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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. India and Malaysia hold 2nd Joint Working Group Meeting on governance reforms.

[22 AUG 2026] -



The 2nd India-Malaysia Joint Working Group Meeting on Public Administration and Governance Reforms was held on 18 August 2026. The meeting focused on Malaysia-India Governance Partnership Strategic Roadmap 2027-2029 and use of digital technologies in public-service delivery.

Key Highlights:

- India and Malaysia held the 2nd Joint Working Group Meeting on Public Administration and Governance Reforms.
- The meeting was co-chaired by Puneet Yadav and Datuk Dr Mohd Bukhari bin Ismail.
- India and Malaysia elevated their relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August 2024.
- Discussions focused on Malaysia-India Governance Partnership Strategic Roadmap for 2027-2029.
- India presented CPGRAMS for citizen grievance redressal.
- Samadhan Didi AI-enabled voice chatbot was highlighted for multilingual citizen-centric governance.
- Capacity-building cooperation involves NCGG and Public Service Department of Malaysia.
- Focus areas include Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud Services and Cybersecurity in public services.

Additional Information:

- DARPG works under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- DARPG is nodal department for administrative reforms and citizen grievance redressal.
- NCGG was established in 2014 as autonomous institution under Government of India.
- NCGG headquarters is in New Delhi and registered office is in Mussoorie.
- ITEC was established in 1964 for technical assistance and capacity building in developing countries.

2. India hosts 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026.

[22 AUG 2026] -



India hosted the Eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit virtually on 17 August 2026 under its BRICS Chairship. The summit focused on clean energy deployment, youth cooperation, energy access and technological innovation.

Key Highlights:

- India hosted the 8th BRICS Youth Energy Summit virtually.
- The 2026 BRICS Chairship theme was Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.
- The Energy Track theme was Energy for All, meaning Energy for All.
- Key discussion pillars were Energy Security and Sustainability, Energy Access and Equity, and Technology and Innovation.
- More than 100 young energy professionals participated in the summit.
- BRICS Youth Energy Agency, International Solar Alliance and IRENA participated in the event.
- India highlighted PM-KUSUM, PM Surya Ghar, SHANTI Act, RDSS and India Energy Stack initiatives.
- The summit featured BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence on Smart Grids and Energy Storage.

Additional Information:

- BRICS was formed in 2009 and South Africa joined in 2010.
- BRICS expanded in 2024 with Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and UAE.
- International Solar Alliance was launched by India and France in 2015 during COP21.
- ISA headquarters is in Gurugram, India.
- PM-KUSUM was launched in 2019 to promote solar pumps and solar power plants for farmers.

3. India to host 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in 2027.

[22 AUG 2026] -



India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in New Delhi in February 2027. The summit will coincide with the Swarnim Jayanti or Golden Jubilee of the Indian Coast Guard and will focus on maritime safety, security, capacity building and international cooperation.

Key Highlights:

- India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in New Delhi in February 2027.
- The summit will coincide with the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Coast Guard.
- Indian Coast Guard will organise the summit.
- A Working Level Meeting was held in hybrid mode to refine guidelines and Information Sharing Mechanism.
- The summit reflects Bharat MAHASAGAR vision for collaborative and inclusive maritime order.
- Focus will be on exchange of professional expertise and collective capability building.
- Deliberations will cover safety, security and well-being of global maritime commons.
- The official Coast Guard Global Summit website and future Activity Calendar will also be reviewed.

Additional Information:

- Indian Coast Guard was established on 1 February 1977.
- It was formally constituted under Coast Guard Act, 1978.
- Indian Coast Guard works under Ministry of Defence.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- Its motto is Vayam Rakshamah, meaning We Protect.
- It protects India Exclusive Economic Zone.

4. Cabinet approves four railway multitracking projects worth ₹9,450 crore.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved four railway multitracking projects worth ₹9,450 crore on 20 August 2026. These projects will add about 410 km of railway network across West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

Key Highlights:

- CCEA approved four railway multitracking projects worth ₹9,450 crore.
- Projects will add about 410 km railway network across eight districts in four states.
- Kharagpur-Bhadrak Ranital 4th line will cover 173 km in West Bengal and Odisha.
- Bhadrak-Haridaspur 4th line will cover 75 km in Odisha.
- Gummidipundi-Gudur 3rd and 4th line will cover 90 km in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- Cuttack-Paradeep Badabandha 3rd and 4th line will cover 72 km in Odisha.
- Projects are scheduled to be completed by 2030-31.
- Expected additional freight traffic is 76 MTPA.
- Projects will connect 6,448 villages and population of about 60 lakh.
- They are expected to reduce oil imports by 13 crore litres and CO2 emissions by 65 crore kg.

Additional Information:

- Indian Railways was nationalised in 1951.
- Indian Railways has 19 zones including Metro Railway Kolkata.
- Indian Railways headquarters is in New Delhi.
- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan was launched in October 2021 for multimodal connectivity.

5. Cabinet approves four-laning of NH-22 section in Bihar.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved four-laning of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in Bihar on 20 August 2026. The 82.578 km highway project will be developed under Hybrid Annuity Mode at total capital cost of ₹3,590.73 crore.

Key Highlights:

- CCEA approved four-laning of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in Bihar.
- Project length is 82.578 km.
- Project will be executed under Hybrid Annuity Mode.
- Total capital cost is ₹3,590.73 crore.
- Road is designed for 100 kmph speed with average speed of 80 kmph.
- Project includes seven major bridges, including 340 metre bridge over Bagmati River.
- It also includes three Railway Over Bridges and two flyovers.
- Corridor connects India-Nepal border at Sonbarsa with NH-27 at Muzaffarpur.
- It will connect five economic nodes, four social nodes and key logistics nodes.

Additional Information:

- NH-22 connects Sonbarsa in Bihar with Chandwa in Jharkhand.
- Bagmati River flows through Kathmandu Valley in Nepal before entering Bihar.
- PM Gati Shakti was launched in October 2021 for integrated infrastructure planning.
- Hybrid Annuity Mode combines government support and private-sector participation in road projects.

6. Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan portal transitions to SAMAVESH.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Department of Social Justice and Empowerment transitioned Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan portal to newly developed SAMAVESH portal on 20 August 2026. The transition is intended to improve accessibility and functionality of India anti-substance-abuse mission platform.

Key Highlights:

- Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan portal was transitioned to SAMAVESH portal.
- Department of Social Justice and Empowerment announced the transition.
- Dr Sandeep R Rathod, Joint Secretary for Drug Prevention, announced the change.
- SAMAVESH will improve accessibility and functionality for users.
- Portal includes NMBA e-Pledge for public pledges against drug abuse.
- Nasha Mukti Mitra Registration module enables volunteer and stakeholder registration.
- NMBA Login provides administrative and stakeholder access.
- Earlier nmba.dosje.gov.in address has been discontinued.

Additional Information:

- Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan was launched on 15 August 2020.
- It aims to tackle substance abuse in India.
- The programme focuses on institutional support and community outreach in 372 vulnerable districts.
- It is implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Department of Social Justice and Empowerment headquarters is in New Delhi.

7. Delhi Airport expands transshipment cargo operations.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu flagged off scaled-up phase of India transshipment cargo reform at Indira Gandhi International Airport on 19 August 2026. The revised framework removes mandatory re-screening for secured transshipment cargo moved through Transfer Cargo Security Hold Areas.

Key Highlights:

- Scaled-up transshipment cargo reform was launched at IGI Airport, Delhi.
- The framework eliminates mandatory re-screening for secured transshipment cargo.
- Cargo is moved through Transfer Cargo Security Hold Areas.
- Average end-to-end transit time reduced from 60 hours to 20 hours.
- Aircraft capacity utilisation increased from 75 percent to nearly 100 percent.
- Monthly cargo carriage is projected to rise by 80 percent from 1,763 MT to 3,183 MT.
- Proof of Concept began on Chennai-Delhi-Frankfurt route on 20 June 2026.
- Air India transshipped 280 MT cargo during Proof of Concept.
- New domestic origin stations are Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad.
- New international destinations are London and Copenhagen.

Additional Information:

- BCAS was initially established as a cell in 1978.
- BCAS became an independent department under Ministry of Civil Aviation in 1987.
- IGI Airport is managed by Delhi International Airport Limited.
- Transshipment Excellence Centre is located at Terminal 2 of IGI Airport.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation headquarters is Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. India unemployment rate falls to 5.1 percent in July 2026.

[22 AUG 2026] -



National Statistics Office Periodic Labour Force Survey Monthly Bulletin reported that India unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above declined to 5.1 percent in July 2026. The unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in June 2026, while labour force participation and worker population ratio increased.

Key Highlights:

- India unemployment rate declined to 5.1 percent in July 2026 from 5.5 percent in June 2026.
- The figures apply to persons aged 15 years and above.
- Male unemployment rate declined to 5 percent from 5.3 percent.
- Urban unemployment rate was 6.7 percent.
- Rural unemployment rate declined to 4.5 percent from 5 percent.
- Overall Labour Force Participation Rate rose to 55.4 percent from 54.4 percent.
- Female LFPR increased to 34.4 percent from 32.7 percent.
- Worker Population Ratio increased to 52.5 percent from 51.4 percent.
- Survey used Current Weekly Status approach.

Additional Information:

- NSO works under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- NSO was created by merger of NSSO and CSO.
- PLFS was launched in April 2017.
- PLFS provides frequent employment and unemployment estimates for rural and urban areas.

2. ICRA estimates India Q1 FY27 GDP growth at 7 percent.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Rating agency ICRA estimated that India real GDP growth would moderate to 7 percent in the April-June quarter of FY 2026-27. The estimate represents a four-quarter low, compared with 7.8 percent growth recorded in Q4 FY 2025-26.

Key Highlights:

- ICRA estimated India real GDP growth at 7 percent in Q1 FY 2026-27.
- The April-June quarter growth estimate is a four-quarter low.
- Growth is expected to decline from 7.8 percent in Q4 FY 2025-26.
- Full-year real GDP growth for FY27 is projected at 6.7 percent.
- India real GDP growth in FY26 was 7.7 percent.
- Industrial sector growth is projected at 7.7 percent.
- Services sector growth is estimated at 7.9 percent.
- Agriculture sector growth is projected at 4 percent.
- Nominal GDP growth is expected to rise to a four-year high of 13 percent in FY27.
- Forecast assumes average crude oil price of USD 80-85 per barrel in FY27.

Additional Information:

- ICRA is an Indian independent credit rating and investment information agency.
- ICRA was established in 1991.
- ICRA is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.
- Moody Corporation holds majority stake in ICRA.

SPORTS

1. 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament begins in New Delhi.

[22 AUG 2026] -



The 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament commenced at Dr B R Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi on 18 August 2026. The tournament has 108 teams competing in Sub-Junior Boys U-15, Junior Boys U-17 and Junior Girls U-17 categories.

Key Highlights:

- 65th Subroto Cup began at Dr B R Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi.
- A total of 108 teams are participating in the tournament.
- Competition categories are Sub-Junior Boys U-15, Junior Boys U-17 and Junior Girls U-17.
- Each category has eight groups.
- Only group winners qualify for knockout stages and finals.
- Air Marshal S Sivakumar was chief guest at inaugural ceremony.
- Lovepreet Singh was guest of honour at opening event.
- Meghalaya defeated Chandigarh 2-0 in opening Junior Girls U-17 match.
- Genefa and Wandari scored goals for Meghalaya.

Additional Information:

- Subroto Cup was first held in 1960.
- It is named after Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee, first Indian Chief of Air Staff.
- Tournament is organised by Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society and Indian Air Force.
- It is one of Asia largest youth football tournaments.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Photography Day observed on 19 August.

[22 AUG 2026] -



World Photography Day is observed every year on 19 August to celebrate the history, science and art of photography. The day commemorates the 1839 announcement of daguerreotype, one of the first practical methods of producing permanent photographs.

Key Highlights:

- World Photography Day is observed annually on 19 August.
- The day celebrates history, science and art of photography.
- It marks the 1839 invention and public announcement of daguerreotype.
- French government purchased patent for daguerreotype process in 1839.
- France announced the invention as a free gift to the world on 19 August 1839.
- Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce developed the process.
- First global online World Photography Day gallery event was held on 19 August 2010.

Additional Information:

- Daguerreotype is considered first practical method for permanent image capture.
- The process was developed in France during 1830s.
- It used silver-plated copper sheets to record light.
- First global digital celebration of World Photography Day took place in 2010.

2. Sadbhavana Diwas observed across India on 20 August.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day was observed across India on 20 August 2026 to mark the 82nd birth anniversary

of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The day promotes peace, national integration and communal harmony among people of all religions and communities.

Key Highlights:

- Sadbhavana Diwas is observed annually on 20 August.
- It marks birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- The day promotes peace, national integration and communal harmony.
- Sadbhavana is Sanskrit word meaning Goodwill and Bonafide.
- The observance encourages citizens to avoid violence and foster goodwill.
- Sadbhavana Diwas was first observed on 20 August 1992.
- It was instituted in memory of Rajiv Gandhi after his assassination in 1991.

Additional Information:

- Rajiv Gandhi was born on 20 August 1944.
- Rajiv Gandhi served as the youngest Prime Minister of India.
- The day was instituted one year after his death.
- The observance supports vision of a unified and harmonious nation.

GENERAL & OTHER NEWS

1. Maharashtra declares snakebite a notifiable disease.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Maharashtra Public Health Department declared snakebite a notifiable disease on 20 August 2026 to ensure mandatory reporting, improve treatment effectiveness and reduce mortality. Maharashtra became the ninth state in India to declare snakebite a notifiable disease.

Key Highlights:

- Maharashtra declared snakebite a notifiable disease.
- All government and private healthcare facilities must report suspected, probable and confirmed snakebite cases.

- Reports will be sent to District Health Officer or District Civil Surgeon.
- Data will be integrated with Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and DHIS-2 platforms.
- Director Hospitals will function as State Nodal Officer.
- Maharashtra became ninth state in India to declare snakebite notifiable disease.
- Hospitals must maintain real-time records of Anti-Snake Venom procurement, usage and stock.
- The policy aims to identify high-risk areas such as Gadchiroli and improve anti-snake venom supply chain.

Additional Information:

- Notifiable disease is legally required to be reported to government authorities.
- IDSP was launched in November 2004 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- IDSP strengthens disease surveillance and response.
- Maharashtra was established on 1 May 1960.
- Capital of Maharashtra is Mumbai and winter capital is Nagpur.

2. Tamil Nadu extends third-child maternity leave to one year.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Tamil Nadu government announced on 18 August 2026 that maternity leave for female government employees for third child will be extended from 12 weeks to 365 days. The policy now provides uniform one-year maternity leave for first, second and third child.

Key Highlights:

- Tamil Nadu extended maternity leave for third child to 365 days.
- The earlier leave period for third child was 84 days or 12 weeks.
- Female government employees will receive uniform one-year leave for first, second and third child.
- Policy applies to regular female government employees of Tamil Nadu.

- The announcement was made by Human Resources Management Minister D Sarathkumar in State Assembly.
- One-year benefit was earlier restricted to women with fewer than two surviving children.
- The decision follows Supreme Court directions and state amendments on maternity benefits.

Additional Information:

- Tamil Nadu increased maternity leave from 90 days to six months in 2011.
- Leave was extended to nine months in 2016.
- Leave became 365 days for first two children in July 2021.
- Maternity Benefit Amendment Act, 2017 increased paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.
- Tamil Nadu capital is Chennai and Chief Minister is M K Stalin.

3. J&K Bank partners with HDFC Life for insurance offerings.

[22 AUG 2026] -



J&K Bank entered into Corporate Agency Agreement with HDFC Life on 18 August 2026 to expand its bancassurance portfolio. The partnership will provide individual and group life insurance products covering protection, savings, investment and retirement planning.

Key Highlights:

- J&K Bank entered Corporate Agency Agreement with HDFC Life.
- Agreement aims to expand bancassurance portfolio of J&K Bank.
- Customers will receive individual and group insurance solutions.
- Offerings cover protection, savings, investment and retirement planning products.
- Partnership supports IRDAI vision of Insurance for All by 2047.
- Agreement was announced by Amitava Chatterjee, MD and CEO of J&K Bank.
- Vibha Padalkar, MD and CEO of HDFC Life, also announced the agreement.

Additional Information:

- J&K Bank was established on 1 October 1938.
- J&K Bank headquarters is in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is a Scheduled Commercial Bank and state-owned bank.
- HDFC Life was established in 2000.
- HDFC Life headquarters is in Mumbai.
- Bancassurance is partnership where bank sells insurance products to its customers.

4. ESPN co-founder William F Rasmussen passes away at 93.

[22 AUG 2026] -



William F Rasmussen, co-founder of ESPN and pioneer of 24-hour sports cable television, passed away at age 93 in Seattle, Washington on 20 August 2026. He launched ESPN in 1979 with his son Scott Rasmussen in Bristol, Connecticut.

Key Highlights:

- William F Rasmussen passed away at age 93 in Seattle, Washington.
- He co-founded ESPN with his son Scott Rasmussen in 1979.
- ESPN was launched in Bristol, Connecticut.
- He is credited with concept of world first 24-hour sports cable television network.
- USA Today named him Father of Sports Television in 1994.
- He was inducted into Connecticut Sports Museum and Hall of Fame in 1997.
- He was inducted into Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2025.
- He authored Sports Junkies Rejoice! The Birth of ESPN.
- He published ESPN: One Giant Leap for Fankind in 2023.

Additional Information:

- ESPN stands for Entertainment and Sports Programming Network.
- ESPN is world first 24-hour sports cable television network.
- ESPN commenced operations in 1979.
- ESPN headquarters is in Bristol, Connecticut, USA.

- William F Rasmussen was born on 15 October 1932 in Chicago, USA.

5. Lakshmanan Meyyappan becomes world youngest male Chartered Accountant.

[22 AUG 2026] -



Indian-origin teenager Lakshmanan Meyyappan was recognised by Guinness World Records as world youngest male Chartered Accountant. He achieved the qualification at age 16 years and 170 days in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Key Highlights:

- Lakshmanan Meyyappan was recognised as world youngest male Chartered Accountant.
- He achieved the record at age 16 years and 170 days.
- The record qualification was achieved in Dubai, UAE.
- He completed qualification on 30 June 2021.
- The record was formally announced in February 2026.
- He completed ACCA qualification in approximately one year.
- He also holds Chartered Financial Analyst charter.
- He works as Senior Research Analyst at Century Financial in Dubai.
- He started ACCA preparation at age 15 after Class 10 board examination results during pandemic.

Additional Information:

- ACCA is global professional body for chartered certified accountants.
- ACCA was established in 1904.
- ACCA headquarters is in London, United Kingdom.
- CFA is credential related to investment management.
- Guinness World Records was originally established in 1955 as Guinness Book of Records.