LATEST UPDATE CURRENT AFFAIRS AUGUST 2026

Commonwealth Games 2026

- The 23rd edition of the Commonwealth Games was held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August, 2026.



- This event continues a tradition started in 1930 and is managed by the Commonwealth Sport. The Games encourage top-level sports, international teamwork and cultural sharing. They also offer elite athletes a platform to showcase their skills.
- Finnie is the mascot for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Inspired by Scotland's national animal, the unicorn, Finnie has a unique traffic-cone horn and replaces Clyde, the mascot from the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.
- The event is supervised by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).



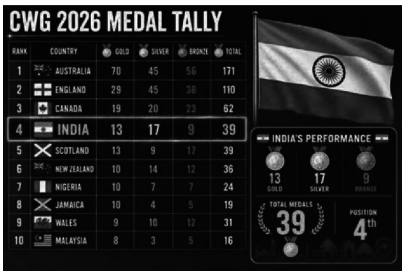
- In 2026, athletes from 74 Commonwealth nations and territories joined in 10 sports and 215 medal events.
- One major change is the introduction of indoor bowls for both able-bodied and para-athletes. Previously, lawn bowls were played on outdoor greens. This change does not alter the sport's basic rules.
- The Games begin with the opening ceremony, which includes the host country's flag, an athlete parade, artistic performances, and the arrival of the King's Baton, which ends its relay in the host city.
- The Baton Relay, first introduced in 1958 during the Cardiff Games, is one of the most recognised traditions of the Commonwealth Games, symbolising unity before the Games start.
- The Games end with all athletes entering the stadium together, regardless of their country. The Commonwealth Games flag is then handed over to the next host city's representatives, marking the official end of the Games.

Top Five Performers at the 2026 Commonwealth Games:

- **Australia:** 70 gold, 45 silver, 56 bronze — Total 171

OSWAL BOOKS

- **England:** 29 gold, 45 silver, 36 bronze — Total 110
- **Canada:** 19 gold, 20 silver, 23 bronze — Total 62
- **India:** 13 gold, 17 silver, 9 bronze — Total 39
- **Scotland:** 13 gold, 9 silver, 17 bronze — Total 39



Note: India and Scotland both had 39 total medals, but India ranked higher because it won more silver medals.

India's Position at Commonwealth Games 2026



- India finished in fourth place with 39 medals: 13 gold, 17 silver and 9 bronze. More than the medal count, India's performance showed its growing strength in women's sports, boxing, judo, athletics and para-sports.
- India won 10 medals in boxing, including 7 gold and 3 silver, which was its best-ever performance in boxing at the Commonwealth Games and the highest in Glasgow.
- India also made a historic breakthrough in judo. Asmita Dey won gold in the 48 kg category and Harsh Singh won gold in the 60 kg category. These were India's first Commonwealth Games gold medals in judo, showing that India's medal base is expanding beyond traditional strong areas.
- India also showed progress in track and field. Neeraj Chopra won silver in the javelin throw, Murali Sreeshankar won silver in the long jump, and Gulveer Singh won silver in 10,000 m and bronze in 5,000 m. These performances indicate India's growing capability in athletics.
- Sharmila Dhankar became the first Indian para-athlete to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal in para-athletics, winning gold in the women's shot put F57 category.
- Mirabai Chanu won her third consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal in weightlifting, making her one of India's most successful athletes at the Games.
- India's journey in the Commonwealth Games shows its growth as a sporting nation. India first took part in the 1934 Commonwealth Games and won its first gold medals in the 1958 Cardiff Games, in-

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cluding Milkha Singh's famous 440-yard victory. India's performance greatly improved after 2000, with its best showing at the 2010 New Delhi Games, where it won 101 medals and finished second to Australia. Since 2002, India has consistently been among the top five countries in the Commonwealth Games.

Commonwealth Games 2030

- Ahmedabad has officially started its journey as the host city for the Commonwealth Games 2030.
- Amdavad (Ahmedabad) was formally ratified as host of the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games on 26 November 2025. The Glasgow 2026 closing ceremony later included the ceremonial handover to the 2030 host.
- The closing ceremony at Glasgow's OVO Hydro Arena marked the official transfer of the honour from Scotland to India as the next host country.
- The handover of the flag to Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi was a key moment in the ceremony, symbolising the passing of the Commonwealth Games to Ahmedabad.
- This handover is important because it signals the start of preparation work for India as the host city for the centenary Commonwealth Games, which will take place in Ahmedabad.
- The event included a Scottish cultural performance, but later the audience was treated to a powerful showcase of Indian culture.
- India will host the Commonwealth Games for the second time in 2030, after previously hosting the 2010 Games in New Delhi.
- The 2030 edition will be a major milestone in India's sporting history.
- Additionally, the 2030 Games will mark the 100th anniversary of the Commonwealth Games.

AK-203 'SHER' RIFLE



- India has made a breakthrough in producing defence equipment made entirely within the country. On 24 August 2026, the first fully Indian-made AK-203 assault rifle, named 'Sher', was reported as successfully produced and test-fired.
- This rifle was made by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) at its factory in Korwa, Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.

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- The CEO and Managing Director of IRRPL, Maj. Gen. S. K. Sharma said that every part and material used in building the prototype was made in India, which is a big step towards full self-reliance as part of the 'Make In India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.
- IRRPL was established in 2019 as a joint venture between India and Russia to manufacture AK-203 rifles in India.
- The recent achievement marks the first time a 'Sher' has been made using 100% Indian components, which Maj. Gen. Sharma called 'genuine indigenisation'. The prototype has also passed successful firing tests, including burst fire.
- IRRPL is currently working on creating the required number of fully indigenous prototypes for trial by the Indian Army in September 2026. These trials will be a key step in validating the indigenous versions of the rifle against military standards.
- Maj. Gen. Sharma added that with improved production capacity, indigenisation and manufacturing efficiency, IRRPL could deliver around six lakh rifles ordered by the Indian Army almost a year ahead of schedule.
- The company also aims to boost its production capacity to build one AK-203 'Sher' rifle in just 100 seconds. This increased production capacity could support the Indian Army's efforts to replace its older INSAS rifles with new assault rifles.

Features of the AK-203 Rifle

- The AK-203 is a modern, gas-operated, 7.62×39 mm assault rifle based on the Kalashnikov design. It combines the reliability of the Kalashnikov platform with modern ergonomics and modular accessories. Some key features include:
  - Calibre: 7.62×39 mm
  - Rate of fire: 700 rounds per minute (rpm)
  - Range: 800 m
  - Gas-operated mechanism
  - Modern ergonomics
  - Modular accessories
  - Increased lethality and combat effectiveness

National News

- On 8 August 2026, the 11th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- On 8 August 2026, DPIIT signed five Memoranda of Understanding to strengthen India's Startup Ecosystem and Innovation.
- On 8 August 2026, Union Minister J.P. Nadda chaired a high-level CEO Round Table at the India Medical Device Conference 2026.
- On 8 August 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Urban Co-operative Finance

OSWAL BOOKS

and Development Corporation (NU-CFDC) office in Mumbai.

- On 21 August 2026, the Maharashtra government signed an MoU with Germany's Hesse state for investment, innovation and skills.
- On 24 August 2026, the Odisha government launched the 'Bidesh Sikhyabruti' scheme to fund foreign higher education for SC and ST students.
- On 20 August 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department signed a pact with the ISB to realise the forest economy's potential.
- On 24 August 2026, AIIA launched the 'Garbhini Mitra' course to strengthen Ayurveda-based maternal wellness support.
- On 26 August 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister launched the 'Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra'; women aged 60+ are to get free bus travel.
- On 28 August 2026, Gujarat launched its first state-level sports genomics programme.
- On 9 August 2026, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced a monthly pension of ₹10,000 for 325 Emergency-era protesters.
- On 8 August 2026, India made its first-ever sea export of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia.
- On August 29, 2026, the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, launched the state's first drinking water treatment project using ozone in Dehra, Kangra district. The government has allocated ₹46 crore for this initiative to enhance the quality of drinking water for the people.
- On 28 August 2026, Ladakh is preparing to receive sittings of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court following a new regulation notified by President Murmu, which aims to improve access to justice.
- On 28 August 2026, the Andhra Pradesh government approved the establishment of India's first Quantum and AI University Campus at Amaravati. This campus will be set up by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- On 27 August 2026, the Uttar Pradesh government launched its Startup Mission portal and Startup Policy 2026.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted over 24,000 startups, eight unicorns and new support measures.
- On 24 August 2026, the Bihar government launched the Vidya Sathi app to offer free 24-hour live academic support to nearly 3 lakh

OSWAL BOOKS

students in Classes 9–12 across 700 model schools.

- On 26 August 2026, the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly passed a resolution rejecting the exploration and mining of uranium in the North Eastern state. The resolution, introduced by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, received support from all 60 MLAs in the Assembly as they all voted in favour.
- On 25 August 2026, Mumbai made its debut in IWG's 2026 Work from Anywhere Index with a score of 77, becoming the only Indian city ranked globally for remote work and workcation appeal.
- On 22 August 2026, the Uttar Pradesh government approved 180 days of maternity leave twice in a career for female state government employees. The decision by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet allows female employees to take 180 days of maternity leave twice during their service period, removing the earlier requirement of a two-year gap between the two periods of leave.
- On 22 August 2026, West Bengal launched four toll-free helplines for reporting extortion, syndicate activities, illegal road and toll tax collections, and illegal liquor activities.
- On 18 August, 2026, the Tamil Nadu government announced 365 days of maternity leave for government women employees who have a third child, expanding the existing 12-week entitlement.
- Asia's first desert night safari is set to be built in Gujarat. Approved by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) on 12 August 2026, this project will be implemented by the Gujarat Forest Department.
- As per Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025, released on 26 November 2025, Uttar Pradesh was the largest milk-producing state in 2024-25, contributing 15.66% of India's total milk production.
- On 9 August 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colours to Puducherry Police, honouring their bravery, dedication and service.
- On 9 August 2026, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan launched 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- On 15 August 2026, India celebrated its 80th Independence Day, with emphasis on 150 Years of Vande Mataram and Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047.
- On 12 August 2026, the Parliament passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to rename the state as 'Keralam'.
- On 10 August 2026, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India began the rollout of 1601-series numbers for trusted service calls.

GSWAL BOOKS

- On 10 August 2026, India donated five peacocks, including the rare white peacock, to the UN Office in Geneva.
- On 6 August 2026, Squadron Leader Bhawana Kanth made history as the first woman to qualify as an IAF Fighter Combat Leader.
- On 11 August 2026, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released ₹21 crore+ scholarships for agriculture students via NSP-DBT.
- On 5 August 2026, the Ministry of Textiles held the GI and Beyond 2.0 Summit in New Delhi. The event aimed to show off India's GI-tagged handloom and handicraft products, and help promote them in both domestic and international markets.
- On 7 August 2026, the Odisha government announced the opening of India's first Rail-Tech Park in Sahaspur Industrial Estate, Khordha district. This park will create a special environment for companies that make railway equipment, parts and engineering products.
- On 6 August 2026, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Har Ghar Tiranga 2026 campaign, to be observed nationwide from 9 to 17 August 2026.
- On 3 August 2026, President Droupadi Murmu opened the Jagadguru Kripalu University in Cuttack district, Odisha. This marks the creation of a new higher education institution in the state.
- On 3 August 2026, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and the Government of Moscow signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). The agreement aims to improve urban development and smart mobility in Visakhapatnam.
- On 3 August 2026, the Department of Posts released a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate the birth centenary of Satish Gujral; Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia unveiled the stamp at Bikaner House, New Delhi.
- On 3 August 2026, Union Minister Giriraj Singh launched the Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology (CoE-HT) at IIT Delhi. This will help modernise the handloom sector through technology, innovation and research.
- On 1 August 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh. He also dedicated development projects worth over ₹17,900 crore to the nation. The airport, built under the Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model, costs over ₹5,640 crore and can handle 6 million passengers per year.
- On 3 August 2026, Esri India signed a Memorandum of Understanding

OSWAL BOOKS

(MoU) with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to work together on defence projects involving Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Location Intelligence and GeoAI.

- India will host the first Global South Film Festival in 2027. This was announced during the BRICS WAVES Bazaar in Mumbai on August 7, 2026. The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and National Film Archive of India (NFAI) signed agreements and had discussions with organisations from Brazil, Russia and Vietnam. They are also looking for co-production opportunities.
- Indonesia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology has partnered with the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation (IITM Global). The collaboration will focus on higher education, research and innovation, including deep technology, entrepreneurship and talent development. This will promote greater academic and technological cooperation between India and Indonesia.
- On 7 August 2026, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) launched India's first satellite-guided precision navigation system for helicopters at its airport in Bengaluru. The system, called Required Navigation Performance - Category H (RNP CAT H), allows for faster and more accurate take-offs and landings. This system was developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- On 3 August 2026, Glaw Lake became India's 101st Ramsar Site and it is the first for Arunachal Pradesh.
- On 5 August 2026, the Ministry of Tourism launched the 'As Seen on Netflix' initiative on the Incredible India platform.
- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan became India's most valuable celebrity brand in 2025. The India Celebrity Brand Valuation Report by Kroll, a global financial and risk advisory firm, stated that Shah Rukh Khan went from third place in 2024 to first in 2025. His brand value is estimated at $177.9 million.
- On 6 August 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan (National Circular Bioenergy Scheme), with a total budget of ₹23,731 crore. This scheme will be implemented from 2026–27 to 2035–36. It aims to boost Compressed Biogas (CBG) production by nearly ten times, position CBG as a major part of India's energy mix and create 1.5 lakh jobs.
- On 5 August 2026, the Ministry of Tourism, along with the Ministry of Culture and Netflix, organised a special event at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in New Delhi to celebrate ten years of Netflix in India.
- On 4–5 August 2026, the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) attended the tenth anniversary meeting of the South-East Asia

OSWAL BOOKS

Regulatory Network (SEARN) in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that the IPC has been recognised as the WHO-SEARN Regional Centre of Excellence in Pharmacovigilance.

- On 7 August 2026, Assam recorded the world's first release of the captive-bred slender-billed vultures.
- On 8 August 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Param Pragya AI Supercomputing Facility at IIT Delhi's 57th Convocation.
- On 12 August 2026, Indian Railways approved the deployment of Kavach 4.0 for 660 km route in Izzatnagar division at ₹295 crore.
- On 10 August 2026, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the NSP Initiative to provide monthly scholarships to agriculture students.
- On 12 August 2026, the Central Zoo Authority approved Asia's first desert-themed drive-through night safari in Gujarat.
- Ladakh hosted its first Black-necked Crane Festival from 11–14 August 2026 to promote conservation.
- On 13 August 2026, the Ministry of Textiles organised 'Srijan: Voices From the Loom' at India Habitat Centre to honour women weavers.
- On 12 August 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Gramin Gyan Setu' App to Connect Rural Libraries in Gujarat.
- On 12 August 2026, Union Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated IIHT SUTRA 2026, the first national conclave of handloom technology institutes.
- Parliament Monsoon Session 2026 concluded on 13 August 2026, after 19 Sittings; 12 bills passed by both houses.
- On 13 August 2026, President Draupadi Murmu conferred Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships and awards for 2024–25 to 115 artists.
- The 8th BRICS Oceanic and Polar Science working group meeting was held in Goa from 12–14 August 2026.
- On 13 August 2026, the Tamil Nadu government signed 97 MoUs worth ₹67,452 crore, expected to create over 1 lakh jobs.
- On 14 August 2026, Chandigarh became the 1st union territory to launch CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for PMGKAY food subsidy.
- On 13 August 2026, L&T secured a mega order to build India's largest single-cluster AI infrastructure in Chennai.
- On 14 August, 2026, the Delhi government approved 20% horizontal reservation for ex-agniveers in fire services and prison department posts.

OSWAL BOOKS

- On 9 August 2026, the BRICS competition authorities meeting was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- On 13 August, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the Sandhya Kiran Scheme, offering ₹5 lakh cashless healthcare cover to pensioners.
- India has officially crossed 300 GW of installed non-fossil fuel-based power capacity as of 31 July 2026.
- On 11 August 2026, the central government sanctioned an additional ₹1,000 crore under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme to boost electric two-wheelers.
- On 17 August 2026, India launched its first guide to grasslands and other open natural ecosystems at COP17.
- On 22 August 2026, UP Yuva Swarojgar Yojana 2026: ₹25 lakh loan for young entrepreneurs.
- On 18 August 2026, Vizhinjam Port officially began export-import operations.
- On 18 August 2026, PM CARES donations fell 30%, but the fund balance hit a record ₹8,452 crore.
- On 17 August 2026, Tata Power and IIT Bombay signed an agreement to accelerate innovation in clean energy and advanced power technologies.
- On 15 August 2026, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced the 'Vidyarthi Sahayahasta' scheme for rural students.
- On 18 August 2026, the first Kaushal Mahotsav 2026 was held in Dakshin Dinajpur district, West Bengal.
- On 17 August 2026, India hosted the eighth BRICS Youth Energy Summit 2026 virtually.
- On 21 August 2026, the 12th BRICS Communications Ministers Meeting was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
- On 21 August 2026, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated 'MALHAR 2026', which celebrates India's rich classical music heritage.

International News

- On 11 August 2026, the Lebanese parliament abolished the death penalty, replacing it with life imprisonment.
- On 15 August 2026, Qatar-India Postal Remittance Service based on PosTransfer was powered by UPI.
- On 18 August 2026, Zambia's president Hakainde Hichilema was re-elected for a second 5-year term.
- On 26 August 2026, Air India partnered with Drukair to expand India-Bhutan flight connectivity.
- On 20 August 2026, India and Japan signed a maritime security pact, deepening defence cooperation.
- On 20 August 2026, India and Mauritius signed a five-year agreement for petroleum product supply.
- The 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Ulaanbaatar,

DEWAL BOOKS

Mongolia, from 17–28 August 2026. The conference's theme was 'Restoring Land. Restoring Hope'. Discussions covered issues like land degradation, desertification, drought resilience and managing rangelands sustainably.

- On 29 August 2026, Ecuador, a South American country, issued a nationwide red alert due to El Niño. Officials were preparing for droughts, wildfires and other climate-related dangers.
- On 25 August 2026, India and China were working on implementing an eight-point agreement discussed during the 25th meeting of Special Representatives (SR) on the boundary issue. National security adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi met in Beijing to talk about maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and improving communication and border management processes.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Uzbekistan from 29–30 August 2026. This visit marked a significant step in strengthening India's ties with Central Asia. Uzbekistan honoured Modi with the Order of Oliy Darajali Do'stlik. Key outcomes included a long-term uranium supply deal, cooperation in critical minerals and support for India's permanent UN Security Council membership.
- On 29 August 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a major oil deal with Venezuela, granting the U.S. majority control over 65 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and attracting nearly $100 billion in investment.
- On 27 August 2026, Trump signed an executive order to rename Lake Ontario as "Lake America" for all federal purposes in the U.S. This decision came after rising tensions with Canada. The White House stated that the change was meant to highlight the lake's historical importance to the U.S.
- The 18th BRICS Summit will be held in India between 12 and 13 September 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. India will hold the BRICS chairmanship in 2026, with the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. This people-first theme aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Humanity First'.
- On 26 August 2026, Nepal experienced flash floods in Rasuwa, attributed to an ice and rock avalanche that caused a sudden rise in the local river system.
- On 24 August 2026, the U.S. government launched an initiative called 'Economic Outcast', a global campaign aimed at pressuring Iran economically. This effort is expected to cut off Iran's economic connections to all sources of income.

OSWAL BOOKS

- On 7 August 2026, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. This agreement reflects growing security dynamics in West Asia and is seen as a new 'triple alliance' or 'Sunni security triangle'. The purpose is to improve military cooperation, collective deterrence and regional security coordination.
- On 15 August 2026, Iran and Oman agreed on a route map for ships in the Strait of Hormuz, marking progress in improving navigation in this strategically important area.
- On 10 August 2026, Colombia declared a national emergency after a magnitude 7.4 earthquake hit western regions.
- On 4 August 2026, the Pacific Island nation of Nauru officially changed its name to the Republic of Naoero, restoring its traditional identity.
- Nathan Thomas, an engineering teacher in the U.S., became the youngest male professor in the world at the age of 18 years and 346 days.
- On 23 August 2026, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Lavrov in Moscow. During this visit, he co-chaired the 27th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC), alongside Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov.

Banking and Financial

- On 5 August 2026, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) the same as before, at 5.25%. This decision was based on a thorough evaluation of the latest developments in the economy and financial sector, along with future expectations.
- On 20 August 2026, Punjab National Bank signed a pact with the Indian Army to offer curated credit cards to army personnel.
- On 25 August 2026, the Ministry of Finance announced that Regional Rural Banks recorded an all-time high net profit of Rs 10,176 crore in FY2025-26.
- On 7 August 2026, State Bank of India (SBI) reported its highest quarterly net profit of Rs 21,121 crore for Q1 FY2026-27. This represents a 10% increase compared to the previous year's first quarter, which was ₹19,160 crore.
- On 5 August 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its plan to restart the process of granting new licences to Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), which had not been done for the past 20 years. This move is part of an 'on-tap' licensing approach.

SWAL BOOKS

- On 7 August 2026, IndusInd Bank received approval from the RBI to create a fully owned subsidiary that will handle stock broking activities. The approval also allows the bank to provide equity capital to this new subsidiary, provided it meets the conditions set by the RBI.
- On 1 August 2026, the government reported gross GST collections of Rs 2,11,205 crore for July 2026, up 15.4% year-on-year from Rs 1,83,065 crore in July 2025.
- On 1 August 2026, the Union Government transferred an additional tax devolution amount of ₹1,09,019 crore to the state governments, beyond the regular monthly transfer that was scheduled for 10 August.
- On 8 August 2026, IndusInd Bank received the RBI's approval to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary for stock broking.
- On 3 August 2026, Karnataka Bank launched a digital insurance portal called 'KBL Finsurance'.
- On 3 August 2026, HDFC Bank introduced two new savings accounts: 'Max for Seniors' and 'Max for Her'.
- India's unemployment rate rose to 5.4% in April–June 2026, as per a report published by the Periodic Labour Force Survey on 10 August 2026.
- On 2 July 2026, SBI Life Insurance partnered with J&K Bank to expand insurance access across J&K and Ladakh.
- On 12 August 2026, MoSPI reported that India's retail inflation rose to 4.45% in July 2026.
- On 14 August 2026, the RBI imposed a 59.20 lakh monetary penalty on IndusInd Bank for regulatory non-compliance.
- On 18 August 2026, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) raised India's FY27 GDP growth estimate to 6.8%.
- On 17 August 2026, YES Bank launched 'YES Essence', a women-focused credit card.
- On 17 August 2026, Airtel Payments Bank named Shabnam Sinha as its Chairperson for a three-year term effective 1 October 2026.
- On 20 August 2026, PhonePe Pulse-Pro signed an MoU with MeitY to power PM GatiShakti.
- On 21 August 2026, India and the Asian Development Bank signed a $230 million loan to upgrade the Chennai water system.
- On 20 August 2026, Wizzmoni partnered with Oman Air to launch an AI-powered co-branded 'Wizz Voyager' multi-currency travel card.

Appointments and Resignations

- On 10 August 2026, ED Director Rahul Navin got a one-year extension.
- On 10 August 2026, Gyanesh Bharti was appointed the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

OSWAL BOOKS

- On 25 August 2026, Ex-Delhi Police Commissioner Satish Golcha took over as Delhi Home Guards DG and will assume charge on October 07 2026.
- On 19 August 2026, Vibha Padalkar was re-appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of HDFC Life for a five-year term.
- On 25 August 2026, the World Bank Group appointed Yuko Keicho as Vice President and Auditor General.
- On 28 August 2026, Peyman Kargar was named the next Chief Executive Officer of TVS Motor Company.
- On 10 August 2026, Veena Khan was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of LIC International.
- On 11 August 2026, Andras Baka was elected Hungary's next president amid the Fidesz Boycott.
- On 11 August 2026, Bhooma VG (IRPS Retd) was selected as Vice-Chancellor of AIPSI in Mauritius.
- On 20 August 2026, Indriya, a jewellery brand of Aditya Birla Group, appointed Krithi Shetty as the brand ambassador for southern markets.
- On 12 August 2026, N. Chandrasekaran announced that he would not seek reappointment as Tata Sons Chairman after his current term ends on 20 February 2027.
- On 17 August 2026, senior IAS officer Anurag Jain took charge as NITI Aayog CEO.
- On 20 August 2026, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir was elected as the 23rd President of Bangladesh.
- On 20 August 2026, the Central Government appointed Somanath Sreedhara Panicker and reappointed Anand Mahindra as part-time, non-official directors on the RBI Central Board.
- On 3 August 2026, S. Rajeev started working as the Acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) after Praveen Kumar Srivastava's term ended. Rajeev was named Vigilance Commissioner on 9 February, 2024, and officially joined the Central Vigilance Commission on 11 March, 2024.
- On 5 August 2026, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) gave Dr T. V. Somanathan a one-year extension, letting him stay in his role as cabinet secretary past 30 August, 2026.
- On 5 August 2026, the Board of Directors of Air India named Tewolde Gebremariam as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD), taking over from Campbell Wilson.
- On 1 August 2026, Alexander George was suggested by the Board of Directors to be the new Managing Director of Muthoot Finance, starting on 1 October 2026, but this will depend on approval from the shareholders during the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).

OSWAAL BOOKS

- On 3 August 2026, Willie Walsh officially began his role as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo, India's biggest airline. He took over from Pieter Elbers, who left as CEO on 10 March 2026.
- On 1 August 2026, Air Marshal Tejpal Singh started his position as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) in the Indian Air Force (IAF). He replaced Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti in this role.
- On 1 August 2026, Manish Agarwal took charge as the General Manager (GM) of Integral Coach Factory (ICF), succeeding U. Subba Rao, who moved on to become the General Manager of Southern Railway.
- On 4 August 2026, IFS Officer Vishwesh Negi was appointed as India's Ambassador to Iran.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Monisha Chakraborty as an Executive Director, effective from 3 August 2026.

Awards

- On 8 August 2026, Indian Physicist Deepak Dhar was named recipient of the 2026 Dirac Medal.
- On 25 August 2026, a 19-year-old from Kerala, Kaziah Liz Mejo, was crowned Miss Universe India 2026.
- On 10 August 2026, IIT Roorkee's Dr Akanksha Tyagi received the INAE Young Engineer Award 2026.
- On 13 August 2026, Padma Gurmet was conferred the UT Ladakh State Award 2025 for promoting Sowa Rigpa and cultural heritage.
- On 17 August 2026, Indian Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth was conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by the Nepali President.
- On 5 August 2026, Annapurni Subramaniam, Director of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), was awarded the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026 at the 46th COSPAR General Assembly in Florence, Italy. She has become the first Indian woman and the fourth Indian to receive this prestigious medal. Previous Indian recipients were U. R. Rao (1996), Gurbax Singh Lakhina (2014) and Anil Bhardwaj (2024).
- On 17 August 2026, a total of 210 Indian peacekeepers in Sudan received prestigious UN medals.
- On 17 August 2026, Ashutosh Parida won the 47th Sarala Puraskar for his Odia poetry collection 'Bishwas De Pruthwi'.

Science

- On 10 August 2026, Meta launched 'Muse Glimmer', a new open-weight AI model for agentic tasks.
- On 11 August 2026, NASA invited ISRO to join the Moon Base Programme as India–U.S. space cooperation deepens.
- On 11 August 2026, VinSpace of Vietnam signed a deal with SpaceX to launch the first satellites in 2027.

OSWAL BOOKS

- On 13 August 2026, IN-Space approved India's first fully commercial earth observation satellite constellation.
- On 9 August 2026, Bengaluru-based Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled EVEREST, India's first privately developed 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion (FFSC) LOX-Methane rocket engine. With the development of EVEREST, India has become the fourth country to achieve FFSC engine technology, after Russia, the U.S. and China.
- On 19 August 2026, ESO announced the discovery of S301, the fastest known star in the Milky Way, orbiting the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A*.
- On 28 August 2026, Gujarat launched India's first sports genomics programme to combine genetics, sports science, physiology and nutrition for scientific athlete identification and high-performance training.
- On 24 August 2026, India launched its first non-GMO high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed in Andhra Pradesh, marking a major step towards indigenous seed innovation and agricultural self-reliance.
- On 23 August 2026, ISRO Chief V. Narayanan announced that India is going to establish the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035.
- On 18 August 2026, European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Sophie Adenot created history by becoming the first French female to conduct a spacewalk. Adenot also became the second European woman to conduct an Extravehicular Activity (EVA). The spacewalk was conducted by Sophie Adenot outside the International Space Station (ISS) together with NASA astronaut Anil Menon.
- On 5 August 2026, a four-tonne upper stage of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket accidentally struck the surface of the moon and is expected to create a new lunar crater, according to scientists.

Defence

- The 8th edition of Indian Navy–US Navy EOD Exercise 2026 was conducted in Kochi to boost Interoperability from 10–14 August 2026.
- On 24 August 2026, India test-fired the first 100% indigenous AK-203 'Sher' Rifle In Amethi.
- On 24 August 2026, the second India-New Zealand defence strategic dialogue was held in Wellington.
- On 27 August 2026, the Indian Navy received the first indigenous multi–purpose vessel 'Samarthak'.
- On 26 August 2026, DRDO successfully tested the military combat parachute system at 22,000 ft in Ladakh.
- On 28 August 2026, India and Kuwait held the first Joint Defence Committee meeting in New Delhi.

OSWAAL BOOKS

- On 28 August 2026, India signed the Javelin Missile Deal with the United States of America.
- On 11 August 2026, the Indian Navy's second next-generation offshore patrol vessel 'Shruti' was launched by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata.
- On 17 August 2026, India and Armenia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen defence industrial cooperation.
- On 14 August 2026, the 8th India–U.S. Navy explosive ordnance disposal exercise was concluded in Kochi, Kerala.
- The 15th edition of the India-Thailand Maitree Exercise took place from 18–31 August 2026.
- On 21 August 2026, Cochin Shipyard delivered the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft to the Indian Navy.
- The Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force have conducted the bilateral exercise 'Udara Shakti 2026' at Subang Air Base from 10–14 August 2026.
- On 10 August 2026, DRDO received a Government e-Marketplace (GeM) award at GeM's 10th Foundation Day celebrations.
- On 3 August 2026, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully concluded exercise ROTOR CLAP III at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The exercise focused on the theme "Counter-UAS", aimed at enhancing capabilities to detect, track and neutralise Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)/ drones.

Sports

- On 7 August 2026, Titli Maji won silver in the women's 45 kg event at the Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships.
- On 9 August 2026, Ashmita Chaliha became the first Indian to win the Korea Masters.
- On 23 August 2026, Lando Norris won the Dutch Grand Prix 2026.
- On 24 August 2026, India's Grandmaster Pranesh M. won the Chess Kanizsa Open title in Hungary.
- On 23 August 2026, India Open 2028 shifted to Guwahati due to the clash with Republic Day in New Delhi.
- On 22 August 2026, Treesa Jolly–Gayatri Gopichand won historic bronze at the Badminton World Championships.
- On 22 August 2026, R. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian Grand Chess Tour Champion.
- On 29 August 2026, Velavan Senthilkumar won the PSA Budapest Squash Open title in Hungary.
- On 9 August 2026, Maharajan Arumugapandian won silver in the 65 kg category at the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships.

OSWAAL BOOKS

- On 10 August 2026, Indian-origin chess players Bodhana Sivanandan and Shreyas Royal won major titles at the 2026 British Chess Championships.
- On 1 August 2026, the Union Cabinet approved an expanded Khelo India Scheme and increased support for National Sports Federations, with a total budget of ₹36,441 crore for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- On 1 August 2026, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won the doubles title at the Bonn Open 2026 by beating Scott Duncan from England and Adam Heinonen from Sweden in the final.
- On 3 August 2026, Harshita Jakhar from Rajasthan made history by becoming the first Indian woman cyclist to feature in the Tour de France Femmes, marking a significant achievement for Indian cycling.
- On 7 August 2026, Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa won the Grand Chess Tour St.Louis Rapid & Blitz title in the U.S. He secured the championship by drawing against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov in the penultimate round.
- On 3 August 2026, Ahmedabad received the Commonwealth Games Flag, set to host the 100th edition of the event in 2030.
- On 2 August 2026, Tanvi Sharma won her first BWF World Tour Title, becoming the youngest champion at the Taipei Open.
- On 7 August 2026, India's Mohammed Ashfaq set a new Under-20 National Record in the men's 400 metres at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Eugene, United States. He ran 45.81 seconds in Heat 5, improving his own previous record of 46.05 seconds.
- India has secured five honours at the 23rd International Linguistics Olympiad 2026 held in Romania from 26 July to 2 August 2026.
- On 13 August 2026, India created history by being crowned overall champions with 35 Medals at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship held in Lagos, Nigeria.
- On 14 August 2026, Iga Swiatek and Ben Shelton won Canadian Open Singles titles in Toronto and Montreal.
- On 15 August 2026, Magnus Carlsen won the Esports World Cup Chess Title 2026 for the second consecutive year.
- On 23 August 2026, East Bengal lifted the Durand Cup for the record equalling 17th time, defeating arch-rivals Mohun Bagan.

Books and Authors

- On 12 August 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, 'Triumph of the Indian Republic'.
- On 25 August 2026, Arindam Chaudhuri announced the launch of his next book, 'Africa Before America'.

SWAL BOOKS

- Biography of S. N. N. Sankaralinga Iyer, 'Cementing Legacies', authored by Balakumar, was released on 1 August 2026.
- Prashant Agrawal's 'Bringing the Cheetah Back to India' chronicles the story of Project Cheetah launched on 23 May 2026.

Important Days

- 1 August: World Wide Web Day
- 1 August: National Mountain Climbing Day
- 3 August: Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day
- 3 August: National Watermelon Day
- 7 August: National Handloom Day
- 6 August: International Day of Awareness of the Special Development Needs and Challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries
- 7 August: National Javelin Day
- 9 August: International Day of the World's Indigenous People (Theme 2026: "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being")
- 10 August: World Lion Day
- 10 August: International Biodiesel Day
- 11 August: World Steelpan Day
- 12 August: International Youth Day (Theme 2026: "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations")
- 10 August: World Biofuel Day
- 13 August: International Left-Handers Day
- 13 August: World Organ Donation Day
- 14 August: Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
- 14 August: World Lizard Day
- 19 August: World Humanitarian Day (Theme 2026: "Honouring fallen humanitarians and calling for greater protection of health care")
- 19 August: World Photography Day (Theme 2026: "home")
- 20 August: Sadbhavana Diwas
- 20 August: Indian Akshay Urja Day 2026
- 20 August: World Mosquito Day
- 21 August: World Senior Citizens Day
- 23 August: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade
- 23 August: National Space Day 2026 (Theme 2026: "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership.")
- 26 August: Women's Equality Day (Theme 2026: "Women Shaping a Sustainable Future")
- 26 August: Onam
- 26 August: International Dog Day 2026
- 29 August: National Sports Day in India (Theme 2026: "Honouring Major Dhyan Chand")
- 28 August: World Sanskrit Day
- 29 August: International Day Against Nuclear Tests 2026

OSWAL BOOKS

Obituaries

- On 12 August 2026, former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji passed away at the age of 97.
- On 16 August 2026, Bengali Film-maker Raja Sen passed away at the age of 71 in Kolkata.
- On 2 August 2026, Justice Manmohan Singh (M. S.) Liberhan, former Chief Justice and head of the Liberhan Commission, passed away at the age of 87.
- On 4 August 2026, Dr. D. Y. Patil, former Governor of Tripura and Bihar, passed away in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, at the age of 90.
- On 15 August 2026, National Award-winning Sculptor Chandrashekhar Shilpi passed away at the age of 75.
- On 20 August 2026, former Congress M.P. Sajjan Kumar, convicted in the anti-Sikh riots case, died at the age of 84.
- On 21 August 2026, Legendary Actor Sowcar Janaki died at the age of 94 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- On 25 August 2026, country music legend Dolly Parton passed away at the age of 80.
- On 25 August 2026, Veteran Film-maker Kuku Kohli passed away at the age of 77 after a cardiac arrest.
- On 14 August 2026, Yayoi Kusama, Japan's 'queen of polka dots', passed away at the age of 97.
- On 28 August 2026, Norway's King Harald passed away at the age of 89.
- On 27 August 2026, Uganda's King Oyo Nyimba passed away at the age of 34.

OSWAAL BOOKS