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Defence & security

Pitch Black: IAF Rafales in Australia

22 August | participation report
Source: PIB

The Indian Air Force completed participation in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force.

• Over 20 nations participated; the IAF deployed Rafale fighters.

• Large Force Employment missions developed coordination among different air forces.

Remember: Pitch Black = Australia; a multilateral air exercise.



Pitch Black participants. IAF / PIB.

Udara Shakti: the Malaysia leg

22 August | participation report
Source: PIB

After Pitch Black, the IAF contingent took part in Udara Shakti 2026 with the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

• The exercise was conducted at Subang, Malaysia.

• IAF Rafales operated alongside Malaysian Su-30MKM and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft.

Remember: Udara Shakti = India-Malaysia; distinguish it from the Australian exercise.

MAITREE-XV: India and Thailand

18-31 August
Source: PIB

The fifteenth edition of the bilateral Army exercise was scheduled at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp in Surat Thani, Thailand.

• Each contingent comprised 85 personnel; India was represented by 9 Gorkha Rifles.

• Training focused on counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism in jungle and semi-urban settings under the UN Chapter VII framework.

Remember: MAITREE is an Army exercise with Thailand, instituted in 2006.

India-US naval EOD exercise

Concluded 14 August | reported 17 August
Source: PIB

The eighth bilateral Explosive Ordnance Disposal exercise concluded at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.

• Teams practised identifying and neutralising explosive threats, including mines and improvised devices.

• Activities included diving, unmanned underwater vehicles and wreck-salvage procedures.

Remember: EOD means Explosive Ordnance Disposal; the venue was Kochi, Kerala.

INS Nipun commissioned

31 August
Source: PIB

INS Nipun, the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, entered service at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

• The vessel was built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam.

• It supports specialised diving, underwater inspection and submarine-rescue operations with remotely operated vehicles and dynamic positioning.

Remember: Nipun = Diving Support Vessel; commissioning marks entry into naval service.

Open visual explainer



INS Nipun commissioning. Indian Navy / PIB.

Samarthak delivered to the Navy

27 August
Source: PIB

The first indigenous Multi Purpose Vessel, Samarthak, was delivered by Larsen & Toubro at Kattupalli.

• Indigenous content exceeds 75%.

• Its roles include equipment trials and evaluation, surveillance, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Remember: Delivery is a different milestone from commissioning.

Open visual explainer

Mangrol: coastal anti-submarine capability

Delivered 21 August | reported 22 August
Source: PIB

Mangrol became the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft delivered by Cochin Shipyard Limited.

• The craft has over 80% indigenous content and waterjet propulsion.

• Its tasks include coastal anti-submarine operations, surveillance and mine-related duties.

Remember: Mangrol is named after a coastal town in Gujarat; qualify it as the third CSL-built craft.

Shruti launched at GRSE

11 August
Source: PIB

Shruti, Yard 3037, a Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel, was launched at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata.

• NGOPVs are under construction at GRSE and Goa Shipyard Limited.

• They are intended for surveillance, search and rescue, anti-piracy tasks and protection of offshore assets.

Remember: A launch places a hull in water; it does not mean the ship is commissioned.

Open visual explainer

DSC A24: fifth diving support craft

1 August
Source: PIB

DSC A24, Yard 329, was launched at Titagarh, Kolkata, completing the launch sequence of the five-craft project.

• Builder: Titagarh Rail Systems Limited.

• The craft uses a catamaran hull; about 70% of its main and auxiliary equipment is indigenous.

Remember: A Diving Support Craft and a larger Diving Support Vessel are different platform categories.

DRDO missile technology transfer

25 August
Source: PIB

The Defence Minister approved transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of conventional missile systems to eligible Indian defence industries for production within India.

• Industry recipients must meet prescribed qualifications, certification and regulatory conditions.

• The measure seeks to expand the domestic missile-production ecosystem.

Remember: Technology transfer supports manufacturing; it is not an unrestricted export authorisation.

Sixth Positive Indigenisation List

18 August
Source: PIB

The Department of Defence Production released a sixth list covering 405 items for domestic sourcing.

• It contains 389 DPSU items and 16 Indian Coast Guard items.

• Estimated business potential is Rs. 3,070 crore; details and timelines are on the SRIJAN portal.

Remember: Positive indigenisation lists identify items to be sourced domestically within specified timelines.

Defence export authorisation reforms

28 August
Source: PIB

Revised procedures consolidated three Open General Export Licence frameworks and extended OGEL validity from two to three years.

• Country coverage was widened, with exclusions for negative or sensitive destinations and applicable UN sanctions or embargoes.

• An OGEL permits specified repeat exports by eligible exporters within its conditions.

Remember: OGEL simplifies licensed trade; it does not remove export controls.

India-Japan maritime security arrangement

20 August
Source: PIB

Defence Ministers Rajnath Singh and Shinjiro Koizumi met in New Delhi and advanced maritime cooperation.

• A Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Security Cooperation covers areas such as maritime domain awareness, search and rescue, and disaster relief.

• The talks also covered defence equipment and technology collaboration, including the UNICORN antenna system.

Remember: Japan is an Indo-Pacific partner; maritime awareness means understanding activities and risks at sea.

India-UK defence consultations

21 August
Source: PIB

The twenty-fifth Defence Consultative Group meeting was held in New Delhi.

• Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and UK Permanent Under-Secretary Jeremy Pocklington co-chaired it.

• Discussions reviewed cooperation under India-UK Vision 2035 and the ten-year Defence Industrial Roadmap.

Remember: DCG is a bilateral defence-policy consultation mechanism.

India-New Zealand strategic dialogue

24 August | reported 25 August
Source: PIB

The second Defence Strategic Dialogue took place in Wellington.

• The sides discussed cooperation under the India-New Zealand relationship roadmap to 2030.

• Priority areas included maritime security, training and exchanges between the armed services.

Remember: Wellington is New Zealand's capital; Auckland is not.

First India-Kuwait defence committee

28 August
Source: PIB

The inaugural Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting was held in New Delhi.

• It followed the defence cooperation MoU signed in December 2024.

• Training, military medicine, research and development, and exercises formed part of the discussion.

Remember: An MoU provides a framework; a joint committee helps implement it.

India-Armenia defence cooperation

17-18 August | reported 19 August
Source: PIB

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh visited Armenia for talks on training, capacity building and industrial cooperation.

• The sides signed terms of reference for Joint Services Staff Talks.

• An MoU addressed joint innovation, research and development.

Remember: Armenia's capital is Yerevan; locate the country in the South Caucasus.

Naval cooperation with Mauritius

10-13 August | visit programme
Source: PIB

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan's Mauritius visit focused on maritime security and capacity building.

• Cooperation includes joint EEZ surveillance, hydrographic surveys and support for the National Coast Guard.

• The engagement was placed within India's MAHASAGAR approach.

Remember: MAHASAGAR: Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

Key defence appointments

1-3 August
Source: PIB / PIB / PIB / PIB

Air Marshal Tejpal Singh assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, while Vice Admiral A. N. Pramod became Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 1 August.

• Vice Admiral Manish Chadha took over as Director General Naval Operations on 3 August.

• Alka Nangia Arora assumed charge as Controller General of Defence Accounts on 1 August.

Remember: CGDA heads the Defence Accounts Department; it is a civilian defence-finance appointment.

Independence Day gallantry awards

14 August | announcement
Source: PIB

The President approved 78 gallantry awards, including 13 posthumous awards, for Independence Day 2026.

• The list includes nine Kirti Chakras, one Bar to Shaurya Chakra and 19 Shaurya Chakras.

• A separate 89 Mention-in-Despatches approvals were also announced.

Remember: Do not add the 89 mentions to the 78 gallantry awards as though they were the same category.

Terrier Cyber Quest 2026

21 August | launch
Source: PIB

The Territorial Army and CyberPeace launched TCQ 3.0 to encourage cyber capability and innovation.

• Tracks include Bug Hunting, AI Kavach and the Creators Challenge.

• Registrations ran to 31 August; the October finale was a future event at the time of launch.

Remember: The Territorial Army is a part-time volunteer force supporting the regular Army.

Lokayan 26: Sudarshini at Lisbon

Departed 25 August | reported 26 August
Source: PIB

Sail training ship INS Sudarshini completed a three-day port call at Lisbon during Lokayan 26.

• The deployment supports seamanship training and maritime outreach.

• An earlier call included Ponta Delgada in the Azores.

Remember: Lisbon and the Azores belong to Portugal; both connect this voyage to the Atlantic.

Tank-overhaul project at Jabalpur

27 August
Source: PIB

The Defence Minister performed the ground-breaking ceremony for a tank-overhaul project at Vehicle Factory Jabalpur.

• The facility belongs to Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, a defence public-sector enterprise.

• The Rs. 472 crore project is intended to overhaul 80 T-72 and T-90 tanks annually.

Remember: Jabalpur is in Madhya Pradesh; overhaul restores existing equipment rather than producing an entirely new tank.

Agni-4 ballistic missile tested

6 August
Source: PIB

Agni-4 was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.

• The launch was conducted under the Strategic Forces Command.

• The official announcement stated that operational and technical parameters were validated.

Remember: Strategic Forces Command handles India's strategic forces; a ballistic missile follows a largely ballistic trajectory after powered flight.

Science & technology

Third National Space Day

23 August | ISRO report 24 August
Source: ISRO

The national celebration took place in Ahmedabad, commemorating Chandrayaan-3's successful lunar landing on 23 August 2023.

• Theme: Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership.

• The Vikram lander's soft landing established India's ability to land safely on the Moon.

Remember: National Space Day is 23 August, not the date of Chandrayaan-3's launch.

Improved SSLV first stage tested

Ground test 11 August | report 12 August
Source: ISRO

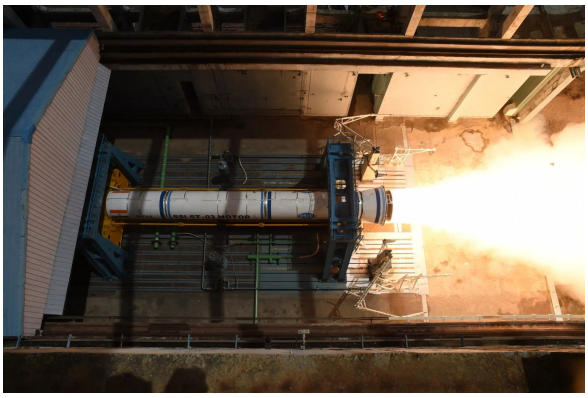
ISRO conducted a static firing of an improved SS1 solid-propellant first stage at Sriharikota.

• Mass reduction and production improvements are intended to enhance the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle.

• ISRO estimated an additional payload capability of about 100 kg to low Earth orbit after induction.

Remember: A static firing tests a restrained stage on the ground; it is not a space launch.

Open visual explainer



SS1 ground static test. ISRO.

Responsible disposal of an upper stage

Reported 12 August | re-entry 30 July
Source: ISRO

ISRO reported atmospheric re-entry of the LVM3-M5 C25 upper stage that had launched CMS-03 in November 2025.

• The passivated stage remained in orbit for less than nine months.

• Monitoring involved IS4OM and the Multi Object Tracking Radar; the disposal supported debris-reduction objectives.

Remember: This was a July event reported in August. Passivation removes stored energy that could cause break-ups.

India-US Civil Space Working Group

5-6 August | report 12 August
Source: ISRO

The ninth Civil Space Joint Working Group meeting was held at ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru.

• Discussions covered space science, human spaceflight and Earth observation, including NISAR cooperation.

• NASA invited ISRO to participate in its Moon Base programme; an invitation is distinct from a completed mission agreement.

Remember: Connect civil space cooperation with the TRUST initiative and the Artemis Accords.

Gaganyaan: roadmap update

6 August | parliamentary update
Source: PIB

The government reviewed progress on India's human-spaceflight programme and the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle.

• Crew and service-module propulsion systems had completed qualification; escape-system motors had undergone ground testing.

• The first uncrewed mission with Vyommitra was targeted for the fourth quarter of 2026; Bharatiya Antariksh Station remained a 2035 target.

Remember: Targets are planned milestones. Do not describe them as missions already flown.

VIHAAN networking chip

15 August
Source: PIB

Chennai-based Aheesa Digital Innovations announced first-pass silicon success for VIHAAN, a networking system-on-chip for fibre broadband.

• The chip uses the indigenous VEGA microprocessor and was supported under the Design Linked Incentive scheme.

• A production tape-out was targeted for 2027.

Remember: A system-on-chip integrates functions on one chip; design validation is different from mass production.

CSIR-NAL micro gas turbines

25 August
Source: PIB

CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories unveiled the NJ05, NJ50 and NJ100 engine family in New Delhi.

• The engines cover the 5, 50 and 100 kg-thrust classes.

• Potential applications include unmanned aircraft, drone interceptors and compact missile systems.

Remember: Thrust is force. The engine-class figures should not be read as the engines' masses.

A six-minute white-dwarf binary

12 August | research announcement
Source: PIB

An IUCAA-led team reported eRASSU J0608, a compact system containing two white dwarfs in an approximately six-minute orbit.

• Observations included Einstein Probe and NASA's NICER, following the original eROSITA detection.

• The system offers a laboratory for studying rapid orbital evolution, accretion and gravitational-wave emission.

Remember: A white dwarf is a compact stellar remnant; it is different from a neutron star or black hole.

An unusual stratospheric ozone pocket

10 August | study report
Source: PIB

An ARIES-linked study examined elevated ozone concentrations over the northern Bay of Bengal.

• Radar, balloon, satellite and modelling data helped explain atmospheric transport and redistribution.

• The ozone layer in the stratosphere absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation.

Remember: Protective stratospheric ozone and harmful ground-level ozone have different roles.

Open visual explainer

Gnani Artha: Indian AI stack

28 August
Source: PIB

The Vice-President launched Gnani Artha, an AI stack developed by the Indian company Gnani AI.

• The launch included the Evon 3.3 language model and the Plexus workflow platform.

• The initiative emphasises domestic AI capability and applications for Indian needs.

Remember: A product launched by a public official is not automatically a government-owned model.

RSVC-AMRIT: rural technology platform

15 August
Source: PIB

NABARD and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser launched a platform to connect rural needs with suitable technologies.

• It supports the RuTAGe Smart Village Centre ecosystem, including discovery, validation and deployment tracking.

• Principal Scientific Adviser Ajay Kumar Sood launched the initiative.

Remember: Technology transfer links research institutions with practical community use.

International affairs

India-Uzbekistan partnership

29-30 August
Source: PIB / PIB

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit included talks with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent and a commitment to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

• Outcomes covered minerals, health, digital cooperation and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 2026-30.

• Cooperation on Buddhist heritage included Fayaz Tepa and Kara Tepa near Termez.

Remember: Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked Central Asian country; Tashkent is its capital.

Uzbekistan's highest friendship honour

30 August
Source: PIB

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev conferred the Order of Highest Friendship on Prime Minister Modi.

• The Uzbek name is Oliy Darajali Do'stlik.

• The honour was presented during the Prime Minister's state visit.

Remember: Match the honour with Uzbekistan, rather than with another Central Asian republic.

SCO summit opens in Bishkek

31 August-1 September | cross-month event
Source: PIB / PIB

The twenty-sixth Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit was scheduled in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, across the end of August and start of September.

• The organisation marked its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2026; India became a full member in 2017.

• On 31 August, the Indian Prime Minister met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and discussed West Asia, shipping security and diplomacy.

Remember: Bishkek is Kyrgyzstan's capital. September outcomes belong to the September record.

UPI linkage with Uzbekistan

Agreement 30 August | report 31 August
Source: PIB

NPCI International Payments Limited and Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre agreed to enable UPI-based merchant payments through UZQR.

• The arrangement connects Indian users with Uzbekistan's domestic QR-payment ecosystem.

• Implementation remains subject to the necessary regulatory processes.

Remember: UPI is a payment interface; the agreement does not make the rupee Uzbekistan's legal tender.

BRICS science ministers: Chennai

22 August
Source: PIB

The fourteenth BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting advanced cooperation under India's chairship.

• The Chennai Declaration and Chennai Consensus addressed areas including AI, high-performance computing, quantum technology and health.

• BRICS GRAIN stands for Global Research Advanced Infrastructure Network.

Remember: This was a science ministerial meeting, distinct from the BRICS leaders' summit.

India-Morocco trade commission

24-25 August | report 26 August
Source: PIB

The seventh Joint Commission meeting was co-chaired by Jitin Prasada and Morocco's Omar Hejira.

• The sides set an objective of doubling bilateral trade within five years.

• A joint working group was proposed to explore a preferential trade agreement; phosphate-fertiliser cooperation remained important.

Remember: A proposal to explore a PTA is not an agreement already in force. Morocco's capital is Rabat.

National affairs & economy

RBI keeps repo rate at 5.25%

5 August
Source: RBI

The Monetary Policy Committee unanimously retained the policy repo rate at 5.25% and continued its neutral stance.

- The Standing Deposit Facility rate remained 5.00%.
- The Marginal Standing Facility rate and Bank Rate remained 5.50%.

Remember: Repo supplies liquidity against eligible collateral; SDF absorbs liquidity without collateral.

Open visual explainer

First-quarter GDP growth: 7.8%

31 August | April-June data
Source: PIB

The National Statistics Office reported real GDP growth of 7.8% for Q1 of financial year 2026-27.

- Nominal GDP grew by 10.3%, while real Gross Value Added grew by 8.2%.
- These estimates use the 2022-23 base year.

Remember: Real measures adjust for price changes; nominal measures use current prices. This is quarterly, not August-only, growth.

Retail inflation: July release

12 August | July 2026 data
Source: PIB

Provisional all-India CPI inflation was 4.45% year on year for July.

- Rural inflation was 4.84%, compared with 3.96% in urban areas.
- Consumer Food Price Index inflation was 5.52%; the CPI series uses 2024=100.

Remember: CPI tracks consumer prices. Always retain the reference month and the base year.

Open visual explainer

Wholesale inflation: July release

14 August | July 2026 data
Source: PIB

All-India Wholesale Price Index inflation was 9.78% year on year in July, under the 2022-23 base-year series.

- The WPI food index recorded inflation of 6.65%.
- Fuel and power inflation stood at 20.05%.

Remember: WPI and CPI cover different baskets and stages of pricing; their rates are not interchangeable.

Open visual explainer

PLFS monthly employment indicators

17 August | July 2026 data
Source: PIB

For persons aged 15 years and above, the monthly survey reported an unemployment rate of 5.1% under Current Weekly Status.

- Labour Force Participation Rate: 55.4%; Worker Population Ratio: 52.5%.
- CWS assesses activity during the seven days preceding the survey.

Remember: Unemployment is measured relative to the labour force, while WPR uses the population as its denominator.

Industrial production grows 6.7%

28 August | July 2026 data
Source: PIB

The Index of Industrial Production recorded year-on-year growth of 6.7% in July using the 2022-23=100 series.

- Manufacturing grew 7.3%; electricity and gas grew 8.7%; mining and quarrying declined 0.9%.
- Water supply, sewerage and waste-management activities grew 7.4%.

Remember: The new series includes four broad sectors; do not reproduce the older three-sector classification.

GOBARdhan: circular bioenergy scheme

6 August | Cabinet decision
Source: PIB

The Cabinet approved a national scheme to expand compressed biogas production from agricultural residues, cattle dung and organic waste.

- The announced outlay is Rs. 23,731 crore for 2026-27 to 2035-36.
- Support addresses investment, offtake and market linkages; organic manure is a useful co-product.

Remember: CBG is upgraded biogas suitable for gas applications; circular bioenergy converts waste into usable resources.

Open visual explainer

Incentives for domestic PNG connections

18 August | effective 1 September
Source: PIB

The government announced an incentive scheme aimed at increasing domestic piped natural gas connections.

- Its focus is on active, billed household connections through city gas distribution networks.
- The scheme's effective date falls in September, even though it was announced in August.

Remember: PNG reaches consumers by pipeline; LPG is commonly delivered in cylinders.

Samudra Manthan offshore exploration

Reported 1 August | approved 31 July
Source: PIB

The Cabinet-approved National Offshore Exploration Scheme was announced with an outlay of Rs. 84,084 crore.

- The Central Sector scheme is under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- It supports offshore oil and gas exploration and the assessment of hydrocarbon resources.

Remember: Samudra Manthan concerns hydrocarbons; distinguish it from deep-sea mineral research programmes.

Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

21 August | notification
Source: PIB

MeitY notified a Rs. 62,500 crore scheme intended to deepen domestic value addition in mobile-phone manufacturing.

- It emphasises Indian intellectual property, design and stronger domestic brands.
- The scheme seeks to move the ecosystem beyond assembly towards higher-value activities.

Remember: Domestic value addition means more of a product's value is created within the country.

Digital rupee for food-subsidy DBT

14 August
Source: PIB

A CBDC-based direct benefit transfer mechanism under PMGKAY was launched in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

- Purpose-bound subsidy is credited to digital-rupee wallets for foodgrain purchases from eligible merchants.
- The design includes smartphone QR transactions and feature-phone support through OTP-based processes.

Remember: The digital rupee is central-bank money; UPI is a payment mechanism. The launch was not nationwide.

Open visual explainer

Barrierless tolling on NH-48

1 August
Source: PIB

Multi-Lane Free Flow tolling was introduced at Shahjahanpur on the Delhi-Jaipur corridor in Rajasthan.

- The system combines Automatic Number Plate Recognition with FASTag-based processing.
- It was the third such location on this corridor after Daulatpura and Manoharpura.

Remember: MLFF reduces the need to stop at physical toll barriers; do not label this India's first deployment.

Revamped India Code portal

13 August
Source: PIB

The Legislative Department and NIC introduced a revamped platform for access to laws and legal information.

- Features include semantic, multilingual and speech-enabled search assisted by AI.
- The portal brings together central Acts and associated legal material.

Remember: India Code is an official legal-information resource; search assistance is not a substitute for legal adjudication.

High Court sittings in Ladakh

20 August | decision reported
Source: PIB

A Cabinet decision enabled sittings of the existing High Court in Ladakh to improve access to justice.

- The measure addresses the difficulty of travelling from remote areas for judicial proceedings.
- It concerns the place where the court sits, rather than creation of a new, separate High Court.

Remember: A High Court can serve more than one state or Union Territory.

E-Samudra maritime services

8 August
Source: PIB

The maritime administration launched E-Samudra as a single-window digital governance platform in Mumbai.

- It integrates services used by seafarers, shipping companies and other maritime stakeholders.
- The eNAVIK grievance mechanism provides round-the-clock support.

Remember: E-Samudra is a governance platform; Samudra Manthan is the offshore-exploration scheme.

Drug-free youth: 100-week campaign

2 August
Source: PIB

Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan was launched to mobilise young people against substance abuse.

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports supports the 100-week effort.
- Community participation, awareness and youth-led action are central to the campaign.

Remember: Match the campaign with youth mobilisation and drug-abuse prevention.

Digital access to NCLT records

12 August
Source: PIB

The National Company Law Tribunal introduced e-inspection and e-certified-copy services.

- The changes improve digital access to case records and certified documents.
- NCLT deals with company-law matters and corporate insolvency under the applicable legal framework.

Remember: NCLT is a tribunal, distinct from a High Court; corporate insolvency is a key exam link.

Environment & climate

Glaw Lake becomes a Ramsar site

3 August
Source: PIB

Glaw Lake became Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar site; the announcement took India's total to 101.

• The freshwater wetland lies in Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary.

• Its Eastern Himalayan setting supports important ecological and biodiversity values.

Remember: Ramsar recognises wetlands of international importance; it is different from UNESCO World Heritage designation.

Elephant conservation and coexistence

12 August observance | event 13 August
Source: PIB

The national World Elephant Day celebration was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 13 August.

• Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 recognised contributions to elephant conservation.

• A regional human-elephant conflict management plan for southern India emphasised coordinated, science-based action.

Remember: World Elephant Day itself is 12 August; the celebration date was one day later.



National elephant-conservation event. MoEFCC / PIB.

UNCCD COP17: restoring land

17-28 August
Source: UNCCD

Mongolia hosted the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Ulaanbaatar.

• The theme was Restoring Land.

• The conference took place during the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026.

Remember: UNCCD focuses on land degradation, desertification and drought. Distinguish it from the climate convention, UNFCCC.

India's open natural ecosystems

17 and 26 August | COP17 updates
Source: PIB / PIB

India released its first guide to grasslands and other open natural ecosystems during COP17.

• These ecosystems include grasslands, savannas, deserts and rangelands, supporting biodiversity and pastoral livelihoods.

• Discussions also highlighted community-led restoration and Rajasthan's traditional Orans.

Remember: An open landscape is not automatically wasteland; inappropriate tree planting can damage native grassland ecosystems.

Drought resilience before disaster

25 August | COP17 intervention
Source: PIB

India emphasised proactive drought resilience rather than relying only on emergency relief.

• Early warning, land restoration and catchment management can reduce vulnerability.

• Coordinated water management links soil health, groundwater recharge and more resilient livelihoods.

Remember: Drought preparedness reduces risk before a crisis; relief responds after impacts occur.

India-Russia snow leopard cooperation

26 August | reported 27 August
Source: PIB

A roundtable in Moscow brought together snow-leopard conservation expertise under the IBCA-Irbis partnership.

• The meeting was hosted at the A. N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

• Wildlife Institute of India expertise includes population assessment, telemetry and genetics.

Remember: IBCA means International Big Cat Alliance; the snow leopard is a high-altitude species.

Prakriti Gyan Dham

8 August
Source: PIB

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute inaugurated an eco-educational hub at Banthra, Lucknow.

- The hub is located at the Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre.
- It connects botanical learning, biodiversity awareness and hands-on public engagement.

Remember: NBRI is based in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; link the institution with botanical research.

Sport, culture & awards

Glasgow Commonwealth Games: India fourth

Games ended 2 August | PIB report 3 August
Source: PIB / PIB / Indian Olympic Association

India finished fourth at Glasgow 2026 with 39 medals: 13 gold, 17 silver and nine bronze.

• The Games ran from 23 July to 2 August in Glasgow, Scotland.

• Seven medals came in para events and are already included in the total of 39.

Remember: Do not add seven para medals again. The gold-medallist revision table follows later.



Mirabai Chanu felicitated after Glasgow. Sports Ministry / PIB.

National Sports Awards 2025 announced

18 August 2026 | awards year 2025
Source: PIB

The Sports Ministry announced 17 Arjuna Award recipients, including athletes from athletics, chess, badminton and para sport.

• I. Arumainayagam received the Arjuna Award (Lifetime) for football.

• The Army Paralympic Node, Pune, received the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.

Remember: Keep the award year 2025 separate from the announcement year 2026; see the complete recipient table.

Sangeet Natak Akademi honours

13 August
Source: PIB / PIB

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Akademi's fellowships and awards for 2024 and 2025 in New Delhi.

• The announcement listed 115 artists across the performing arts. Fellowship is Akademi Ratna; the award is Akademi Puraskar.

• Kala-Diksha supports transmission of artistic knowledge through the Guru-Shishya tradition.

Remember: Sangeet Natak Akademi covers music, dance and drama, including folk and tribal performing arts.



President at the Akademi ceremony. President's Secretariat / PIB.

National Handloom Day and awards

7 August observance | August ceremony
Source: PIB / PIB

The twelfth National Handloom Day programme recognised excellence in weaving through the 2025 handloom awards.

• The announcement listed three Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards; four commemorative stamps were also released.

• National Handloom Day recalls the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on 7 August 1905 and has been observed since 2015.

Remember: Sant Kabir honours handloom craftsmanship; distinguish these awards from performing-arts honours.

Lokmanya Tilak National Award

1 August
Source: PIB

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2026 in Pune.

• Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the award.

• The award connects contemporary public service with the legacy of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Remember: Match Ajit Doval with the 2026 award; Tilak is associated with the newspapers Kesari and Mahratta.

Visual explainers

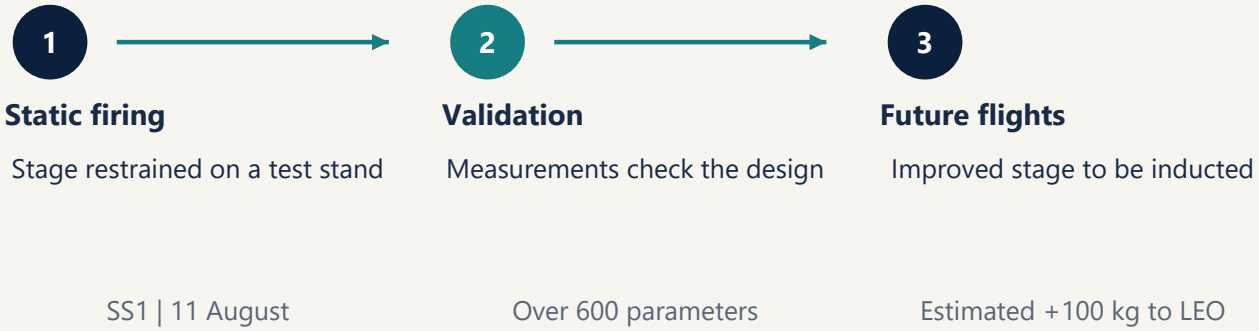
Build the concept behind the news. Each panel links back to its story.

THREE DIFFERENT SHIPBUILDING MILESTONES



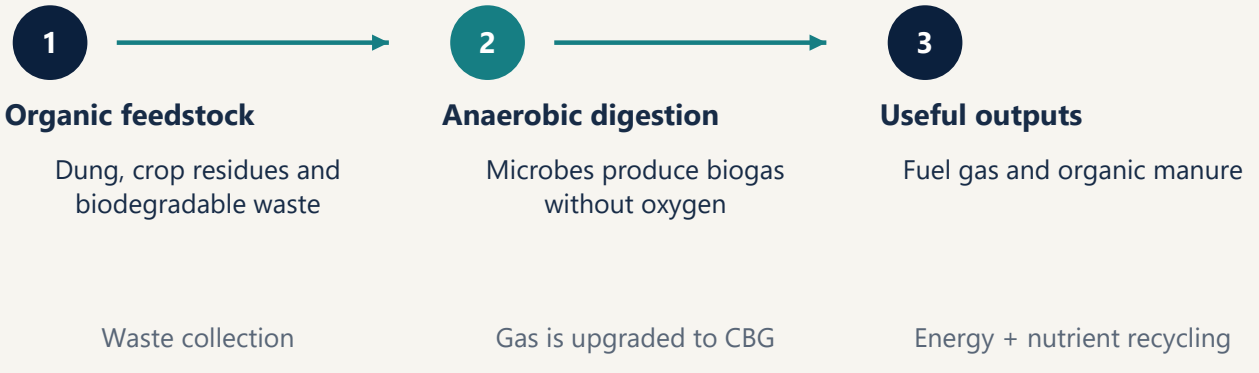
Return to INS Nipun commissioned

SSLV: GROUND QUALIFICATION BEFORE FLIGHT



Return to Improved SSLV first stage tested

CIRCULAR BIOENERGY: TURN WASTE INTO RESOURCES



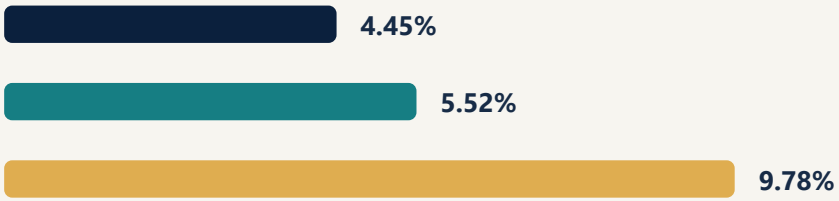
Return to GOBARdhan: circular bioenergy scheme

RBI POLICY CORRIDOR | 5 AUGUST 2026

SDF	Repo	MSF
5.00%	5.25%	5.50%
Absorbs liquidity	Policy lending rate	Standing borrowing facility

Return to RBI keeps repo rate at 5.25%

JULY 2026 DATA | RELEASED IN AUGUST



Year-on-year rates. Different baskets and base years; not like-for-like indices.

Return to Retail inflation: July release

DIGITAL MONEY AND A PAYMENT INTERFACE

DIGITAL RUPEE / CBDC	UPI
Digital form of central-bank money. In this launch: purpose-bound food-subsidy wallets.	An interface for making payments. It can move money between supported accounts; it is not a new currency.

Return to Digital rupee for food-subsidy DBT

SAME MOLECULE, DIFFERENT ALTITUDE

STRATOSPHERE Ozone layer	Absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation. The study found a concentrated pocket at about 21-23 km over the northern Bay of Bengal.
NEAR THE GROUND Air pollutant	Ground-level ozone is a harmful secondary pollutant formed through atmospheric chemical reactions. Location changes its effects.

Return to An unusual stratospheric ozone pocket

Rapid revision

Learn the pairing: name, partner, place and purpose.

Exercise / engagement	Partner / venue	Focus
Pitch Black	Australia | RAAF host	Multilateral air operations
Udara Shakti	Malaysia | Subang	Bilateral air cooperation
MAITREE-XV	Thailand | Surat Thani	Army counter-terrorism training
Naval EOD exercise	United States | Kochi	Explosive ordnance disposal
SCO summit	Kyrgyz Republic | Bishkek	31 August-1 September

Numbers worth remembering

Figure	What it refers to
405 items	Sixth Positive Indigenisation List; estimated Rs. 3,070 crore business potential
78 + 89	Gallantry awards + separate Mention-in-Despatches approvals
Rs. 472 crore	Jabalpur tank-overhaul project; planned capacity 80 tanks per year
Rs. 23,731 crore	GOBARdhan scheme outlay; 2026-27 to 2035-36
Rs. 62,500 crore	Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme outlay
101 Ramsar sites	India's count at the Glaw Lake announcement on 3 August
13 + 17 + 9 = 39	India's Glasgow gold, silver and bronze medal tally

July data released in August

Indicator	Value	Read it correctly
CPI inflation	4.45%	Year-on-year; base 2024=100
WPI inflation	9.78%	Year-on-year; base 2022-23
IIP growth	6.7%	Year-on-year; base 2022-23=100
Unemployment rate	5.1%	Age 15+; Current Weekly Status

Glasgow 2026: the 13 gold medallists

23 July-2 August | India: fourth overall | 39 medals including seven in para events

Athlete	Gold-medal event
Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting | women's 48 kg
Sharmila Dhankar	Para-athletics | women's shot put F57
Dilip Gavit	Para-athletics | men's 100 m T47
Asmita Dey	Judo | women's 48 kg
Harsh Singh	Judo | men's 60 kg
Soman Rana	Para-athletics | men's shot put F57
Preeti Pawar	Boxing | women's 54 kg
Jaismine Lamboria	Boxing | women's 57 kg
Sakshi Chaudhary	Boxing | women's 51 kg
Priya Ghanghas	Boxing | women's 60 kg
Arundhati Choudhary	Boxing | women's 70 kg
Sachin Siwach	Boxing | men's 60 kg
Ankush Panghal	Boxing | men's 80 kg

Source: Indian Olympic Association / PIB

Other athletics results

Athlete	Event	Medal
Neeraj Chopra	Men's javelin	Silver
Yash Vir Singh	Men's javelin	Bronze
Tejaswin Shankar	Men's decathlon	Bronze
Praveen Chithravel	Men's triple jump	Silver
Selva Prabhu Thirumaran	Men's triple jump	Bronze

Return to the Games summary

National Sports Awards 2025

Announced on 18 August 2026 | Arjuna Awards: 17 recipients, grouped by discipline

Recipient(s)	Discipline
Tejaswin Shankar; Muhammed Ajmal V; Priyanka Goswami	Athletics
Treesa Jolly; Pullela Gayatri Gopichand	Badminton
Narender	Boxing
Vidit Santosh Gujarathi; Divya Jitendra Deshmukh	Chess
Dhanush Srikanth	Deaf shooting
Lalremsiami; Rajkumar Pal	Hockey
Surjeet; Pooja	Kabaddi
Rudransh Khandelwal	Para-shooting
Ekta Bhyan	Para-athletics
Arvind Singh	Rowing
Akhil Sheoran	Shooting

Lifetime honours, coaches and promotion

Category	Recipient(s)
Arjuna Lifetime	I. Arumainayagam | football
Dronacharya Regular	Parveer Singh | athletics; Chhote Lal Yadav | boxing; Neha Nandkumar Chavan | shooting
Dronacharya Lifetime	Dharmendra Singh Yadav | boxing; Virender Kumar | wrestling
Khel Protsahan Puraskar	Army Paralympic Node, Pune

Source: PIB | Return to the award story

August calendar

Recurring observances and the news connections to revise. Select an observance to open its official source.

Date	Observance	Exam connection
7 August	National Handloom Day	Swadeshi Movement, 1905
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Rights, communities and indigenous knowledge
12 August	International Youth Day	Youth participation and development
12 August	World Elephant Day	Conservation and human-elephant coexistence
15 August	Independence Day	80th observance; 79 years since 1947
19 August	World Humanitarian Day	Protection of humanitarian workers and civilians
23 August	National Space Day	Chandrayaan-3 soft landing, 2023
29 August	National Sports Day	Birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand
29 August	International Day against Nuclear Tests	Nuclear-test awareness and disarmament
30 August	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	Human rights and accountability

KEEP THE DATE STRAIGHT

A release date and an event date can differ. July inflation and production figures were published in August; the SCO summit continued into September. Planned targets are labelled as targets throughout this edition.