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Current Affairs Today, August 31, 2026, Complete News Roundup

31 August 2026 ·

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ECONOMY

SECURITY & DEFENCE

POLITY

GS2

GS3



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Current Affairs Today, August 31, 2026, Complete News Roundup

31 August 2026 · 10 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

The day's roundup for August 31, 2026: the 26th SCO Summit opened at Bishkek, Nepal's Bhotekoshi flood tolls diverged sharply between bulletins, India signed the Letter of Offer and Acceptance for the Javelin anti-tank guided missile, Rajasthan set urban local body polls for September 9 and 11, and India emerged as a petrol supplier to Russia.

*Newspaper and agency websites were **not reachable** from the drafting environment on August 31, so every item below rests on **web-search verification against multiple independent reports** rather than on a fetch of the publisher's own page. Items that could not be corroborated that way were **cut rather than softened**, and the edition report lists them.*

THE 26TH SCO SUMMIT OPENS AT BISHKEK

The 26th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation opened at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on August 31, 2026, running to September 1, with Narendra Modi, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin all present.

Key Data

- Hosted by Kyrgyz President **Sadyr Japarov**; the SCO is in its **twenty-fifth year** from its Shanghai founding of **June 15, 2001**.
- Also reported present or expected: Iranian President **Masoud Pezeshkian**, Pakistani Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**, Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**.
- A **Modi-Putin bilateral** is scheduled on the sidelines. **No Modi-Xi bilateral** was formally announced.
- **Pakistan takes the rotating chairmanship** after this summit and hosts in **2027**.

UPSC Angle

GS2, bilateral and regional groupings. The full treatment is in today's deep-dive article.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

The 26th SCO Summit runs at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on August 31 and September 1, 2026.

Pakistan takes the SCO rotating chairmanship after Bishkek and hosts the 2027 summit.

The SCO Secretariat is at Beijing; its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Tashkent.

NEPAL'S BHOTEKOSHI FLOOD: THE TOLLS DIVERGE BETWEEN BULLETINS

Casualty figures for the **Bhotekoshi flood of August 26, 2026** differed sharply between bulletins issued on **August 31**, with rescue operations continuing in hydropower tunnels with **Indian and Chinese** assistance.

The numbers, and why this edition does not pick one

SOURCE AND TIMING	DEAD	MISSING	RESCUED OR BROUGHT OUT
NDRRMA bulletin, August 29	about 616 to 626	about 2,426	not stated
Reported for August 31	675	2,498	over 7,514
NDRRMA 9 a.m. bulletin, August 31	903	not stated	not stated
Operations tally, morning of August 31	not stated	not stated	10,451 brought out, 20,819 security personnel deployed

A jump from 675 to 903 dead inside the same day, and a gap between 7,514 and 10,451 for people brought out, reflect **different counting bases**: recovered bodies against confirmed deaths, evacuations against tunnel rescues, and bulletins issued hours apart as tunnel recoveries land. The August 30 edition made the same point about the same disaster. **Quote a figure with its bulletin and its hour, or quote the range. Never average them.**

Background

- The flood followed an event on **August 26, 2026** in **Rasuwa district**, at the **Nepal-Tibet border**, on the **Bhote Koshi** river.
- Initial assessment attributed it to an **ice avalanche blocking the Lhende river**, producing a sudden outburst flood.
- On **August 29**, **208 people** were pulled from the **Trishuli-III tunnel**, including **43 foreign nationals**, of whom **38 were Chinese** and **5 Indian**.

- An **Indian tunnel rescue team** reached Nepal with specialised machinery, following an earlier assessment team.

UPSC Angle

GS3 disaster management and GS2 India's neighbourhood. The **transboundary hazard framing** was covered in the August 30 edition.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

The Bhotekoshi flood occurred on August 26, 2026 in Rasuwa district on the Nepal-Tibet border.

Initial assessment attributed it to an ice avalanche blocking the Lhende river.

Nepal's disaster agency is the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

On August 29, 208 people were pulled from the Trishuli-III tunnel, 43 of them foreign nationals.

Casualty bulletins on August 31 ranged from 675 to 903 dead; this edition reports the range.

INDIA SIGNS THE LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR THE JAVELIN

India signed a **Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the United States on August 28, 2026 for the FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missile**, valued at about **45.7 million United States dollars**, under the **Foreign Military Sales route**.

Key Data

ITEM	DETAIL
Missile	FGM-148 Javelin
Route	United States Foreign Military Sales (FMS)
Value	About 45.7 million dollars
Rounds	100
Fly-to-buy evaluation missile	1
Command Launch Units	25 Javelin Lightweight CLUs
Also included	Training equipment, simulation rounds, battery coolant unit, manuals, lifecycle support, spares, integration and testing

Background

The Javelin is a **man-portable, fire-and-forget** anti-tank guided missile developed jointly by **Lockheed Martin and Raytheon** through the **Javelin Joint Venture**. It uses an **imaging infrared seeker**, so the missile guides itself after launch and the operator can displace immediately, which is the tactical property that distinguishes fire-and-forget weapons from wire-guided or beam-riding ones.

In **February 2026**, **Bharat Dynamics Limited** and the Javelin Joint Venture signed an agreement to explore manufacturing the missile in India.

*A hundred rounds and twenty-five launch units is an **evaluation-scale buy**, not an operational induction. The consequential element is the **co-production track with Bharat Dynamics**, and an answer that treats the purchase as the story has missed it.*

UPSC Angle

GS3, defence procurement and indigenisation. Note the FMS route, a government-to-government channel distinct from a direct commercial sale.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

India signed the Javelin Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the United States on August 28, 2026.

The package is valued at about 45.7 million dollars for 100 rounds and 25 lightweight launch units.

The FGM-148 Javelin is a man-portable, fire-and-forget missile with an imaging infrared seeker.

It is built by the Javelin Joint Venture of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

Bharat Dynamics Limited signed an agreement with the Javelin Joint Venture in February 2026.

Foreign Military Sales is a government-to-government route, distinct from direct commercial sale.

RAJASTHAN SETS URBAN LOCAL BODY POLLS FOR SEPTEMBER 9 AND 11

*Rajasthan's civic elections will be held in **two phases**, on **September 9 and September 11, 2026**, covering **10,245 councillor seats across 309 urban local bodies**. The **BJP** announced candidates for 145 of Jaipur Municipal Corporation's wards on August 31.*

Key Data

STAGE	DATE
Scrutiny of nominations	September 1
Withdrawal deadline	September 3
Symbol allotment	September 4
Phase 1 poll	September 9
Phase 2 poll	September 11

- The schedule was released by the **State Election Commission** on **August 19, 2026**.
- On **August 30**, Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma** and BJP state president **Madan Rathore** flagged off campaign chariots for the Jaipur Municipal Corporation election from the party's state office.

UPSC Angle

GS2, devolution of powers and finances to local levels. Urban local bodies are constituted under the **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which inserted **Part IXA** and the **Twelfth Schedule** with its 18 functions. **State Election Commissions**, provided for by **Article 243ZA** for municipalities, conduct these polls, not the Election Commission of India. That distinction is the single most examinable fact in this item.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Rajasthan's urban local body polls are on September 9 and 11, 2026, in two phases.

The polls cover 10,245 councillor seats across 309 urban local bodies.

The State Election Commission released the schedule on August 19, 2026.

The BJP announced candidates for 145 Jaipur Municipal Corporation wards on August 31, 2026.

Municipal elections are conducted by State Election Commissions, not the Election Commission of India.

Article 243ZA provides for State Election Commission superintendence of municipal elections.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 inserted Part IXA and the Twelfth Schedule.

INDIA BECOMES A PETROL SUPPLIER TO RUSSIA

*Indian refiners supplied as much as **1 million barrels of gasoline to Russia** across **July and August 2026**, as attacks on Russian refineries cut domestic fuel production.*

Key Data

- Russia's **seaborne gasoline imports** reached a record of about **125,000 barrels per day in August 2026**.
- Much of the Indian supply came from **Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery** on the **Gujarat** coast, in which the Russian oil major **Rosneft** holds a stake.
- Attacks on Russian energy infrastructure have at times cut domestic production by as much as **70 per cent**.
- **Turkey and Morocco** also supplied gasoline to Russia in August 2026.
- Russia extended its **gasoline export ban** through the **end of January 2027**.

*India has been the largest buyer of discounted Russian **crude**. It is now selling **refined product** back into the Russian market. This is the clearest available illustration of what a **refining hub** actually is: a country that adds value by converting crude to product, and whose trade direction in any given fuel depends on refinery economics rather than on political alignment.*

UPSC Angle

GS3 energy security and GS2 India-Russia relations. Useful for an answer on India's refining capacity as a strategic asset.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Indian refiners supplied up to 1 million barrels of gasoline to Russia over July and August 2026.

Russia's seaborne gasoline imports hit a record of about 125,000 barrels per day in August 2026.

Much of the supply came from Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, part-owned by Rosneft.

Russia extended its gasoline export ban through the end of January 2027.

Turkey and Morocco also supplied gasoline to Russia in August 2026.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2. SCO membership and chairmanship rotation; India's neighbourhood assistance to Nepal; State Election Commissions and the 74th Amendment architecture.

GS Paper 3. Defence procurement routes and indigenisation through co-production; refining capacity as an energy-security asset; disaster response and casualty reporting under uncertainty.

The transferable skill in this roundup. Two separate items today, the Nepal tolls and the sugar price series in the companion article, involve **credible sources reporting different numbers for the same thing**. The examination reward for handling that well is real: an answer that says "reported at between 675 and 903 as of August 31, depending on the bulletin" is stronger than one that asserts a single figure, because it demonstrates that the candidate knows what the number is measuring.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

INTERNATIONAL:

The 26th SCO Summit opened at Bishkek on August 31, 2026, in the organisation's twenty-fifth year.

Pakistan takes the SCO rotating chairmanship after Bishkek and will host in 2027.

The Bhotekoshi flood of August 26, 2026 struck Rasuwa district on the Nepal-Tibet border.

August 31 bulletins on the Nepal flood reported between 675 and 903 dead.

Indian and Chinese teams assisted Nepal's hydropower tunnel rescues.

DEFENCE:

India signed the Javelin Letter of Offer and Acceptance on August 28, 2026, worth about 45.7 million dollars.

The package covers 100 Javelin rounds and 25 Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units.

The FGM-148 Javelin is man-portable and fire-and-forget, with an imaging infrared seeker.

Bharat Dynamics Limited agreed in February 2026 to explore Javelin manufacture in India.

POLITY:

Rajasthan's urban local body polls are on September 9 and 11, 2026, across 309 local bodies.

The Rajasthan polls cover 10,245 councillor seats; the schedule was issued on August 19, 2026.

Article 243ZA vests superintendence of municipal elections in the State Election Commission.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 inserted Part IXA and the Twelfth Schedule.

ECONOMY:

Indian refiners supplied up to 1 million barrels of petrol to Russia across July and August 2026.

Russia's seaborne gasoline imports reached a record 125,000 barrels per day in August 2026.

Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, part-owned by Rosneft, supplied much of the volume.

Sources: The Tribune, Business Standard, ThePrint, UNI

Source: Current Affairs Today, August 31, 2026, Complete News Roundup — Ujiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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