

AUG., 2026

COMPLEMENTARY DIGITAL NOTES COVERED EVERY MONTH.



30 PAGER NOTES

AUGUST 2026 DECODED FOR
PRELIMS — WHERE
GOVERNANCE, ECONOMY,
SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, AND
MAPS CONVERGE INTO EXAM-
READY CLARITY.



@SITOK_EDU_SMILE





Table of Contents

POLITY.....	4
ACTS & BILLS	4
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS & FEDERALISM	5
GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS	5
JUDGEMENTS & RIGHTS	6
ECONOMY	8
MONETARY POLICY, BANKING & PAYMENTS	8
FISCAL, TRADE & INDUSTRY.....	8
AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY & HANDLOOM	9
EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY	10
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.....	11
BILATERAL RELATIONS.....	11
UN & GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS.....	12
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS & MEETINGS.....	12
MULTILATERAL GROUPINGS & SUMMITS	13
ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY.....	15
CLIMATE, WEATHER & DISASTERS.....	15
SPECIES	15
PROTECTED AREAS & SITES	16
CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES & ISSUES.....	16
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	18
AI, DIGITAL & CYBER	18
SPACE.....	19
HEALTH, BIOTECH & PHARMA	20
GEOGRAPHY.....	21
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY & CLIMATE PHENOMENA	21
SOCIETY	22
PUBLIC HEALTH & LIFESTYLE	22
HISTORY & CULTURE	23



ANNIVERSARIES & NEW FINDINGS	23
SCHEMES	24
ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES	24
EMPLOYMENT, FINANCIAL INCLUSION & DIGITAL GOVERNANCE SCHEMES.....	24
PLACES & MAPS IN NEWS.....	26
PLACES IN THE NEWS.....	26
REPORTS & INDICES.....	27
DATA RELEASES & RANKINGS.....	27
DEFENCE & SECURITY	28
MISSILES, NUCLEAR DETERRENCE & STRATEGIC FORCES	28
NAVAL, AIR FORCE & DEFENCE INDUSTRY.....	28
EXERCISES, STRATEGIC DIALOGUES & INTERNAL SECURITY	29





POLITY

Acts & Bills

Bill / Act	Trigger (Why Now)	Key Provision
Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026	NEET-UG 2026 paper leak (~22 lakh candidates hit)	Fast-track courts; investigation in 60 days, trial in 3 months. Punishment raised: 3-5yrs/₹10L → 5-10yrs/₹50L
MSME Development (Amendment) Bill 2026	Passed, Monsoon Session 2026	Raises MSME investment/turnover thresholds; eases ECLGS & SIDBI credit access
Bill on Financial Evidence (Bankers' Books Evidence Act amendment)	Replaces a 135-year-old law	Recognises digital/cloud bank records as valid evidence (1891 Act → 2026 Bill)
Tribunals Bill 2026	Repeals Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021	Creates National Tribunals Commission for selecting members; tenure raised 4 yrs → 5 yrs
FCRA Bill	Referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)	JPC can force govt to clarify/amend/withdraw provisions (referral rate: 60% in 14th LS → 71% in 15th LS)
Indian Statistical Institute Bill	Seeks to replace the ISI Act	Creates an 11-member Board of Governors + Academic Council (ISI founded 1931; Institution of National Importance: 1959)
Punjab's 3 Digital University Bills	State wants self-financed digital-only universities	Governor acts as Visitor; must follow UGC norms (3 Bills passed)
Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026 (Punjab)	Criminalises sacrilege against the Guru Granth Sahib	Covers words, signs, visible representations & electronic means; max punishment: life imprisonment
Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026	Extends protection to Vande Mataram	Penalises intentionally disrupting the singing of the Anthem or Vande Mataram



Constitutional Provisions & Federalism

Issue	Article / Provision	Core Fact
Delimitation debate	Art. 81 (LS seat allocation); Art. 82 (readjustment after Census)	Fresh delimitation expected after Census 2027; current seats still based on the 1971 Census
Gerrymandering – two techniques	–	'Cracking' = split a rival's supporters across seats. 'Packing' = concentrate them in a few seats
Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Bill 2026	Follows 2024 SC ruling: mineral royalty is not a tax	Bill caps/restricts State-level taxes on mineral-bearing land (tests Centre vs Jharkhand's Mineral Bearing Land Cess)
OBC creamy layer for SC/ST – Centre opposes	Arts. 341 (SC) & 342 (ST)	Centre says SC/ST disadvantage is historical/social, not income-based (key cases: Indra Sawhney 1992, Davinder Singh 2024)
OBC creamy-layer income test	Rohith Nathan judgment, SC, 11 March 2026	PSU/private salary alone can't mean 'creamy layer'; income ceiling: ₹1 lakh (1993) → ₹8 lakh (now)
J&K reservation quagmire	–	2024 changes gave Pahari community ST status without cutting other quotas; reservation: 43% (pre-2019) → 70% (2024)

Governance & Institutional Reforms

Issue	What Happened	Body / Authority
Justice Varma cash-currency case	Parliamentary panel found 'credible material' on 3 charges despite his resignation (8 security officials gave evidence)	Parliamentary probe panel
Homeopaths prescribing modern drugs (Maharashtra)	First homeopath registered to prescribe limited allopathy after a 1-year bridge course; sparked protests	Maharashtra Medical Council (2014 law)
Pilot/ATC drug-testing rules	Mandatory 10% annual random testing; graduated penalty – 2nd positive: 3-yr suspension, 3rd: cancelled	DGCA



Issue	What Happened	Body / Authority
Meta youth-harm penalty (US)	Court held Meta liable for misleading teens; \$375m penalty + \$567m, 5-yr harm-abatement fund	US court ('public nuisance' doctrine)
Vimal Elaichi celebrity-endorsement notice	Notices sent over alleged surrogate advertising; penalty ₹10 lakh (1st) / ₹50 lakh (repeat)	FDA (Sec. 24, Food Safety & Standards Act 2006)
Andhra's 'right to walk' footpath policy	Three-step system: audits, footpath upgrade, behaviour change; fine for design failure: ₹1 lakh	State govt (Sec. 198A, Motor Vehicles Act)
Marathi-proficiency mandate for drivers (Maharashtra)	Training/assessment drive; 1.25 lakh drivers tested in Mumbai, ~7,750 failed	State govt
Government jobs – narrow pipeline	Formal hiring pipeline much smaller than demand; Union govt staff: 30.62 lakh of 40 lakh sanctioned	UPSC / SSC / Railways
CPGRAMS 2.0	Citizen-grievance platform upgrading to AI-assisted redress; 2.5 crore+ grievances processed to date	DARPG (est. 2007)

Judgements & Rights

Case / Issue	What Was Held	Precedent / Provision Cited
Domestic cruelty law extended to live-in couples	Sec. 85 BNS (ex-498A IPC) now covers live-in relationships 'in the nature of marriage'	—
New SC gender-sensitivity report	Replaces the 2023 Handbook; urges avoiding 'prosecutrix' and chastity-framing	Committee headed by Justice Aniruddha Bose (Retd.); reviewed 125 trial judgments
FIR withdrawal – 3 relief routes for protesters	(1) Closure report (2) Withdrawal from prosecution (3) HC quashing	Sec. 193 BNSS / Sec. 360 BNSS / Sec. 528 BNSS
Tejpal case – acquittal overturned	Convicted Tarun Tejpal; criticised trial court's 'ideal victim' reasoning	10 years' rigorous imprisonment
BNSS police-custody clarification	Custody can be granted in parts, within a 15-day ceiling	Sec. 187(2) BNSS (vs Sec. 167 CrPC's single window)



Case / Issue	What Was Held	Precedent / Provision Cited
Constitutional limits on arrest	Grounds of arrest must be directly informed to the arrested person	Art. 22(2): production before magistrate within 24 hours
BCI enrolment-freeze limits	BCI has no power for a blanket freeze on an entire graduating class	Sec. 26, Advocates Act – only covers individual applications
Death penalty method challenge	Left room for future reconsideration on hanging's reliability	1983 Deena judgment; Sec. 393(5) BNSS
Vande Mataram and right to dissent	Right to remain respectfully silent is protected	Bijoe Emmanuel case, 1986; Art. 19(1)(a) / 25
Nine-judge Bench – definition of 'industry'	Pending ID Act cases keep the 1978 test; new IR Code needs independent interpretation	1978 Bangalore Water Supply 'Triple Test'; Industrial Relations Code 2020 (force: Nov 2025)
'Essential practice' test – hijab ruling	Upheld school uniform policy over a headscarf challenge	Karnataka Hijab judgment, 2022
1984 riots – Nanavati Commission findings	'Credible material' Sajjan Kumar was 'probably involved'	Violence shifted from scattered (31 Oct 1984) to organised
Polygamy constitutional challenge	Examining validity of polygamy under Arts. 14 & 15	Sec. 2, Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937
Census 2027 – privacy concerns	New questions resemble the 2020 NPR schedule	Assam NRC excluded ~19 lakh people
Youth-vote study	No single 'youth vote' – turnout & preference vary sharply by State and even by age band (18-21 vs 22-25)	Uttarakhand 2022 / Punjab 2022 as contrasting examples



ECONOMY

Monetary Policy, Banking & Payments

Topic	What Changed / Happened
RBI Monetary Policy Committee	Repo rate cut 125 bps (Dec 2024-Dec 2025) → cheaper loans, higher spending; RBI inflation target: 4%
UPI charges (MDR) Bill	Govt gets power to notify chargeable categories; floated MDR 0.25-0.4% on transactions above ₹2,000
UPI – 10 years	World's largest real-time payment system; July 2026: 2,366 crore transactions, ~₹30 lakh crore (launched April 2016)
Gold loans & pledging trend	Households pledging gold for loans instead of selling it; gold ETF inflows at record levels, H1 2026
RBI phone-lock rules for loan default	Banks can lock only loan-financed devices after due notice; access must be restored within 1 hour (effective 1 Jan 2027)
Corporate investment drivers	Small firms are credit-constrained, large firms demand-constrained; investment/GDP rose 6.5% → 10.3% since ~2004

Fiscal, Trade & Industry

Topic	Key Figure	Period / Date	Extra Detail
IIP growth	6.7% y-o-y (manufacturing +7.2%)	July 2026	June 2026 IIP was a 23-month high
Corporate investment concentration	₹26.75 lakh crore announced; only 0.7% went to consumer goods	1 Apr - 5 Aug 2026	56% went to ITES/data-centre-AI firms
Tamil Nadu fiscal stress	Target: \$1.5 trillion economy by 2036	First Budget under CM C. Joseph Vijay	Revenue Augmentation Committee headed by Montek Singh Ahluwalia
Cumulative exports	\$316.42 billion (+13.16% y-o-y)	April-July 2026-27	Target: \$2 trillion exports by 2030
Press Note 3 relaxation (China-border FDI)	29 projects cleared worth ₹4,895.65 crore	By 10 Aug 2026 (relaxed March 2026)	Applies to <10% stake from land-border countries
Parandur Airport scrapped (Chennai)	5,846 acres required; 1,802 already acquired	2026	Chennai to get Terminal 5 instead



Topic	Key Figure	Period / Date	Extra Detail
Strategic fuel reserve proposal	Proposed +41 MT storage (28 crude + 9 LNG + 4 LPG)	Under consideration, ~10-year horizon	India has zero underground natural-gas storage currently
India's LPG dependence shift to US	US share of India's LPG: ~10% (planned) → 67% (actual)	Feb-June 2026	West Asia LPG imports fell ~85% (Hormuz disruption)
Venezuela crude & US interest	Reserves: ~300 billion barrels (world's largest)	2026	Proposed deal: ~\$100bn investment + \$209bn+ tax revenue
India's E20 ethanol rollout	~70 million of 310 million vehicles are E20-certified	Nationwide from 1 April 2026	Claimed ₹2 lakh crore forex savings
India's nuclear rules favour Russia	Russia's Akademik Lomonosov (2×35 MWe) already operational abroad	2026 rule change	Rule: tech must be certified & operational in country of origin

Agriculture, Food Security & Handloom

Topic / Scheme	Key Fact	Since / Target
Monsoon recovery & food buffer	July rains cut the seasonal deficit; buffer stock: 92.6 MT held vs 41.1 MT required (1 July)	FAO Food Price Index: 131.1 (3.5-yr high, July 2026)
Russia-Ukraine conflict & wheat prices	Renewed attacks on grain vessels/ports; Russia+Ukraine supply 27.4% of global wheat exports	EU wheat production projected to fall 7.5%
Handloom sector	Policy shift recommended: 'preservation' → 'aspiration' branding; 35+ lakh weavers, 31+ lakh households	National Handloom Day: 7 August (Swadeshi Movement, 1905)
GOBARdhan – National Unified CBG Scheme	Consolidates biogas schemes; ₹23,731 crore outlay; target: 5,000 CBG plants	Cabinet approved 6 Aug 2026; target year 2030
India's sugar industry (ethanol transformation)	Ethanol revenue helps mills pay farmers; world's 2nd-largest producer, ~5 crore farmers	Briefly world's largest exporter, FY2021-22 (11 MT)
NADCP (animal disease control)	Targets elimination of FMD and Brucellosis; ₹13,343 crore outlay, 535 million livestock covered	Launched 2019-20; target year 2030 for both diseases



Topic / Scheme	Key Fact	Since / Target
Regenerative agriculture	Restores soil health (cover cropping, reduced tillage, agroforestry); ~30% of India's farmland is degraded	Linked to Zero Budget Natural Farming

Employment & Social Security

Topic / Scheme	Key Fact
Youth unemployment paradox	Overall UER fell 6.1% → 3.1% (2017-18 to 2025), but youth (15-29) UER stayed near 10%
MGNREGA vs VB-GRAM G	New scheme (from July 2026) generated 68% less employment than the prior 5-year MGNREGA average
PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)	Govt pays EPF contribution to incentivise new hiring; 18 lakh new EPFO members in first 9 months





INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Bilateral Relations

Country / Issue	What Happened	Date / Number	Why It Matters
Pakistan – PoK protests	Widespread protests near the LoC over inflation & representation	Areas: Rawalakot, Muzaffarabad, Kotli	India criticised the crackdown; Amnesty called for restraint
Bangladesh – the Hasina factor	Hasina's announced intent to return has strained India-BNP ties	Fled to India: 5 Aug 2024	Pending: 1996 Ganga Treaty renewal; Teesta agreement unsigned
Pakistan – Foreign Media Guidelines, 2026	New NOC requirement for foreign journalists outside 3 major cities	~40 reported deaths in PoK protests preceded this	Seen as restricting independent conflict-zone reporting
USA – Russia/Iran sanctions Bill	US Senate passed a Bill threatening 100% tariff on major Russian-energy importers	Passed 86-11; India's Russian-crude share: >40% (May) → >50% (June 2026)	Existing US tariff on India already 10%
Saudi Arabia-Pakistan-Türkiye – Mecca Agreement	Trilateral defence agreement, details non-public	Signed in Mecca, 2026	Risk: Pakistan gains more leverage over Saudi Arabia
UK – Chevening fellowships paused	3 fellowship programmes paused amid a UK portfolio review	UK FCDO Chevening budget: £59.4 million (2025-26)	Scholarships began 1983; Fellowships in 2004
Arctic – India's narrative gap	India lacks an indigenous Polar Research Vessel; Arctic affairs split across 4 MEA divisions	India: 1 of 14 original 1920 Svalbard Treaty signatories	~70% of India's rainfall depends on the Southwest Monsoon (Arctic-linked)
CM foreign-visit political clearance	MEA can deny clearance for both official & private CM visits	Examples: Kejriwal (Singapore, 2022); Gogoi (US/Israel)	Shows foreign affairs stays a Union subject
USA – transshipment allegations against India	US alleges India helped route Chinese goods to dodge tariffs	Alleged value: \$67 billion (2025); lost US tariff revenue: \$28bn	40+ countries flagged as 'enablers'



Country / Issue	What Happened	Date / Number	Why It Matters
Afghanistan – Taliban engagement, 5 years on	India deepening ties despite 2021 embassy evacuation	India's investment stake: \$2-3 billion	Humanitarian aid: 50,000 MT wheat + 445+ tonnes medicine/relief
Iran – 'Operation Economic Outcast' sanctions	New US sanctions campaign	Iran inflation: 50%+; per-capita income: ~\$5,000	Sanctions history traces to the 1979 Iranian Revolution
USA – H-1B \$103,265 fee	New legal route for the fee after an earlier version was struck down	Annual H-1B cap: 65,000	Indians got 71% of approved H-1B petitions, FY2024
China – boundary talks, 25th round	Two new hotline channels agreed	India: Ajit Doval; China: Wang Yi	Existing mechanism: 1993 Agreement → Expert Group → BPMs → WMCC (2012)
Canada – 'Lake America' renaming dispute	US ordered official renaming of Lake Ontario	'Ontario' is 400+ years old (Wendat origin)	Unilateral renaming ≠ universally accepted name

UN & Global Institutions

Body / Process	Key Fact	Date
Next UN Secretary-General selection	Security Council (15 members: 5 permanent + 10 non-permanent) recommends one candidate via informal 'straw polls'; any P5 veto blocks it	New UNSG takes office 1 January 2027; governed by Art. 97, UN Charter

Bilateral Agreements & Meetings

Agreement	Countries	Date	Key Outcome
India-SACU PTA – Terms of Reference	India + Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa)	Signed 12 Aug 2026	India's first formal PTA framework with an African customs union
India-Namibia Joint Trade Committee, 4th session	India, Namibia	2026	Focus: critical minerals & green hydrogen



Agreement	Countries	Date	Key Outcome
India-Rwanda first Joint Trade Committee	India, Rwanda	2026 (first-ever)	Rwanda ranked among Africa's easiest countries to do business in
India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue	India, New Zealand	2026 (2nd edition)	Wellington; covers maritime security & HADR
India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee	India, Kuwait	2026 (inaugural)	Expands India's Gulf defence-partnership network
India-Japan Commerce Minister's Tokyo visit	India, Japan	2026	Industry Roundtable on Semiconductors & AI
India-Cambodia JWG on Trade & Investment	India, Cambodia	2026 (3rd meeting)	Phnom Penh; non-tariff barriers, pharma standards
India-Morocco 7th Joint Commission	India, Morocco	2026	Rabat; phosphate, auto manufacturing, green hydrogen

Multilateral Groupings & Summits

Summit / Body	Members / Scope	Date	Key Outcome
BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting	All BRICS members (incl. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Argentina)	8 Aug 2026, Bhopal	Bhopal Declaration on cultural cooperation
CCI hosts BRICS Heads of Competition Authorities	All 11 BRICS nations	9 Aug 2026	Discussed digital-markets competition & merger-review coordination
UNCCD COP17	UN member states	2026, Ulaanbaatar	India presented land-restoration progress; called for community-led rangeland restoration
US Senate – Russia/Iran sanctions Bill	USA (affects India, China as top importers)	Passed 2026	86-11 vote; threatens 100% tariff on major Russian-energy importers



Summit / Body	Members / Scope	Date	Key Outcome
Next UN Secretary-General selection	UN Security Council (15 members)	New UNSG from 1 Jan 2027	Front-runners: Rebeca Grynspan (Costa Rica), Carolyn Birkett (Guyana)





ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Climate, Weather & Disasters

Event	Where	Cause	Key Number
Europe's wildfire wave	Greece, France, Spain	'Climate whiplash' (wet-to-dry shifts), heatwaves, drought	Pyrocumulonimbus = self-generated 'fire clouds' with lightning
Kerala floods & landslides	Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha	Heavy monsoon + river siltation (since 2018) + lost wetlands	—
India-China climate cooperation	Both countries	Shared flood/extreme-weather risk	Sister cities: Delhi-Beijing, Mumbai-Shanghai, Chennai-Chongqing
El Niño 2026	Pacific-wide; drier in SE Asia/Australia, wetter in Horn of Africa	Naturally occurring ocean-warming cycle	Forecast peak: $>3^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal (potentially strongest in a century)
Heatwaves added as notified disasters	India, nationwide	Policy decision to widen disaster-fund access	14 notified calamities now; FC-XVI: ₹2.04 lakh crore for State disaster funds (2026-31)
Himalayan cascading disasters	Kedarnath, Chamoli, Sikkim, Dharali, Nepal	Glacier/lake collapse → flash flood → debris flow → landslide	Nepal 2026: 350+ dead (highest in this list)
Hanging glaciers, Alaknanda basin	Uttarakhand (Badrinath-Mana sector)	Rapid warming destabilising steep-slope ice	219 hanging glaciers found; area 71.7 ± 3.5 sq km

Species

Species	IUCN Status	Population / Threat	Location
Asiatic Lion	Endangered	523 (2015) → 891 (2025), ~70% rise; threatened by mining, CDV, babesiosis	Gir landscape, Gujarat (only free-ranging population)



Species	IUCN Status	Population / Threat	Location
Clouded Leopard	Vulnerable	Schedule I; 5th-largest Indian wild cat; new Conservation Action Plan announced 4 Aug 2026	Northeast India, West Bengal's Dooars

Protected Areas & Sites

Site	State / Region	Why in News	Key Fact
Asan Wetland	Uttarakhand (Asan-Yamuna confluence)	SC extended its mining-restriction ruling nationwide	Mining ban within 10 km without NBWL/MoEFCC approval; Ramsar site since 2020
Glaw Lake	Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh	India's 101st Ramsar site; Arunachal's first	Supports black-necked cranes (Schedule I) & snow leopards
Agasthyamalai / Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve	Kerala-Tamil Nadu border	SC-ordered eviction; FRA recognition must come first	~4,595 individuals occupying ~5,071 hectares

Conservation Programmes & Issues

Programme / Issue	Key Fact	Where
Green India Mission (CAG audit)	Forest-quality target met: only 8.13%; funding gap: ₹10,600 crore	16 States/UTs audited (2015-16 to 2024-25)
Ken-Betwa river-linking (Daudhan Dam)	Adivasi resistance over displacement; 22 villages affected	Panna Tiger Reserve, Bundelkhand (MP-UP)
Amazon forest recovery	15-25 pioneer tree species drive most natural regeneration on cleared land	Amazon basin (9 countries)
Elephant corridors	SC ordered a fresh national survey; corridors must not be blocked over crop-damage fears alone	Western Ghats, Northeast Hills/Brahmaputra floodplains



Programme / Issue	Key Fact	Where
Arctic shrubification	Warming lets shrubs expand northward, changing permafrost & snow albedo	Arctic tundra (e.g. Alaska's North Slope); warming ~4x the global rate
Rural waste management models	Community-led segregation models working in remote areas	Majuli (Assam), Tawang (Arunachal)
AI data-centre water footprint	Rapid growth outpacing water-disclosure norms	India: data-centre capacity 375 MW (2020) → 1,500 MW (2025)





SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AI, Digital & Cyber

Development	By Whom	Key Fact
Kimi K3 – Chinese open-weight AI model	Moonshot AI	Competing on cost-efficiency, not just scale; ~2.8 trillion parameters
AI in mathematics research	Claude Fable 5 / OpenAI reasoning model	Helped crack a Jacobian Conjecture counterexample and an 80-year-old Erdős conjecture
AI-driven book destruction	AI training-data firms	Physically destroy books to digitise clean human-written text; raises copyright questions
AI agents – delegation & control	Perplexity Comet (study)	'Agent' (autonomous) differs from 'assistant' (responds to prompts); 55% of agentic use was personal
AI-agent cybersecurity risk	–	Alignment failures in autonomous agents can become cybersecurity incidents
Google Earth AI satellite-image feature	Google ('Nano Banana' tech)	Withdrawn within ~1 day after users created satellite deepfakes
US private-sector 'hacking back'	US govt + private firms	Firms can now join govt-authorised hacking of criminal networks via a National Coordination Center
AI transforming cyberattacks	–	Automates phishing personalisation and zero-day discovery; critical infrastructure (incl. nuclear) flagged
ChatGPT for Teens	OpenAI	Restricts self-harm/violence/explicit content, adds 'Study Mode'; launched 18 Aug 2026 (ages 13-17)
Meta teen safety controls	Meta (Facebook/Instagram)	Default 2-hour daily time limit for teens; part of an \$18 billion US-states settlement
IndiaAI Mission – sovereign compute	Govt of India + NVIDIA	₹10,372 crore outlay; 10,000+ GPU sovereign cluster; AIKosh reaches 200+ universities
Gnani Artha – sovereign AI stack	Vice President (launch)	Evon 3.3 (LLM) + Plexus (orchestration layer)



Development	By Whom	Key Fact
V2V ('talking cars') mandate	MoRTH (draft rules)	Vehicles warn each other of hazards beyond line of sight; mandatory on new vehicles from 1 Oct 2028

Space

Mission / Project	Agency	Status / Key Fact
SpaceX rocket-stage moon impact	SpaceX (uncontrolled)	Struck near the Einstein Crater on 5 Aug – a rare studied artificial impact
Gaganyaan	ISRO	Crew/Service Module qualification tests done; 4 Gaganauts training; crewed mission targeted 2026-27
Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)	ISRO	Modular design: 20-tonne initial module, expandable to 52 tonnes; targeted by 2035
ISRO debris avoidance	ISRO	Executed 19 Collision Avoidance Manoeuvres in 2025-26 to dodge orbital debris
India's private-space sector	IN-SPACe / Skyroot Aerospace	India is the 3rd country (after US, China) with private orbital launch; ~400 startups registered
NASA Moon Base	NASA + international partners (incl. India)	India joined the Artemis Accords in 2023, seeking a role
Gaganyaan thermal shield	ISRO	Ablative Thermal Protection System sheds heat via its own material at 7,500-8,000 m/s re-entry
Vacuum birefringence	International astronomers	Magnetar 1E 1547.0-5408 observation supports a 1930s quantum-physics prediction
AstroRad radiation vest	StemRad + Lockheed Martin	Targeted (not full-body) shielding; could cut effective radiation dose by 60% in a 1972-strength storm
Oldest Indian microbial-life evidence	Indian researchers (published in PNAS)	Carbon-isotope biosignature ~3.5 billion years old, found in the Singhbhum Craton



Health, Biotech & Pharma

Disease / Drug / Tech	Developed By	Mechanism / Mode	Key Data
Intismeran (mRNA skin-cancer vaccine)	Moderna + Merck	Targets patient-specific tumour mutations ('neoantigens')	49% lower death risk vs Keytruda alone
VERVE-102 (cholesterol gene-editing therapy)	Verve Therapeutics	One-shot IV infusion; edits the PCSK9 gene	~62% LDL reduction (highest dose)
Raygun (AI protein redesign tool)	Duke University	Compresses/rewrites proteins for gene-therapy delivery	Tested across a 17-fold size range
South Asian genomic gap	GenomeIndia Project (2020)	Builds a domestic genetic reference database	South Asians: <1% of global GWAS samples (2005-2025)
Chandipura Virus	Rhabdoviridae family (same as rabies)	Spread by sandflies; affects children	Case fatality: 55-75%; first isolated 1966
African Swine Fever vaccine	ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal	Gene-deleted, live-attenuated vaccine	80-90% trial protection; India = 4th country with a candidate
FDC ban for young children	CDSCO	Restricts Chlorpheniramine + Phenylephrine combination	Banned for children under 4 years
Salmonella (beyond typhoid)	S. Typhi/Paratyphi vs non-typhoidal Salmonella	Human (typhoid) vs animal/food (non-typhoidal) reservoirs	Fluoroquinolone resistance in S. Typhi: 85% (2015-19)
Retracted-paper citations	Indian government-funded research (2026 study)	Retracted papers keep getting cited, risking 'cascading retraction'	12,000+ citations found; ~30% after retraction
South Asian gut microbiome	NCCS, Pune	Trans-Himalayan diet linked to a distinct gut bacterium strain	Study of 76 adults across 8 tribal communities



GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography & Climate Phenomena

Phenomenon	Location	Cause
Monsoon deficit recovery	Pan-India (Bay of Bengal systems)	Multiple low-pressure systems in July partly recovered a well-below-normal June
Landslide vulnerability	Kerala (Western Ghats)	Steep slopes + weathered rock + heavy rain + human interference
Lab-grown diamonds	Manufactured (IIT Madras runs InCent-LGD)	HPHT (mimics mantle) or CVD (gas deposition); promoted in Union Budget 2023-24
Sharks as ocean-data platforms	50-65 km offshore (hurricane research)	CTD sensors tagged on shortfin mako & blue sharks track the ocean's warm 'mixed layer'
Zaskar glaciers slowing	Ladakh	Ice thinning reduces glacier 'driving stress'; slowdown of 2.4 m/year per decade (12 glaciers, 1992-2023)
Odisha coastal erosion	Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam districts	Rising sea level + waves/tides; coastline 564 km, with 28.3% eroding
El Niño 2026 forecast	Global (esp. Southeast Asia, Australia)	Tropical Pacific ocean warming cycle; potentially strongest in a century (peak $>3^{\circ}\text{C}$ above normal)
2026 monsoon forecasting gap	India	Models predicted El Niño but missed within-season monsoon swings; June rainfall was 40% below normal
Hanging glaciers, Alaknanda basin	Uttarakhand (Badrinath-Mana sector)	Rapid Himalayan warming; 219 glaciers found, area 71.7 ± 3.5 sq km



SOCIETY

Public Health & Lifestyle

Topic	Key Fact	Source / Cause
Talcum powder & cancer risk	Risk mainly tied to asbestos contamination, not talc itself; IARC calls asbestos-free talc 'probably carcinogenic'	Cornstarch powder considered a safer alternative
Blue Zones – longevity lifestyle	Regions with unusually long lifespans (Okinawa, Sardinia, Nicoya) share common habits	'Hara Hachi Bu' (eat till 80% full) + strong community ties
ChatGPT for Teens – India gap	Account-based age safeguards don't fit India's usage pattern; 62% of surveyed teens use shared devices	India has no stand-alone law on children's AI-chatbot use





HISTORY & CULTURE

Anniversaries & New Findings

August 2026 Trigger	Event / Person	Year	Place	Core Fact
Anniversary of the revolt (context this month)	Royal Indian Navy uprising	1946	Started at HMIS Talwar, Bombay	Trigger: Cdr. Arthur F. King's insult to Indian sailors; spread pan-India
New criminal-protection Act passed (2026)	Vande Mataram composed	1875 (protected in law: 2026)	Bengal (Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay)	Only first 2 (secular) stanzas conventionally sung, per 1937 CWC resolution
150th birth anniversary marked by PM	Pingali Venkayya (flag designer)	Born 1876	Machilipatnam	Designed 30 flag prototypes (1916-21); presented design to Gandhi, 1921 Vijayawada Congress
Fresh excavation begins (2026)	Vaishya Tekri site	Dig started 2026 (earlier dig: 1938-39)	Ujjain (ancient Ujjayini)	Seeking Mauryan-Buddhist evidence tied to Ashoka's time as Viceroy of Avanti

SCHEMES

Energy, Environment & Infrastructure Schemes

Scheme	Ministry / Body	Outlay	Launched / Target
GOBARdhan – National Unified CBG Scheme	Cabinet (multi-ministry)	₹23,731 crore	Approved 6 Aug 2026; target: 5,000 CBG plants by 2030
PM E-DRIVE – EV charging	Ministry of Heavy Industries	₹2,000 crore (of ₹10,900 crore total scheme)	Announced Sept 2024
National Green Hydrogen Mission	MNRE	₹19,744 crore	Launched Jan 2023; current phase targets refining sector
India's solar growth (4-phase story)	MNRE	PLI: ₹24,000 crore	Crossed 100 GW: June 2026; storage-mandate phase from 2030
PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana	MNRE	Subsidy up to ₹78,000/household	50 lakh+ installations by Aug 2026; 300 free units/month
E-SAMUDRA – maritime digital platform	Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways	–	Covers 12 major + 200+ non-major ports
Bharat Taxi – cooperative mobility	–	–	Driver-owned alternative to platform aggregators
Nuclear roadmap – PFBR & SMRs	Department of Atomic Energy	–	PFBR criticality expected 2026-27; target: 100 GW nuclear by 2047

Employment, Financial Inclusion & Digital Governance Schemes

Scheme	Ministry / Body	Key Number	Launched / Since
PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)	Ministry of Labour & Employment	18 lakh new EPFO members in first 9 months	3 components: First-Timers / Manufacturing / Employer Support
Digital Transformation of Judiciary (eCourts)	Dept. of Justice	5 crore pending cases; ₹7,000 crore (Phase III)	Phase III: 2023-2027; AI tools SUPACE & LegRAA



Scheme	Ministry / Body	Key Number	Launched / Since
CPGRAMS 2.0	DARPG	2.5 crore+ grievances processed	Launched 2007; now AI-powered
IEPFA Integrated Portal 2.0	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	₹6,000+ crore unclaimed dividends; ₹2,000+ crore unclaimed shares	7-year unclaimed period under Sec. 124, Companies Act 2013
CBDC-based DBT – first UT rollout	RBI + Ministry of Agriculture	First real-world CBDC-DBT deployment	Launched 14 Aug 2026, Chandigarh & Dadra-Nagar Haveli
PM Jan Dhan Yojana – 12 years	Ministry of Finance	53+ crore accounts; ₹2.3 lakh crore deposits	Launched 28 Aug 2014
UPI – 10 years	NPCI	1,000+ crore transactions/month	Launched April 2016
Malaria elimination target	Ministry of Health	Target: zero indigenous cases	Target year: 2030 (had 6.4 million cases in 2000)
NABL mobile food-testing labs	FSSAI	First such accreditation scheme in India	Addresses city-only lab reach gap



PLACES & MAPS IN NEWS

Places in the News

Place	State / Region	Why in News	Key Fact
Glaw Lake	Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh	India's 101st Ramsar site; Arunachal's first	Supports black-necked cranes & snow leopards
Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve	Kerala-Tamil Nadu border	SC-ordered eviction/rehabilitation planning	~3,500 sq km; includes 2 Tiger Reserves
Singhbhum Craton	Jharkhand-Odisha	Oldest directly dated Indian rock found here	~3.5-billion-year-old microbial biosignature
Alaknanda basin	Uttarakhand	219 hanging glaciers identified (avalanche risk)	Threatens the Badrinath-Mana sector
Parandur / Meenambakkam	Tamil Nadu (Chennai)	Parandur airport scrapped; Terminal 5 planned instead	Meenambakkam handles ~30 million passengers/year
Karnala-Sai Chirner ('Third Mumbai')	Maharashtra	MMRDA's new town to decongest Mumbai	Enabled by the 21.8-km Atal Setu
Bastar region (5 districts) + 1 Jharkhand district	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand	India's last 6 LWE 'Most Affected Districts'	Down from 35 Most Affected Districts
Alang	Bhavnagar district, Gujarat	World's largest ship-breaking yard	Handles 25-30% of global ship recycling
Ken & Betwa rivers	Bundelkhand (Madhya Pradesh-Uttar Pradesh)	Site of Daudhan Dam / river-linking project	22 villages affected by displacement
North Bay of Bengal	Off India's east coast	Unusual tropospheric ozone layer discovered	Distinct from the normal stratospheric ozone layer
Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link	Jammu & Kashmir	Gives Kashmir its first all-weather rail link	272 km; includes world's highest railway bridge (359m)
Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor	NCR (Delhi, UP)	India's first Regional Rapid Transit System corridor	82 km; cuts Meerut-Delhi travel to 55 minutes

REPORTS & INDICES

Data Releases & Rankings

Report / Data Point	Released By	Key Number
FAO Food Price Index	FAO	131.1 – a 3.5-year high (July 2026)
Index of Industrial Production (IIP)	MoSPI	6.7% y-o-y growth (July 2026)
Cumulative exports	Ministry of Commerce	\$316.42 billion, +13.16% (April-July 2026-27)
Green India Mission audit	CAG	Forest-quality target met: only 8.13% (audit period: 2015-16 to 2024-25)
Left Wing Extremism data	Ministry of Home Affairs	Affected districts: 180 (2014) → 38 (2026)
India's Ramsar Sites count	Ramsar Convention / MoEFCC	101 sites – most of any country (6 in 1982 → 101 in 2026)
Land restoration progress	MoEFCC (at UNCCD COP17)	21.76 million hectares restored (2011-2020)
Government e-Marketplace (GeM)	Ministry of Commerce	GMV crossed ₹20 lakh crore – 10-year milestone (2026)
Jal Jeevan Mission coverage	Ministry of Jal Shakti	Rural tap coverage: 16.7% (Aug 2019) → 82%+ (Aug 2026)
Non-fossil power capacity	Ministry of Power	Crossed 300 GW on 9 August 2026
Global GI comparison	WIPO / Ministry of Commerce	India: 600+ GI tags (most in the world); EU has 3,500+



DEFENCE & SECURITY

Missiles, Nuclear Deterrence & Strategic Forces

Asset	Type	Range / Capacity	Status
Agni-4	Two-stage, solid-fuel IRBM	~4,000 km (covers all major Chinese cities)	Tested by Strategic Forces Command – fully inducted, not a trial
PFBR (Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor)	Fast Breeder Reactor, Kalpakkam	–	Pre-criticality; criticality expected 2026-27
Bharat Small Modular Reactors (BSMR/BSR)	Small Modular Reactor	<300 MW each	Under development for remote/industrial deployment

Naval, Air Force & Defence Industry

Asset	Type	Built By	Status / Key Fact
DSC A24	Diving Support Craft (harbour/shallow-water)	Indian shipyard	5th of 8 planned
INS Nipun	Diving Support Vessel (deep-sea, 300m+)	Private shipyard (follows INS Nistar, L&T Kattupalli)	2nd indigenous DSV
INS Mangrol	Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft	Cochin Shipyard Limited	3rd of 8 planned
INS Samarthak	Multi-Purpose Vessel	Goa Shipyard Limited	1st indigenous MPV
Next Generation OPV	Offshore Patrol Vessel	Indian shipyard	Begins expanded coast-guard/naval patrol programme
DRDO missile Transfer of Technology	Astra, Akash, Prithvi, Pinaka, Nag, MRSAM	DRDO → private industry	Ends Bharat Dynamics Ltd's manufacturing monopoly
Defence Export SOP + OGEL	Export licensing framework	Ministry of Defence	Single-window, UK-OGEL-style approval
Indigenous micro/small gas turbines	Engine for UAVs, cruise missiles, loitering munitions	CSIR-NAL	Fills India's jet-propulsion gap (after Kaveri engine failure)



Asset	Type	Built By	Status / Key Fact
Javelin anti-tank missile	Fire-and-forget ATGM	US (procurement); Spike used meanwhile	16-year procurement saga; India chose Israel's Spike in 2014

Exercises, Strategic Dialogues & Internal Security

Exercise / Dialogue	Partner Country	Focus	Key Number
Pitch Black 2026	Australia	Multinational air combat exercise	20+ nations, 140+ aircraft; IAF flew Su-30MKI
Udara Shakti 2026	Malaysia	Bilateral air exercise	Malaysia flies the related Su-30MKM
India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue	New Zealand	Maritime security, intel sharing, HADR	2nd edition; NZ is a Five Eyes member
India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee	Kuwait	Defence cooperation (inaugural)	1 million+ Indian diaspora in Kuwait
West Bengal-BSF border land transfer	Bangladesh border	Border fencing infrastructure	State shares 2,216.7 km (~54%) of the border
AI-enabled cyberattacks	—	Phishing, deepfakes, zero-day discovery at scale	Critical infrastructure (incl. nuclear) flagged as a target
US authorises private 'hacking back'	—	Firms can join govt-sanctioned cyber operations	Targets Transnational Criminal Organisations