

Weekly Current Affairs 30th August to 5th September 2026

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IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

India Sets First National Mortuary Standards

In the News: India has finalised uniform minimum standards for mortuary and post-mortem infrastructure under the Clinical Establishments framework. The standards seek to ensure uniformity in infrastructure, cold storage, hygiene, identification, record-keeping and handling of bodies across clinical establishments.

Key Points:

- **Institutional Framework:** The standards have been issued under the Clinical Establishments framework administered through the Directorate General of Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The parent legislation is the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.
- **Location Requirements:** Mortuaries should ordinarily be located on the ground floor, either at one end of or slightly away from the main hospital building. They should not be located in basements or near hospital refuse and waste-dumping areas.
- **Cold Storage Standard:** Every mortuary must provide cold storage maintained between 4°C and 8°C. A minimum storage capacity of four bodies is prescribed, while medico-legal and non-medico-legal bodies should be kept separately.
- **Identification and Records:** Each body must be allotted a unique serial number corresponding to its storage cabin. Mortuaries must maintain detailed records covering receipt, storage, disposal and the person or authority to whom the body is handed over.
- **Infrastructure and Hygiene:** The standards prescribe separate access for relatives, hospital transport, ambulances and police vehicles, along with infection-control and biomedical-waste measures. An autopsy block of approximately 4,000 sq. ft. is also envisaged.

Centre Notifies Rules Mandating Indian Standard Time

In the News: The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 on 27 August 2026. The Rules establish IST as the common official time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and other official purposes across India.

Key Points:

- **Legal Basis:** The Rules were framed under Section 52 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. They will come into force 180 days after publication, giving government departments, businesses and institutions time to modify their systems.
- **Indian Standard Time:** IST is maintained and realised by the CSIR-National Physical Laboratory. It is derived by adding 5 hours and 30 minutes to UTC(NPLI), making IST equivalent to UTC+5:30.
- **Mandatory Common Reference:** Legal documents, government systems, financial operations, transport, telecommunications and critical infrastructure will use IST as their standard time reference. Foreign time zones may be displayed in permitted circumstances with appropriate identification.
- **Role of NavIC:** The Rules provide for dissemination of accurate IST through CSIR-NPL, Regional Reference Standards Laboratories, NavIC and other authorised Indian timing sources. This is also intended to reduce reliance on foreign satellite-based timing systems.
- **'One Nation, One Time':** A White Rabbit Technology-based IST Dissemination Demonstration Network was commissioned at RRSB Bengaluru in July 2026. It demonstrated secure time dissemination for banking, telecommunications, energy, transport and digital governance.

Bihar and Jharkhand Sign Sone River Water Pact

In the News: Bihar and Jharkhand signed a Memorandum of Understanding for sharing the waters of the Sone River, resolving a long-pending inter-State dispute. The agreement was concluded in New Delhi in the presence of senior Union government representatives and is expected to improve irrigation and drinking-water cooperation between the two States. The dispute was nearly 25 years old.

Key Points:

- **Agreement and Signatories:** Bihar and Jharkhand formally agreed on a framework for sharing Sone River waters. The pact is expected to improve irrigation access, agricultural planning and drinking-water availability in areas dependent on the river system.
- **Cooperative Federalism:** The settlement is significant from the perspective of Centre-State and inter-State relations. It demonstrates how long-standing water disputes can be addressed through negotiations, administrative coordination and cooperative federalism.
- **About the Sone River:** The Sone is an important right-bank tributary of the Ganga. It originates near Amarkantak and flows through central and eastern India before joining the Ganga system in Bihar.
- **Bansagar Link:** Bansagar Dam is an important inter-State multipurpose project on the Sone River. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are associated with the Bansagar arrangement, making the basin important for questions on river-water sharing and irrigation.

Who is a 'distinguished jurist', and why has India never appointed one to the Supreme Court?

In the News: The rarely discussed constitutional provision allowing a "distinguished jurist" to be appointed directly as a judge of the Supreme Court has returned to public debate. Despite being expressly provided for in the Constitution, India has never used this route for appointment to the apex court.

Key Points:

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 124(3) lays down qualifications for appointment as a Supreme Court judge. Apart from experience as a High Court judge or advocate, a person may also qualify if the President considers that person to be a distinguished jurist.
- **Meaning of Distinguished Jurist:** The Constitution does not define the expression in precise terms. It is generally understood to include eminent legal scholars, academics and jurists with exceptional expertise even if they have not followed a conventional judicial career.
- **Constituent Assembly Background:** The provision was intended to widen the pool of persons eligible for the Supreme Court. Constituent Assembly debates reflected the view that exceptional legal scholars should not be excluded merely because they had not served as judges or practising advocates.
- **Why It Remains Unused:** The traditional routes of elevation from High Courts and the Bar have continued to dominate judicial appointments. The distinguished-jurist category has never been operationalised through the prevailing appointment process.

Sone River Water Sharing Agreement Signed Between Bihar and Jharkhand

In the News: Bihar and Jharkhand signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi on 31 August 2026 to resolve their long-pending dispute over sharing the waters of the Sone River. The agreement was concluded in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil.

Key Points:

- **Water-Sharing Arrangement:** Bihar is to receive 5.75 million acre-feet of Sone River water, while Jharkhand is allocated 2 million acre-feet. The arrangement settles the division of the share that had belonged to undivided Bihar.
- **Parties to the Agreement:** Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren represented the two states. The agreement was reached with the involvement of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- **Purpose of the Agreement:** The settlement is expected to improve water availability for irrigation and drinking purposes in both states. It is particularly significant for agricultural areas dependent on the Sone River system.
- **Eastern Zonal Council reference:** The consensus was reached at the 27th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council held in Ranchi in July 2025. Zonal Councils are statutory bodies under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
- **Background:** The dispute emerged after the creation of Jharkhand from Bihar in 2000. The new agreement addresses division of the water allocation linked to the earlier Bansagar arrangement.

RPwD Act, 2016: Bridging the Post-18 Disability Support Gap

In the News: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 has come into focus over concerns regarding support available to persons with disabilities after they turn 18. The discussion has centred on adult care, assisted living, vocational opportunities and long-term support mechanisms.

Key Points:

- **RPwD Act, 2016:** The Act is administered by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It gives effect to India's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- **Education Provision:** The Act guarantees free education to children with benchmark disabilities in the prescribed age group. It also provides reservation in government and government-aided higher educational institutions for persons with benchmark disabilities.
- **Employment Provision:** The legislation provides reservation in government establishments for persons with benchmark disabilities. It also contains provisions relating to vocational training, skill development and self-employment.
- **High-Support Needs:** The Act contains provisions for persons with disabilities who require high support. These provisions are important for individuals needing continuing assistance beyond school education and into adulthood.
- **PRASHAST Initiative:** PRASHAST ("Pre Assessment Holistic Screening Tool") was developed by NCERT, and generates school-level reports for the certification process under Samagra Shiksha, a programme of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

DRDO-UoH Patent for Next-Generation Rocket Fuel

In the News: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the University of Hyderabad (UoH) have jointly received an Indian patent for a next-generation solid rocket propellant fuel. The patent covers an energetic compound called BAM-H24, designed for advanced solid rocket propulsion applications. It was officially granted on August 20, 2026.

Key Points:

- **Patent Details:** The Patent Office, Government of India, granted Patent No. 599900 to the Chairman, DRDO and the Advanced Centre of Research in High Energy Materials (ACRHEM) at UoH. The corresponding patent application was filed on December 21, 2022.
- **BAM-H24 Compound:** The patented material is a boron-, hydrogen- and nitrogen-rich energetic compound designated BAM-H24. The invention covers its synthesis, structural characteristics and energetic properties for use in solid rocket propulsion systems.
- **Technical Features:** BAM-H24 possesses strong chemical and thermal stability and has low sensitivity to impact and friction. It is also non-hygroscopic, which means it resists the absorption of moisture and can retain its properties under humid storage conditions.
- **Propulsion Applications:** The compound is expected to provide high specific impulse and reduced ignition delay in solid rocket systems. It may be used as a solid propellant fuel, fuel additive or burn-rate accelerator in advanced high-energy formulations.
- **Research Collaboration:** The invention was developed by Dr. Muddamarri Hanumantha Rao and Prof. Muralidharan Krishnamurthi. ACRHEM, now designated DIA-CoE, UoH is presently the DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence, strengthening cooperation between defence research and academic institutions.

GIFT IFSC Emerges as International Banking Hub

In the News: GIFT City International Financial Services Centre has recorded a major expansion in international banking and foreign-currency mobilisation. As of August 31, 2026, its International Banking Units had disbursed about USD 52.82 billion under the Reserve Bank of India's special FCNR(B) swap facility. Significant activity was also recorded in external commercial borrowings and international bond listings.

Key Points:

- **FCNR(B) Mobilisation:** Twenty International Banking Units at GIFT IFSC sanctioned USD 54.02 billion under the RBI's special swap facility for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits. Of this, approximately USD 52.82 billion had been disbursed by August 31, 2026.
- **External Commercial Borrowings:** From April to August 2026, GIFT IFSC Banking Units disbursed USD 11.62 billion through External Commercial Borrowings. Monthly ECB disbursement increased from USD 1.54 billion in April to USD 3.54 billion in August.
- **International Bond Market:** Indian banks raised USD 11.12 billion through bonds listed on IFSC exchanges between April and August 2026. Bond listings worth USD 9.17 billion were recorded in July and August alone, indicating increasing use of the IFSC capital-market ecosystem.
- **About GIFT IFSC:** Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is located in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and houses India's first International Financial Services Centre. Its financial ecosystem includes international banking, insurance, capital markets, fund management, leasing and financial technology activities.
- **Regulatory Framework:** The International Financial Services Centres Authority is the unified regulator for financial products, services and institutions operating in Indian IFSCs. It was established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 and operates from GIFT City.

Adani Defence signs five-year AK-203 ammunition deal

In the News: Adani Defence & Aerospace has signed a five-year agreement with Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) to supply indigenously manufactured 7.62×39 mm ammunition for the AK-203 assault rifle programme. The agreement strengthens the domestic supply chain for small arms and ammunition and supports India's defence manufacturing push.

Key Points:

- **Agreement Details:** Adani Defence will supply 7.62×39 mm ammunition to IRRPL for five years. This ammunition is used in the AK-203 assault rifle, which belongs to the Kalashnikov series of rifles. The agreement covers a critical recurring requirement for the indigenously produced weapon system.
- **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited:** IRRPL is an India-Russia joint venture established for manufacturing AK-203 assault rifles in India. The Indian side holds a 50.5% stake through Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited and Munitions India Limited, while the Russian partners hold the remaining stake.
- **AK-203 Production:** In December 2021, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract for the procurement of 6,01,427 AK-203 rifles. These rifles are being manufactured at Korwa in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh under a progressive indigenisation programme.
- **India-Russia Cooperation:** The AK-203 project is an important example of India-Russia defence industrial cooperation. It represents a shift from direct import of defence equipment towards joint manufacturing, technology collaboration and local production in India.
- **Defence Indigenisation:** Domestic manufacture of both rifles and ammunition reduces dependence on foreign suppliers and improves supply security for the armed forces. The initiative is aligned with the broader Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat programmes in defence production.

CVC Annual Report 2025

In the News: The Central Vigilance Commission's Annual Report 2025 highlighted a substantial pendency of corruption cases investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. As of December 31, 2025, thousands of CBI-probed corruption cases were awaiting trial in courts, including several that had remained pending for more than a decade.

Key Points:

- **Pending Corruption Cases:** The report recorded 7,229 CBI-investigated corruption cases awaiting trial as of the end of 2025. Of these, 2,447 had remained pending for more than 10 years and up to 20 years, while 409 cases had crossed the 20-year mark.
- **CBI Investigations:** The report also noted that 473 corruption cases were pending investigation with the Central Bureau of Investigation. It further referred to a large number of appeals, revisions and writ petitions connected with CBI cases pending before higher courts.
- **Complaints before CVOs:** Chief Vigilance Officers received 70,584 complaints during 2025. By December 31, 64,905 complaints had been disposed of, while 5,679 remained under process. CVOs function as vigilance officers within ministries, departments and public-sector organisations.
- **Central Vigilance Commission:** The CVC was established in 1964 following the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption headed by K. Santhanam. It later received statutory status through the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
- **Annual Report Provision:** Under Section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, the Commission submits an annual report to the President. The report is subsequently laid before both Houses of Parliament, providing an account of vigilance administration and anti-corruption activities.

INTERNATIONAL

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan Hold First Defence Pact Meeting

In the News: Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are scheduled to hold the first meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee in Istanbul on 31 August 2026. The committee was created under the recently signed Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, establishing a new trilateral collective-security framework.

Key Points:

- **Makkah Joint Defence Agreement:** The three countries signed the pact in Makkah on 7 August 2026. It was signed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.
- **Collective Defence Clause:** The agreement states that an armed attack on any one of the three countries will be regarded as an attack on all three. Pakistan has described the agreement as defensive in nature and linked collective self-defence to Article 51 of the UN Charter.
- **First Committee Meeting:** The inaugural Strategic Political and Defence Committee meeting is being hosted by Istanbul. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Defence Minister Yaşar Güler and Chief of General Staff Selçuk Bayraktaroğlu are among the participants.
- **Areas of Cooperation:** The pact seeks to strengthen collective deterrence, military coordination and broader defence cooperation. Discussions are also expected to cover interoperability, defence capabilities and defence-industry cooperation among the three partners.

PM Modi Receives Uzbekistan's Oliy Darajali Do'stlik Order

In the News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Uzbekistan's "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order on 30 August 2026 during his State Visit to Uzbekistan. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev presented the honour for Modi's contribution to strengthening friendship between India and Uzbekistan.

Key Points:

- **Highest Honour for Foreign Leaders:** Oliy Darajali Do'stlik translates broadly as the "Order of Highest Friendship". It is Uzbekistan's highest state honour awarded to foreign leaders.
- **Awarding Authority:** The honour was conferred by Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It recognised Prime Minister Modi's contribution towards strengthening bilateral friendship and cooperation between the two countries.
- **PM Modi's State Visit:** Modi visited Uzbekistan from 29–30 August 2026 at the invitation of President Mirziyoyev. The visit included high-level discussions aimed at further deepening bilateral relations.
- **India-Uzbekistan Relations:** India and Uzbekistan maintain a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership covering defence, connectivity, trade, technology and cultural cooperation. Both countries also cooperate on issues concerning the Global South.

India and China Agree on Eight-Point Boundary Consensus

In the News: India and China reached an eight-point consensus during the 25th Round of Special Representatives' Talks on the Boundary Question in Beijing on 25 August 2026. India was represented by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, while Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi represented China.

Key Points:

- **Special Representatives Mechanism:** The talks focused on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border while continuing negotiations for a mutually acceptable settlement. The two sides reaffirmed the 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles.
- **Boundary and Border Groups:** The Expert Group on Boundary Delimitation and the Working Group on Border Management under the WMCC will advance discussions on boundary delimitation and border management. WMCC stands for Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.
- **Military Communication:** India and China agreed to create two additional military meeting points for senior commander-level meetings. They also agreed on two additional border military hotline channels in the Eastern and Middle Sectors.
- **Border Cooperation:** Both sides noted the reopening of three designated border trading points and agreed to expand cooperation relating to border trade and pilgrimage. Existing diplomatic and military channels will be used to address ground situations along the LAC promptly.

India-Uzbekistan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

In the News: India and Uzbekistan elevated their bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during high-level talks in Tashkent. The two sides agreed to expand cooperation in security, connectivity, energy, technology, trade, education and cultural relations.

Key Points:

- **Upgraded Partnership:** The new framework broadens bilateral cooperation beyond conventional diplomacy. Priority areas include trade, investment, digital technology, cybersecurity, healthcare, critical minerals, transport connectivity and defence cooperation.
- **Energy and Critical Minerals:** Uzbekistan is rich in uranium and several strategically important mineral resources. Cooperation in nuclear energy and critical minerals has therefore emerged as an important component of India's engagement with the country.
- **Digital Cooperation:** India and Uzbekistan are expanding cooperation in digital public infrastructure and payment technologies. Such initiatives fit into India's wider strategy of promoting digital platforms and fintech linkages with partner countries.
- **Cultural and Educational Links:** Bilateral initiatives include scholarships, academic chairs and cooperation in preserving Buddhist heritage. Uzbekistan has historically been an important centre of cultural interaction between India and Central Asia.

China and Bangladesh Begin 2+2 Dialogue Preparations

In the News: China and Bangladesh have begun preparations for an institutionalised diplomacy-and-defence dialogue mechanism. The proposed framework is intended to deepen strategic consultation between the two countries and expand cooperation beyond economic and infrastructure ties.

Key Points:

- **Nature of 2+2 Dialogue:** A 2+2 mechanism generally brings together senior officials responsible for foreign affairs and defence. Such formats are used to coordinate diplomatic positions with security and military cooperation.
- **Strategic Dialogue:** Bangladesh and China are also exploring broader strategic consultations at senior political levels. This reflects the increasing institutionalisation of their bilateral relationship.
- **One-China Principle:** Bangladesh has reiterated adherence to the One-China Principle in its engagement with Beijing. This remains a central political issue in China's diplomatic relations with partner countries.
- **Connectivity and Regional Issues:** Discussions have also covered the Teesta River, infrastructure projects, the Rohingya issue, port development and regional connectivity. These show that the relationship extends beyond defence into economic and geopolitical areas.

Turkey Joins Artemis Accords as 71st Member

In the News: Türkiye became the 71st signatory of the Artemis Accords on 31 August 2026 at NASA Headquarters in Washington. Turkish Minister of Industry and Technology Mehmet Fatih Kacır signed the Accords during a ceremony hosted by NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman.

Key Points:

- **71st Signatory:** Türkiye became the 71st country to join the Artemis Accords. The Accords promote international cooperation for safe, peaceful and responsible civil exploration of outer space.
- **Origin of the Accords:** The Artemis Accords were established in 2020 by NASA and the US Department of State together with initial partner countries. They are based on principles consistent with major international space-law instruments.
- **Core Principles:** The Accords emphasise peaceful exploration, transparency, interoperability, emergency assistance, registration of space objects, scientific data sharing, preservation of space heritage and mitigation of orbital debris.
- **Türkiye's Space Programme:** Türkiye has expanded its space programme in recent years. Its first astronaut, Alper Gezeravcı, travelled to the International Space Station aboard Axiom Mission 3 in 2024.
- **Scope of the Accords:** The Artemis Accords are associated with civil space cooperation relating to the Moon, Mars and other destinations. They are not a military alliance and do not constitute a separate binding international treaty.

26th SCO Summit Held in Bishkek

In the News: The 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, on 1 September 2026. The meeting was chaired by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and coincided with the 25th anniversary of the SCO.

Key Points:

- **Host and Chair:** The summit was hosted in Bishkek under the chairmanship of President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at the Council of Heads of State meeting.
- **SCO at 25 Years:** The 2026 summit marked the 25th anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Leaders reviewed cooperation in regional security, connectivity, economic engagement and sustainable development.
- **India and SCO:** India has been a full member of the SCO since 2017. At the summit, India highlighted cooperation around the broad themes of Security, Connectivity and Opportunity.
- **Bishkek Declaration:** The summit adopted the Bishkek Declaration. The document covered cooperation in areas such as counter-terrorism, climate action, energy, disaster management and digital cooperation.
- **Institutional Outcomes:** Important outcomes included measures to strengthen cooperation against terrorism, extremism and transnational crime. The summit also advanced institutional coordination within the organisation.

Gollala Gudi Temple Added to India's National Monuments List

In the News: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared the historic Gollala Gudi Temple at Palampet in Telangana's Mulugu district a Monument of National Importance. The notification was published in the Gazette of India on August 31, 2026. The Kakatiya-era temple is located close to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ramappa Temple.

Key Points:

- **Monument of National Importance:** Gollala Gudi has been brought under national-level archaeological protection by the Archaeological Survey of India. Such monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- **Location and Dynasty:** The temple is situated at Palampet village in Mulugu district of Telangana and belongs to the Kakatiya period. It lies near the Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple, popularly known as the Ramappa Temple.
- **Architectural Style:** Gollala Gudi is a Trikutalaya, meaning a temple having three sanctums. It consists of an east-facing mandapa surrounded by three garbhagrihas, with a Shiva Lingam placed in the central sanctum.
- **Distinctive Features:** The temple is known for intricate sculptures, carved hamsas, jali work, dvarapala figures and a decorated high plinth. Sculptures of Vishnu, Lakshmi, Ganesha and Mahishasuramardini are also found on the temple walls.
- **Archaeological Survey of India:** The ASI functions under the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for archaeological research, conservation and protection of centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites across India.

5th Edition of Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026 Launched

In the News: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the fifth edition of the nationwide Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026, also known as SSSS v.5.0, on September 1, 2026. Led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the campaign focuses on ocean conservation, coastal cleanliness and public participation.

Key Points:

- **Implementing Ministry:** The campaign is spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is linked with the broader Swachh Bharat vision. Citizens, students, youth groups, NGOs and coastal communities are being encouraged to participate.
- **Campaign Duration:** Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 5.0 is being conducted from September 12 to September 19, 2026. Activities are planned across several coastal locations during the week-long campaign.
- **Major Activities:** Beach clean-up drives, human chains, cycling rallies, marathons and Ocean Conservation Pledges form part of the campaign. The initiative also seeks to bring behavioural changes towards marine litter management.
- **First Ocean Olympiad:** The fifth edition features the first-ever national Ocean Olympiad. It aims to increase awareness among students and young people about oceans, marine ecosystems and conservation.
- **Digital Initiatives:** The government launched the SSSS v.5.0 website, an Ocean Conservation Pledge and campaign videos. The SAGAR PRAHARI App has also been included to strengthen citizen participation and awareness.

India's first-of-its-kind Green Forge Complex

In the News: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BRIC-NABI Green Forge Facility for Research on Genome and Trait Engineering at BRIC-NABI, Mohali, Punjab, on August 31, 2026. The first-of-its-kind facility has

been described as a major milestone in India's genetically modified crop research and genome engineering capabilities.

Key Points:

- **Location and Institution:** The Green Forge facility has been established at the National Agri-Food and Biomanufacturing Institute, or BRIC-NABI, in Mohali, Punjab. Some reports carried a Chandigarh dateline, but the facility itself is located in Mohali.
 - **Genome and Trait Engineering:** The facility is designed to support advanced research in genome editing, trait engineering and genetically modified crops. It will help scientists evaluate crop traits under carefully regulated experimental conditions before wider field-level applications.
 - **Controlled Simulation Chambers:** The complex contains specialised chambers where researchers can regulate factors such as light quality, humidity and temperature. These controlled environments allow genetically engineered crops to be studied under different simulated climatic conditions.
 - **Artificial Intelligence Integration:** Artificial Intelligence will be integrated with crop experimentation and data analysis at the facility. This combination of biotechnology, controlled simulations and AI is expected to strengthen precision research in crop improvement and agricultural biotechnology.
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- **Growth of India's Bioeconomy:** At the inauguration, Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that India's bioeconomy has expanded from around US\$10 billion to US\$200 billion. The facility reflects the broader push towards biotechnology-led research, innovation and sustainable economic growth.

Lahore Named SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026-27

In the News: Lahore in Pakistan has received the status of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026-27. The designation was confirmed during the 26th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 31 August to 1 September 2026. Pakistan also assumed the SCO chairmanship for 2026-27.

Key Points:

- **Lahore's Designation:** Lahore succeeds Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan, which held the Tourism and Cultural Capital status for 2025-26. The initiative promotes the cultural heritage, tourism potential and people-to-people interaction of cities across SCO member countries.
- **Origin of the Initiative:** The regulation establishing the SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital initiative was approved by the SCO Heads of State Council on September 17, 2021. Varanasi in India became the first city to receive the title for 2022-23.
- **Previous Cultural Capitals:** After Varanasi, Almaty in Kazakhstan held the title for 2023-24, followed by Qingdao in China for 2024-25. Cholpon-Ata was selected for 2025-26 before the title passed to Lahore for 2026-27.
- **About the SCO:** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was established in Shanghai on June 15, 2001 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It developed from the earlier Shanghai Five mechanism and works across security, economic and humanitarian fields.
- **Permanent Bodies:** The SCO has two principal permanent bodies—the Secretariat in Beijing, China, and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Secretariat coordinates the organisation's administrative and institutional activities.

India's Sovereign Credit Rating Upgraded to A- by JCR

In the News: Japan Credit Rating Agency upgraded India's long-term foreign-currency and local-currency issuer ratings from BBB+ to A- on September 2, 2026. The outlook has been retained as Stable. JCR also raised India's country ceiling by one notch to A.

Key Points:

- **Rating Action:** The upgrade represents a one-notch improvement from BBB+ to A- for both foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings. JCR's current sovereign rating list records India at A- with a Stable outlook.
- **Growth Performance:** JCR highlighted India's sustained economic growth, supported by strong private consumption and public investment. India's real GDP expanded by about 7.7% in FY2026, while growth is expected to remain above 6% in FY2027.
- **Financial Sector:** The rating action recognised improvements in the soundness of India's financial system. The gross non-performing loan ratio of the banking sector declined to about 1.8%, supported by stronger supervision, recapitalisation and insolvency-resolution mechanisms.
- **Policy Factors:** JCR cited measures such as the Goods and Services Tax and the expansion of digital public infrastructure as factors strengthening productivity and the foundations for economic growth. Public investment and domestic consumption have also supported economic resilience.
- **About JCR:** Japan Credit Rating Agency is a Tokyo-based credit rating institution that evaluates sovereign governments, financial institutions, companies and other issuers. Sovereign ratings indicate an assessment of a government's capacity to meet its financial obligations.

UN Votes for New World Map to Show Africa's True Size

In the News: The United Nations General Assembly backed a resolution supporting wider use of the Equal Earth map projection, which depicts the relative sizes of continents more accurately than the traditional Mercator projection. The Togo-led resolution received overwhelming support and seeks to address distortions that make Africa appear smaller than its actual relative size.

Key Points:

- **Equal Earth Projection:** The resolution encourages governments, educational institutions and technology companies to consider using the Equal Earth projection. It is an equal-area projection, meaning that the relative surface areas of countries and continents are represented more accurately.
- **Mercator Projection:** The Mercator projection was developed in 1569 and became widely used for navigation. It enlarges regions closer to the poles, making places such as Greenland appear disproportionately large when compared with Africa.
- **Origin of Equal Earth:** The Equal Earth projection was developed in 2018 by cartographers Bojan Šavrič, Tom Patterson and Bernhard Jenny. It was designed to combine accurate representation of area with a visually balanced appearance.
- **UN Vote:** The proposal received support from 164 countries, with six abstentions, while the United States voted against it. Togo played a leading role in promoting the resolution within the United Nations.
- **Projection Comparison:** The Mercator projection remains useful for navigation because it preserves angles and directions, while Equal Earth is better suited to world maps where accurate comparison of land area is important.

Trump \$1 Coin Sells Out After Huge US Mint Demand

In the News: A special US \$1 coin carrying President Donald Trump's portrait sold out shortly after being offered by the United States Mint in September 2026. The coin forms part of commemorations marking 250 years since the adoption of the United States Declaration of Independence.

Key Points:

- **Semiquincentennial Coin:** The coin was issued for the United States Semiquincentennial, marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. It carries the dates "1776–2026" along with traditional inscriptions.
- **Design Features:** The obverse carries a portrait of Donald Trump designed by US Mint Chief Engraver Joseph Menna. The reverse features the Presidential Seal and imagery associated with the 250th anniversary.

- **Sale and Pricing:** The United States Mint offered the coins in rolls and bags, and demand caused initial supplies to sell out quickly. Additional inventory was subsequently expected to be produced.
- **Special July 4 Issue:** A limited number of coins were struck at the Philadelphia Mint with a special July 4 privy mark. These coins were distributed randomly among selected rolls and bags.
- **Legal Basis:** The commemorative coin programme was authorised under the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020. The United States Mint, established in 1792, operates under the Department of the Treasury.

Giorgia Meloni Becomes Italy's Longest-Serving PM Since World War II

In the News: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government became the longest continuously serving administration in Italy's post-World War II history. Her tenure surpassed the previous longevity record associated with Silvio Berlusconi's government of 2001–2005.

Key Points:

- **Record Tenure:** Meloni's government crossed the previous postwar record for uninterrupted time in office. The milestone is significant because Italy has historically experienced frequent changes of government.
- **Previous Record:** The earlier record belonged to the second government of Silvio Berlusconi, which served from 2001 to 2005. Meloni surpassed this benchmark while maintaining the same governing coalition.
- **Giorgia Meloni:** Meloni became Prime Minister in October 2022 and is the first woman to hold the office in Italy. She leads the Brothers of Italy, or Fratelli d'Italia.
- **Political Coalition:** Her government is supported principally by Brothers of Italy, Matteo Salvini's League and Forza Italia. The coalition has remained comparatively stable despite Italy's history of fragmented parliamentary politics.
- **Political System:** Italy is a parliamentary republic in which the President serves as Head of State. The Prime Minister, formally known as the President of the Council of Ministers, heads the government.

UN Declares November 27 as Child Marriage Elimination Day

In the News: The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. The decision seeks to strengthen global awareness and action against child marriage and other forms of forced marriage. The first observance is scheduled for November 27, 2026.

Key Points:

- **International Observance:** November 27 will be observed annually to raise awareness about child, early and forced marriage. The initiative aims to encourage governments, international organisations and civil society to strengthen laws, policies and programmes against the practice.
- **Role of Sierra Leone:** Sierra Leone played a leading role in advancing the proposal at the United Nations. The initiative received support from several countries, including India, reflecting broader international efforts to eliminate child marriage.
- **Connection with SDG 5:** Ending child marriage is included under Sustainable Development Goal 5, which focuses on gender equality. Target 5.3 specifically calls for the elimination of harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030.
- **SDG Indicator 5.3.1:** This indicator measures the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who were married or entered into a union before the ages of 15 and 18. It is used internationally to monitor progress towards eliminating child marriage.
- **Indian Framework:** India deals with child marriage primarily through the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. The Union government also launched the Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat campaign on November 27, 2024, to strengthen efforts against child marriage across the country.

Ahom Dynasty Capital Ensemble Enters UNESCO Tentative List

In the News: The Rangpur-Sivasagar Historic Ensemble in Assam, associated with the Ahom dynasty, has been included in India's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. The property represents the political, architectural and water-management traditions of the Ahom kingdom and is located in present-day Sivasagar district.

Key Points:

- **Rangpur-Sivasagar Ensemble:** The ensemble includes the historic landscapes of Rangpur and Sivasagar. Rangpur was developed as an important Ahom capital under Swargadeo Rudra Singha in the early eighteenth century and became a major administrative and ceremonial centre.
- **Important Structures:** The ensemble includes prominent structures such as Rang Ghar, Talatal Ghar, temples, tanks, fortifications, bridges and historic road systems. These monuments demonstrate the architectural and engineering capabilities of the Ahom period.
- **Ahom Dynasty:** The Tai Ahoms, led by Siu-ka-pha, entered the Brahmaputra Valley in 1228 CE. They established a powerful kingdom in Assam that survived for nearly six centuries before British control was consolidated in the nineteenth century.
- **Battle of Saraighat:** The Ahoms are prominently associated with the Battle of Saraighat of 1671, in which Ahom forces led by Lachit Borphukan defeated the Mughal army. The battle remains one of the most important episodes in the military history of Assam.
- **Moidams at Charaideo:** The Moidams, the mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty at Charaideo, were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2024. They are royal burial mounds associated with Ahom rulers and members of the royal family.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2026 Honour Three Asian Leaders

In the News: The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced Tommy Koh of Singapore, Runa Khan of Bangladesh and Bo Kyi of Myanmar as the three recipients of the 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award. The award recognises exemplary leadership and service to the peoples of Asia.

Key Points:

- **Tommy Koh – Singapore:** Diplomat and legal scholar Tommy Koh was honoured for his contribution to international diplomacy, cooperation and peaceful dispute resolution. He played an important role in negotiations connected with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- **Runa Khan – Bangladesh:** Runa Khan is the founder of Friendship, an organisation providing healthcare, education, livelihoods and climate-resilience support to remote communities in Bangladesh.
- **Bo Kyi – Myanmar:** Bo Kyi co-founded the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners in 2000. The organisation supports political prisoners and their families and documents human-rights violations in Myanmar.
- **About the Award:** The Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as one of Asia's leading honours for public service and leadership. The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation was established in 1957.
- **Award Association:** The award is named after former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay. The award ceremony is traditionally associated with Manila, Philippines.

Ig Nobel Prizes 2026 Awarded for Unusual Research

In the News: The 2026 Ig Nobel Prizes were presented in September 2026, honouring unusual scientific research that combines humour with serious inquiry. The awards recognise studies that initially appear amusing but also raise interesting scientific questions.

Key Points:

- **About the Awards:** The Ig Nobel Prizes are organised by Improbable Research and recognise unconventional scientific achievements. Their guiding idea is to honour research that first makes people laugh and then makes them think.
- **Chemistry Prize:** The Chemistry category recognised research involving nutrient-rich protein crystals associated with milk produced by the viviparous cockroach *Diploptera punctata*.
- **Medicine and Physics:** The Medicine award recognised research on the aerodynamics of nose-blowing, while the Physics prize honoured work on designing urinals to reduce splash.

- **Other Research:** The 2026 awards also recognised studies involving soil activity, kissing, snake-bite behaviour and unconventional applications of mosquito proboscises.
- **Award Tradition:** The Ig Nobel Prizes are distinct from the Nobel Prizes established under Alfred Nobel's will. They focus on unusual but genuine scientific work across a wide range of disciplines.

APPOINTMENTS

John Ternus Takes Over as Apple CEO From Tim Cook

In the News: John Ternus formally became Chief Executive Officer of Apple on 1 September 2026, succeeding Tim Cook after his long tenure as CEO. Cook moved to the position of Executive Chairman of Apple's Board of Directors.

Key Points:

- **New Apple CEO:** John Ternus previously served as Apple's Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering. Apple's Board approved the leadership transition as part of the company's succession-planning process.
- **Career at Apple:** Ternus joined Apple's Product Design team in 2001 and later rose through its hardware-engineering leadership. He became Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering in 2021.
- **Educational Background:** Ternus holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Before joining Apple, he worked as a mechanical engineer.
- **Tim Cook's New Role:** Tim Cook, who became Apple's CEO in 2011, continues with the company as Executive Chairman. He remains associated with the company's strategic and external engagement functions.
- **Board Restructuring:** Arthur Levinson became Apple's Lead Independent Director as part of the leadership transition. Ternus also joined Apple's Board of Directors on assuming the CEO position.

Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra Named Ram Temple Trust CEO

In the News: Retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra has been appointed the first Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya. The 62-year-old former Indian Air Force officer previously headed the Western Air Command and was in command during Operation Sindoor in May 2025.

Key Points:

- **First CEO of the Trust:** Jeetendra Mishra was unanimously selected as the first Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. His appointment is part of changes in the Trust's administrative structure and leadership.
- **Selection Process:** Mishra was selected from a shortlist of three candidates prepared from 5,585 applications, according to PTI reports. The search committee was headed by retired Justice Pramod Kohli and included retired Lt Gen Vishnukant Chaturvedi and former scientist Suresh Haware.
- **Indian Air Force Career:** Mishra was commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 1986 and later became a Fighter Combat Leader and experimental Test Pilot. During his career, he accumulated more than 3,000 hours of flying experience.
- **Western Air Command and Operation Sindoor:** He assumed command of the IAF's Western Air Command on January 1, 2025, and remained its chief until retiring on April 30, 2026. He headed the command during Operation Sindoor in May 2025 and was awarded the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal.
- **Changes in Ram Temple Trust:** The appointment came amid a wider restructuring of the Trust following a donations-related embezzlement controversy and the resignation of Champat Rai as general secretary. Madan Mohan Pandey, Mahesh Bhagchandka and Nirmala Yadav were also named as new trustees.

AVM Shakti Sharma Becomes First Non-Medical Woman Air Vice Marshal

In the News: Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer from a non-medical branch of the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal or its equivalent. She assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters on September 1, 2026.

Key Points:

- **Historic Two-Star Rank:** Shakti Sharma is the first non-medical woman officer in the Indian Defence Forces to reach the rank of Air Vice Marshal or its equivalent. Air Vice Marshal is a two-star rank in the Indian Air Force.
- **Equivalent Ranks:** The rank of Air Vice Marshal in the Indian Air Force is equivalent to Major General in the Indian Army and Rear Admiral in the Indian Navy. It is one of the senior flag officer ranks in the armed forces.
- **New Appointment:** Sharma took charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters. Her responsibilities include matters related to education, training and professional development within the Air Force.
- **IAF Career:** She was commissioned into the Education Branch of the Indian Air Force on June 18, 1994. During her career, she has served at training establishments, field stations, command headquarters and Air Headquarters.
- **Earlier Achievement:** Sharma had earlier become the first woman officer from the Tri-Services to command a Sainik School when she served as Principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala. Her elevation to Air Vice Marshal marks another significant milestone in her career.

ENVIRONMENT

Himachal Pradesh Gets First Ozone-Based Water Project in Dehra

In the News: Himachal Pradesh announced its first ozone-based drinking-water treatment project at Dehra in Kangra district. The project aims to provide cleaner and safer drinking water and may serve as a model for similar facilities in other parts of the State.

Key Points:

- **Location:** The project is being established in Dehra, located in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. Its implementation is significant for questions linking current environmental projects with State geography.
- **Ozone Treatment:** Ozone has the chemical formula O_3 and is a powerful oxidising agent. In water treatment, it helps destroy microorganisms and oxidise certain contaminants, improving water quality, taste and odour.
- **Advantages:** Ozone is highly effective against many bacteria, viruses and organic pollutants. It decomposes rapidly after treatment and does not normally leave the same type of chemical residual associated with some conventional disinfectants.
- **Operational Limitation:** Ozone is unstable and generally needs to be generated at the treatment site. Because it does not provide a long-lasting disinfectant residual, water systems may combine it with filtration or secondary disinfection.

Malaysia Declares Emergency as Serian Haze Index Hits 519

In the News: Malaysia declared an emergency in Serian Division of Sarawak after severe haze pushed the Air Pollutant Index to around 519, placing air quality in the hazardous category. The emergency declaration followed worsening atmospheric conditions linked to regional forest and peatland fires.

Key Points:

- **Location of Serian:** Serian is located in Sarawak, one of Malaysia's two states situated on the island of Borneo. Sarawak and Sabah together form East Malaysia and are geographically separated from Peninsular Malaysia by the South China Sea.

- **Air Pollutant Index:** Malaysia uses the Air Pollutant Index to communicate air-quality conditions. Values between 0 and 50 are considered good, 51 to 100 moderate, 101 to 200 unhealthy, 201 to 300 very unhealthy, and readings above 300 hazardous.
- **Emergency-Level Pollution:** The API in Serian rose above 500, indicating extremely severe air pollution. Such levels can pose serious risks to human health and may require restrictions on outdoor activities, school closures and enhanced health advisories.
- **Transboundary Haze:** Southeast Asia periodically experiences transboundary haze caused by smoke from forest and peatland fires. Prevailing winds can carry pollutants across national borders, particularly among Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.
- **Haze Management:** Malaysian authorities intensified air-quality monitoring and activated measures under the National Haze Action Plan. Cloud seeding and other emergency interventions may also be used when atmospheric conditions are suitable for reducing severe haze.

El Niño 2026 May Intensify, WMO Warns of Impacts

In the News: The World Meteorological Organization has warned that the El Niño event developing during 2026 may strengthen considerably towards the end of the year. The phenomenon could influence rainfall, temperature and extreme-weather patterns across several parts of the world and may continue affecting climatic conditions into 2027.

Key Points:

- **El Niño Phenomenon:** El Niño refers to an unusual warming of surface waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. It forms the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, which influences weather patterns across the globe.
- **Expected Intensification:** WMO forecasts indicate that warm conditions in the tropical Pacific could support further strengthening of El Niño. A stronger event can have widespread effects on atmospheric circulation, rainfall distribution and regional temperatures.
- **Weather Impacts:** El Niño can increase the risk of droughts, floods, heatwaves and other extreme weather events in different parts of the world. Its effects vary by region and depend on interactions with other oceanic and atmospheric systems.
- **Indian Ocean Dipole:** A positive Indian Ocean Dipole may also influence weather conditions over the Indian Ocean region. The interaction between ENSO and the Indian Ocean Dipole can affect monsoon circulation and rainfall patterns over South Asia.
- **ENSO Monitoring:** El Niño conditions are monitored using sea-surface temperature anomalies across specific regions of the tropical Pacific, particularly the Niño 3.4 region. International agencies such as the WMO and national meteorological organisations regularly issue ENSO outlooks.

SCIENCE AND TECH

NASA Launches Roman Space Telescope on Falcon Heavy

In the News: NASA successfully launched the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope on 30 August 2026 aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket. The observatory will study dark energy, dark matter, galaxies and planets beyond the Solar System using wide-field infrared observations.

Key Points:

- **Launch Details:** Roman lifted off at 7:26 a.m. EDT from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The Falcon Heavy successfully placed the telescope on its journey into deep space.
- **Destination – L2:** The telescope is travelling towards the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2, or L2, located roughly one million miles from Earth. This region provides a stable environment for long-duration astronomical observations.
- **Scientific Objectives:** Roman will investigate dark energy and dark matter, map large numbers of galaxies and discover and characterise exoplanets. Its wide field of view allows it to survey enormous areas of the sky efficiently.

- **Named After Nancy Grace Roman:** The telescope honours Dr. Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first Chief of Astronomy. Often called the "mother of the Hubble Space Telescope", she played a major role in developing NASA's programme of space-based observatories.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Wildlife Day 2026: History, Importance and Activities

In the News: National Wildlife Day was observed on September 4, 2026, to promote awareness about wildlife conservation, endangered species and the protection of natural habitats. The observance encourages greater public engagement with conservation activities.

Key Points:

- **Date and Origin:** National Wildlife Day is observed on September 4 and was founded in 2005 by animal advocate Colleen Paige. It was created to increase awareness about wildlife protection and conservation.
- **Purpose:** The day highlights threats such as habitat loss, declining wildlife populations and environmental degradation. It promotes greater understanding of the need to protect species and ecosystems.
- **Activities:** Common activities include wildlife walks, visits to conservation centres, educational programmes, volunteering and awareness campaigns. Wildlife photography and local conservation initiatives are also encouraged.
- **Steve Irwin Connection:** Australian conservationist Steve Irwin became closely associated with the observance because of his contribution to wildlife education and conservation. His work helped popularise public awareness of threatened species.
- **Important Distinction:** National Wildlife Day is different from World Wildlife Day, which is observed globally on March 3. World Wildlife Day is linked to the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1973.

STATIC

Birth Anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

In the News: India observed the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on September 5, 2026. Born on September 5, 1888, he was a distinguished philosopher, teacher, statesman and scholar. His birth anniversary is celebrated throughout India as Teachers' Day.

Key Points:

- **President and Vice President:** Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan served as the first Vice President of India from 1952 to 1962. He subsequently became the second President of India and held the office from 1962 to 1967.
- **Teachers' Day:** September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day in India in recognition of Radhakrishnan's contribution to education. The day honours teachers for their role in shaping students and contributing to the country's intellectual and social development.
- **Academic Career:** Radhakrishnan served as Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University and later Banaras Hindu University. He also taught at the University of Calcutta and held the Spalding Professorship of Eastern Religions and Ethics at Oxford University.
- **University Education Commission:** He chaired the University Education Commission of 1948-49, commonly known as the Radhakrishnan Commission. The Commission examined the condition of university education in independent India and recommended reforms in higher education.
- **Diplomatic Career:** Radhakrishnan served as India's Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1949 to 1952. He was also closely associated with UNESCO and represented India in various international educational and cultural forums.
- **Bharat Ratna and Works:** Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1954. His notable works include *Indian Philosophy*, *The Hindu View of Life*, *An Idealist View of Life* and *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore*.

SPORTS

Messi Announces Argentina Retirement After Historic Career

In the News: Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international football with Argentina on 31 August 2026, ending a national team career spanning more than two decades. The announcement came six weeks after Argentina's defeat to Spain in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final.

Key Points:

- **International Career:** Messi retired as Argentina's most-capped player and all-time leading scorer, with 207 appearances, 125 goals and 68 assists. He made his senior debut against Hungary in August 2005 and surpassed Javier Mascherano's previous record of 147 caps.
- **2026 World Cup Final:** Argentina lost the 2026 FIFA World Cup final 1-0 to Spain after extra time on 19 July 2026 at the New York New Jersey Stadium. Substitute Ferran Torres scored in the 106th minute to give Spain its second World Cup title after 2010.
- **World Cup Record:** Messi appeared at six FIFA World Cups from 2006 to 2026, holding the records for most tournaments played, most matches played and most minutes played. He scored 21 World Cup goals and briefly held the all-time tournament scoring record before Kylian Mbappé finished the 2026 edition on 22.
- **Major Titles with Argentina:** Messi won four senior titles with the national team, namely the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the 2021 and 2024 Copa América, and the 2022 Finalissima. The 2022 World Cup ended Argentina's 36-year wait for a men's world title.
- **Club Career Continues:** The announcement relates only to international football with Argentina. Messi continues his club career with Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

6th World Nomad Games

In the News: The 6th World Nomad Games are being hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic from August 31 to September 6, 2026. The opening ceremony was held at Bishkek Arena, while the main sports, cultural and scientific programmes are being conducted in the Issyk-Kul region. Participants and delegations from more than 100 countries are associated with the event.

Key Points:

- **Host and Schedule:** Kyrgyzstan is hosting the sixth edition of the Games from August 31 to September 6, 2026. The opening took place in Bishkek, while the main programme is centred in the Issyk-Kul region and the closing ceremony is scheduled for September 6.
- **Origin of the Games:** The World Nomad Games project was initiated by the Kyrgyz Republic and the first edition was held in 2014. The Games combine traditional sporting competitions with cultural and scientific activities linked to nomadic civilisations.
- **Previous Editions:** Kyrgyzstan hosted the first three editions in 2014, 2016 and 2018. The fourth edition was organised in İznik, Türkiye, in 2022, while Astana in Kazakhstan hosted the fifth edition in 2024.
- **Traditional Disciplines:** The Games include traditional horse racing, archery, wrestling, intellectual games and other forms of ethnosport. Earlier editions have featured disciplines such as Kok-Boru, Alysh, Kyrgyz Kuresh, Ordo and traditional archery.
- **Cultural Component:** Alongside sporting events, the Games feature traditional cuisine, handicrafts, music, performances, yurt culture and cultural exhibitions. The programme is designed to preserve and promote the intangible cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of nomadic communities.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes Leading Run-Scorer in Women's International Cricket

In the News: Indian opener Smriti Mandhana became the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket across formats during the 2026 Women's Asia Cup. Her record-breaking performance also strengthened her position among the most successful batters in the history of women's cricket.

Key Points:

- **All-Time Run Record:** Mandhana surpassed former India captain Mithali Raj's career total of 10,868 international runs. The achievement placed her at the top of the all-time women's international run-scoring list.
- **Record-Breaking Innings:** She reached the landmark during a high-scoring innings against Hong Kong, China. The performance also became one of her most significant T20 International knocks.
- **Century Record:** Mandhana's century tally across international formats also moved past former Australian captain Meg Lanning. This strengthened her standing among the leading century-makers in women's cricket.
- **Mithali Raj's Record:** Mithali Raj had held the women's international run-scoring record for several years and remains one of the most prominent figures in Indian cricket history.
- **Player Profile:** Smriti Mandhana is a left-handed opening batter who represents India across Tests, One-Day Internationals and Twenty20 Internationals. She has also served in leadership roles for the national side and domestic franchises.

