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Current Affairs Today, August 16, 2026

16 August 2026 ·

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

India observed Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 8th death anniversary on August 16, 2026, with tributes in Delhi and a statue unveiling in Rajasthan. India Post carried out its first-ever drone delivery of the national flag in Himachal Pradesh, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan began a two-day Tamil Nadu visit, and Kerala's Onam festival began alongside the Parsi New Year, Navroz.

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE'S 8TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED NATIONWIDE

PM Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan and senior leaders paid floral tributes at former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's** memorial "**Sadaiv Atal**" on the banks of the Yamuna, New Delhi, on his **8th death anniversary**.

Background

Vajpayee died on **August 16, 2018**, at the age of 93, and was conferred the **Bharat Ratna** in 2015. Separately, Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a Vajpayee statue in **Chittorgarh, Rajasthan**, and the Delhi government launched **25 new "Atal Canteens"** offering subsidised meals to low-income families to mark the occasion.

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VAJPAYEE'S 8TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY:

Died: August 16, 2018, aged 93; Bharat Ratna: 2015

Delhi memorial: "Sadaiv Atal"

New Delhi initiative: 25 "Atal Canteens" launched

INDIA POST CARRIES OUT FIRST-EVER DRONE DELIVERY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

Union Communications Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** inaugurated **India Post's first-ever drone delivery** of the national flag, from Mandi Head Post Office to Rehardhar Branch Post Office in **Himachal Pradesh**.

Background

The roughly **12 km** route, flown by a drone operated by **Skye Air Mobility**, took about **7 minutes**, compared to over 2 hours by road. The flag was handed to an Army veteran upon arrival.

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INDIA POST DRONE DELIVERY:

Route: Mandi Head PO to Rehardhar Branch PO, Himachal Pradesh (~12 km)

Operator: Skye Air Mobility; flight time: ~7 minutes vs 2+ hours by road

VICE PRESIDENT BEGINS TWO-DAY TAMIL NADU VISIT

Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan** began a two-day Tamil Nadu visit covering Chennai, Chengalpattu, Thiruvallur and Thanjavur, attending the **22nd Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology** on August 16.

Background

The visit also marked the first death anniversary of **La Ganesan**, a Tamil Nadu-born RSS veteran who served as Governor of Manipur, held additional charge as Governor of West Bengal, and later served as Governor of Nagaland, and included the release of a book on Hindu Munnani founder **K. Ramagopalan**.

ONAM 2026 AND PARSI NEW YEAR (NAVROZ) BEGIN

Kerala's harvest festival **Onam** began with **Atham** on August 16, 2026, marking the start of its ten-day celebration, while the **Parsi community** observed **Navroz**, the New Year per the Shahenshahi calendar.

Background

Onam culminates in **Thiruvonam** on **August 26, 2026**, commemorating the mythical homecoming of King Mahabali. Parsis in India follow the Shahenshahi calendar, which is not adjusted for leap years, causing Navroz to drift gradually from the global March observance. Some official state holiday calendars, including

Maharashtra's, list the observance a day earlier, on August 15, reflecting genuine variation in how different community/state calendars mark the date this year.

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ONAM AND NAVROZ 2026:

Onam: Atham (start) August 16; Thiruvonam (main day) August 26, 2026

Navroz: observed August 16, 2026 per the Shahenshahi calendar

Sources: *GKToday, PIB, ANI*

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