

Important Days & Observances (22 August 2026)

- **Madras Day (22 August)**
- **Historical Context:** Marks the founding of the city of Madras (now Chennai) on August 22, 1639, when British East India Company factor Francis Day and Andrew Cogan purchased a strip of coastal land from Damarla Venkatadri Nayaka, ruler of the Vandavasi region.
- **Exam Takeaway:** The grant allowed the construction of Fort St. George, which became the nucleus of the Madras Presidency.
- **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (22 August)**
- **Designated By:** United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/73/296 adopted in 2019).
- **Focus:** Promotes human rights, interfaith dialogue, and freedom of thought, conscience, and religion.

National News

- **High Court Bench in Ladakh Approved**
- **Details:** The Union Cabinet approved the creation of a permanent bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh (with sittings in Leh and Kargil).
- **Significance:** J&K High Court had two principal seats in Srinagar and Jammu; Leh becomes the third judicial seat, resolving logistical hurdles for high-altitude litigants.
- **National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources**

- **Organization:** Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- **Key Highlights:** Released during CMLRE's Silver Jubilee celebrations in Kochi, Kerala, detailing stock assessments across India's 2.37 million sq. km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

International News

- **BRICS Tourism & Youth Ministerial Meetings**
- **Tourism Track:** BRICS Tourism Ministers unanimously adopted the **Jaipur Declaration 2026** in Jaipur, focusing on sustainable, resilient, and digitised tourism ecosystems.
- **Youth Track:** The BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting convened in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship.

Economics & Banking

- **India-ADB \$230 Million Water Infrastructure Deal**
- **Agreement:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$230 million loan agreement.
- **Objective:** Modernise climate-resilient water supply and urban sanitation infrastructure in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- **India's Forex Reserves Reach \$716.9 Billion**
- **Details:** Foreign Exchange Reserves reached a six-month high of \$716.9 billion, driven by foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows and valuation gains.
- **Static Note:** India's Forex reserves comprise Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), Gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with the IMF.



Defense News

- India-Japan Strategic Defense Bilateral
 - Visit: Defense Minister of Japan, Shinjiro Koizumi, held bilateral talks with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.
 - Outcome: DRDO and Japan's Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) agreed to deepen joint technological development in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and maritime security tech.
- Terrier Cyber Quest 2026 (TCQ 3.0)
 - Organizer: Territorial Army in collaboration with CyberPeace.
 - Purpose: A national-level cyber defense initiative aiming to identify talent and fortify military defense capabilities against cyber warfare.

Scheme / MoU	Stakeholders	Objective / Key Detail
Startup Ecosystem Growth	DPIIT & PhonePe	Strategic partnership to accelerate digital payment innovation and mentorship for fintech startups.

Sports

- Lausanne Diamond League 2026
 - Event: Javelin Throw.
 - Highlight: Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra secured 2nd place with a season-best throw of 88.x meters.

Government Schemes & MoUs

Scheme / MoU	Stakeholders	Objective / Key Detail
PM GatiShakti Portal Integration	MeitY, DPIIT & PhonePe	Integration of PhonePe PulsePro transactional insights into the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan portal (managed via BISAG-N) for data-driven infrastructure and logistics planning.

Art, Culture & Festivals

- Onam Harvest Festival (Kerala)
 - Cultural Significance: Celebrates the annual homecoming of legendary King Mahabali.
 - Key Elements: Features Pookalam (floral carpets), Vallam Kali (snake boat races), Kathakali classical dance, Pulikali (tiger dance), and the traditional 26-item feast Onam Sadya.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

- Deng Xiaoping (Birth Anniversary — August 22, 1904)
 - Role: Chinese statesman and reformer known as the "Architect of Modern China," who instituted market-oriented economic reforms ("Socialism with Chinese characteristics") and established Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

- **Ray Bradbury (Birth Anniversary — August 22, 1920)**
- **Role:** Renowned American author of dystopian and science fiction literature, best known for the novel Fahrenheit 451 and short story collection The Martian Chronicles.

National News & Judiciary

Q1. A 9-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India delivered a verdict regarding the definition of 'Industry' under Indian labour law. Which 1978 landmark judgment's 'triple test' did the court retain for pending cases under the repealed Industrial Disputes Act, 1947?

- (A) EXCEL Wear v. Union of India
- (B) Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa
- (C) Workmen of Dimakuchi Tea Estate v. Management
- (D) State of Bombay v. Hospital Mazdoor Sabha

- **Answer:** (B) Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa
- **Explanation:** A 9-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant ruled on the definition of "industry" under Indian labour law. The court unanimously agreed to retain the 1978 Bangalore Water Supply "triple test" (systematic activity, organized employer-employee cooperation, and production/distribution of goods/services) for all pending cases under the Industrial Disputes Act (IDA), 1947, while clarifying that future disputes will be governed by the new Industrial Relations (IR) Code. Details of the ruling were highlighted by

Q2. The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a permanent bench of the

common High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in which location?

- (A) Kargil
- (B) Leh
- (C) Union Territory of Ladakh
- (D) Anantnag

- **Answer:** (C) Union Territory of Ladakh
- **Explanation:** The Union Cabinet approved the creation of a permanent bench of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The common High Court previously functioned from Srinagar and Jammu; the upcoming Ladakh bench will serve as its third judicial seat to ensure accessible and timely justice for residents of remote Himalayan regions. Further coverage is provided by

Q3. Which zonal railway of Indian Railways launched its longest-ever freight train, named 'Awadh Mahashakti', operating across Uttar Pradesh?

- (A) Northern Railway (NR)
- (B) North Eastern Railway (NER)
- (C) East Central Railway (ECR)
- (D) North Central Railway (NCR)

- **Answer:** (B) Northeastern Railway (NER)
- **Explanation:** The Northeastern Railway (NER) successfully operated its longest freight train composition, titled 'Awadh Mahashakti'. The long-haul freight train covered a distance of approximately 160 km between Gonda and Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh at an average speed of 42 km/h in 3 hours and 50 minutes. As reported by the initiative improves freight throughput and track utilization efficiency.

Q4. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu proposed a high-speed



bullet train network connecting which three southern states to spur regional economic growth toward a \$10 trillion economy by 2047?

- (A) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha
- (B) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu
- (C) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra
- (D) Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Karnataka

- **Answer:** (B) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu
- **Explanation:** Highlighting that Southern Indian states have the potential to build a collective \$10 trillion economy by 2047, Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu called for enhanced inter-state infrastructure collaboration, including a dedicated bullet-train corridor connecting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Coverage was detailed by Indiatimes.

Defense & International Relations

Q5. India signed a Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on Maritime Security Cooperation to strengthen naval coordination and reciprocal port access with which country?

- (A) Australia
- (B) Japan
- (C) France
- (D) United States

- **Answer:** (B) Japan
- **Explanation:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi co-chaired the Japan-India Defence Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi. Both nations signed a historic Memorandum of Arrangement (MoA) on Maritime Security Cooperation. The pact

expands joint coordination between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), reciprocal logistics support, ship maintenance, and mine countermeasures. Detailed reporting is available at .

Q6. The United States imposed a 50% tariff penalty on \$20 billion worth of import products originating from which neighboring ally after bilateral talks stalled?

- (A) Mexico
- (B) Canada
- (C) United Kingdom
- (D) Germany

- **Answer:** (B) Canada
- **Explanation:** Escalating trade tensions, the U.S. government announced 50% import tariffs targeting \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods after emergency trade negotiations failed. Canadian officials confirmed immediate retaliatory countermeasures, as reported by .

Q7. Mohammed Shahabuddin stepped down from office under Article 54 of his country's Constitution, leading to the first contested presidential election in 35 years in which nation?

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

- **Answer:** (C) Bangladesh
- **Explanation:** Following the resignation of President Mohammed Shahabuddin under Article 54 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, the country initiated electoral proceedings for its presidency. This marks the first



contested presidential election process in Bangladesh in 35 years, documented by

Q8. India signed a Government-to-Government (G2G) MoU on Oil and Gas Cooperation along with a 5-year Petroleum Supply Agreement with which island nation in the Indian Ocean?

- (A) Seychelles
- (B) Mauritius
- (C) Madagascar
- (D) Sri Lanka

• **Answer:** (B) Mauritius

• **Explanation:** India and Mauritius signed a bilateral G2G MoU for broader energy sector collaboration, alongside a 5-year long-term Petroleum Supply Pact executed by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to supply refined petroleum products to Mauritius. Financial and trade terms were outlined by

Economics & Banking

Q9. Who among the following was appointed as a part-time, non-official director on the restructured Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- (A) K. Sivan
- (B) S. Somanath
- (C) Dr. K. Radhakrishnan
- (D) A. S. Kiran Kumar

• **Answer:** (B) S. Somanath

• **Explanation:** The Cabinet Committee on Appointments restructured the RBI Central Board, reducing its total strength from 15 to 11 members. Former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath was appointed as a part-time, non-official director, while industrialist Anand Mahindra was reappointed for a secondary four-year term. Full analysis was published by .

Q10. IDFC FIRST Bank issued its maiden USD 500 million fixed-rate bond through its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in which financial hub?

- (A) GIFT City, Gandhinagar
- (B) BKC, Mumbai
- (C) Cyber City, Gurugram
- (D) Financial District, Hyderabad

• **Answer:** (A) GIFT City, Gandhinagar

• **Explanation:** IDFC FIRST Bank completed its debut international bond offering of USD 500 million (3-year tenure at a 5.625% coupon rate) under Regulation S format through its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar. The issue secured an investment-grade rating of 'BBB-' from S&P Global Ratings, as reported by.

Q11. Rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) revised India's Real GDP growth projection for Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) upward to what percentage?

- (A) 6.5%
- (B) 6.7%
- (C) 6.8%
- (D) 7.2%

• **Answer:** (C) 6.8%

• **Explanation:** India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points to 6.8% (up from 6.7%). The revision was primarily driven by expected softer international crude oil prices reducing import costs, though downside risk factors remain monitored. The economic update was detailed by .

Q12. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) barred which health insurance company from opening



any new place of business or branches for six months due to regulatory non-compliance?

- (A) Star Health Insurance
- (B) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- (C) Care Health Insurance
- (D) Aditya Birla Health Insurance

- **Answer:** (B) Niva Bupa Health Insurance
- **Explanation:** IRDAI penalised Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited by prohibiting it from expanding its branch network or opening new business offices for six months. The administrative action was invoked due to the insurer's non-compliance with statutory Expense of Management.

Q13. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) proposed creating a specific sub-target within the mandatory 40% Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norm for scheduled commercial banks. What is the proposed sub-target for climate and transition finance?

- (A) 1.0%
- (B) 2.0%
- (C) 3.5%
- (D) 5.0%

- **Answer:** (B) 2.0%
- **Explanation:** Public Sector Banks recommended carving out a dedicated 2% sub-target for green energy, climate resilience, and transition projects from the existing 40% Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) Priority Sector Lending requirement. Currently, PSL targets prioritize agriculture (18%), micro-enterprises (7.5%), and weaker sections (12%).

Appointments & Committees

Q14. Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Raj Kumar Goyal launched which upgraded online portal to streamline second appeals and complaints under the RTI Framework?

- (A) AppCoMS 2.0
- (B) RTI-Connect 3.0
- (C) Jan-RTI Portal
- (D) Samadhan 2.0

- **Answer:** (A) AppCoMS 2.0
- **Explanation:** The Central Information Commission (CIC) launched the upgraded Appeal and Complaint Management System (AppCoMS 2.0). Inaugurated by CIC Raj Kumar Goyal, the portal utilizes digital automation to accelerate docket processing, hearing schedules, and file indexing.

Q15. Senior member and Co-Chairperson Y.R. Sadasiva Reddy demanded the resignation of the incumbent Chairperson of which statutory legal body over tenure and administrative disputes?

- (A) Law Commission of India
- (B) Bar Council of India (BCI)
- (C) National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)
- (D) Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)

- **Answer:** (B) Bar Council of India (BCI)
- **Explanation:** Internal administrative friction within the Bar Council of India (BCI) intensified as Co-Chairperson Y.R. Sadasiva Reddy publicly called for the resignation of long-serving BCI Chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra, seeking an independent probe into statutory governance procedures.

Q16. The High-Level Committee (HLC) that drafted recommendations for conducting



simultaneous elections ('One Nation, One Election') across India was chaired by whom?

- (A) Justice T. S. Thakur
- (B) Ram Nath Kovind
- (C) M. Venkaiah Naidu
- (D) Amitabh Kant

- **Answer:** (B) Ram Nath Kovind
- **Explanation:** The High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections was chaired by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind. The committee's landmark report recommended aligning elections for the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies in a phased framework to save administrative costs and avoid governance disruptions.

MoUs & Government Initiatives

Q17. Jindal Steel Limited signed an MoU with which premier academic institute to establish a dedicated Centre of Excellence (CoE) for high-strength steel research?

- (A) IIT Madras
- (B) IIT Bombay
- (C) IIT Hyderabad
- (D) IIT Roorkee

- **Answer:** (C) IIT Hyderabad
- **Explanation:** Jindal Steel Limited collaborated with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad to set up the Jindal Steel Centre of Excellence (CoE) at its Sangareddy campus in Telangana. The center focuses on R&D in high-strength, value-added metallurgical products,

Q18. Leading fintech company PhonePe signed MoUs with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and DPIIT to

integrate its data insights into which national master plan portal?

- (A) PM GatiShakti National Master Plan
- (B) Digital India Bhashini
- (C) National Logistics Portal (Marine)
- (D) PM SVANidhi Portal

- **Answer:** (A) PM GatiShakti National Master Plan
- **Explanation:** MeitY signed an MoU with PhonePe to integrate its PulsePro data analytics into the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan platform. Simultaneously, PhonePe partnered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to strengthen ecosystem support for Indian startups.

Q19. Under draft rules released by the Department of Atomic Energy for the SHANTI Act, how frequently will nuclear accident liability caps be reviewed by the government?

- (A) Every 3 years
- (B) Every 5 years
- (C) Every 7 years
- (D) Every 10 years

- **Answer:** (B) Every 5 years
- **Explanation:** The Department of Atomic Energy released draft operational rules under the SHANTI Act. The provisions establish a mandatory review of nuclear accident liability caps every 5 years, granting powers to calibrate compensation frameworks based on techno-economic factors,

Sports News

Q20. Which Indian women's doubles badminton pair won the Bronze Medal at the BWF World

Championships 2026 in New Delhi after defeating top-seeded Chinese opponents?

- (A) Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto
- (B) Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand
- (C) PV Sindhu and Sikki Reddy
- (D) Saina Nehwal and Jwala Gutta

- **Answer:** (B) Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand
- **Explanation:** India's world-ranked duo Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand secured a historic bronze medal at the BWF World Championships 2026 held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. They staged a 16-21, 21-15, 21-13 quarterfinal victory over China's Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian,

Q21. Indian Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra competed in the Athletissima meeting held at the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise as part of which athletic series?

- (A) World Athletics Continental Tour
- (B) Lausanne Diamond League 2026
- (C) Golden Spike Ostrava
- (D) Silesia Diamond League

- **Answer:** (B) Lausanne Diamond League 2026
- **Explanation:** Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra competed at the Lausanne Diamond League 2026 (Athletissima) hosted at the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise in Switzerland. This marked his third Diamond League outing of the season following a silver medal win at the Commonwealth Games,

Q22. Major Dhyan Chand, whose birth anniversary is commemorated annually as National Sports Day on 29 August, won Olympic

Gold Medals in field hockey in which trio of years?

- (A) 1924, 1928, 1932
- (B) 1928, 1932, 1936
- (C) 1932, 1936, 1948
- (D) 1936, 1948, 1952

- **Answer:** (B) 1928, 1932, 1936
- **Explanation:** Field hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand led India to three consecutive Olympic gold medals at the 1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles, and 1936 Berlin Games. His birthday on 29 August is celebrated across India as National Sports Day.

Science, Technology & Environment

Q23. NASA officially abandoned a \$30 million private rescue mission to re-boost which aging gamma-ray burst observatory space telescope?

- (A) Hubble Space Telescope
- (B) Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory
- (C) Chandra X-Ray Observatory
- (D) James Webb Space Telescope

- **Answer:** (B) Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory
- **Explanation:** NASA announced that the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory space telescope (launched in November 2004) will re-enter Earth's atmosphere after a private orbital re-boost mission ('Swift Boost') awarded to Arizona-based Katalyst Space failed due to electrical malfunctions.

Q24. As part of its Silver Jubilee celebrations in Kochi, the Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE) under MoES released a landmark national assessment report on marine resources in which zone?

- (A) Territorial Waters of India



- (B) Contiguous Zone of India
- (C) Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian EEZ
- (D) High Seas of the Southern Ocean
- **Answer:** (C) Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian EEZ
 - **Explanation:** CMLRE released the comprehensive National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) during its Silver Jubilee function in Kochi, Kerala. The document presents scientific data on deep-water living resources to support sustainable blue economy policies,

Art, Culture, Books & Important Days

Q25. Which United Nations international observance falls on 22 August every year to honor victims of faith-targeted persecution?

- (A) International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
- (B) International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- (C) International Day of Peace and Tolerance
- (D) World Humanitarian Day

- **Answer:** (B) International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- **Explanation:** The United Nations General Assembly established 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. The observance urges international action against intolerance, religious hatred, and violence directed at religious communities.

Q26. Celebrated in Western Odisha, what does the word 'Nuakhai' literally translate to in the local language?

- (A) New Dawn
- (B) New Rice / Eating New Food
- (C) First Rain
- (D) Golden Harvest

- **Answer:** (B) New Rice / Eating New Food
- **Explanation:** 'Nuakhai' (Nua = new, Khai = food) is the premier agricultural harvest festival of Western Odisha and neighboring districts of Chhattisgarh. Observed a day after Ganesh Chaturthi, farmers offer the season's newly harvested rice crop (Nabanna) to Deity Samaleswari before communal feast gatherings.

Q27. Who is the author of the analytical book Why Bharat Matters, examining India's contemporary geopolitical strategy and foreign relations?

- (A) Hardeep Singh Puri
- (B) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (C) Ajit Doval
- (D) Shashi Tharoor

- **Answer:** (B) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- **Explanation:** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar authored Why Bharat Matters, outlining India's strategic autonomy, global rebalancing, multipolar engagements, and civilizational diplomacy in the 21st century.

Q28. Under the revised 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' awards instituted by the Government of India, what is the upper age threshold for eligible applicants in the 'Vigyan Yuva' category?

- (A) 35 years
- (B) 40 years



(C) 45 years

(D) 50 years

• **Answer:** (C) 45 years

• **Explanation:** Under the unified Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar framework, the Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award recognizes exceptional young scientists, researchers, and innovators up to the age of 45.

• **Explanation:** Protests erupted in New Delhi following news of the demise of former MP Sajjan Kumar, who was serving a life sentence for his involvement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The 1984 anti-Sikh violence occurred in November 1984 following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Birth & Death Anniversaries

Q29. 'Sadbhavana Diwas' is observed nationwide on 20 August to mark the birth anniversary of which former Indian Prime Minister?

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru

(B) Indira Gandhi

(C) Rajiv Gandhi

(D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

• **Answer:** (C) Rajiv Gandhi

• **Explanation:** India observes 20 August as Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day) to honor the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, India's sixth Prime Minister. The day reinforces national integration, communal harmony, and non-violence.

Q30. Over 200 Sikh community members staged demonstrations in New Delhi following the death of former Congress MP and 1984 anti-Sikh riots convict Sajjan Kumar. In which year did the anti-Sikh riots take place?

(A) 1975

(B) 1984

(C) 1992

(D) 2002

• **Answer:** (B) 1984

