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GS Paper 1 History, Art and Culture · Geography · Society

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History, Art & Culture

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HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

16 Aug · 1

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**...

- Died: **August 16, 2018**, aged 93; Bharat Ratna: **2015**
- Delhi memorial: "**Sadaiv Atal**"
- New Delhi initiative: **25 "Atal Canteens"** launched



Full article

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

17 Aug · 4

BWF World Championships 2026 Begin in New Delhi After 17-Year Gap

The **30th edition of the BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Championships** opened at the **Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi**, on **August 17, 2026**, running through **August 23**, marking India's second time hosting the event and its return to the...

- Edition: **30th**; venue: **Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi**
- Dates: **August 17-23, 2026**
- Participants: **382 players, 64 nations; 5 categories**
- India's last hosting: **2009, Hyderabad** (17-year gap)
- Broadcast: **Sports18, JioCinema**



Full article

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

16 Aug · 2

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**.

- 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



Full article

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

17 Aug · 5

Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 Concludes With New Delhi Concert, Marking 150 Years of...

The **fifth edition of the Har Ghar Tiranga** movement, running **August 9-17, 2026**, concluded with a grand musical concert in **New Delhi**, this year dedicated to the **150th anniversary of the National Song, Vande Mataram**.

- Campaign window: **August 9-17, 2026; 5th edition**; launched **2022**
- 2026 theme link: **150th anniversary of Vande Mataram**
- Global component: "**Suryapath Tiranga**" (Indian missions abroad, east to west)
- VP Radhakrishnan's flag bike rally with MPs: **August 12, 2026**



Full article

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

16 Aug · 3

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.

- Onam: **Atham** (start) August 16; **Thiruvonam** (main day) August 26, 2026
- Navroz: observed **August 16, 2026** per the Shahenshahi calendar



Full article

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

18 Aug · 6

India Observes 81st Death Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

August 18, 2026 marks **81 years** since **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's** reported death following a plane crash in **Taihoku** (present-day Taipei) on **August 18, 1945**.

- Reported death: **August 18, 1945**, Taihoku, Formosa (present-day Taipei)
- Led: **Indian National Army (INA)**, **Azad Hind** government
- Background: birth anniversary observed separately as **Parakram Diwas, January 23**



Full article

SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant Launches Real-Time CO2 Emissions Dashboard

SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant inaugurated a "CO2 Dashboard" on August 18, 2026, enabling real-time, shop-level tracking of carbon emissions.

- Launched: **August 18, 2026**; developed with **EMD-Kolkata, M/s Centra World**
- Inaugurated by: **Chittaranjan Mahapatra**, Director I/c, BSP
- Purpose: real-time, shop-level carbon-emissions tracking

[Full article](#)

United States Sanctions ICC President and Senior Trial Lawyer

The **US Treasury** sanctioned International Criminal Court **President Tomoko Akane** (Japan) and senior trial lawyer **Abdoulaye Seye** (Senegal) on **August 18, 2026**, citing their role in ICC investigations of officials from states that have not...

- Sanctioned: **Tomoko Akane** (ICC President, Japan), **Abdoulaye Seye** (Senior Trial Lawyer, Senegal)
- ICC response: sanctions "strongly rejected" as an attack on its independence
- India's status: **not a State Party to the Rome Statute**

[Full article](#)

First Steering Committee Meeting Held for the 57th International Film Festival of...

The first Steering Committee meeting for the **57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, scheduled in Goa from **November 20-28, 2026**, was held in New Delhi, chaired by MoS Information & Broadcasting **Dr L. Murugan**.

- International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism: UNGA Res. 72/165 (2017), 9th observance
- CCI clears Prudential's 75% Bharti Life Insurance stake, ~Rs 3,500 crore
- August 2026 Flash Composite PMI: 54.6 (Services 54.5, Manufacturing 52.9, a 5-year low)
- GDCBA: background, launched Feb 20, 2026; six-month milestone reached, 10 countries engaged
- 57th IFFI: Goa, November 20-28, 2026

[Full article](#)

GEOGRAPHY

17 Aug · 10

IMD Issues Heavy Rainfall and Strong Wind Warnings Across 19 States

The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall and wind gusts of **80-85 km/h** across **19 states** on **August 17, 2026**, driven by a **low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal**.

- Trigger: low-pressure area, **northwest Bay of Bengal / West Bengal-Odisha coast**
- Core impact belt: **Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand**
- Wind gusts: up to **80-85 km/h**
- Coverage: **19 states**, including **Delhi-NCR**



Full article

GEOGRAPHY

20 Aug · 11

Railways Raises Speed Limit to 100 kmph on USBRL's Katra-Banihal Section

The Railway Ministry approved raising the maximum permissible speed on the **111 km Katra-Banihal section** of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** to **100 kmph**, up from the earlier 75-85 kmph, after the stretch cleared required...

- Section length: **111 km**; new speed limit: **100 kmph** (up from 75-85 kmph)
- Passes through: **Chenab Railway Bridge** (world's highest railway bridge) and **Anji Khad Bridge** (India's first cable-stayed rail bridge)
- Part of: **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)**
- The Chenab Bridge stands about 359 metres above the riverbed, higher than the Eiffel Tower



Full article

Persons & Awards in News

1 item · cards 12–12

PERSONS & AWARDS IN NEWS

18 Aug · 12

National Sports Awards 2025 Announced, No Khel Ratna Given for First Time Since...

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** announced the **National Sports Awards 2025** on **August 18, 2026**. No sportsperson was selected for the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**, the first such gap since **2014**.

- Announced: **August 18, 2026**
- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna**: no recipient, first gap since **2014**
- **Arjuna Award**: **17 winners + 1 Lifetime**; includes **Tejaswin Shankar, Vidit Gujrathi, Divya Deshmukh, Treasa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand**
- **Dronacharya Award**: **5 coaches**, including Lifetime honourees **Dharmendra Singh Yadav, Virender Kumar**
- Award administered by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**



Full article

GS Paper 2 Polity · Governance · Social Justice · International Relations

Cards 13–31

Polity & Governance

4 items · cards 13–16

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

16 Aug · 13

Karnataka Cabinet Clears Bill Mandating Government Permission for Use of Public...

The **Karnataka Cabinet** approved a bill on **August 13, 2026**, mandating prior government permission for organisations to use **government land, buildings, playgrounds, parks and roads**, amid an ongoing dispute over public-space usage.

- Cabinet approval: **August 13, 2026**
- Covers: government land, buildings, playgrounds, parks, roads
- Violation treated as: **trespass**
- First offence: up to **3 years** imprisonment and/or **Rs 5 lakh** fine
- Second/subsequent offence: up to **5 years** imprisonment, **Rs 10 lakh** fine
- Continuing non-compliance after conviction: additional fine up to **Rs 5,000/day**
- Relevant constitutional provisions: **Article 19(1)(b)** (assembly), **Article 19(1)(c)** (association), both subject to reasonable restrictions



Full article

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

17 Aug · 14

Consumer Affairs Department Opens Applications for Government Approved Test...

The **Department of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** began accepting online applications, from **August 17 to 31, 2026**, for recognition as **Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs)** under the **Legal Metrology (Government Approved...**

- Governing rules: **Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013**
- Application window: **August 17-31, 2026**
- Portal: **emaap.gov.in/gatc**
- Eligible applicants: industries, labs, engineering colleges, polytechnics, ITIs
- Scope: **23 categories** of weighing and measuring instruments
- Parent legislation: **Legal Metrology Act, 2009**



Full article

President Assents to MMDR Amendment Act, 2026, Sparking Federal Balance Debate

President **Droupadi Murmu** gave assent to the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026** on **August 18, 2026**, inserting **Section 9D**, which bars states from imposing fresh taxes, cess or levies on mineral rights or...

- Passed: Lok Sabha **August 12**, Rajya Sabha **August 13**; assent **August 18, 2026**
- Key provision: new **Section 9D**, restricts state taxation of mineral rights/mineral-bearing land
- Responds to: SC ruling, **MADA v. SAIL** (July 2024), 9-judge bench, 8:1, upheld state taxing power under **Entry 50, List II**
- States' mineral revenue, FY2025-26: **Rs 1,14,549 crore**
- 656 District Mineral Foundations** operational nationally
- India: world's **2nd-largest coal producer** (over 1 billion tonnes), **4th in iron ore** (313 MT)



Full article

Supreme Court 9-Judge Bench Clarifies the "Industry" Test for Pending and New...

A **9-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court, in *State of Uttar Pradesh v. Jai Bir Singh* (2026 INSC 897, decided **August 20, 2026**, by a **5:4 majority**), clarified how the term "industry" should be interpreted for pending and future...

- Citation: **2026 INSC 897**; Bench: **9 judges**; verdict: **5:4** majority
- Original precedent: **Bangalore Water Supply v. A. Rajappa** (1978), 7-judge Bench
- Industrial Relations Code, 2020: background, enacted 2020, in force since **November 21, 2025**
- Article 145(3) mandates a minimum 5-judge Bench for cases involving substantial constitutional law questions



Full article

International Relations

8 items · cards 17–24

BRICS Environment Working Group Meeting Opens in New Delhi

India, holding the **BRICS Chairship 2026**, hosted the **Senior Officers' Meeting of the BRICS Environment Working Group** and the **Contact Group on Climate Change and Sustainable Development** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, on **August 17, 2026**, as a...

- Host: India, **BRICS Chairship 2026**; theme: **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**
- Senior Officers' Meeting: **August 17, 2026**, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
- 12th Environment Ministers' Meeting**: **August 18, 2026**, presided by **Bhupender Yadav**
- Four 2026 priority areas: **Sustainable Lifestyles, Afforestation & Forest Fire Management, Circular Economy (EPR), Adaptation...**
- Venue: **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**



Full article

12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting Adopts New Delhi Statement

The **12th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting**, chaired by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav**, was held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, on **August 18, 2026**, adopting the **"New Delhi Statement"** on...

- Date: **August 18, 2026**; venue: **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- Chair: **Bhupender Yadav**; outcome: **"New Delhi Statement"** adopted
- India's 2026 BRICS Chairship theme: **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**
- Four priorities: **(1) sustainable lifestyles; (2) afforestation, forest-fire management and disaster resilience; (3) circular economy; (4)...**
- Follows the **Senior Officers' Meeting**, held **August 17, 2026**, at the same venue



Full article

7th BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting Concludes in Pune

The **7th BRICS ICT Working Group meeting**, held **August 17-19, 2026** in **Pune** under India's 2026 BRICS chairship, advanced cooperation on **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.

- Dates: **August 17-19, 2026**, Pune; theme: "**Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future**"
- Focus: **BRICS DPI Repository**, submarine cable cooperation, Digital Applications/Governance Expert Groups



Full article

Yuva Sangam Phase VII Registration Extended to August 31

The **Education Ministry** extended registration for **Yuva Sangam Phase VII**, originally closing August 18, to **August 31, 2026**.

- New deadline: **August 31, 2026**; eligible age: **18-30**
- Parent initiative: **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**; 20 nodal **HEIs** hosting



Full article

65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament Underway

The 65th **Subroto Cup**, organised by the Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society under the Air Force Sports Control Board, is underway in New Delhi NCR with 107 participating teams across categories, running through September 24, 2026.

- RK-251 cancer prodrug: IASST + IIT Guwahati, activated by tumour-cell ROS, releases NBDHEX
- S301: fastest known star orbiting Sagittarius A*, ~8% speed of light
- USFDA approval: Glenmark's generic Fluticasone Propionate nasal spray, ~\$295.2 million US market
- BHU: ~Rs 15 crore across six ICMR grants
- MAITREE-XV: 15th edition, India-Thailand, Surat Thani, Thailand (Aug 18-31)
- 5th Coast Guard Global Summit: New Delhi, February 2027, alongside ICG's 50th anniversary
- BRICS ICT Track: Pune, Aug 17-21, 2026; Digital BRICS Forum and Expo, Aug 20
- Akshay Urja Diwas and Sadbhavana Diwas: both observed August 20 annually



Full article

India and Japan Sign Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Japanese Defence Minister **Shinjiro Koizumi** signed a **Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on Maritime Security Cooperation** in New Delhi on **August 20, 2026**, a day after Koizumi's Mumbai visit to Western Naval...

- Signed: New Delhi, **August 20, 2026**, by Rajnath Singh and Shinjiro Koizumi
- Covers: maritime domain awareness, information sharing, search and rescue, joint exercises, ship-repair/logistics cooperation
- Builds on: India-Japan **ACSA (2020)**
- Context: Koizumi's maiden visit; inspected **INS Chennai** (Kolkata-class destroyer) at Western Naval Command, Mumbai, on August 19
- India-Japan ties operate under the **Special Strategic and Global Partnership** framework



Full article

12th BRICS Communications Ministers' Meeting Concludes in Pune

India hosted the **12th BRICS Communications Ministers' Meeting** in **Pune, Maharashtra**, on **August 21, 2026**, chaired by Union Minister of Communications **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, concluding a five-day **BRICS ICT Track** (August 17-21) held under...

- Held: **Pune, Maharashtra, August 21, 2026**; chaired by **Jyotiraditya Scindia**
- Theme: "**Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future**"
- Four focus areas: sustainable ICT ecosystems, cybersecurity, digital skilling, startups and innovation
- Concluded a five-day BRICS ICT Track (**August 17-21, 2026**)
- India holds the **BRICS Chairship for 2026**



Full article

BRICS Tourism Ministers Adopt the Jaipur Declaration

BRICS Tourism Ministers, meeting in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**, adopted the "**BRICS Tourism Ministers' Communique 2026**" (the Jaipur Declaration) on **August 21, 2026**, chaired by Union Culture and Tourism Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, under...

- Adopted: **Jaipur, August 21, 2026**; chaired by **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**
- Theme: "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**"
- Four pillars: AI in tourism, sustainable tourism, skilling, seamless travel facilitation
- Preceded by Working Group sessions on **August 19-20, 2026**
- India holds the **BRICS Chairship for 2026**; the ministerial meeting ran **August 21-22**



Full article

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

19 Aug · 25

Regional Rural Banks Post Strong Credit Growth in FY2025-26

The **Ministry of Finance** highlighted that **43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)**, following amalgamation, now function as scheduled commercial banks under RBI supervision, recording notable credit growth in **FY2025-26**.

- **43 RRBs** operational, scheduled commercial banks under RBI supervision
- Equity structure: **50% Centre, 35% sponsor bank, 15% state government**



Full article

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

21 Aug · 26

Ministry of Rural Development Launches National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II

The **Ministry of Rural Development**, under **DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission)**, launched the **National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II** on **August 21, 2026**, coinciding with **World Entrepreneurs' Day**.

- Launched under: **DAY-NRLM**, Ministry of Rural Development
- Duration: **August 21-November 21, 2026** (3 months)
- Targets: 5 lakh SHG women trained; 50,000 enterprises formalised; 25,000 SHG members onboarded to ONDC/GeM
- Aligned with the national goal of **6 crore Lakhpati Didis**
- Coincides with **World Entrepreneurs' Day**, observed August 21



Full article

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

22 Aug · 27

Karnataka Bans Production and Sale of "Analogue Paneer" for One Year

Karnataka's **Food Safety and Drug Administration** prohibited the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of **"analogue paneer"** when sold or labelled as paneer, background: notification issued August 17, 2026, effective for one year...

- Effective: **August 17, 2026**, for **one year**
- Legal basis: **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**
- Excluded: FSSAI-standardised products (Frozen Dessert, Processed Cheese, Mixed Fat Spread)
- Karnataka lab tests found **no actual adulteration** in tested samples
- Background: FSSAI West Region separately issued a public notice on correct labelling of "cheese analogues" on April 22, 2026



Full article

Security & Defence

SECURITY & DEFENCE

18 Aug · 28

India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV 2026 Commences

The **15th edition of Exercise MAITREE (MAITREE-XV)**, a joint India-Thailand military exercise instituted in **2006**, commenced on **August 18, 2026**, at **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand**, running until **August 31**.

- Edition: **15th**; instituted: **2006**
- Dates: **August 18-31, 2026**; venue: **Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand**
- Indian Army contingent: **85 personnel**, led by **9 Gorkha Rifles**
- Focus: **joint counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism, jungle terrain**
- Previous edition: **September 2025, Umroi, Meghalaya**



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

19 Aug · 29

Japanese Defence Minister Koizumi Visits Western Naval Command, Mumbai

Japanese Defence Minister **Shinjiro Koizumi**, on his maiden visit to India, inspected a Guard of Honour at **Western Naval Command, Mumbai**, and visited the stealth destroyer **INS Chennai**, on **August 19, 2026**.

- Minister: **Shinjiro Koizumi**; visited **Western Naval Command, Mumbai, August 19**
- Reviewed: **INS Chennai** (Kolkata-class, Project 15A stealth destroyer)
- Bilateral talks with **Rajnath Singh: August 20, 2026, Delhi**



Full article

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

20 Aug · 30

Supreme Court: Treating Waste Disposal as Solely Sanitation Workers' Job is...

The **Supreme Court**, in a ruling dated **August 18, 2026**, held that treating waste disposal as solely the responsibility of the sanitation workforce, while citizens generate waste passively without accountability, is **constitutionally...**

- Constitutional basis: **Article 51A(g)** (fundamental duty) and **Article 21** (right to a healthy environment)
- Directs: waste-management education in school curricula
- Permits: water/power disconnection for repeated **Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026** violations
- Core holding: passive waste generation by citizens, with sanitation workers left solely accountable for disposal, is constitutionally...
- Fundamental Duties were added to the Constitution via the **42nd Amendment, 1976**, on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee



Full article

Science & Technology

1 item · cards 31–31

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

22 Aug · 31

Government Tightens Restriction on Chlorpheniramine-Phenylephrine Cold...

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, via gazette notification **S.O. 4595(E)**, made it mandatory for all manufacturers of Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) containing **Chlorpheniramine Maleate + Phenylephrine Hydrochloride** to carry a...

- Notification: **S.O. 4595(E)**, dated August 18, 2026
- Legal basis: **Section 26A, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**
- Background, earlier narrower restriction: **April 15, 2025**
- Reviewing body: **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)**, constituted under Section 5 of the Act
- DTAB is the highest statutory technical body advising the Centre and states on drug-related matters



Full article

GS Paper 3 Economy · Environment · Science and Technology · Security

Cards 32–48

Economy & Development

6 items · cards 32–37

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

16 Aug · 32

Government to Launch Regulated Electronic Exchange for Major Minerals

Following Parliament's passage of the **MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026** on **August 13, 2026**, the government confirmed plans for a regulated **electronic exchange for trading major minerals**, covering **iron ore, limestone, manganese and bauxite** in its...

- Enabling law: **MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026**, passed by Parliament **August 13, 2026**
- Governing rules: **Mineral Exchange Rules, 2026** (background: notified by Ministry of Mines, **June 30, 2026**)
- Regulator/supervisor: **Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)**
- First-phase minerals: **iron ore, limestone, manganese, bauxite**
- Launch target: **next financial year (FY 2027-28)**
- Comparable global model: **London Metal Exchange (LME)**



Full article

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

17 Aug · 33

RBI Advances Closure of FCNR(B) Swap Facility After \$56.85 Billion in Inflows

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will now accept deposits into its special **FCNR(B) forex swap facility** only up to **August 31, 2026**, moved up from the originally announced **September 30, 2026** closing date, after the scheme mobilised **\$56.85...**

- Background: announced **June 5, 2026**; operationalised **June 8, 2026**
- New deposit cut-off: **August 31, 2026** (advanced from **September 30, 2026**)
- Swap execution deadline: **September 11, 2026**
- Total inflows mobilised (as of Aug 13, 2026): **\$56.85 billion**, of which **FCNR(B) deposits: \$52.30 billion**
- Parallel **ECB/OFCE** swap window: unaffected, open till **December 31, 2026**
- FCNR(B): Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposit scheme for NRIs



Full article

ICAR 97th Annual General Meeting Charts Roadmap for Transformative Agriculture

The **97th Annual General Meeting** of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Society** was held at **NASC, New Delhi**, on **August 18, 2026**, chaired by Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.

- Date: **August 18, 2026**; venue: **NASC, New Delhi**
- Chair: **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- Foodgrain output rise: **~19 million tonnes**
- New crop varieties: **386**, of which **94% climate-resilient, 29 biofortified**
- Priorities set: demand-driven research, ICAR-industry partnerships, integrated farming



Full article

National Teachers' Awards 2026: 48 Teachers Selected

The Ministry of Education announced the **National Teachers' Awards 2026** list, selecting **48 teachers** from 27 states, 7 Union Territories, and 6 central government organisations, including KVS, NVS and EMRS.

- Yamanashi Prefecture fund: **Rs 600 crore**, with a 90-day land/investment review mechanism
- National Teachers' Awards 2026: **48 teachers**, ceremony September 5, 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan



Full article

Cabinet Clears Rs 13,041 Crore Railway Multitracking and NH-22 Bihar Highway Push

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, chaired by PM Modi, approved railway multitracking projects worth roughly **Rs 9,450 crore** and a **Rs 3,590.73 crore** four-laning of **NH-22 in Bihar**, on **August 19, 2026**.

- Rail projects: **Rs ~9,450 crore, 4 projects** across **WB, Odisha, TN, AP**; **~410 km, 8 districts**; completion by **2030-31**; freight gain **~76 MTPA**
- NH-22 (Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa): **Rs 3,590.73 crore, 82.578 km, Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**
- Connects: **India-Nepal border crossing, Sonbarsa**, to Muzaffarpur (linking NH-27/East-West Corridor)
- Rail projects connect an estimated **~6,448 villages, ~60 lakh population**



Full article

Commerce Ministry Holds Exporter Awareness Session on EU CBAM's Definitive Phase

The **Department of Commerce**, with the **NABCB** and **EEPC**, held an awareness session for around 100 exporters at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, on the **EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**, on **August 19, 2026**.

- Transitional phase: **October 2023-December 2025**; definitive phase: **from January 2026**
- Certificate price: **~€75/tonne CO₂** (Q1 2026, set quarterly)
- Affected sectors: **steel, aluminium, cement, fertiliser, hydrogen, electricity**
- India's steel carbon intensity: **~2.1 tCO₂/tonne** vs EU average **~1.8** (blast-furnace basis)
- EU-India Strategic Agenda (September 2025) commits to deducting India's domestic carbon price from CBAM adjustments



Full article

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

18 Aug · 38

India Launches First-Ever Guide to Grasslands and Open Natural Ecosystems

India launched its first comprehensive "**Guide to Grasslands and Other Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)**" at **UNCCD COP17** in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**, on **August 17, 2026**, reported **August 18, 2026**.

- Launched: **August 17, 2026**, at **UNCCD COP17**, **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**
- Lead organisation: **ATREE**, with **IUCN, CoE-SLM, ICFRE, ISRO-SAC**
- Ecosystem types classified: **24**
- Covers: **pastoralism, fire ecology, carbon sequestration**
- India's first-of-its-kind national guide specifically on Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs)



Full article

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

20 Aug · 39

Supreme Court Orders Nationwide Survey of Elephant Corridors, Bars Crop-Damage as...

The **Supreme Court**, in *Perna Singh Bindra v. Union of India* (order dated **August 17, 2026**), directed a fresh nationwide survey of elephant corridors and ruled that fears of crop damage cannot justify blocking wildlife movement.

- Case: **Perna Singh Bindra v. Union of India**
- Order date: **August 17, 2026**; Bench: CJI Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana
- Directs: fresh nationwide elephant corridor survey
- Asked Centre to consider banning: "**fireball**" and "**hulla party**" elephant drive-out methods
- Project Elephant** was launched in 1992 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



Full article

Science & Technology

4 items · cards 40–43

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

16 Aug · 40

PSA Office and NABARD Launch RSVC-AMRIT Digital Platform for Rural Innovation

The **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)**, headed by **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**, and **NABARD** jointly launched the **RSVC-AMRIT** digital platform on the occasion of the **80th Independence Day**, to serve as the digital backbone of the **RuTAG**...

- Launched: **August 15, 2026** (80th Independence Day)
- Joint initiative: **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** and **NABARD**
- PSA: **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**
- Parent ecosystem: **RuTAG (Rural Technology Action Group) Smart Village Centre (RSVC)**
- RuTAG is coordinated across IITs to develop appropriate rural technologies



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

20 Aug · 42

Indian Scientists Develop RK-251, a Tumour-Activated "Smart" Cancer Drug

Researchers at **IASST, Guwahati** and **IIT Guwahati** (Dr Asis Bala and Dr K.P. Bhabak) developed a prodrug, published in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* (ACS), that is selectively activated by reactive oxygen species (ROS) found at elevated...

- Developed by IASST Guwahati and IIT Guwahati; targeted, tumour-selective drug activation



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

20 Aug · 41

DoT to Enforce Nine-SIM Cap Using Photograph-Based Verification at Point of...

The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** will place subscriber photographs, accessed via its **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**, at the disposal of telecom service providers to enforce the **nine-SIM-per-person cap** nationally, shifting...

- National cap: **9 SIMs per person**; reduced cap: **6** in J&K, Assam, Northeastern states
- Enforcement platform: **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**, DoT
- Verification method: photograph cross-check at point of SIM issuance
- Full operator transition deadline: **November 30, 2026**
- Legal basis for telecom subscriber verification: **Telecommunications Act, 2023**



Full article

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

20 Aug · 43

Scientists Identify S301 as the Fastest Known Star Orbiting the Milky Way's...

Astronomers using ESO's Very Large Telescope Interferometer (GRAVITY+ instrument) in Chile detected **S301**, a star orbiting **Sagittarius A*** (the Milky Way's central supermassive black hole) at roughly 8% the speed of light, the fastest...

- S301 orbits Sagittarius A* faster than any previously observed star in the Milky Way



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

16 Aug · 44

MoD Signs Rs 1,577 Crore Contract for Loiter Munition Systems with Tata and NIBE

The **Ministry of Defence** signed contracts worth **Rs 1,577 crore** with **Tata Advanced Systems Limited** and **NIBE Private Limited** on **August 14, 2026**, for **loiter munition systems** for the Indian Army, in the presence of Defence Secretary **Rajesh...**

- Signed: **August 14, 2026**; value: **Rs 1,577 crore**
- Vendors: **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd** (L1, ~64%), **NIBE Ltd** (L2), NIBE's system: "**Vayuastra**"
- Units: **840**; strike range: **over 100 km**
- Acquisition category: **Buy (Indian)**, via **Fast Track Procedure**
- Tender opened: **July 2026**



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

19 Aug · 46

MoD Notifies 6th Positive Indigenisation List Covering 405 Items

The **Ministry of Defence** notified its **6th Positive Indigenisation List**, covering **405 strategically important** sub-assemblies, Line Replaceable Units, spares and components, reported **August 19, 2026**.

- Items: **405** (16 Indian Coast Guard, 389 DPSUs)
- Business potential: **Rs 3,070 crore**
- Platforms: **Su-30MKI, ALH Dhruv, LCA Tejas, T-90/T-72, BMP-II, MRSAM, Konkurs-M/Invar**
- SRIJAN Portal: over **33,000** cumulative items listed, **15,700+** already indigenised
- Estimated import-substitution value: **~Rs 9,000 crore** over five years



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

18 Aug · 45

MoD Signs Rs 1,943 Crore Deal to Lease Two MQ-9B Sea Guardian Drones for Navy

The **Ministry of Defence** signed a **Rs 1,943 crore** contract with **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI)** on **August 17, 2026**, to lease two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian** High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) drones for the **Indian Navy**.

- Signed: **August 17, 2026**; value: **Rs 1,943 crore**
- Vendor: **General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI)**
- Lease duration: **30 months**; units: **2 MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE RPAS**
- End-user: **Indian Navy**; purpose: **Maritime Domain Awareness, Indian Ocean Region**
- Signing location: **Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi**



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

20 Aug · 47

Exercise MAITREE-XV: India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise Underway

An 85-member Indian Army contingent from **9 Gorkha Rifles** is conducting the 15th edition of Exercise **MAITREE** with the Royal Thai Army at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand (August 18-31, 2026), focused on jungle and semi-urban...

- MAITREE was instituted in 2006; this is its 15th edition



Full article

SECURITY & DEFENCE

21 Aug · 48

Cochin Shipyard Delivers INS Mangrol, Third Indigenous ASW Shallow Water Craft...

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) delivered **INS Mangrol**, the third of eight indigenously designed **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, to the Indian Navy on **August 21, 2026**.

- Third of **8 ASW Shallow Water Craft** built by Cochin Shipyard Limited
- Indigenous content: **over 80%**
- Delivered to Indian Navy: **August 21, 2026**
- Named after **Mangrol**, a fishing harbour town in Junagadh district, Gujarat
- CSL is India's largest public-sector shipyard, headquartered in Kochi, Kerala



Full article

Economy & Development

8 items · cards 49–56

BUSINESS STANDARD

17 Aug · 49

Puzzling Policy - RBI's Early FCNR(B) Swap Closure Raises Questions

Business Standard argues the RBI's abrupt early closure of its FCNR(B) swap facility, after officials had signalled no early closure was planned, raises policy-communication concerns and does not fix India's deeper external-sector...

- Background: **FCNR(B) swap facility** announced **June 5, 2026**, operationalised **June 8, 2026**
- Total inflows mobilised (as of **August 13, 2026**): **\$56.85 billion**; **FCNR(B) deposits: \$52.30 billion**
- Revised deposit cut-off: **August 31, 2026** (advanced from **September 30, 2026**)
- Swap execution deadline: **September 11, 2026**
- Parallel **ECB/OFCB** swap window: unaffected, remains open till **December 31, 2026**
- **Watch the trap**: the editorial's critique is about policy-communication credibility and the short-term nature of the instrument, not a claim that the...



Full article

BUSINESS STANDARD

18 Aug · 52

Governing the AI Elephant

Business Standard argues India's financial regulators are avoiding rigid technology-specific AI rules in favour of governance-focused oversight, calling on bank and exchange boards to identify critical AI-driven decisions, audit data...

- AI applications in Indian finance: **credit checks, fraud detection, market surveillance**
- Regulatory approach: **governance-focused oversight**, not rigid technology-specific rules
- Board responsibilities identified: identify AI-driven decisions, **audit input-data quality**, build **bias-detection mechanisms**
- **Watch the trap**: governance-focused oversight is not an absence of regulation; it is a deliberate regulatory-design choice placing accountability on...



Full article

BUSINESS STANDARD

17 Aug · 50

Renewed Reform Push - Sapta Dhara's Ambition Needs Faster Structural Change

Business Standard argues that PM Modi's Sapta Dhara framework for Viksit Bharat 2047 must be matched by faster structural reform in trade and manufacturing, including rationalising welfare spending such as fertiliser subsidy.

- **Sapta Dhara**: unveiled **August 15, 2026** (80th Independence Day, PM's 13th consecutive address); seven pillars tied to **Viksit Bharat @2047**
- Editorial published: **Business Standard, August 17, 2026**
- Specific reform flagged: **fertiliser subsidy rationalisation**
- Sectors flagged for faster reform: **trade policy, manufacturing competitiveness**
- **Watch the trap**: the editorial does not oppose the Sapta Dhara vision itself; it argues the vision's value depends on follow-through reforms that have...



Full article

THE HINDU

19 Aug · 53

Employment Guarantee Has Slipped Into Limbo

The Hindu argues rural employment generation has fallen sharply as India transitions from MGNREGA to the new VB-G RAM G scheme, citing a roughly 43% drop in person-days generated, and calls the transition a loss of policy momentum needing...

- Person-days generated, **April-July 2026-27**: down roughly **43%** versus the prior two-year average for the same period
- Successor scheme: **VB-G RAM G**, replacing MGNREGA
- **Watch the trap**: the editorial's critique is about delivery performance during the transition, not a claim that guaranteed rural employment as a policy...



Full article

BUSINESS STANDARD

18 Aug · 51

Employment Opportunities: India Must Move Up the Overseas Migration Skill Chain

Business Standard discusses a NITI Aayog study showing India has the world's largest overseas migrant population but its emigration pipeline remains skewed toward low-skilled work, arguing states must build dedicated migration systems to...

- India's overseas migrant population: **18.5 million**, the world's largest
- India: **top global recipient** of remittances
- **Construction: 71.3%** of NSDC International-facilitated placements
- Source: **NITI Aayog** study
- **Watch the trap**: the editorial does not argue India sends too few migrants abroad; it argues the skill composition of existing emigration is suboptimal...



Full article

BUSINESS STANDARD

20 Aug · 54

Shifting Expectations: RBI Signals a Turn from Rate Cuts Toward a Possible Hike

Business Standard argues the RBI MPC's decision to hold the repo rate steady was prudent given 16 straight months of below-target inflation, but warns hawkish signals from Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta mean market expectations are shifting...

- India's inflation-targeting framework, formalised via the RBI Act amendment in 2016, mandates a 4% CPI target within a 2-6% band.
- The Monetary Policy Committee has six members: three from the RBI (including the Governor as ex-officio chair) and three external members...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap**: Do not confuse the MPC's formal rate decision (holding steady) with the market's actual expectation shift (toward a possible hike); the...



Full article

Centre's Fiscal Outlook Faces Geopolitical Headwinds and Revenue Risks

The Hindu examines how weak PIT/GST collections and the West Asian crisis's oil-price shock are straining central revenues in 2026-27, arguing the fiscal deficit can still stay near target because of strong non-tax revenue and front-loaded...

- India's fiscal-deficit target for 2026-27 is cited in this editorial as approximately 4.6% of GDP.
- The RBI transfers its annual surplus to the government as a dividend, governed by the Bimal Jalan Committee's Economic Capital Framework...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not confuse "fiscal deficit target achieved" with "underlying fiscal health strong"; the editorial explicitly distinguishes headline...



Full article

Keep UPI Free, Fund It From the Savings It Generates

Indian Express argues against imposing a Merchant Discount Rate on UPI transactions above Rs 2,000, warning it could cost the retail economy Rs 27,000 crore annually, and instead calls for funding UPI infrastructure from the systemic...

- UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched in 2016.
- MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) is the standard fee model for card-based digital payments in most countries, historically waived for UPI...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not assume the editorial opposes UPI infrastructure funding generally; it explicitly proposes an alternative funding mechanism, systemic...



Full article

Polity & Governance

7 items · cards 57–63

August 15 After Jantar Mantar: The Many Spaces of Freedom and Unfreedom

Indian Express examines student mobilisations and protest restrictions at Jantar Mantar after Independence Day, arguing meaningful democracy requires protected spaces for dissent, institutional accountability, and academic freedom, not...

- **Jantar Mantar:** one of Delhi's few officially designated public protest sites
- Immediate context: student mobilisations following the **2026 NEET-UG paper-leak scandal**, involving groups including the **Cockroach Janta**...
- Editorial's core distinction: **periodic elections** vs **everyday protected spaces for dissent**
- Constitutional basis for restrictions: **reasonable restrictions** on the freedom of assembly (Article 19)
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial does not argue that all regulation of protest is illegitimate; it argues the pattern and framing of restrictions...



Full article

India Produces Too Many Engineers

Indian Express argues India expanded access to engineering education without keeping pace on quality, and calls for shifting from counting seats and degrees to measuring demonstrated learning and employability, especially as generative AI...

- India's engineering education seat expansion: **since the early 2000s**
- Editorial-identified quality gaps: **faculty strength, industry linkage, pedagogy**
- New complicating factor: **generative AI** undermining traditional assessment reliability
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial does not argue for reversing access expansion; it argues quality assurance was never adequately built alongside it, and that...



Full article

Legal Aid Defence Counsels: Strengthening India's Public Defence System

Indian Express argues the proposed discontinuation of Legal Aid Defence Counsels ignores evidence that they provide quality criminal defence to indigent accused, calling for strengthened institutional oversight rather than dismantling the...

- **LADCs:** handle roughly **6%** of relevant criminal-defence cases for indigent accused
- Constitutional basis: **Article 39A**, Directive Principle on free legal aid
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial's argument depends specifically on the claim that LADC defence quality is comparable to or better than alternatives; if that...



Full article

What Is an IIT For? At 75, Here Are 10 Steps to the Future

Indian Express, marking 75 years of the IIT system, questions whether the institutes' original mandate still fits present needs and proposes reform steps spanning curriculum, research orientation and industry linkage.

- IIT system: established beginning in the **1950s**; marking **75 years** as of this editorial
- Original mandate: producing engineers for **post-independence industrial development**
- Proposed new priorities: **research commercialisation, entrepreneurship support, interdisciplinary collaboration**
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial argues for adding new institutional capabilities alongside engineering-education strength, not replacing core technical...



Full article

On Minerals and Mines, Strike a New Federal Balance

Indian Express argues the MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026, which bars states from taxing mineral rights except under Centre-prescribed conditions, reopens the constitutional question of how far Parliament can curtail state taxing power, calling...

- MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026: Lok Sabha **August 12**, Rajya Sabha **August 13**, presidential assent **August 18, 2026**
- Underlying SC ruling: **MADA v. SAIL, July 2024**, nine-judge bench, **8:1**, overturned **1990 India Cement** precedent
- States' mineral revenue, FY2025-26: **Rs 1,14,549 crore**
- Constitutional entries: **Entry 50, List II** (state taxing power) vs **Entry 54, List I** (Union regulatory power)
- **Watch the trap:** the amendment does not directly overturn the 2024 SC ruling; it uses a separate constitutional entry (Union regulatory power) to achieve a...



Full article

Vote of Trust: Clean Electoral Rolls Need Transparent, Cross-Party Process

The Hindu argues that while accurate electoral rolls are a legitimate democratic requirement, the Special Intensive Revision process must remain transparent and cross-party, not become a tool the ruling establishment uses selectively...

- Electoral roll revision is conducted under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** and Election Commission rules framed under **Article...**
- The Election Commission of India is a permanent constitutional body established under Article 324.
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not confuse the Special Intensive Revision with the routine annual "summary revision" of electoral rolls; SIR is a more extensive...



Full article

The NALSAR Standoff and the BCI's Crisis of Authority

The Hindu examines an institutional confrontation between NALSAR, a national law university, and the Bar Council of India, framing it as symptomatic of a broader governance and credibility crisis in legal-education regulation.

- **NALSAR:** a National Law University, part of India's NLU system established via state legislation from the 1980s-90s
- **Bar Council of India (BCI):** statutory regulator for legal education and professional conduct nationally; Chairman **Manan Kumar Mishra**
- Trigger: **~450 outgoing NALSAR students** emailed the VC objecting to **CJI Surya Kant's** convocation invitation, linked to remarks made during...
- BCI enrolment-suspension order: **August 13, 2026**; reversed the **same day** amid criticism; matter also reached the **Supreme Court**
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial does not dispute the BCI's formal statutory authority; it questions whether that authority is credibly and consistently...



Full article

THE HINDU

18 Aug · 64

India is Counting Trees When It Should Be Restoring Forests

The Hindu covers a CAG audit finding the Green India Mission achieved under 8% of its ecological restoration targets despite sapling-planting drives, arguing genuine forest restoration requires tackling invasive species and mining rather...

- **Green India Mission:** one of eight missions under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**
- CAG performance audit found: **under 8%** of ecological restoration targets achieved
- Identified restoration stressors: **invasive species, mining-related degradation**
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial does not claim sapling planting is worthless; it argues planting counts are an inadequate proxy for the mission's actual...



Full article

DOWN TO EARTH

21 Aug · 67

The Great Indian Electric Transition

Down to Earth questions whether India's EV push under schemes like PM E-DRIVE genuinely cuts pollution or merely relocates it upstream to the grid, arguing success requires charging infrastructure, transit electrification, battery...

- PM E-DRIVE (Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) is a Ministry of Heavy Industries scheme supporting EV adoption in...
- India's electricity generation mix remains substantially coal-dependent, though renewable energy capacity has been expanding under National...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not treat this editorial as opposing EV adoption; it explicitly argues EVs offer a genuine long-term advantage due to centralised...



Full article

DOWN TO EARTH

18 Aug · 65

Uttarakhand Tunnel Disaster Shows Why Himalayan Excavation Needs a Hydrological...

Down to Earth argues that after fatal flooding at the Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydro tunnel in Chamoli, surface surveys and sparse boreholes routinely miss pressurised aquifers in Himalayan fault zones, calling for mandatory real-time...

- Incident: fatal flooding, **Vishnugad-Pipalkoti hydro tunnel, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand**
- Cause identified: excavation breaching a **pressurised aquifer** undetected by sparse borehole surveys
- Proposed fix: mandatory **real-time hydrogeological mapping** and **advanced probe-drilling**
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial's critique targets the adequacy of pre-construction survey methodology, not construction execution or worker-safety protocols...



Full article

THE HINDU

21 Aug · 68

The Vanashakti Verdict is Balanced and Pragmatic

The Hindu argues the Supreme Court's Vanashakti ruling reaffirms mandatory prior Environmental Clearance while leaving Parliament room to craft a fresh, tightly conditioned statutory scheme for genuine legacy violations, a pragmatic middle...

- Environmental Clearance requirements in India are primarily governed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and associated...
- Vanashakti is an environmental NGO that has been party to several significant Indian environmental litigation matters.
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not read this ruling as permitting ex-post facto regularisation generally; the Court explicitly rejected that as a general practice...



Full article

DOWN TO EARTH

21 Aug · 66

Odisha's Floods are a Reminder That Saving Lives is Only the First Task

Down to Earth argues that humanitarian response to Odisha's floods cannot stop at rescue, and that genuine recovery requires restoring livelihoods and dignity for the most vulnerable who are often excluded from post-disaster aid.

- Disaster management in India operates under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as...
- Odisha has a State Disaster Management Authority and has developed significant institutional capacity following major historical...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not read this editorial as criticising the adequacy of rescue and immediate relief efforts; its critique is specifically about the...



Full article

DOWN TO EARTH

21 Aug · 69

Thirsty Data Centres, Thin Regulation: Who is Watching India's Water?

Down to Earth argues India's AI-driven data centre boom is generating major water demand in already-stressed cities with no mandatory state disclosure of consumption, calling for embedded water-stress assessments before infrastructure...

- Water stress in India is commonly assessed using indices from bodies like the Central Water Commission and NITI Aayog's Composite Water...
- Data centre cooling can use water-intensive evaporative systems or more water-efficient alternatives like air-cooling or closed-loop liquid...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not treat this as purely a technology-sector regulation issue disconnected from environment; the editorial explicitly frames it as a...



Full article

INDIAN EXPRESS

20 Aug · 70

Count Caste by All Means, But Abandon the Belief That Counting Settles Anything

Indian Express supports collecting caste data but cautions against treating enumeration as a policy solution in itself, arguing reliable statistics can inform welfare targeting but cannot alone resolve entrenched structural inequities.

- OBC sub-categorisation has been examined by the Justice G. Rohini Commission, constituted in 2017.
- Reservation policy in India operates within the framework established by Articles 15(4), 16(4), and related constitutional provisions.
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not treat this editorial as opposing caste enumeration; it explicitly supports data collection while cautioning against treating it as...



Full article

INDIAN EXPRESS

20 Aug · 71

How India Plans to Count Caste This Time, and What Went Wrong Earlier

Indian Express explains the methodology behind India's new caste enumeration in the ongoing Census, including a shift to an open-ended caste question, contrasting it with the flaws of the 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census whose data was...

- The last full caste enumeration in a decennial Census was in **1931**; post-independence Censuses enumerated only Scheduled Castes and...
- The Socio-Economic and Caste Census, 2011, was conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development (rural) and Ministry of Housing and Urban...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not assume the 2011 SECC's socio-economic data and caste data share the same fate; the socio-economic component was released and used...



Full article

DOWN TO EARTH

20 Aug · 72

When the Body Changes Quietly: Menopause at the Intersection of Climate Change...

Down to Earth argues that menopause among India's roughly 150 million affected women is a neglected public health issue shaped by climate stress, air pollution and social hierarchy, calling for its integration into primary healthcare.

- India's National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is the primary national health data-collection instrument, though it has historically captured...
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare oversees India's primary healthcare delivery system, including the Ayushman Bharat-Health and...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not treat this as purely a health-policy issue disconnected from environment; the editorial's central contribution is explicitly linking...



Full article

THE HINDU

21 Aug · 73

Can Free Public Technology Break the Private Coaching Industry?

The Hindu examines the government's proposed free, AI-driven public coaching platform for competitive exams, weighing its potential to widen access against connectivity gaps and the loss of in-person mentoring private coaching provides.

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to foundational digital systems built as public goods, with Aadhaar, UPI and CoWIN cited as...
- JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) and NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) are India's primary national-level engineering and...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not assume the editorial predicts complete disruption of private coaching; it explicitly concludes this is unlikely given connectivity...



Full article

THE HINDU

22 Aug · 74

Ensuring Equity Amid India's Educational Progress

The Hindu, drawing on the UDISE+ 2025-26 report, argues India's school system has scaled impressively but masks sharp regional, social and infrastructural inequities, calling for a shift from access to equity through targeted interventions.

- UDISE+ is maintained by the Ministry of Education and is India's primary comprehensive school-education data system.
- The Samagra Shiksha scheme is India's overarching integrated scheme for school education, covering pre-school to senior secondary level.
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not treat the 49% OBC and 10% ST enrolment figures as the only relevant equity metric; the editorial frames these as illustrative of a...



Full article

THE HINDU

18 Aug · 75

How AI Can Be Optimised for Better Healthcare

The Hindu examines AI's potential to widen access to medical expertise in underserved India, arguing its benefits depend on rigorous clinical validation, continuous monitoring and responsible integration rather than unchecked rollout.

- Editorial's core claim: AI can widen healthcare access in underserved India, but only with **rigorous clinical validation** and **continuous...**
- Structural gap addressed: shortage of specialists in **rural and semi-urban** areas
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial is not anti-AI; it argues for conditional, validated deployment, not against AI adoption in healthcare altogether.



Full article

THE HINDU

19 Aug · 77

Education Must Change to Account for AI

The Hindu argues India's education system requires structural reform, in pedagogy, assessment and skilling priorities, to prepare students for an AI-transformed workplace, rather than persisting with a curriculum disconnected from...

- Editorial's three reform dimensions: **pedagogy, assessment, skilling priorities**
- AI-automatable tasks cited: **writing, basic coding, data summarisation and analysis**
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial does not argue for removing foundational literacy/numeracy instruction; it argues for building AI-era capabilities on top of...



Full article

THE HINDU

18 Aug · 76

Taxing "Frivolous" Industries Will Not Fund India's Science

The Hindu argues that taxing entertainment and sports to cross-subsidise scientific research rests on a flawed zero-sum view of the economy, and that India's real science-funding constraint is bureaucratic rigidity, not a shortage of money.

- Editorial argues against sector-specific taxation (entertainment/sports) to cross-subsidise science funding
- Identified bottlenecks: **import-duty rules, procurement restrictions, rigid budget compartmentalisation**
- **Watch the trap:** the editorial does not argue India's science budget is already fully adequate; it argues the primary constraint is administrative, not that...



Full article

THE HINDU

20 Aug · 78

The IISERs Have a Leadership Problem

The Hindu argues that prolonged interim appointments and administrators holding multiple simultaneous posts across the IISERs are eroding institutional autonomy, calling for India's pool of accomplished scientists to be drawn on more...

- The IISER system operates under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- IISER Pune and IISER Kolkata were among the first IISERs established, in 2006.
- **⚠ Watch the trap:** Do not confuse IISERs with IITs; IISERs specifically combine undergraduate science education with integrated research training, a distinct...



Full article

International Relations

3 items · cards 79–81

THE HINDU

20 Aug · 79

A Palestinian State is the Foundation for Regional Peace

The Hindu argues that West Asia's recurring conflicts stem from the continued absence of a sovereign Palestinian state, and that only sustained external mediation can create conditions for viable statehood and lasting regional peace.

- The Oslo Accords (1993) established the framework for Palestinian self-governance via the Palestinian Authority, though without conferring...
- India has historically supported the two-state solution while also expanding strategic ties with Israel post-1992 normalisation of...
- **⚠ Watch the trap:** Do not conflate "normalisation agreements" (bilateral Israel-Arab state diplomatic agreements) with a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian...



Full article

INDIAN EXPRESS

20 Aug · 80

BRICS is Working for a Future That Puts People and Planet First

Indian Express frames India's 2026 BRICS chairship as centred on a "people and planet first" approach, highlighting sustainable lifestyles, afforestation, disaster resilience and circular economy as chairship priorities.

- The New Development Bank (NDB), BRICS' multilateral development bank, was established in 2014 and is headquartered in Shanghai.
- India holds the BRICS Chairship for 2026.
- **⚠ Watch the trap:** Do not confuse BRICS' New Development Bank with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); the NDB is specifically a BRICS...



Full article

THE HINDU

22 Aug · 81

Unimpeded Trade Needs IPMDA as the Answer

The Hindu argues that with \$7 trillion in annual Indo-Pacific trade exposed to grey-zone threats, scaling up the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness is essential to deter coercive activity and protect freedom of...

- IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region) is based in Gurugram, India, and serves as a regional maritime-security...
- The Indo-Pacific region carries an estimated \$7 trillion in annual trade through its sea lanes.
- **⚠ Watch the trap:** Do not confuse IPMDA with the Quad itself; IPMDA is a specific maritime-domain-awareness initiative associated with the Quad grouping, not...



Full article

INDIAN EXPRESS

20 Aug · 82

After Naxalism, What Replaces the Red Corridor?

Indian Express argues that with Left Wing Extremism largely dismantled, the government's harder task now is filling the vacated space with roads, schools, livelihoods and functioning institutions, transitioning the Red Corridor into a...

- The Naxalbari uprising (1967), in West Bengal, is widely cited as the origin point of the Naxalite/Left Wing Extremism movement in India.
- LWE-affected districts have historically received targeted central assistance through schemes like the Special Central Assistance for...
- ⚠️ **Watch the trap:** Do not treat "Naxalism dismantled" as synonymous with "Red Corridor development challenge resolved"; the editorial explicitly argues these...



Full article