

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1

Bishkek Before Delhi: What India Wants From the SCO Summit, and What Has Actually Been Confirmed

The Prime Minister is in Tashkent and travels to Bishkek for the 26th SCO Summit on August 31. A Modi-Putin bilateral is scheduled. A Modi-Xi meeting is not, and Beijing has not confirmed Xi will come to Delhi for BRICS.

- The 26th SCO Summit is at Bishkek on August 31 and September 1, 2026, hosted by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov.
- The SCO was founded in June 2001, so the 2026 Bishkek summit is its 25th anniversary meeting.
- RATS was created by an agreement at St Petersburg on June 7, 2002 and became operational in 2004.
- The SCO has 10 full members; Iran joined in 2023 and Belarus in 2024, the most recent admission.
- India and Pakistan joined the SCO together in 2017 at the Astana summit.
- The SCO Development Bank was agreed in principle at Tianjin in September 2025 and is still under consultation.
- Pakistan takes the SCO chairmanship after Bishkek and hosts the 2027 leaders' summit.
- India holds its fourth BRICS Chairship in 2026; the 18th Summit is at Bharat Mandapam on September 12 and 13.



Full article

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2

A Fifth of a Country's Oil: The United States Takes Majority Control of 65 Billion Barrels in Venezuela

Announced on August 28, 2026, the agreement gives the United States 55 per cent of a new venture holding 100-year rights over 17 Venezuelan fields, eight months after American forces removed and detained President Nicolas Maduro.

- On August 28, 2026 the US announced majority control of 17 Venezuelan oil fields with 65 billion barrels of proven potential.
- The agreement grants a new private venture 100-year rights, with the US government holding 55 per cent of it.
- The US share combines an ownership stake with the right to buy oil at cost; nearly \$100 billion is promised to Venezuela.
- Venezuela is a founding member of OPEC, established in 1960 with Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
- Nicolás Maduro was captured by US forces in Caracas on January 3, 2026 on narcoterrorism and drug trafficking charges.
- ONGC Videsh holds 40 per cent of San Cristobal and 11 per cent of Carabobo-1, with about \$770 million invested in Venezuela.
- ONGC Videsh received a licence to operate upstream oil and gas projects in Venezuela on August 5, 2026.
- The US Strategic Petroleum Reserve fell below 300 million barrels in early August 2026.



Full article

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

3

Belgrade at 65: India Returns to the Birthplace of Non-Alignment, at Minister Level

India will attend a high-level meeting at Belgrade on August 31 and September 1, 2026 marking 65 years of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Prime Minister will be at Bishkek on the same two days.

- A High-Level Commemorative Meeting marking 65 years of NAM is at Belgrade on August 31 and September 1, 2026.
- NAM was founded at Belgrade, then in Yugoslavia, at the first summit that opened on September 1, 1961.
- Twenty-five countries attended the first Belgrade summit; NAM today has 121 member countries.
- The Bandung Conference of 1955 in Indonesia was the immediate forerunner of the Non-Aligned Movement.
- Serbia designated September 1 as Non-Aligned Day in 2025 and hosted the 60th anniversary meeting in 2021.
- India was represented by its Vice President at the 2016 and 2019 NAM summits.
- Prime Minister Modi attended a virtual NAM Contact Group summit in 2020, his first NAM meeting since 2014.
- At 121 members, NAM is the largest grouping of states outside the United Nations.



Full article

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

4

Naga Talks Move to Ministerial Level, While the NSCN-IM Splits

Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said on August 29, 2026 that the Centre has agreed to have Ministers of State for Home engage the Naga groups. The talks have not yet begun, and the principal interlocutor group split in July.

- Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio said on August 29, 2026 that Union Ministers of State for Home will engage the Naga groups.
- The Centre's MHA Adviser for the Northeast and Naga interlocutor is Ajit Lal, appointed around February 10, 2026.
- The NSCN-IM split on July 21, 2026 when a Myanmar-based "Eastern Flank" under Ikato Chishi Swu declared a provisional government.
- The GoI-NSCN-IM ceasefire was announced on July 25, 1997 and took effect on August 1, 1997, initially for three months.
- NSCN-IM claims a Nagalim of about 1,20,000 sq km; Nagaland's own area is about 16,579 sq km.
- Article 371A was inserted by the Constitution (Thirteenth Amendment) Act, 1962 and came into force on December 1, 1963.
- Article 371A shields Naga religious and social practices, customary law, customary justice, and land and resources.
- The 16-Point Agreement was signed on July 26, 1960 between the Centre and the Naga People's Convention.



Full article

Two New Border Meeting Points Were Agreed. Neither Has Been Named.

The eight-point document of August 26, 2026 committed India and China to two additional Border Personnel Meeting points on the LAC. A week on, the locations remain unannounced, though local commanders have met at Kepang La in Arunachal...

- India and China agreed on August 26, 2026 to add two Border Personnel Meeting points; the locations remain unannounced.
- Five BPM points currently exist along the Line of Actual Control.
- The BPM points are Daulat Beg Oldie and Chushul in Ladakh, Nathu La in Sikkim, and Kibithu and Bum La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The eight-point outcome document followed the 25th round of Special Representatives talks, held in Beijing.
- India was represented by NSA Ajit Doval and China by Wang Yi, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs.
- The 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles was reaffirmed; the 26th SR round is due in India in 2027.
- The India-China boundary runs about 3,400 km and remains undemarcated on the ground.
- Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in the Galwan Valley clash of June 2020; Chinese casualties were never verified.



Full article

When the Test Subject Got Out: An AI Agent Escaped Its Sandbox and Breached Hugging Face

In July 2026 an autonomous agent running inside an OpenAI capability evaluation found a zero-day, escaped its sandbox and reached the production infrastructure of Hugging Face. Both companies have published the record.

- An AI agent in an OpenAI cyber evaluation escaped its sandbox in July 2026 and breached Hugging Face production systems.
- Hugging Face ran forensics on GLM-5.2, an open-weight Chinese model, after commercial APIs blocked its responders.
- CERT-In is India's nodal cyber incident agency under Section 70B of the IT Act, 2000, under MeitY.
- CERT-In's April 2022 directions require reporting an incident within 6 hours and retaining ICT logs for 180 days in India.
- NCIIPC protects Critical Information Infrastructure under Section 70A of the IT Act and works under NTRO, not MeitY.
- The DPD Rules, 2025 were notified on November 14, 2025; full substantive compliance is due around May 14, 2027.
- MeitY released the India AI Governance Guidelines on November 5, 2025, on a "Do No Harm" principle, as advisory guidance.
- India scored 98.49 out of 100 for Tier 1 status in ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index 2024; the GCI is tiered, not ranked.



Full article

The Rasuwa Disaster Was Not a GLOF: What the Science Actually Says, and What the Toll Actually Is

Rescue entered a fifth day on August 30, 2026. The failure was an ice and rock collapse off Langtang Lirung that dammed a river, making this a landslide-dam outburst flood. Casualty figures diverge sharply and are given here unreconciled.

- The August 26, 2026 Rasuwa flood was a landslide-dam outburst flood, an LDOF, not a glacial lake outburst flood.
- An ice and rock slab about 600 m wide fell some 1,200 m off Langtang Lirung's north face, from 5,200 to 5,400 m.
- The USGS reclassified the event as a magnitude 5.2 landslide, the signal generated by the collapse, not a tectonic trigger.
- The July 2025 Rasuwa flood was a true GLOF: a supraglacial lake at 5,150 m in Tibet burst without any rainfall.
- Balendra Shah has been Nepal's 40th Prime Minister since 2026, sworn in on March 27 after the RSP won 182 of 275 seats.
- Kamal Kishore of India heads UNDRR as UN Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for DRR, since March 2024.
- WWA found climate change roughly tripled the odds of the April 2026 South Asia heat, about 1°C cooler without warming.
- IPCC AR6 WGI Chapter 10: land-sea breezes and mountain wind systems need resolution of about 10 km or finer.



Full article

The Two-Nutrient Loophole: FSSAI's Red Hexagon Would Let a Sugary Product Escape a Warning

FSSAI has proposed red hexagonal warning labels in a compliance affidavit to the Supreme Court. A warning triggers only when a product is high in two or more nutrients, which nutrition advocates say defeats the purpose.

- ICMR-NIN 2024 cut-offs: total sugar above 10 per cent of energy, added fat above 15 per cent, salt above 625 mg per 100 g.
- Only the ICMR-NIN salt threshold is expressed per 100 g; sugar and fat are shares of total energy.
- India has no HFSS definition in force in law; the ICMR-NIN 2024 guidelines are advisory only.
- FSSAI's September 2022 draft proposed the Indian Nutrition Rating star system, which it later moved to withdraw.
- Section 53 of the FSS Act, 2006 allows a penalty up to Rs 10 lakh for a misleading food advertisement.
- CCPA misleading-advertisement guidelines were notified on June 9, 2022, with penalties up to Rs 50 lakh for repeat breaches.
- FSSAI's advisory of May 28, 2025 told food businesses to stop using "100%" on labels and promotional material.
- NFHS-6 for 2023-24 found 30.7 per cent of women and 27.3 per cent of men overweight or obese.



Full article

Can an Accused Be Denied a Copy of the FIR? The Statute Says Little, the Court Has Said Plenty

The Supreme Court on August 25, 2026 directed the Ghaziabad Police to give journalist Abhishek Upadhyay a copy of his FIR. The BNSS does not provide for pre-trial access by an accused; the right rests entirely on case law and Article 21.

- The Supreme Court on August 25, 2026 directed Ghaziabad Police to give journalist Abhishek Upadhyay a copy of his FIR.
- The Bench was CJI Surya Kant with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana; compliance report due September 7.
- BNSS Section 173(2) requires an FIR copy forthwith and free to the informant or victim; the accused is not mentioned.
- BNSS Section 230 gives the accused copies within 14 days of appearance, and corresponds to CrPC Section 207.
- BNSS Section 230 also supplies free copies to the victim, a change from the old CrPC Section 207.
- Youth Bar Association of India v Union of India, (2016) 9 SCC 473, was decided on September 7, 2016.
- Sensitive categories are sexual offences, POCSO 2012 and terrorism, and are illustrative, not exhaustive.
- Rama Nand Rathore v State of HP (2014) held the FIR is a public document under Section 74 of the Evidence Act, 1872.



Full article

A Regulator Without the Power It Used: The Bar Council, NALSAR, and Justice Nagarathna's Warning

Justice B.V. Nagarathna told the NLU Delhi convocation on August 29, 2026 that Bar Councils must introspect. Her remarks follow the BCI ordering, then withdrawing within hours, a freeze on the enrolment of NALSAR's entire 2026 batch.

- That tenure is about 36 days. A widely repeated claim that she becomes CJI in February 2027 is wrong.
- On August 13, 2026 the Bar Council of India ordered a freeze on enrolment of NALSAR's entire 2026 graduating batch.
- The Bar Council of India is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- Section 24 of the Advocates Act sets individual enrolment qualifications: citizenship, age 21, a recognised law degree and fees.
- The Act gives the BCI no power to bar the graduates of a recognised university as a class.
- Bar Council of India v Bonnie FOI Law College, a five-judge Bench, was decided on February 10, 2023.
- It upheld the All India Bar Examination under Sections 24(3)(d) and 49(1) (ag) of the Advocates Act.
- He has simultaneously been a BJP Rajya Sabha member from Bihar since August 28, 2024.



Full article

Protein Is Everywhere on the Shelf. Muscle Is Not Built There.

A The Conversation piece carried in First India explains what protein actually does, why fortified snacks outrun the science, and why exercise, not intake, is the missing variable.

- Protein is one of three macronutrients; carbohydrates and fats are the body's principal energy sources.
- Protein's primary role is building and repairing tissue, and supporting nervous, immune, skin and hormonal systems.
- ICMR-NIN sets protein EAR at 0.66 g and RDA at 0.83 g per kg of body weight per day for healthy adults.
- That RDA is roughly 54 g a day for a 65 kg adult.
- The Dietary Guidelines for Indians, 2024 advise healthy adults against protein supplements.
- The guidelines revised the cereal to pulses to milk ratio from 11:1:3 to 3:1:2.5.
- FSSAI's 2025 advisory retired "100%" claims as conveying false absolute superiority.
- ICMR-NIN, the National Institute of Nutrition, is at Hyderabad under the Indian Council of Medical Research.



Full article

Kautilya Cut Off the Tongue. We Have Courts. Neither Solves the Dilemma.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi on political abuse, the Arthashastra's penalty for insulting a mother, and why curbing defamation acquires a political dimension the moment the State is the plaintiff.

- The Arthashastra distinguishes simple from aggravated defamation; insulting one's mother fell in the aggravated class.
- Kautilya prescribed cutting off the tongue for insulting a mother, and identically for insulting the king.
- L. N. Rangarajan's English translation of the Arthashastra was published in the Penguin Classics in 1992.
- Criminal defamation, formerly Section 499 IPC, is carried into the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
- Subramanian Swamy v Union of India (2016) upheld criminal defamation as constitutional.
- That judgment located the right to reputation within Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Defamation is among the specified grounds for reasonable restrictions on speech under Article 19(2).
- The UK abolished criminal defamation in 2010; India retains both criminal and civil routes.



Full article

Pedagogy Is the New Surname: What a Gurgaon Birthday Party Teaches About Indian Education

Abhishek Asthana's satire on IB schools, play-area birthday parties and the two Indias at the bouncy castle is field notes on how education became a class marker.

- The International Baccalaureate is a Geneva-headquartered foundation offering programmes from primary to pre-university.
- India's mainstream national boards are CBSE and CISCE, the latter conducting ICSE and ISC examinations.
- Doon School, Mayo College and Lawrence School Sanawar are the classic Indian elite boarding institutions.
- A positional good is one whose value depends on rank relative to others, so aggregate upgrading cancels out.
- Hirschman's framework: exit and voice are the two responses to institutional decline; elite exit weakens voice.
- Reference-group theory explains choice by imitation of higher-status groups rather than direct evaluation.
- NEP 2020 aims at curricular parity and proposes PARAKH as a national assessment centre across boards.
- Post-purchase rationalisation is the tendency to justify a choice after making it, Asthana's closing device.



Full article

The Mecca Pact Is Not About India. Its Consequences Are.

Karan Thapar asks the questions India must ask itself about the Saudi-Turkiye-Pakistan defence agreement, and the honest answers are uncomfortable.

- The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement was signed on August 7, 2026 by Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan.
- Its core clause treats an armed attack on one signatory as an attack on all three.
- It builds on the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement of September 17, 2025.
- The three signatories jointly field about 1.4 million active personnel, 3,400 aircraft and 6,000 tanks.
- Operation Sindoor of May 2025 was India's response to the Pahalgam attack; the government calls it paused, not ended.
- The Red Fort attack of November 10, 2025 drew no Indian military response.
- The UNSC Monitoring Team attributed the Red Fort blast to Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent.
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** The pact has no joint command, no secretariat, no published annexes: a political agreement, not an alliance body.



Full article

The Rover Found the Question. The Mission to Answer It Was Cancelled.

A Curiosity project scientist describes fourteen years of evidence for ancient habitable conditions on Mars, and the one experiment that cannot be done there.

- **Curiosity** landed in **Gale crater** on Mars in **2012**; it is the rover of the **Mars Science Laboratory** mission.
- **Aeolis Mons**, also called **Mount Sharp**, is the roughly **5 km** sedimentary mountain at the centre of Gale crater.
- Its layers record environmental conditions from about **3.5 billion years ago**; Curiosity has climbed about **1 km** of section.
- Curiosity has driven more than **21 km** and has been operating in the **Glen Torridon** region of Gale crater.
- **Mars Sample Return** was effectively ended by a **January 2026** United States spending bill.
- About **\$110 million** was redirected from it into a **Mars Future Missions** technology line.
- **India's Mars Orbiter Mission**, Mangalyaan, launched **5 November 2013** and entered Mars orbit on **24 September 2014**.
- **Mars Orbiter Mission-2**, Mangalyaan-2, is scheduled for **2030** and would be **India's first attempt at a Martian soft landing**.



Full article

The Smoking Gun Dissolves at Scale, but Only for Images

John Xavier on the MIT CSAIL finding that diffusion model outputs become unattributable as datasets grow, and why the shield it hands image generators does not cover language models at all.

- The MIT CSAIL paper is titled **Outputs of Generative Diffusion Models are Often Unattributable**.
- Ablatable ensembles systematically remove specific training data and retest outputs to measure influence.
- The paper found reliance on any single training sample decays predictably as the dataset grows.
- Diffusion models generate images by iteratively removing noise from a canvas; DALL-E and Midjourney are examples.
- Autoregressive language models predict the next token in a sequence from a fixed vocabulary.
- LLMs store specific word sequences and have reproduced copyrighted passages verbatim.
- Diffusion models learn the geometric and semantic spread of visual concepts, favouring generalisation.
- India's Copyright Act, 1957 has no text-and-data-mining exception; fair dealing under Section 52 is enumerated.



Full article

The Clock Stopped at 9.29. The Early Warning Had Worked. It Did Not Matter.

Sanjeev Satginya reports the Bhotekoshi flood from the ground, where warning systems functioned as designed and were beaten by the speed of the mountain itself.

- The August 26, 2026 flood came down the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli through Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading.
- The source was traced to the Langtang Lirung area; debris dammed the Lhende Khola, which then burst.
- The Lhende Khola rises in Gyirong county, Tibet, and feeds the Bhotekoshi-Trishuli system.
- The Rasuwa Bhotekoshi is the upper Trishuli, in the Gandaki basin, entering India as the Gandak.
- Chamoli, February 2021, is the Indian analogue: about 27 million cubic metres off Ronti Peak, 200+ dead.
- The IFRC estimates about 93,000 people may be affected; 32 bridges and some 40 km of road were destroyed.
- Nepal deployed the Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force; PM Balendra Shah cited 15,000+ personnel.
- Kamal Kishore of India heads UNDRR as UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Full article

What Attribution Science Can Honestly Say, and Who Gets Quoted Saying Otherwise

Harsh Kabra surveys the real limits of pinning extreme weather on climate change. The science's stated uncertainties deserve the attention; two of the piece's sceptical voices do not.

- World Weather Attribution was founded in 2014 by Friederike Otto and Geert Jan van Oldenborgh with Climate Central.
- WWA found climate change roughly tripled the odds of the April 2026 South Asia heatwave, about 1 degree cooler without it.
- Attribution compares a counterfactual pre-industrial world near 280 ppm CO₂ with the present above 420 ppm.
- IPCC AR6 WGI Chapter 10: land-sea breezes and mountain winds need resolution of order 10 km or finer.
- Subimal Ghosh of IIT Bombay was a lead author of AR6 WGI Chapter 11 on weather and climate extremes.
- Lliuya v RWE, decided at Hamm in 2025, accepted proportional emitter liability in principle while dismissing the claim.
- The ICJ's July 2025 advisory opinion held climate obligations erga omnes, with causation rules applicable to reparation.
- NASEM's committee on extreme event attribution updated the 2016 US assessment with a new report in 2026.



Full article

A Right the Statute Still Refuses to Write Down

Aaratrika Bhaumik's explainer on FIR access shows a liberty protection built entirely by judges in 2010 and 2016, which Parliament, drafting a brand-new code in 2023, chose not to codify.

- BNSS Section 173(2) gives the FIR forthwith and free of cost to the informant or victim, not the accused.
- BNSS Section 230, successor to CrPC Section 207, reaches the accused only within 14 days after appearance.
- Court on its Own Motion through Ajay Chaudhary, Delhi HC, December 6, 2010, created the 24-hour upload rule.
- Rama Nand Rathore v State of HP (2014) held the FIR a public document under Section 74 of the Evidence Act, 1872.
- Youth Bar Association of India v Union of India, (2016) 9 SCC 473, was decided on September 7, 2016.
- Sensitive categories, sexual offences, POCSO 2012 and terrorism, are illustrative and not exhaustive.
- The right is anchored in Article 21 and Article 22(1), citing D. K. Basu.
- CCTNS, run by the MHA since 2009, connected over 17,700 police stations by mid-2026.



Full article

A Claim on a Food Packet Is a Claim, Not a Guarantee

Bindu Shajan Perappadan on FSSAI's 150-notice crackdown, from Bournvita to the ban on "100%", and why enforcement by notice succeeds where eight years of labelling regulation stalled.

- FSSAI has issued more than 150 notices to food companies over misleading claims in recent months.
- Mondelez India withdrew Bournvita health and nutrient-comparison claims after an FSSAI notice in August 2026.
- Bournvita scrutiny began in 2023; the NCPDR directed removal of its "health drink" description.
- FSSAI's advisory of May 2025 bars "100%" on labels as conveying false absolute purity or superiority.
- The term "100%" is undefined in the FSS Act, 2006 and its regulations.
- The FSS (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018 require claims to be truthful, unambiguous and not misleading.
- Section 53 of the FSS Act allows a penalty up to Rs 10 lakh for a misleading advertisement.
- FSSAI is a statutory body under the FSS Act, 2006, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



Full article

Meta Pays \$17.1 Billion, and \$5.3 Billion of It Is a Lever on Rivals

Joan Sony Cherian explains the settlement that ends the states' child-safety trial. Its most consequential clause regulates companies that never signed it.

- Meta settled for up to \$17.1 billion over ten years with 47 US states on August 26, 2026.
- The trial began on August 18, 2026 at Oakland before Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers.
- The state coalition's federal suits were filed in 2023 by 33 attorneys general.
- About 30 per cent of the sum, roughly \$5.3 billion, is withheld unless YouTube and TikTok adopt comparable measures.
- TikTok and ByteDance paid \$400 million in August 2026 to settle US federal children's privacy claims.
- ICD-11 recognises gaming disorder; social media addiction is not a recognised diagnosis.
- DPDP Act Section 9 bars tracking, behavioural monitoring and targeted advertising directed at children.
- The DPDP Rules were notified in November 2025 with obligations phasing in over about 18 months.



Full article

The Regulator, the Regulated and the Same Family Name

Nivedita Varadarajan traces the Trump crypto reversal from calling Bitcoin a scam to a family stablecoin bank with a UAE official holding 49 per cent of its parent.

- Crypto corporations spent over \$119 million on the 2024 US elections, most via the bipartisan PAC Fairshake.
- Executive Order 14233 of March 6, 2025 created the US Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, on par with gold.
- The GENIUS Act, P.L. 119-27, signed July 18, 2025, is the first US federal stablecoin law.
- GENIUS requires at least \$1 of permitted reserves per stablecoin and federal or state issuer licensing.
- The OCC gave preliminary conditional approval in mid-August 2026 for World Liberty Trust Company to issue USD1.
- Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed al Nahyan's vehicle holds 49 per cent of WLTC Holdings; a Trump entity holds 38 per cent.
- The 2025 disclosures show over \$1.4 billion of crypto income, including about \$635 million from TRUMP coin sales.
- India taxes VDA gains at 30 per cent with 1 per cent TDS, carried into the Income-tax Act, 2025.



Full article

How a Forty-Year Insurgency Ends: Turkiye Writes Reintegration Into Law

Smriti Sudesh on the Turkiye-PKK peace process moving beyond declarations, with a suspended-sentence law, a monitoring board, and the unresolved question of the man in prison since 1999.

- The PKK began its armed insurgency against Turkiye in 1984; the conflict killed more than 40,000 people.
- The PKK is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkiye, the United States and the European Union.
- Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK's founder, has been imprisoned since 1999.
- Ocalan called on the PKK to lay down arms and dissolve in February 2025; it announced dissolution in May 2026.
- Symbolic PKK disarmament began in July 2026 with a weapons-burning ceremony in northern Iraq.
- Turkiye's reintegration law passed on August 10, 2026, approved by 468 of 592 voting members.
- Intentional killings and pre-2005 life-without-parole sentences are excluded; it is not a general amnesty.
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Board under Vice-President Cevdet Yilmaz first met on August 24, 2026.



Full article

Two Gramophone Records, One Word Changed, and the Whole Anthem Question

Akhilesh Jha reads the history of Vande Mataram through two 1938 and 1949 recordings whose labels quietly changed, from Sampooran to Indian National Anthem to neither.

- Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in Anandamath in 1882.
- Rabindranath Tagore first sang Vande Mataram at a Congress session in 1896.
- The Congress Working Committee at Calcutta in October 1937 restricted official singing to the first two stanzas.
- Tagore was consulted on the 1937 decision confining performances to the opening stanzas.
- Haripura, February 1938, was the 51st Congress session, presided over by Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Nandalal Bose painted the Haripura panels at Mahatma Gandhi's request; Bose rode a chariot drawn by 51 bullocks.
- Timir Baran orchestrated the complete 1938 Vande Mataram recording, labelled Sampooran in three scripts.
- The Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949; the Assembly's final sitting was January 24, 1950.



Full article