, Cyber Security Training, and the use of drones and counter-drone systems.

IAF Hosts 2nd Edition of Multinational Air Exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2026' in Rajasthan

The Indian Air Force (IAF) commenced the **2nd edition** of multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2026' at Air Force Station (AFS) Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The exercise is being conducted from 26 September to 12 October 2026, with participation from 40 countries.

- The exercise focuses on operational learning, greater interoperability and stronger partnerships among participating air forces.

About Tarang Shakti 2026:

Participants: Eight Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) – Australia, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Greece, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States of America (USA) – are participating with air assets, while 32 countries are attending as observers.

Aircraft: The IAF is participating with Rafale, Mirage-2000, Jaguar, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, MiG-29 and Su-30MKI, while foreign platforms include the German Air Force's A400M Atlas, Royal Australian Air Force's F/A-18F Super Hornet, USAF's F-35, French Air and Space Force's Rafale, UAE Air Force's F-16 and Bangladesh Air Force's C-130J.

Operational Training: The exercise covers counter-air, air defence, reconnaissance (recce), airlift and air-to-air refuelling, along with Beyond Visual Range (BVR) and Within Visual Range (WVR) combat, dynamic targeting and Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR).

Indian Navy Participates in 24th Edition of Exercise VARUNA in France

Indian Navy (IN) warship Indian Naval Ship(INS) Trishul arrived at Toulon, France to participate in the **24th edition** of the bilateral maritime exercise VARUNA with the French Navy.

About Exercise VARUNA:

Overview: VARUNA is a bilateral maritime exercise conducted between the IN and the French Navy. It is conducted alternately off the coasts of India and France.

- The bilateral naval exercise began in **1993** and was named VARUNA in **2001**.

Host: The **24th edition** of the exercise is hosted by France at the Toulon Naval Base, a major base of the French Navy located on the Mediterranean coast.

Activities: The exercise includes both harbour and sea phase engagements such as cross-deck visits, operational interactions, coordinated drills and sporting activities to enhance professional exchange.

Phases: Bilateral maritime exercise between the IN and the French Navy involving harbour and sea phase activities to enhance interoperability, coordination and professional exchange.

9th India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise 'KAZIND' Begins in Kazakhstan

The 9th edition of India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise 'KAZIND-2026' commenced in Oskemen, Kazakhstan, with the participation of the armed forces of India and Kazakhstan. The exercise is being conducted from September 28 to October 11, 2026

About KAZIND-2026:

Participating Contingents: The 60-member Indian contingent, led primarily by a **GARHWAL RIFLES** battalion, includes personnel from other arms, services and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- Kazakhstan is fielding a matching-strength contingent, mainly from its Land Forces.

Training Focus: KAZIND-2026 focuses on joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain, with emphasis on joint planning, execution, air mobility, and the integrated use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (**UAS**) and Counter-UAS capabilities.

Activities: It Includes training in counter-terrorism drills, raids, search-and-destroy and cordon operations, along with setting up a Joint Command Post and Intelligence centre.

Indian Navy Commissions 2nd Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun'

The Indian Navy (IN) commissioned its second Diving Support Vessel (DSV) '**Nipun**', meaning "skilled and proficient" in Sanskrit, at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra, in the presence of **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS). The vessel has been built as per Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) standards.

Key Features of 'Nipun':

Background: Designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Nipun was delivered on 30 July 2026 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh(AP). The Nistar-class vessel has around 75% indigenous content, supporting self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Capability: 'Nipun supports saturation diving up to 300 metres(m) and side-stage diving up to 75 metres, besides inspection, maintenance and repair of subsea infrastructure.

Technology: The vessel is equipped with Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) capable of operating up to 1,000 metres, a side diving stage, 15-tonne subsea crane and dynamic positioning systems. It is about 118 metres long with a displacement of around 8,500 tonnes.

Rescue Role: Nipun acts as a mother ship for Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) to evacuate personnel from distressed submarines.

About Indian Navy (IN): The IN is headed by CNS Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi, and was established in 1612.

GEORGIAN
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma Becomes First Non-Medical Woman Two-Star Officer in Indian Defence Forces

Air Vice Marshal (AVM) **Shakti Sharma** created history by becoming the **first woman officer** from the non-medical stream of the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of AVM or equivalent.

- She assumed the appointment of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters, New Delhi(Delhi), taking on a key leadership role in the education and training domain of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma:

Career: Commissioned into the Indian Air Force (IAF) Education Branch on 18 June 1994, she has over 30 years of service across Training Establishments, Field Stations, Command Headquarters, and Air Headquarters.

Achievements: She spearheaded initiatives for establishing IAF Chairs of Excellence at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, and became the first woman from the Tri-Services to command a Sainik School at Kapurthala, Punjab.

Significance: Her promotion as a two-star officer outside the medical stream marks a major milestone in expanding leadership roles for women in defence services.

About IAF: Established on 8 October 1932, the IAF is headquartered in New Delhi(Delhi) and headed by Chief of the Air Staff Amar Preet Singh. Its motto is “Nabha Sparsham Deeptam.”

Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Appointed First CEO of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust

Retired Air Marshal **Jeetendra Mishra** was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- The other appointments included Govind Dev Giri, former Treasurer, as General Secretary, succeeding interim General Secretary Krishna Mohan, and Mahesh Bhagchandka as Treasurer.

About the Appointment:

Selection: Jeetendra Mishra was selected from a shortlist of three candidates after scrutiny of **5,585 applications**; the other finalists were Major General Sanjay Pratap Singh Bisht and Shruti Bharadwaj.

Military Career: He previously headed the Western Air Command during Operation Sindoor, retired from the Indian Air Force (IAF) in April 2026, and logged over 3,000 flying hours across more than 18 aircraft types.

New Trustees: The Trust inducted Madan Mohan Pandey, Mahesh Bhagchandka and Nirmala Yadav, with Nirmala Yadav becoming the first woman trustee of the Trust.

Adobe Appoints Anil Chakravarthy as President & CEO

Adobe Inc., announced the appointment of Anil Chakravarthy as its next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective **1 December 2026** and will also join the company's Board of Directors.

- He will succeed long-serving CEO **Shantanu Narayen**, who will transition to the role of Executive Chair.

About Anil Chakravarthy:

Profile: He served as CEO of Informatica and held leadership roles at Symantec, VeriSign and McKinsey & Company.

Adobe Career: He joined Adobe in January 2020 and was promoted to President of Digital Experience and Worldwide Field Operations in December 2021.

Contribution: Led expansion of enterprise solutions (GenStudio, CX Enterprise, Brand Visibility, CX Enterprise Co-worker platform) and oversaw acquisitions of Workfront and Semrush, with his appointment finalized after a rigorous board-led selection process.

About Adobe Inc.: Founded in 1982 by John Warnock and Charles Geschke, Adobe Inc. is headquartered in California, United States of America (USA).

Dinesh Sharma Appointed as Lt Gov of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Dr. Dinesh Sharma, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) from Uttar Pradesh (UP) as the Lieutenant Governor (Lt Gov) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&N) with the announcement issued through a communiqué by Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- He succeeds Admiral (Retired) **Devendra Kumar Joshi**, former Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), who served as Lt Gov of A&N since 2017.
- The appointment will come into effect from the date he assumes charge of the office.

About Dr. Dinesh Sharma:

Legislative Role: He served as a Rajya Sabha MP from UP since 2023, which was scheduled to end on 25 November 2026 and was also a member of the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons of the Rajya Sabha.

Constitutional Role: Lt Gov serves as the constitutional head of certain Union Territories (UTs) under **Article 239** of the Constitution of India and acts as the representative of the President of India in these territories.

MoL&J Appoints 8 High Court Judges as Chief Justices across India

The Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J) notified the appointments of **8 Judges** of various High Courts (HC) as Chief Justices (CJ) of different High courts across India.

About the Appointments:

Process: The Supreme Court Collegium recommends names, followed by approval from the President Droupadi Murmu and formal notification by MoL&J, ensuring institutional checks and balances.

Constitutional Provision: Appointments are governed by **Article 217** of the Constitution of

India, empowering the President to appoint HC judges and CJs after mandatory consultations with constitutional authorities.

Appointees:

- **V. Kameswar Rao** as CJ of Patna HC
- **Ravindra V Ghuge** as CJ of Calcutta HC
- **Sanjay Kumar Agrawal** as CJ of Rajasthan HC
- **Mahesh Chandra Tripathi** as CJ of Bombay HC
- **Ashwani Kumar Mishra** as CJ of Punjab & Haryana HC
- **Krushna Ram Mohapatra** as CJ of Chhattisgarh HC
- **Alpesh Yeshvant Kogje** as CJ of Madhya Pradesh HC
- **Pushpendra Singh Bhati** as CJ of J&K And Ladakh HC

DoSJ&E Appointed Bhagwat Prasad Makwana as Chairperson of NCSK

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (**DoJ&E**) which works under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E), appointed **Bhagwat Prasad Makwana** as the Chairperson of the of the National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis (NCSK).

- Apart from the Chairperson, DoSJ&E has appointed a Vice-Chairperson and three members to the Commission, with these appointments effective until **March 31, 2028**, aligning with the remaining tenure of the current Commission.

Key Details of Appointments:

Vice-Chairperson: KaishabBihari, a farmer from Odisha, has been appointed as Vice-Chairperson of the commission.

- He has been actively engaged in the work relating to the welfare and upliftment of SC, Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other disadvantaged sections of society.

Members: Also, DoSJ&E appointed **Manoj Kumar Balmiki**, who has previously served as a Member of the State SafaiKaramchari Commission, for Uttar Pradesh (UP) government (from 2019 to 2022); **SushmaGaudiyal**, a Professor in the Department of Hindi at Bareilly College, Bareilly(UP); and **Ravi RamuKalose**, a retired municipal Engineer, have been appointed as members of the NCSK.

IPS Officer Sanjukta Parashar Appointed as First Woman IG of CRPF CoBRA Unit

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Sanjukta Parashar** took charge as the Inspector General (**IG**) of the Central Reserve Police Force (**CRPF**) Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (**CoBRA**) unit, becoming the **first woman officer to lead the elite jungle warfare force**.

- She took charge as IG of the **10-battalion CoBRA** sector headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi, succeeding **Danesh Rana**, a 1996-batch IPS officer of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories) cadre.

About Sanjukta Parashar

Profile: Sanjukta Parashar is a 2006-batch IPS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, popularly known as the “**Iron Lady of Assam**” for her frontline counter-insurgency operations.

Past Experience: She has served as a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) with the National Investigation Agency (NIA), led the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) wing of Assam Police, and handled field policing, anti-militancy operations, and national security investigations.

Award: For her outstanding contributions to policing and tactical administration, Sanjukta Parashar was awarded the **Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Training** on 21 April 2022 by Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) during the 13th NIA Day in New Delhi, Delhi.

Jayanti Prasad Takes Additional Charge as IBBI Chairperson

Jayanti Prasad, Whole-Time Member(WTM) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), took additional charge as **Chairperson** of IBBI with effect from 13 September 2026.

- He succeeded **Ravi Mital** and will hold the additional charge until 20 November 2026.

About Jayanti Prasad :

Profile: Jayanti Prasad is a 1986-batch Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) officer with **39 years** of national and international civil-service experience and joined IBBI as a WTM on 5 July 2022.

Key Roles: Held senior positions at the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) Office, including Deputy CAG, and served as Custodian under the Special Court (TORTS) Act, 1992 in the Ministry of Finance.

United Nations: Served for 6 years as Chief Auditor in UN programmes across Somalia, Kenya, Geneva, Angola, Iraq and New York, and received a UN award for exemplary work in the Oil for Food Programme.

IBBI: It, established on 1 October 2016, is the statutory regulator under the IBC, 2016, functioning under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi.

ACC Appoints IAS Officer Mandeep K. Bhandari as New CBSE Chairperson

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of **Mandeep K. Bhandari**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, as the **Chairperson** of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), with the decision notified by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

- He replaces **Lokhande Prashant Sitaram**, who was holding additional charge as CBSE Chairperson following the transfer of former Chairperson Rahul Singh in June 2026.

About Mandeep K. Bhandari:

Profile: A 2001-batch IAS officer of the **AGMUT cadre** (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories (UTs)), he has held diverse roles across the Central Government and UTs, with more than two decades of experience in public administration and institutional coordination.

Previous Role: Prior to this appointment, he served as Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor (Lt Gov) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Honours/ Awards

FPAI Indian Football Awards 2026: MohunBagan Star LallianzualaChhangte Named Indian Footballer of the Year

Indian midfielder **LallianzualaChhangte** (from Mizoram), named as the Indian Footballer of the Year 2026, while, **ManishaKalyan** (from Punjab) bagged the Indian Women's Player of the Year award.

- The awards were presented by the Indian football legend BhaichungBhutia at the **Indian Football Awards 2026** ceremony, hosted by the Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).

About Indian Football Awards 2026:

Dominance: East Bengal Football Club (FC) honoured with the Indian Super League (ISL) Champions award for winning the ISL title last season (2025-26).

- In addition, East Bengal FC Women were honoured for winning the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2025-26 title.

Other Key Winners: This year, Sanan Mohammed K. (Jamshedpur FC) clinched the Young Player of the Year award, while SanfidaNongrum (Garhwal FC) named Women's Young Player of the Year.

- Owen Coyle and Anhtony Andrews received the men's and women's Coach of the Year awards respectively, while veteran coach SavioMedeira honoured with the Coach Education Award.
- Also, Rapid Sports and the Right Weigh bagged the Player Performance and Development Award.

Swiss Tennis Legend Roger Federer Inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

Swiss tennis legend **Roger Federer** was inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** (ITHF) in Newport, Rhode Island, the United States of America (USA), marking one of the highest honours in tennis.

- Alongside Federer, renowned tennis journalist and broadcaster **Mary Carillo** was honoured in the Contributor Category for her long-standing contribution to tennis media and storytelling.

About Roger Federer :

Career: He is regarded as one of the greatest tennis players, winning 20 Grand Slam titles, 103 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour titles, and holding the record of 310 weeks as World No. 1 (Number One), including 8 Wimbledon titles and achieving a Career Grand Slam.

Milestone: In 2009, he completed a Career Grand Slam by winning the French Open. His 2017 comeback was notable, winning both the Australian Open and Wimbledon after injury.

- He also won the men's doubles gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics (Beijing, China), and later securing a silver medal in men's singles at the 2012 London Olympics (London, United Kingdom, UK).

Legacy: The Swiss legend, who retired in 2022, earned induction into the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, highlighting his exceptional legacy and enduring impact on the sport.

68th Ramon Magsaysay Awards: Tommy Koh, Runa Khan and Bo Kyi Winners of 2026

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) announced Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh) and Bo Kyi (Myanmar) as winners of the 68th Ramon Magsaysay Awards (2026), often regarded as Asia's Nobel Prize, on the occasion of 119th birth anniversary Ramon Magsaysay, 7th President of the Philippines.

- The awards will be presented officially during a ceremony scheduled on November 15, 2026 in Manila, the Philippines.

About 2026 Winners & Their Contribution:

Tommy Koh: He is a veteran Singaporean diplomat and legal expert who played a pivotal role in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (in 1982). He received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution for promoting dialogue between countries and supporting international cooperation.

Runa Khan: She is a founder of a Bangladeshi Non-Government Organisation (NGO) called "Friendship", which works mainly for the welfare of Bangladesh's char communities.

Bo Kyi: Kyi, a former political prisoner, is recognised for fighting the rights of political prisoners and documenting human rights violations in Myanmar.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award: The award was instituted in 1957 by the government of the Philippines in association with the trustees of Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RGB), in the honour of former President of the Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay.

- Each recipient receives a **medallion** bearing the likeness of President Ramon Magsaysay; a **certificate** inscribed with their official citation, and a cash prize of **USD 50,000**.

Dominican Republic's Joheirry Mola Crowned Miss World 2026 in Vietnam

The Miss World Organisation (MWO) crowned **Joheirry Mola** of the **Dominican Republic** as **Miss World 2026** at the 73rd edition held in Nha Trang, Vietnam, where 111 contestants competed globally.

- She became only the second Dominican woman to win Miss World, following Mariasela Álvarez, who won the title in 1982.

About Miss World 2026:

Crowning: Miss World 2025 **Opal Suchata Chuangsri** of Thailand crowned Joheirry Mola of the Dominican Republic as Miss World 2026.

Runner –ups: Spain's Elisabeth ReyesAlabern was named first runner-up, while Malaysia's TaanusiyaChetty finished as second runner-up.

- India's **Nikita Porwal**, from Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh (MP), secured a place in the Top 40.

Next Host: The next edition scheduled to be hosted in **Tanzania in 2027** as part of its global rotation.

Union Minister Amit Shah Presented President's Colour to Goa Police in Panaji

Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) presented the President's Colour to the Goa Police during a ceremony held in Panaji, Goa.

- Goa Police received the award in recognition for over **80 years of its service**, courage and professionalism, and protecting the state's coastline, tourists and internal security.

Key Initiatives by Goa Police:

Cybercrime: Goa Police launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based call agent for the national **cybercrime helpline 1930**, marking a major step in strengthening the fight against cyber fraud.

Sansad Ratna Awards 2026: PP Chaudhary Honoured for Fourth Time

The 16th Sansad Ratna Awards ceremony was held in New Delhi, Delhi recognising top-performing Members of Parliament (MPs) and Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs) for their parliamentary performance based on measurable indicators up to the Budget Session 2026.

- **P.P. Chaudhary**, Lok Sabha MP from Pali and Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on One Nation, One Election (ONOE), received the award for the **fourth time**.

About Sansad Ratna Awards 2026:

Categories: Awards include **10 Lok Sabha MPs, 2 Rajya Sabha MPs and 4 PSCs, and a special recognition** such as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Jan Seva Puraskar.

Performance: Evaluation criteria include attendance, number of questions raised, debate participation, private member bills and overall legislative contributions in Parliament.

2026 Awardee: Among the Lok Sabha awardees were P.P. Chaudhary, Jagdambika Pal, Nishikant Dubey, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde and others while Dr. Medha Vishram Kulkarni and Narhari Amin were recognised from the Rajya Sabha.

- Parliamentary Standing Committees on Agriculture, Finance, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, and Coal & Mines were also honoured.

IOA Announces Memorial Awards in Honour of Raja Randhir Singh and Jaspal Rana

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president **P.T. Usha** announced two memorial awards named after veteran sports administrator late **Raja Randhir Singh** and shooting legend late **Jaspal Rana**.

- The announcement was made during the launch of a book on Rana titled ‘**Maverick Jaspal**’, co-authored by senior sports journalists S Kannan and G Rajaraman.

Awards in Detail

Honors: The Raja Randhir Singh Trophy will be awarded to the **best male** athlete of the Asian Games, while the Jaspal Rana Trophy will be awarded to the **best female** athlete of the Asian Games to honour their contribution to Indian sports.

Raja Randhir Singh: He served as the secretary general of the IOA from 1987 to 2012, for 25 years.

- He also served as the president of the Olympic Council of Asia (**OCA**), passed away at the age of 79 in May 2026.

Jaspal Rana: Jaspal Rana, a pioneer of India shooting and renowned pistol coach, won a world-record gold in **25 meter (m)** standard pistol at the 1994 ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Shooting Championship, won **15 commonwealth games medals** (9 gold) and **8 Asian Games medals** (4 gold).

- He passed away at the age of 49 in June 2026.

Veteran Actor Padma Bhushan Anant Nag Conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024

The Government of India (GoI) announced that veteran actor, Padma Bhushan Anant Nag will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024, following the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee for his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

- The award will be presented during the **72nd National Film Awards** ceremony on 22 September 2026 at **Kevadia** (Ekta Nagar), Gujarat.
- Anant Nag, the 56th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, became the second Kannada cinema artist to receive the honour after Rajkumar (1995).

About Anant Nag:

Profile: Anant Nag (born Anant Nagarkatte) is considered **one** of the most influential actors of Kannada cinema, recognised for his versatility and contributions to both mainstream and parallel cinema through a career spanning over five decades in Indian cinema.

- He marked the **Golden Jubilee** of his 50-year cinematic journey in **2023**.

Padma Bhushan: In 2025, Anant Nag was conferred with **Padma Bhushan**, the third-highest civilian award of India from the Government of India (**GoI**) in the field of Art for his contributions to Indian cinema.

Awards and Recognitions: He received several honours, including 5 Filmfare Awards, 5 Karnataka State Best Actor Awards, Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award, Karnataka State Lifetime Achievement Award, and an Honorary Doctorate from Bangalore University (North), Karnataka.

Marathi Film ‘Gondhal’ Selected as India’s Official Entry for Oscars 2027

The Marathi-language film ‘Gondhal’, was selected by the Film Federation of India (FFI) from 33 entries as India’s official submission for the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards (Oscars 2027).

About ‘Gondhal’:

Overview: ‘Gondhal’ is a Marathi-language psychological and cultural thriller written and directed by **Santosh Davakhar**. Set in rural Maharashtra, the film explores ritual traditions, personal ambition and human vulnerability.

- Ishita Deshmukh plays the lead role in the film, which also stars Kishor Kadam, Yogesh Sohani, Nishad Bhoir, Anuj Prabhu, and Dhru Thoke.

Awards: Santosh Davakhar won the Silver Peacock for Best Director at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2025.

- ‘Gondhal’ received the FIPRESCI Award at the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival 2026.

Significance: ‘Gondhal’ becomes the **fourth** Marathi film to be selected as India’s official Oscar entry, following ‘Shwaas’ (2005), ‘Harishchandradi Factory’ (2009) and ‘Court’ (2015).

M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026: Gautam Adani Topped Overall; Shah Rukh Khan leads Entertainers and Cricketers’ Group

Hurun India, in collaboration with M3M India Private Limited, released the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026, with Gautam Adani and family topping the list at Rs.9.23 lakh crore, followed by Mukesh Ambani and family at Rs.8.63 lakh crore and L.N. Mittal and family at Rs.3.39 lakh crore.

- Cyrus S. Poonawalla & family of the Serum Institute of India (SII) ranked 4th with wealth of Rs 3,03,400 crore, followed by Roshni Nadar Malhotra & family of HCL Technologies Limited in 5th place with Rs 2,78,500 crore.
- The list includes seven entertainers and cricketers, with **Shah Rukh Khan** and family leading the group at Rs.10,000 crore.

About M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026:

Overview: The M3M Hurun India Rich List is an annual ranking that profiles India’s wealthiest individuals and families.

- The 2026 list marks the 15th edition, based on a wealth snapshot as of 24 August 2026.

Cities: Mumbai, (Maharashtra) leads with 465 individuals, followed by New Delhi, (Delhi) (236) and Bengaluru, (Karnataka) (129), highlighting major urban wealth concentration and economic hubs in India.

Sectors: Industrial products, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals dominate, while **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** emerged as a **new sector** with 19 individuals contributing Rs 3.07 lakh crore wealth.

Mizoram Farmer ZT Lalrithangi to Receive FAO Award

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) has selected **Z T Lalrithangi**, popularly known as **Pi Mari-i**, a 35-year-old teacher-turned-farmer from Sangau

village, Lawngtlai district, Mizoram, for the ‘**FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development**’.

- The recognition was conferred under the **International Year of Women Farmers 2026** for her contribution through strawberry cultivation, making her the first Mizo person to receive this international honour.

Highlights of the Award Recognition:

Recognition: Lalrithangi was selected among 100 women globally from more than 600 nominations across 131 countries, including 2 women from India, under the FAO initiative.

Ceremony: She will receive the recognition during the World Food Forum at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, scheduled from October 12–16, 2026.

State Recognition: Before receiving the international recognition, Lalrithangi was selected as the Best Farmer of Lawngtlai district at the Mizoram Horti Fair 2026.

Indian scientists Roxy Mathew Koll and Neelima Satyam Among AGU 2026 Awardees

Indian scientists Roxy Mathew Koll and Neelima Satyam were among the 43 American Geophysical Union (**AGU 2026**) awardees, recognising excellence and leadership in research, education, and innovation in advanced earth and space sciences.

- The awards will be officially presented at the AGU’s annual meeting scheduled in December 2026 in **San Francisco** in the United States of America (USA).

About Indian Winners & Their Contribution:

Roxy Mathew Koll: Koll who currently works as a climate scientist at the Pune-based (Maharashtra) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

- **Category/Award:** He has been named as the winner of AGU’s **Pavel S. Molohanov Climate Communications Prize**, presented annually to a scientist for climate science communication, particularly for research related to climate change. He will receive a monetary prize of **USD 250,000**; an engraved award; and recognition.

Neelima Satyam: Neelima is a professor at Indian Institute of Technology-Indore (IIT-Indore) in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- **Category/Award:** She has been selected for the AGU’s **Devendra Lal Memorial Medal**, presented annually to an early-or mid-career scientist for their exemplary research in Earth and/or space sciences. She will receive an engraved medal and lifetime AGU membership.

Sports

Argentina's Lionel Messi Announces Retirement from International Football

Legendary **Argentina** footballer and captain **Lionel Messi** announced his retirement from **international football** at the age of 39 after Argentina's defeat to Spain in the 2026 FIFA (International Federation of Association Football) World Cup final.

- He ended a 20-year career as his nation's most-capped player (207) and all-time leading scorer (125), as well as South America's top international goal scorer.

About Lionel Messi:

World Cup: Messi played six FIFA World Cup tournaments, equalling Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) and Guillermo Ochoa (Mexico), setting a record of 34 appearances and scoring 21 goals, second only to Kylian Mbappé (France) .

Future: Messi will continue playing club football with Inter Miami CF (Football Club) in Major League Soccer for the remainder of his contract.

Titles: Messi won the FIFA World Cup 2022, Copa América 2021, Copa América 2024, and Finalissima 2022, while finishing runner-up in the FIFA World Cup (2014, 2026) and Copa América (2007, 2015, 2016).

FIH Hockey World Cup 2026: Germany Clinch Men's Title, Argentina Win Women's Crown

The 2026 International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey World Cup was the 16th edition of both the **men's and women's tournaments**, held jointly from 15 to 30 August 2026 in Wavre, **Belgium** and Amsterdam, **Netherlands**, marking the 3rd time in FIH history that both competitions were fully integrated into a single co-hosted event.

- **Germany** won the **Men's title** by defeating **Spain** 1–0, successfully defending their title and claiming a record-equalling fourth crown while **Argentina** won the **women's title** by defeating record nine-time champions **Netherlands** in a shootout to secure the championship.

About FIH Hockey World Cup 2026:

Overview: The FIH Hockey World Cup is a quadrennial world championship for national field hockey teams, organized by the FIH.

Format: features 16 men's and 16 women's teams divided into four pools (A–D) of four in the group stage, followed by crossover playoffs where second- and third-placed teams compete.

Andrea KimiAntonelli Wins Italian Grand Prix 2026 at Monza

Italy's **Andrea KimiAntonelli** of Mercedes won the 77th edition of the Italian Grand Prix (GP) (also known as Formula One F1 Pirelli Gran Premi d'Italia 2026) at **Monza Circuit, Italy**, marking the **thirteenth** round of the 2026 F1 World Championship.

- He finished 3.8 seconds ahead of **George Russell** (United Kingdom, UK) of Mercedes after overtaking him with Four laps remaining, and becoming the first Italian to win at home in 60 years since Ludovico Scarfiotti in 1966.

Highlights of Italian Grand Prix 2026:

Ranking: **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands) of Red Bull Racing secured third place, followed by **Lando Norris** (UK) of McLaren and Oscar Piastri (Australia) of McLaren, who completed the top five positions in the race standings.

Performance: Kimi Antonelli started 19th due to grid penalties but executed a strategic and aggressive race, overtaking multiple competitors and securing victory after passing teammate George Russell in final laps.

Satwik-Chirag Become First Indians to Clinch China Masters Men's Doubles Title

Satwik Sai Raj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indians to win the China Masters since the tournament began in 2005, defeating China's He Jiting and Ren Xiangyu 11–21, 21–13, 21–17 in the men's doubles final at **Shenzhen, China**.

- The 19th edition of the China Masters was held from 1 to 6 September 2026.

About India's Victory at China Masters:

Historic Win: Satwik-Chirag secured their maiden China Masters title after finishing runners-up in 2023 and 2025.

Prize Money: The pair received USD 92,500 (around Rs 87.4 lakh). The tournament carried a total prize purse of USD 1.25 million.

2026 Season: The victory marked their second title of 2026, following the Singapore Open Super 750, and their 10th Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour title.

Impact: The victory extended Satwik-Chirag's head-to-head record against He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu to 3–0 and came ahead of the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, where the Indian pair will compete as defending champions.

About Satwik-Chirag:

- Satwik-Chirag won men's doubles gold at the 2022 Asian Games and 2022 Commonwealth Games, the 2023 Badminton Asia Championships title, and bronze at the 2022 BWF World Championships.
- In 2023, they became the first Indian Men's Doubles pair to achieve World No.1 ranking. Both are recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

US Open 2026: Alexander Zverev and Elena Rybakina Win Men's and Women's Singles Title

The 2026 United States (US) Open, the 146th edition of tennis' US Open, was held on **outdoor hard courts** at the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, United States of America (USA).

- **Alexander Zverev** of Germany defeated **Ben Shelton** of the United States of America (USA) 6–3, 7–6(2), 5–7, 6–2 in the men's final, while **Elena Rybakina** of

Kazakhstan overcame two-time defending champion **Aryna Sabalenka** 6–4, 5–7, 6–2 in the women’s final to win the 2026 US Open singles titles.

About US Open 2026:

Alexander Zverev: Secured his second Grand Slam title after the 2026 French Open and completed a redemption arc from his 2020 final loss.

Elena Rybakina: Won the women’s singles title, ending Sabalenka’s 19-match US Open streak, claiming her third Grand Slam title, and rising to World No.1.

Doubles: Christian Harrison (USA) and Neal Skupski (United Kingdom, UK) won the men’s doubles, Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic) and Taylor Townsend (USA) won the women’s doubles, while Karolína Muchová and Jakub Menšík (Czech Republic) secured the mixed doubles title.

Dhiraj Bommadevara Wins Men’s Individual Title at Archery World Cup Final 2026 in Mexico

An Indian archer **Dhiraj Bommadevara** created history by becoming the **first Indian** male recurve archer to win the men’s individual title at the **Archery World Cup Final 2026**, held in **Saltillo, Mexico**.

- He defeated **Junya Nakanishi of Japan** 6–5, winning the shoot-off 10–9, to secure the biggest individual title of his career.

About Archery World Cup Final 2026:

Overview: The 20th Hyundai Archery World Cup, organised by World Archery, featured recurve and compound events across four stages, followed by the season-ending final.

Season Performance: India won 7 medals, including 4 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze, across the 2026 Archery World Cup stages held in Puebla, Mexico; Shanghai, China; Antalya, Türkiye; and Madrid, Spain.

- Bommadevara was India’s only individual gold medallist across the four stages.

Historic Feat: Bommadevara became the **second Indian archer** to win an individual World Cup Final title after **Dola Banerjee**, who achieved the feat in Women’s Recurve at Dubai 2007.

- He was India’s sole representative at the 2026 World Cup Final.

India Clinches Record-Extending 8th Women’s T20 Asia Cup 2026 Title after Defeating Sri Lanka

The Indian Women’s Cricket Team won their record-extending 8th title in the 2026 Women’s Twenty20 (T20) Asia Cup title by defeating Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final, a Women’s Twenty20 International (WT20I) cricket match held at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 13 September 2026, posting 183/5 and bowling Sri Lanka out for 111.

About Women’s T20 Asia Cup 2026:

Edition: The 2026 Women’s T20 Asia Cup was the sixth edition of the Women’s T20 Asia Cup and the tenth overall Women’s Asia Cup.

Format: It is a biennial international cricket competition played in the Women’s Twenty20

International (WT20I) format.

Organizer: The tournament is organised by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

Duration: The 2026 edition was held from 28 August to 13 September 2026.

Batting: **Shafali Verma** (68 off 39) named as **Player of the Match** and Smriti Mandhana (59 off 39) named as Top Performer, (each received Rs. 1 lakh) built a record 129-run opening partnership, with Verma scoring the fastest fifty in Women's Twenty20 International (WT20I) Asia Cup history (24 balls, strike rate 174.35) and Mandhana reaching her half-century in 36 balls.

Colombia's James Rodríguez Announces Retirement from International Football

Colombian footballer James Rodríguez announced his retirement from international football at the age of 35 years after a 15-year career with the Colombia national football team, following the 2026 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup campaign, concluding with 131 caps, 31 goals, and major global recognition.

About James Rodríguez:

Breakthrough: James Rodríguez debuted for Colombia in 2011 against Bolivia and rose to global fame at the 2014 FIFA World Cup, where he scored six goals to win the Golden Boot, led Colombia to their first quarter-final, and won the FIFA Puskás Award for his goal against Uruguay.

World Cups: Rodríguez played in the 2014, 2018, and 2026 FIFA World Cups, adding six goals and four assists after 2014, with his final appearance in 2026 ending in a Round of 16 exit against Switzerland without scoring.

Copa: He contributed significantly in Copa América tournaments, helping Colombia finish runners-up in 2024, featuring in 14 matches with one goal and eight assists and reaching the 2024 final.

Clubs: He represented major clubs including Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Everton, Olympiakos, São Paulo, Rayo Vallecano, Club León, and Minnesota United, winning two Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League and two La Liga titles with Real Madrid.

CCI Approves Acquisition of Three Cricket Franchises by Westview Cricket and Poonawalla Sports

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of three cricket franchises Rajasthan Royals (RR) (India), Paarl Royals (South Africa), and Barbados Royals (Barbados) by Westview Cricket Limited and Poonawalla Sports and Fitness Private Limited, across multiple Twenty20 (T20) leagues.

About Cricket Franchise Acquisition:

Acquirers: Westview Cricket Limited, a United Kingdom (UK)-registered entity linked to the Mittal family, and Poonawalla Sports and Fitness Private Limited, owned by Adar Cyrus Poonawalla, are the acquiring entities.

Structure: EM Sporting Holdings Limited (EMSH) is the Mauritius-based parent entity of Royal Multisport Private Limited (RMPL), Paarl Royals Ltd. and Barbados Royals Ltd., with RMPL owning the Rajasthan Royals franchise participating in the Indian Premier League (IPL) organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Stakes: The Mittal family will hold about 75% through Westview Cricket, Adar Cyrus

Poonawalla around 18% and existing investors including Manoj Badale about 7%, in a transaction valued at approximately USD 1.65 billion (Rs 15,600 crore), marking one of the largest ownership shifts in global T20 cricket.

Indian-Origin Bodhana Sivanandan Becomes Youngest Woman Grandmaster at 46th Chess Olympiad 2026

Indian-origin British chess prodigy **Bodhana Sivanandan** became the **youngest** Woman Grandmaster (**WGM**) in history at age **11**, securing her **third and final WGM norm** while representing England at the 46th Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, surpassing Kateryna Lagno's 2002 record of 12 years and 4 months.

- She became the youngest player to represent England internationally at age 9 and youngest female to defeat a GM, breaking records previously held by Carissa Yip and Judit Polgar benchmarks.

About Bodhana Sivanandan Achievement:

Norm Journey: She achieved the WGM title by securing three norms, first in July 2025 at age 10 becoming the youngest to do so surpassing Hou Yifan's record, second in early 2026 in European classical tournaments, and final at the 46th Chess Olympiad with 8/11 on Board 1.

Olympiad: She played as England's top player, won 6 games, helped the team finish 15th, and earned her second International Master (IM) norm toward the IM title.

Titles: She holds multiple titles including **WGM**, Woman International Master (**WIM**) (2025), and International Chess Federation (**FIDE**) **Master (FM)** (2026), marking rapid progression in competitive chess.

99th GM: V.S. Rathanvel, from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN), became India's **99th GM** by crossing the 2500 Elo rating at the 3rd Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026, Guwahati, Assam in July 2026.

GEORGIANS
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Obituary

Two-time Grammy Winner and Jazz Singer Cassandra Wilson Passed Away

Two-time Grammy Awardee and Jazz Singer **Cassandra Wilson**, passed away at the age of 70 in Jackson, Mississippi, United States of America (USA). She was born on 4 December 1955 in Jackson, Mississippi, USA.

About Cassandra Wilson:

Profile: She learned piano at age 6, later took up the clarinet, studied at Millsaps College and Jackson State University, performed in local bands, trained in New Orleans, and went on to join Steve Coleman's M-Base Collective in New York, USA.

Works: She released her debut album *Point of View* in 1986 and later explored jazz styles in *Jumpworld* (1990) and *She Who Weeps* (1991).

- Her key albums include *New Moon Daughter* (1996), *Loverly* (2008), and *Coming Forth by Day* (2015), and she performed at the Apollo Theater in 2015.

Awards: Cassandra Wilson won two Grammy Awards (1997, 2009), secured four Grammy nominations, was named America's Best Singer in 2001, and recognised as Jazz Master by National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2022.

Style: She blended jazz with blues, folk, pop, R&B (**Rhythm and Blues**), and country music through her deep contralto voice, influencing modern artists.

Influential Carnatic Musician S. R. Janakiraman Passed Away at 98

Renowned Carnatic vocalist and musicologist **S. R. Janakiraman** passed away at the age of 98 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) marking the end of an era in Indian classical music. He was born on 12 July 1928 in Lalgudi, TN.

- He received the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award in 2011 in the field of Art.

About S. R. Janakiraman:

Profile: He was popularly known as S.R.J was a distinguished exponent of Carnatic music, celebrated for his contributions as a vocalist, musicologist, and educator.

Career: Began learning music in 1938 and trained at Kalakshetra under eminent gurus like Tiger Varadachari and Musiri Subramania Iyer.

Contribution: Known for his deep knowledge of Carnatic music and for delivering lecture-demonstrations that simplified complex musical concepts.

- His sessions were a key feature of Chennai's December Music Festival, shaping its intellectual and cultural landscape.

Legacy: Contributed extensively to musicology through books, research, and audio-visual works, with his legacy continuing through writings, recordings, and disciples.

Recognition: Received prestigious honours including the Sangita Kala Acharya (1997), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1999-2000), Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2014) and Kalaimamani.

Jharkhand Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu Passed Away

Sudivya Kumar Sonu, Jharkhand's Minister for Urban Development, Higher and Technical Education Minister, **passed away** at the age of 56 in Giridih, Jharkhand.

- He was born on 26 July 1970 in Giridih, Bihar(present day Giridih, Jharkhand).

About Sudivya Kumar Sonu:

Profile: He was a Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader and two-term Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Giridih(2019, 2024), serving as a Cabinet Minister in the Jharkhand government.

- He was known for his key role in governance and political negotiations in the state.

Career: He won the Giridih Assembly seat in 2019 and retained it in 2024, becoming the first JMM legislator from the constituency to be made a minister in over two decades.

Responsibilities: He handled key portfolios including Urban Development and Housing, Higher and Technical Education, and Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, overseeing major sectors and promoting tourism initiatives.

Hong Kong's First Post-Colonial Leader Tung Chee-hwa Passed Away

Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's 1st post-colonial leader passed away at the age of 89 in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China. He was born on May 29, 1937 in Shanghai, China.

About Tung Chee-hwa:

Early Career: Tung Chee-hwa worked at General Electric in the United States of America (USA) before joining his family business in 1969.

Basic Law: In 1985, he joined a committee to help draft the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini-constitution that has governed the former British colony since 1997.

Leadership: After the end of British rule in 1997, he was hand-picked by the Chinese government as Hong Kong's first leader and served until 2005, during which he faced major challenges including the 1997 Asian financial crisis, bird flu outbreaks, and the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) epidemic.

Later Role: He served as Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) from 12 March 2005 to 10 March 2023, a key advisory body in the political system of the People's Republic of China.

Princess Astrid of Norway Passed Away at 94

Princess Astrid Maud Ingeborg of Norway, formally known as Princess Astrid, Mrs. Ferner, elder sister of the late King Harald V and late Princess Ragnhild, passed away at the age of 94 in Oslo, Norway.

- Princess Astrid, who passed away on 11 September 2026, served as **First Lady of Norway** from 1954 to 1968 and performed official duties on behalf of the Norwegian Royal Family for several decades.

About Princess Astrid of Norway:

Early Life: Princess Astrid was born on 12 February 1932 in Oslo as the second child of King Olav V and Crown Princess Märtha of Norway. She married businessman Johan Martin Ferner

in 1961.

Norwegian Royal Family: Princess Astrid belonged to the House of Glücksburg, the royal dynasty that has occupied the Norwegian throne since 1905.

Contributions: Throughout her life, Princess Astrid undertook royal duties and supported several humanitarian and social causes, particularly initiatives related to children, people with disabilities and inclusion.

Legacy: Princess Astrid belonged to a generation of the Norwegian Royal Family whose lives were shaped by World War II, exile and Norway's post-war period. She remained engaged in royal and charitable activities for several decades.

Former Union Minister E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan Passed Away at 78

Former Union Minister and senior Indian National Congress (INC) leader E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan passed away at his residence in Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu (TN), at the age of 78.

- He was born on 29 September 1947 in Eriyur, Sivaganga district, TN.

About E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan:

Political Career: Natchiappan entered politics through the youth wing of the Indian National Congress and held various organisational positions in TN. He also served as Vice-President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC).

Legal Career: A lawyer by profession, Natchiappan practised as an advocate in the Supreme Court of India.

Parliamentary Career: He represented the Sivaganga constituency in the 13th Lok Sabha from 1999 to 2004. He subsequently represented TN in the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 2004 to 2016.

Union Minister: He served as Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry from June 2013 to May 2014 during the tenure of then Prime Minister (PM) Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Parliamentary Committee: Natchiappan chaired the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, which during his chairmanship examined various issues, including the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

GEORGIANS
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Important Days with theme

National Sports Day 2026 – August 29

National Sports Day (NSD), also known as RashtriyaKhel Divas, is annually observed across India on **29 August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Major Dhyan Chand**, widely regarded as the “Wizard of Hockey.”

- 29 August 2026 marks the **15th** observance of NSD.

Background:

Declaration: In **2012**, the Government of India (GoI) declared 29 August as National Sports Day to honour Major Dhyan Chand.

First Observation: The first NSD was celebrated on **29 August 2012**.

2026 Event:

Event: Union Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) led National Sports Day 2026 celebrations at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, Delhi marking the **121st birth anniversary** of Major Dhyan Chand.

Theme: National Sports Day 2026 was celebrated under the nationwide call “Ek Ghanta Khel Ke Maidan Mein” (One Hour on the Playground), encouraging citizens to dedicate at least one hour to sports and physical activity and promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

World Coconut Day 2026 – September 2

World Coconut Day is observed annually across the globe on 2 September to celebrate the significance of coconuts in agriculture, nutrition, and livelihoods worldwide.

- **2026 Theme:** “Coconuts in Times of Uncertainty: Securing Food, Energy, and Livelihoods”

Background:

Origin: World Coconut Day was initiated by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), now the International Coconut Community (ICC).

First Event: First observed in 2009, it is celebrated annually across major coconut-producing countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Significance: 2 September marks the foundation day of the ICC, established in 1969 under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), with India as a founding member.

2026 Events:

Celebration: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research–Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CPCRI) celebrated World Coconut Day 2026 in Kasaragod, Kerala.

National Teachers’ Day 2026 – September 5

National Teachers’ Day is observed annually across India on 5 September to honour teachers for their dedication and invaluable contributions, while highlighting their role in educating, mentoring, and shaping students and society.

- The day marks the **birth anniversary** of **Dr.SarvepalliRadhakrishnan**, a renowned scholar, philosopher, the first Vice-President (1952–1962), and the second President of India (1962–1967).

Background:

Origin: In 1962, when SarvepalliRadhakrishnan became the second President of India, his students sought to celebrate his birthday, but he suggested observing 5 September as Teachers' Day instead.

Celebration: Teachers' Day was first celebrated on 5 September 1962, marking his birth anniversary and honoring the role of educators in society.

2026 Events: On 5th September 2026, the President of India DroupadiMurmu conferred National Teachers Awards 2026 to **48 school teachers** and National Awards to Teachers (NAT) on **21 teachers/faculties** of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and polytechnics to recognise excellence in teaching.

International Literacy Day 2026- September 8

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s International Literacy Day (ILD) observed globally every year on **8 September** to highlight the vital role of literacy in empowering individuals and fostering community and societal development.

- The year 2026 marks the **60th anniversary** of the proclamation of International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966.
- **2026 Theme:** "Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity"

Background:

Origin: The idea of celebrating ILD was first proposed during the inaugural World Congress of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy, held in Tehran, Iran in 1965.

- The Congress suggested **8 September**, the opening day of the Congress, as ILD.

Adoption: In 1966, the UNESCO General Conference at its 14th session in Paris, France, officially proclaimed 8 September of every year as ILD.

First Observance: The first ILD was celebrated on **8 September 1967**.

2026 Event: UNESCO and the Government of Mexico jointly hosted the global celebration of ILD on 8–9 September 2026 in Chiapas, Mexico.

Himalaya Diwas 2026 – September 9

Himalaya Diwas, or Himalaya Day, is observed annually across India on 9 September to raise awareness about the importance of the Himalayan mountain range and the need to protect its fragile ecosystem.

- 9 September 2026 marks the **17th** edition of Himalaya Diwas.

Background:

First Observance: Himalaya Diwas was first observed in **Uttarakhand** in 2010 through an initiative led by environmentalists including Sunderlal Bahuguna, Anil Prakash Joshi and Radha Behen.

Official Declaration: In 2014, then Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat officially declared 9 September as Himalaya Diwas.

State Recognition: The first state-recognised observance was held on **9 September 2015**.

Hindi Diwas 2026 – September 14

Hindi Diwas, also known as Hindi Day, is observed annually across India on September **14** to mark the **Constituent Assembly's 1949** decision to adopt Hindi in the Devanagari script as one of the 22 official languages of India.

- September 14, 2026 marks the **77th** anniversary of Hindi's adoption as an official language.

Background:

Proposal: At the 1918 Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Mahatma Gandhi proposed making Hindi the national language.

Declaration: In 1953, former Prime Minister (PM) Jawaharlal Nehru declared that September 14 would be observed annually as Hindi Diwas, which also marks the birth anniversary of **Beohar Rajendra Simha**.

2026 Events: Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) addressed the inaugural session of Hindi Diwas 2026 and the 6th All India Official Language Conference in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

National Engineer's Day 2026 – September 15

National Engineers' Day is observed annually in India on 15 September to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya** and honour his outstanding contributions to engineering, nation-building and education.

Background:

Recognition: In 1968, the Government of India (GoI) designated 15 September, the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, as National Engineers' Day.

First Observance: The first National Engineers' Day was celebrated on **15 September 1968**.

International Day of Democracy 2026 – September 15

The United Nations (UN) International Day of Democracy (**IDD**) is observed globally on **15 September** to promote awareness about democratic values and encourage governments to strengthen and uphold democracy.

- September 15, 2026 marks the **19th** edition of the IDD, alongside the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
- IDD Theme 2026:** "Bring human rights into focus"

Background:

Establishment: The IDD was initiated at the request of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (**IPU**), the global organisation of national parliaments.

Declaration: On 15 September 1997, the IPU member parliaments adopted the Universal Declaration on Democracy during its 161st session in Cairo, Egypt, affirming democracy as an

international standard and a fundamental human right.

UN Adoption: On 8 November **2007**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/62/7, declaring 15 September as the IDD.

First Observance: The IDD was first observed on 15 September **2008**.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2026 – September 16

The United Nations (UN) International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, also known as World Ozone Day (WOD) or Global Ozone Day, is observed annually on **16 September** to raise awareness about the importance of the ozone layer and the effects of its depletion on global warming and climate change.

- 16th September 2026 marks the **32nd** observance of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- **2026 Theme:** Global action for a cooler planet

Background:

Resolution: On 19 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution A/RES/49/114 declaring 16 September as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

First: The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was first observed on **16 September 1995**.

Significance: The date marks the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.

International Day of Peace 2026 – September 21

The United Nations (UN's) International Day of Peace (**IDP**), observed every year across the globe on **September 21** to celebrate and promote the principles of peace within and among all nations and peoples.

- 21 September 2026 marked **27 years** since the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in 1999.
- **2026 Theme:** “Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.”

Background:

Adoption: In 1981, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/36/67, declaring the 3rd Tuesday of September as the International Day of Peace (IDP), coinciding with the opening day of the UNGA regular sessions.

First Observation: The first IDP was observed on **September 21, 1982**, the 3rd Tuesday of September that year.

Resolution: In 2001, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/55/282, designating September 21 every year as IDP and declaring it a day of global ceasefire and non-violence.

Symbol: The International Day of Peace (IDP) is represented by a dove carrying an olive branch, symbolising peace and freedom.

World Rhino Day 2026- September 22

World Rhino Day is observed globally every year on 22 September each year to raise awareness about rhinos and the need to conserve them.

Background:

Origin: World Rhino Day began as a Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) South Africa initiative in **2010**. Conservationists **Lisa Jane Campbell** of Zimbabwe and **Rhishja Cota-Larson** of the United States helped develop it into an international observance.

First Observance: World Rhino Day was first celebrated internationally on **22 September 2011**.

World Maritime Day 2026 – September 24

The United Nations (UN) observes **World Maritime Day (WMD)** annually on the **last Thursday of September** to highlight the importance of maritime transport and recognise the maritime sector's contribution to global trade and sustainable development.

- World Maritime Day 2026 is observed on **24 September 2026**.
- **2026-27 Theme:** “From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence.”

Background:

Origin: World Maritime Day was first observed on **17 March 1978**, marking the entry into force of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention in **1958**.

Observance: Since **1978**, it has been celebrated annually on the last Thursday of September to emphasise maritime safety, security, and environmental protection.

Organizer: The IMO, a UN-specialized agency, leads the annual observance of WMD.

World Tourism Day 2026 – September 27

World Tourism Day (**WTD**) is observed annually across the globe on **September 27** to raise awareness about tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic significance.

- **2026 Theme:** “Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism”

Background:

Establishment: The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), headquartered in Madrid, Spain, instituted World Tourism Day (WTD) in 1980, with the first official observance held on 27 September 1980.

Commemoration: The date commemorates the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September 1970, marking a key milestone in global tourism governance.

2026 Event: World Tourism Day 2026 was officially hosted by **El Salvador** for the first time, with major events held in San Salvador and Surf City, featuring an interactive, demonstration-led approach that replaced traditional policy panels with practical digital applications and immersive cultural experiences.

- Ministry of Tourism (**MoT**) organised World Tourism Day celebration at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi, where Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, MoT launched key initiatives, including the National Digital Tourism Stack (NDTS) to enhance discoverability and accessibility.