

National News & Governance

- 80th Independence Day Celebrations:** India commemorates 79 years of freedom from British colonial rule. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the Tricolour at the Red Fort in New Delhi and delivered his 13th consecutive Independence Day address.
- Official Themes:** The dual themes for 2026 are "150 Years of Vande Mataram" and "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047".
- Saptadhara Reform Plan & Real-Time AI Speech:** The Prime Minister unveiled a 7-point reform roadmap titled Saptadhara focusing on youth, skilling, and technology. The address was translated live into 22 Indian languages using Digital India's BHASHINI AI platform.
- SVAMITVA Scheme Milestone:** Over 3.25 crore property cards have been issued to rural households, unlocking an estimated ₹140 lakh crore in economic potential for rural credit access.

Q1. What is the official theme for India's 80th Independence Day celebrated on August 15, 2026?

- [A] Naya Bharat @2047
- [B] 150 Years of Vande Mataram & Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047
- [C] Digital India & Atmanirbhar Bharat
- [D] Har Ghar Tiranga & Sashakt Nari

Answer: [B]

Explanation: The Ministry of Culture designated "150 Years of Vande Mataram" alongside "Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047" as the twin themes for 2026.

Defense & Security News

- Gallantry & Service Medals 2026:** The Ministry of Home Affairs announced **1,057 Medals** for Police, Fire, Home Guard, and Correctional Services. This includes 301 Medals for Gallantry (GM), 92 President's Medals for Distinguished Service (PSM), and 664 Medals for Meritorious Service (MSM).
- Record Defence Production & Exports:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced domestic defence production reached a record **₹1.78 lakh crore** in FY 2025-26. Defence exports reached an all-time high of **₹38,424 crore**, supplying products to over 80 countries.
- Exercise Udara Shakti 2026:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) conducted the bilateral air exercise Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia, featuring Rafale fighters and C-17 transport aircraft.

Defense Indicator	FY 2013-14 / 2014	FY 2025-26 / 2026-27
Domestic Defence Production	₹46,000 Crore	₹1.78 Lakh Crore
Defence Exports	₹686 Crore	₹38,424 Crore
Defence Budget Outlay	₹2.53 Lakh Crore	₹7.85 Lakh Crore

Q2. How many total personnel were awarded Gallantry and Service Medals on the occasion of Independence Day 2026?

- [A] 857
- [B] 957
- [C] 1,057

- [D] 1,157

Answer: [C]

Explanation: A total of 1,057 personnel from Police, Fire, Home Guard, and Correctional Services were awarded medals by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Economics, Banking & Corporate Affairs

- **Bank of America–Jio Credit Stake Deal:** Bank of America signed an agreement to acquire up to **49.9% stake in Jio Credit**, in a deal valued at approximately **₹18,268 crore**.
- **NUCFDC Headquarters Inauguration:** Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the new premises of the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Mumbai to strengthen urban cooperative banking institutions.
- **RBI MPC Rate Stance:** The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee retained the Repo Rate at **6.25%**, maintaining a projected real GDP growth rate of **7.2%** for FY 2026–27.

Q3. Bank of America agreed to acquire up to 49.9% stake in which Indian entity in August 2026?

- [A] Jio Credit
- [B] Tata Capital
- [C] Bajaj Finance
- [D] Aditya Birla Capital

Answer: [A]

Explanation: Bank of America finalized a deal worth ₹18,268 crore to buy up to 49.9% stake in Jio Credit.

MoUs, International News & Govt Schemes

- **India–SACU Trade Negotiations:** India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)—comprising South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini—signed Terms of Reference to commence negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).
- **NITI Aayog & BHASHINI Partnership:** NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent with the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) to integrate voice-first, multilingual AI tools into rural governance frameworks.
- **Sandhya Kiran Scheme:** The Karnataka state government approved the "Sandhya Kiran" healthcare scheme aimed at expanding social security cover for senior citizens.

Q4. Which regional group signed Terms of Reference with India in August 2026 to negotiate a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)?

- [A] Southern African Customs Union (SACU)
- [B] Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- [C] East African Community (EAC)
- [D] Mercosur

Answer: [A]

Explanation: India and SACU signed Terms of Reference to begin negotiations for a comprehensive Preferential Trade Agreement.

Sports & Appointments

- **Indian School of Coaching Excellence:** Launched jointly by two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra and Chief National Badminton Coach Pullela Gopichand to create a standardized national ecosystem for elite sports coaching.



- **Commonwealth Shooting Championship 2026:** India finished top of the leaderboard at the championship, securing **14 Gold medals**.

Q5. Who jointly launched the 'Indian School of Coaching Excellence' initiative in August 2026?

- [A] Abhinav Bindra & Rahul Dravid
- [B] Neeraj Chopra & Pullela Gopichand
- [C] PV Sindhu & Mary Kom
- [D] Sachin Tendulkar & Sunil Chhetri

Answer: [B]

Explanation: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and badminton legend Pullela Gopichand launched the initiative to develop high-performance sports coaches in India.

Important Days, Art & Culture, Anniversaries

- **August 15 – 80th Independence Day of India:** Marks the culmination of freedom struggle and birth of independent India in 1947.
- **August 15 – Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo (1872–1950):** 154th birth anniversary of the nationalist leader, philosopher, poet, and founder of Integral Yoga.
- **150 Years of Vande Mataram:** Commemoration of the 150th year of the national song composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1876.

Q6. August 15 marks the birth anniversary of which prominent Indian philosopher and freedom fighter?

- [A] Swami Vivekananda
- [B] Sri Aurobindo
- [C] Rabindranath Tagore
- [D] Swami Dayananda Saraswati

Answer: [B]

Explanation: Sri Aurobindo was born on August 15, 1872, in Kolkata. His birth anniversary coincides with India's Independence Day.

National News

Q1. What is the official theme of India's 80th Independence Day celebrated on 15 August 2026?

(A) Har Ghar Tiranga & Swadeshi Kranti

Vajiram & Ravi

(B) Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047 & 150 Years of Vande Mataram

(C) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Sankalp se Siddhi

(D) Nation First, Always First

• Answer: (B)

• Detailed Explanation:

India celebrates its 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026, marking 79 completed years of independence from British colonial rule (1947–2026). The Press Information Bureau (PIB) and Ministry of Culture announced the twin central themes for 2026:

1. **"Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047":** Focuses on leveraging youth power, innovation, digital transformation (6G, AI, Semiconductors), and green transition to achieve a developed nation status by the centenary year 2047.
2. **"150 Years of Vande Mataram":** Commemorates 150 years since Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the national song Vande Mataram in 1876.

Q2. The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) designated the 140-year-old Parichha Weir as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS). In which state is it located?

(A) Madhya Pradesh

- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Rajasthan
- (D) Bihar

- **Answer: (B)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

The 140-year-old Parichha Weir, built on the Betwa River in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, received the prestigious World Heritage Irrigation Structure (WHIS) status by ICID. Built during the 19th century under colonial engineering with traditional lime mortar masonry, it continues to supply irrigation and drinking water across Bundelkhand.

Q3. Which Indian state received central approval to establish Asia's first Desert-Themed Night Safari at Juna Deesa?

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Haryana
- (D) Punjab

- **Answer: (B)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

Gujarat secured formal clearance to set up Asia's first Desert Zoological Park and Night Safari spread over 103 hectares at Juna Deesa in Banaskantha district. The project will showcase arid eco-systems, nocturnal desert fauna (such as desert foxes, caracals, chinkara), and promote eco-tourism along the Indo-Pak border region.

International News

Q4. India signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to initiate Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) negotiations with which 5-member African customs union?

- (A) SACU (Southern African Customs Union)

- (B) EAC (East African Community)
- (C) ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)
- (D) COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)—comprising **South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini**—signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Established in 1910, SACU is the world's oldest customs union. The PTA aims to lower tariffs on specific bilateral commodities, boosting India-Africa trade.

Q5. A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck off Flores Island on 15 August 2026. In which country is Flores Island located?

- (A) Philippines
- (B) Indonesia
- (C) Japan
- (D) Papua New Guinea

- **Answer: (B)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

A shallow 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit off the coast of Flores Island, East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia, prompting coastal tsunami warnings. Flores lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a seismically active belt prone to frequent subduction zone earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Q6. High-profile fugitive Virender Singh Basoya was extradited to India through coordinated NCB and diplomatic action from which nation?

- (A) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- (B) United Kingdom
- (C) Canada

(D) Thailand

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

Virender Singh Basoya, wanted in major international narcotics distribution syndicates, was extradited from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to India via Joint NCB-CBI operations under the India-UAE Bilateral Extradition Treaty.

Economics & Banking

Q7. Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the corporate office of National Urban Co-operative Finance & Development Corporation (NUCFDC) in Mumbai during which event?

- (A) Sahkar Nav-Kranti
- (B) Sahkar Se Samridhi
- (C) DigiCoop Conclave 2026
- (D) Urban Banking Summit

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the operational headquarters of NUCFDC (the RBI-approved Non-Banking Financial Company acting as an umbrella organization for Urban Cooperative Banks) during the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' program in Mumbai. The initiative targets upgrading IT infrastructure, core banking solutions (CBS), and cybersecurity protocols for UCBs nationwide.

Q8. MCX and NISM signed an MoU to establish a dedicated 'Centre for Commodity Markets' housed at which venue?

- (A) NISM Campus, Navi Mumbai
- (B) BSE Towers, Mumbai
- (C) RBI Academy, Pune

(D) IIM Ahmedabad

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

The Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) and the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) established the **MCX-NISM Centre for Commodity Markets** at NISM. It will conduct applied research on commodity derivatives, corporate risk hedging, market integrity, and build a talent pipeline of certified commodity market professionals.

Q9. Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala, rolled out its first rake of LHB broad-gauge passenger coaches for export to which country?

- (A) Nepal
- (B) Bangladesh
- (C) Sri Lanka
- (D) Bhutan

- **Answer: (B)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

The Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala, Punjab, dispatched the first rake of modern Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) broad-gauge passenger coaches to Bangladesh Railway under line-of-credit funding to modernize intercity rail transit.

Defense News

Q10. 'Exercise Udara Shakti 2026' is a bilateral air combat exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and which country's air force?

- (A) Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)
- (B) Republic of Singapore Air Force
- (C) Royal Thai Air Force
- (D) Indonesian Air Force

- **Answer: (A)**



• **Detailed Explanation:**

'Exercise Udara Shakti 2026' was hosted between the IAF and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF). The exercise involves complex aerial combat maneuvers, visual range (WVR) combat, operational integration of Sukhoi Su-30 platforms, and tactical defense cooperation in the ASEAN region.

Q11. What unique milestone marked the 80th Independence Day ceremony at Red Fort under the 'Atmanirbhar Defence' initiative?

- (A) 100% of ceremonial artillery and guard equipment used were indigenously built in India
- (B) First-ever display of foreign-built fighter jets over Red Fort
- (C) All-women foreign military contingent led the parade
- (D) Deployment of foreign defense attachés as flag bearers

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

For the first time in India's history, all equipment, weapons, and ceremonial artillery (including 105mm Indian Field Guns used for the 21-gun salute) at the 2026 Red Fort Independence Day function were 100% indigenously manufactured.

Appointments

Q12. Russia appointed which former Chief Justice of India (CJI) as its arbitrator in an international investment treaty dispute filed by Ukraine's Oschadbank?

- (A) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- (B) Justice U.U. Lalit
- (C) Justice N.V. Ramana
- (D) Justice S.A. Bobde

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The Russian Federation designated former Chief Justice of India **D.Y. Chandrachud** as its official arbitrator in an international investment arbitration case filed by Ukraine's state bank, Oschadbank, over claimed expropriated assets.

Q13. Dr. Bhooma V.G. (Retd. IRPS) was appointed to lead which overseas institute?

- (A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute, Mauritius
- (B) Mahatma Gandhi Cultural Centre, Fiji
- (C) India-Kenya Skill Development Hub, Nairobi
- (D) SAARC Leadership Academy, Kathmandu

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Dr. Bhooma V.G., a retired officer of the Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS), was selected to head the **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute** in Mauritius, aimed at facilitating educational exchange, public administration training, and strategic bilateral programs.

Awards & Honors

Q14. On Independence Day 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced 1,057 Medals. Personnel from which state received the maximum number of Gallantry Medals?

- (A) Chhattisgarh
- (B) Jharkhand
- (C) Jammu & Kashmir
- (D) Assam

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Out of 301 Medals for Gallantry (GM), **Chhattisgarh** secured the highest awardees. A major highlight was 35 Bastar Fighter Constables—a specialized force—comprising



local youth and surrendered Maoists—being decorated for anti-LWE counter-insurgency operations.

Q15. How many total 'President's Medals for Distinguished Service' (PSM) were awarded on Independence Day 2026 across Police, Fire, and Civil Defense services?

(A) 92

ANI News

(B) 301

(C) 664

(D) 105

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The Ministry of Home Affairs conferred a total of 1,057 personnel with awards:

- **Medal for Gallantry (GM):** 301
- **President's Medal for Distinguished Service (PSM):** 92
- **Medal for Meritorious Service (MSM):** 664

Q16. Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia released a commemorative postage stamp marking the birth centenary of which legendary Indian artist?

(A) Satish Gujral

(B) M.F. Husain

(C) S.H. Raza

(D) Tyeb Mehta

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

A commemorative postage stamp was unveiled at Bikaner House, New Delhi, celebrating the birth centenary of **Satish Gujral** (1925–2020), a Padma Vibhushan-winning painter, sculptor,

muralist, and architect (who designed the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi).

Books & Authors

Q17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the autobiography of 14th President Ram Nath Kovind. What is its title?

(A) Triumph of the Indian Republic

(B) Reflections on the Constitution

(C) My Presidential Years

(D) Democracy & Duty

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The autobiography titled "**Triumph of the Indian Republic**", written by former President Ram Nath Kovind (who served as India's 14th President from 2017 to 2022), was released by PM Narendra Modi. It chronicles Kovind's early life, legal career, constitutional stewardship, and judicial thoughts.

Q18. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Climate Change presented its 412th report recommending a National Policy on which forest component to curb Himalayan wildfires?

(A) Pine Needles

(B) Sal Leaves

(C) Bamboo Stems

(D) Teak Resin

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

The Parliamentary Panel recommended a comprehensive **National Pine Needle Policy** to biomass-harvest dry pine needles (Pirul) across Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Dry pine needles are highly inflammable and cause destructive seasonal forest fires. Harvesting them creates bio-briquettes, bio-gas, and rural employment.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

Q19. NUCFDC signed an MoU with which premier national university to provide digital forensics and cybersecurity capabilities to Urban Cooperative Banks?

- (A) National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar
- (B) Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
- (C) IIT Bombay
- (D) IISc Bengaluru

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

NUCFDC partnered with NFSU Gandhinagar to extend subsidized cybersecurity auditing, incident mitigation, vulnerability assessments, and digital forensics services to small Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) vulnerable to cyber fraud.

Q20. Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated 'IIHT SUTRA 2026', the first National Conclave of Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology, in which city?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Varanasi
- (C) Surat
- (D) Coimbatore

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Inaugurated in New Delhi, 'IIHT SUTRA 2026' focused on technology adoption, eco-friendly natural dyes, modern loom designs, market linkage, and skill modernization for weavers across India.

Q21. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) released ₹15.52 crore in Access and Benefit

Sharing (ABS) proceeds derived from which crop?

- (A) Mustard
- (B) Basmati Rice
- (C) Cotton
- (D) Turmeric

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Under the Biological Diversity Act, the NBA distributed ₹15.52 crore collected as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) royalties from commercial commercialization of mustard genetic resources back to local farmers and germplasm conservators.

National & International Important Days

Q22. Which day is observed annually across India on 14 August to remember the trauma and sacrifices of the 1947 Partition?

- (A) Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas (Partition Horrors Remembrance Day)
- (B) Rashtriya Ekta Diwas
- (C) Freedom Martyrs Day
- (D) Swatantrata Sankalp Diwas

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Declared in 2021, August 14 is observed as Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas (Partition Horrors Remembrance Day) to honor the millions displaced and killed during the 1947 Partition of India.

Q23. International Left-Handers Day is celebrated globally on August 13. Which specific gene variant was highlighted in 2026 research linked to brain asymmetry?

- (A) TUBB4B
- (B) BRCA1



(C) FOXP2

(D) ACE2

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Observed on August 13, International Left-Handers Day highlights inclusivity. 2026 genetic studies highlighted rare coding variants in the **TUBB4B** gene, which regulates tubulin microtubules and drives functional brain hemisphere asymmetry.

Art & Culture / Festivals

Q24. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed Vande Mataram in 1876. In which novel was it later published in 1882?

(A) Anandamath

(B) Durgeshnondini

(C) Kapalkundala

(D) Devi Chaudhurani

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Vande Mataram was written in November 1876 and later incorporated into Bankim Chandra's classic Bengali political novel **Anandamath** (1882), set during the Sannyasi Rebellion. Rabindranath Tagore sang it publicly for the first time at the 1896 Indian National Congress session.

Q25. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs partnered with which organization to host 'Tribes Art Fest (TAF) 2026'?

(A) FICCI

(B) CII

(C) ASSOCHAM

(D) NITI Aayog

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Organized jointly by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **FICCI**, TAF 2026 displayed indigenous tribal art forms including Gond, Warli, Pithora, Dokra craft, and Saora art to connect tribal artisans directly with global art markets.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q26. Former Prime Minister Zhu Rongji passed away recently. He was known for major state-owned enterprise (SOE) reforms in which country?

(A) China

(B) South Korea

(C) Japan

(D) Vietnam

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**

Zhu Rongji served as the Premier of China (1998-2003). Dubbed the "Iron-Faced Premier," he restructured China's struggling State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), modernized banking systems, and negotiated China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001.

Q27. August 15 marks the birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo Ghose (born 1872). Which historic nationalist journal did he edit starting in 1906?

(A) Bande Mataram

(B) Young India

(C) Harijan

(D) New India

• **Answer: (A)**

• **Detailed Explanation:**



Sri Aurobindo Ghose (15 Aug 1872 – 5 Dec 1950) was a philosopher, yogi, and freedom fighter. In 1906, he edited the radical English nationalist newspaper **Bande Mataram** (founded by Bipin Chandra Pal), advocating passive resistance and complete independence (Purna Swaraj).

Environment, Science & Sports

Q28. According to the State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026 report by CSE, how many of the 9 'Planetary Boundaries' have now been breached globally?

- A) 7
- (B) 5
- (C) 6
- (D) 8

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

The SOE 2026 report confirmed that **7 out of 9 planetary boundaries** have been breached, with **Ocean Acidification** becoming the 7th crossed boundary (joining Climate Change, Biosphere Integrity, Land System Change, Freshwater Depletion, Biogeochemical Flows, and Novel Entities).

Q29. Which football team stormed into the quarterfinals of the 135th Durand Cup with a 6-0 victory over CISF Protectors in August 2026?

- (A) Mohun Bagan Super Giant
- (B) East Bengal FC
- (C) Bengaluru FC
- (D) Mohammedan SC

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

Mohun Bagan Super Giant topped Group A to qualify for the 135th IndianOil Durand Cup quarterfinals following a 6-0 win over CISF

Protectors at Kishore Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata, featured by a hat-trick from midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad.

Q30. Lead researcher Prof. S.D. Biju, known as the "Frogman of India," announced new amphibian discoveries following field studies in which biodiversity hotspot?

- (A) Northeast India
- (B) Western Ghats
- (C) Andaman Islands
- (D) Western Himalayas

- **Answer: (A)**
- **Detailed Explanation:**

Prof. S.D. Biju ("Frogman of India") published 15-year field research documenting new endemic bush frog and caecilian species discovered in the biodiversity-rich ecosystems of **Northeast India**.