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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Abelardo de la Espriella sworn in as President of Colombia.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Abelardo de la Espriella was sworn in as President of Colombia on 7 August 2026, succeeding Gustavo Petro. His inauguration took place in Cali instead of Bogotá, making it a rare presidential inauguration outside Colombia's capital city.

Key Highlights:

- Abelardo de la Espriella succeeded Gustavo Petro as President of Colombia.
- The swearing-in ceremony was held at Pichincha Military Canton in Cali.
- He became the first Colombian President in recent history to be inaugurated outside Bogotá.
- The United States announced a USD 1 billion financial package for the new Colombian administration.
- The financial package will support crime reduction and energy-sector development.

Additional Information:

- Colombia is located in northwestern South America and has Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea coastlines.
- Bogotá is the capital of Colombia and Colombian Peso is its currency.
- Colombia's main exports include coffee, emeralds and coal.

2. Indian Railways merges Chitrakutdham Karwi and Pratapgarh Express.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Ministry of Railways approved merger of Chitrakutdham Karwi-Kanpur Central and Pratapgarh-Kanpur Central Express services on 8 August 2026. The merged train will improve direct connectivity between Bundelkhand and Awadh regions without changing trains at Kanpur Central.

Key Highlights:

- The merged train will operate as Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgarh-Chitrakutdham Karwi Express.
- The merged service will use train numbers 14123 and 14124.
- The train composition has been increased from 12 coaches to 24 coaches.
- The merger doubles seating capacity to reduce crowding on Kanpur-Pratapgarh section.
- The service creates direct rail connectivity between Pratapgarh, Lucknow region and Chitrakoot.
- Key stations include Bhimsen, Ghatampur, Hamirpur Road, Amethi, Rae Bareilly and Lucknow.
- Passengers will no longer need to change trains at Kanpur Central for this journey.

Additional Information:

- India's first passenger train ran between Bori Bunder and Thane on 16 April 1853.
- Indian Railways functions under the Ministry of Railways headquartered in New Delhi.
- Chitrakoot is a religious and cultural centre shared by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

3. DPIIT signs MoUs with five partners to support startups.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade signed MoUs with five industry partners on 8 August 2026 to support India's startup ecosystem, innovation and technology-led growth across fintech, cloud, mobility and clean technology sectors.

Key Highlights:

- DPIIT signed MoUs with Cashfree Payments, Darwin Dynamics, Vultr India, Cars24 and Council for Startup India.
- Cashfree Payments will provide risk management, identity verification and AI buildathon support.
- Vultr India will provide cloud credits and training in Kubernetes and storage technologies.
- Cars24 will promote automotive technology, road safety and AI-driven innovation.
- Darwin Dynamics will focus on clean energy, green hydrogen and climate technologies.
- The initiative is being implemented under Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Additional Information:

- DPIIT was established in 1995 and was reconstituted in 2019.
- DPIIT is the nodal agency for Startup India, Make in India and PM Gati Shakti initiatives.
- DPIIT is responsible for formulation of Foreign Direct Investment policy and is headquartered in New Delhi.

4. Railways introduces daily Itarsi-Madan Mahal passenger train.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Ministry of Railways approved the daily Itarsi-Madan Mahal passenger service in Madhya Pradesh on 8 August 2026. The new train will improve low-cost travel for commuters in the Jabalpur-Narmadapuram region.

Key Highlights:

- Train number 51673 will run from Itarsi to Madan Mahal.
- Train number 51674 will operate from Madan Mahal to Itarsi.
- The service will cover a distance of 242 kilometres.
- The journey time will be about 5 hours and 5 minutes.
- The route connects Jabalpur and Itarsi railway nodes.
- Key stops include Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Gadawara and Sridham.
- The service will benefit daily commuters and short-distance passengers.

Additional Information:

- Itarsi Junction is located in Narmadapuram district of Madhya Pradesh.
- Itarsi Junction falls under the West Central Railway zone.
- Indian Railways was nationalised in 1951.

5. CCRAS and BIS sign MoU for global Ayurveda quality standards.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and Bureau of Indian Standards signed an MoU on 7 August 2026 to create scientific quality benchmarks and global standards for Ayurveda products and practices.

Key Highlights:

- The agreement is BIS's 100th MoU with a research institution.
- It is BIS's first-ever partnership with an Ayush organisation.
- There are 128 active Indian Standards under the Ayurveda Sectional Committee.

- A total of 243 standards across Ayush domains were formulated in the last three years.
- The MoU will support development of Indian Standards and laboratory capabilities.
- It will strengthen conformity assessment for Ayurvedic products.
- Scientists from 30 CCRAS peripheral institutes will serve as Project Leaders.
- The framework aligns Ayurveda with ISO and NABL quality benchmarks.

Additional Information:

- CCRAS is the apex body for Ayurveda research under Ministry of Ayush.
- BIS is the statutory National Standards Body of India under BIS Act, 2016.
- BIS functions under Ministry of Consumer Affairs and is headquartered in New Delhi.

6. India and Russia discuss industrial modernisation cooperation.

[11 AUG 2026] -



The 12th India-Russia Working Group meeting on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation was held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, on 7 August 2026. Both countries discussed cooperation across railways, aerospace, defence, technology, mining and fertilisers.

Key Highlights:

- The Indian side was co-chaired by DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia.
- The Russian side was co-chaired by Deputy Minister Alexey Gruzdev.
- The countries discussed cooperation on Vande Bharat project and railway signalling modernisation.
- They considered joint production of SJ-100 regional aircraft and aero-engines.
- Talks covered unmanned aerial systems and propulsion technologies.
- Both sides discussed 3D printing, automation and carbon-fibre technologies.

- Cooperation on lithium, titanium, aluminium and rare earth elements was discussed.
- The group discussed a joint venture for urea production and long-term DAP-NPK supplies.

Additional Information:

- DPIIT operates under Ministry of Commerce and Industry and implements industrial policy.
- SJ-100 is a Russian regional jet developed by United Aircraft Corporation.
- Critical minerals include lithium, cobalt, nickel and graphite for high-tech and defence sectors.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1. Odisha secures ₹41,748 crore food-processing investment.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Odisha secured investment commitments worth ₹41,748 crore from 27 companies in food and agro processing during an investors' meet on 8 August 2026. The commitments are expected to expand processing capacity, support exports and create employment across the state.

Key Highlights:

- The first-day investment proposals totalled ₹43,437 crore in food and agro processing.
- MoUs accounted for ₹41,748 crore of the proposed investment.
- Twelve Investment Intent Forms accounted for a further ₹1,689 crore.
- The proposed investments are expected to create 43,316 jobs in Odisha.
- Odisha aims to expand its economy from USD 130 billion to USD 500 billion by 2036.
- The state has set a long-term economic target of USD 1.5 trillion by 2047.
- Seafood export target will rise from ₹5,000 crore to ₹25,000 crore through dedicated missions.

- The investors' meet was organised by Odisha Government with ASSOCHAM.

Additional Information:

- Odisha plans to generate one crore non-farm jobs by 2047.
- The state will implement Deep Sea Fishing Mission and Shrimp Export Mission.
- ASSOCHAM was established in 1920 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

2. APEDA exports first GI Mithila Makhana shipment by sea to Australia.

[11 AUG 2026] -



APEDA facilitated the first commercial sea shipment of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana from Bihar to Australia on 8 August 2026. The consignment demonstrates growing export opportunities for Bihar's premium agricultural products.

Key Highlights:

- The first sea consignment contained 18 metric tonnes of premium raw Mithila Makhana.
- The Makhana was sourced from farmers in Darbhanga district of Bihar.
- The consignment was flagged off from BIADA Industrial Area in Bihta, Bihar.
- M/s NIAD Green exported the consignment to Australia.
- M/s Jitban Supply Chain Private Limited handled logistics for the export.
- APEDA supported the initiative through its BHARATI export innovation scheme.
- The shipment generated 18 percent higher returns for farmers than prevailing market rates.
- Bihar contributes about 85 percent of India's total Makhana production.

Additional Information:

- Mithila Makhana received its Geographical Indication tag in August 2022.

- Mithila Makhana is cultivated mainly in Bihar's Mithila region and parts of Nepal.
- Makhana is obtained from the aquatic plant Euryale ferox.

3. KDEM and GoodWorks sign MoU for ₹5,000 crore GCC investment.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Karnataka Digital Economy Mission and GoodWorks Group signed an MoU on 9 August 2026 to attract ₹5,000 crore investment in Global Capability Centres across Karnataka over the next five years.

Key Highlights:

- The partnership aims to attract ₹5,000 crore GCC investment in Karnataka over five years.
- The initiative targets establishment of 50 new Global Capability Centres in the state.
- Existing GCCs will also be expanded under the partnership.
- The project is expected to create more than 62,500 direct and indirect jobs.
- Annual salaries are projected to contribute ₹2,250 crore to the state economy.
- The initiative is expected to create demand for 1.25 million square feet of commercial real estate.
- Investment outreach will target North America, Europe, Japan, South Korea and West Asia.
- The partnership will develop virtual Centres of Excellence and strengthen academia-industry cooperation.

Additional Information:

- KDEM works as a knowledge bridge between Karnataka Government and industry ecosystem.
- KDEM aims to accelerate growth in IT, biotechnology and science and technology sectors.
- Karnataka, especially Bengaluru, has the highest share of GCCs in India.

SPORTS

1. Ashish Yadav wins javelin silver at World U20 Championships.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Indian athlete Ashish Yadav won silver medal in men's javelin throw at World Athletics U20 Championships on 8 August 2026. He became only the second Indian to win a medal in this event at the championship.

Key Highlights:

- Ashish Yadav won silver with his best javelin throw of 74.09 metres in the third attempt.
- Jan-Hendrik Heymans of South Africa won gold with an 80.50-metre throw.
- Indian athlete T Dharanidharan finished sixth with a best throw of 72.35 metres.
- Ashish Yadav ended India's ten-year medal drought in men's javelin at the World U20 Championships.
- Mohommed Ashfaq set a new men's U20 national record of 45.81 seconds in the 400m heats.
- Amanat Kamboj finished sixth in women's discus final with a personal best of 53.24 metres.
- Basant qualified for men's high jump final after clearing 2.14 metres.

Additional Information:

- Neeraj Chopra won India's first World U20 javelin gold medal in 2016.
- Neeraj Chopra set a World Junior Record of 86.48 metres at Bydgoszcz in Poland.
- World Athletics U20 Championships is a biennial event established in 1986.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. DigiLocker and AAERI launch AAERI Verify platform.

[11 AUG 2026] -



National e-Governance Division partnered with Association of Australian Education Representatives in India on 7 August 2026 to launch AAERI Verify. The platform will enable secure and consent-based verification of documents for Indian students seeking admission in Australian universities.

Key Highlights:

- AAERI Verify will authenticate academic, identity and financial documents digitally.
- The platform is designed for Indian students applying to Australian universities.
- Stage 1 Student Check is conducted before formal university application submission.
- Stage 2 Sponsor Check starts after an admission offer to verify financial records.
- The platform uses India's Digital Public Infrastructure and DigiLocker for verified records.
- AAERI Verify was unveiled during AAERI Annual Convention in New Delhi.
- National e-Governance Division manages the platform under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Additional Information:

- DigiLocker is a flagship Digital India DPI platform for digitally signed document storage and verification.
- DigiLocker currently serves more than 72 crore registered users.
- NeGD was established in 2009 as an independent business division under MeitY.

2. Param Pragma AI supercomputing facility inaugurated at IIT Delhi.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Param Pragma AI-powered supercomputing facility at IIT Delhi Sonapat campus and addressed the institute's 57th Convocation on 8 August 2026. The facility will support advanced artificial intelligence and high-performance computing research.

Key Highlights:

- Param Pragma is an AI-powered high-performance computing facility established at IIT Delhi Sonapat campus.
- The government is arranging ₹1 lakh crore funding for the research sector.
- National Research Foundation and Prime Minister's Research Fellowship will support research implementation.
- One Nation One Subscription provides access to global research journals in smaller towns without cost.
- Research, Development and Innovation Scheme supports advancement of new technological ideas.
- Higher education enrolment has exceeded 4.5 crore students since 2014.
- Since 2014, seven IITs, nine IIMs and thirteen AIIMS have been established.
- Women's enrolment in STEM disciplines has reached 44 percent.

Additional Information:

- IIT Delhi was established in 1961 as the College of Engineering and Technology.
- IIT Delhi was granted Institution of Eminence status in 2018.
- National Research Foundation is governed by Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023.

3. Astrobase unveils India's first 800 kN reusable rocket engine.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Astrobase Space Technologies unveiled Everest, India's first privately-built 800 kN Full-Flow Staged Combustion liquid oxygen-methane rocket engine, in Bengaluru on 7 August 2026. The reusable engine is intended for medium-lift launch vehicles and domestic launch infrastructure.

Key Highlights:

- Everest is India's first privately-built 800 kN reusable rocket engine.
- The engine provides 800 kN thrust with specific impulse of 340 seconds.
- It has throttle range from 50 percent to 110 percent for medium-lift launch vehicles.
- The engine uses Full-Flow Staged Combustion cycle with liquid oxygen and methane propellants.
- Astrobase plans to produce 50 Everest engines annually.
- The company plans hot-fire testing capacity of one engine per week.
- The initial launch capacity target is 100 tonnes annually, rising to 1,000 tonnes over the long term.
- The engine development received Technology Adoption Fund support from IN-SPACe.

Additional Information:

- Astrobase Space Technologies was established in 2024 and is headquartered in Bengaluru.
- Astrobase works in propulsion systems, test infrastructure and reusable space technologies.
- IN-SPACe is an autonomous agency under Department of Space for private participation in India's space sector.

4. India's first satellite-guided chopper approach launched at HAL Airport.

[11 AUG 2026] -



HAL Airport in Bengaluru became India's first airport to operationalise a satellite-guided helicopter approach procedure on 7 August 2026. The system improves safety, speed and all-weather helicopter operations.

Key Highlights:

- The procedure uses Required Navigation Performance Category H, a satellite-based navigation protocol designed for helicopters.
- Airports Authority of India developed the RNP CAT H procedure for HAL Airport.
- HAL test pilots validated the procedure and DGCA approved it for operations.
- The approach time to HAL Airport has been reduced from 12 minutes to about 4 minutes.
- The system provides accurate flight paths around terrain and urban obstacles in adverse weather.
- HAL Airport handles nearly 50 helicopter movements every day.
- The procedure will support air ambulance and search-and-rescue operations.

Additional Information:

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited was established in 1940 as Hindustan Aircraft.
- HAL is headquartered in Bengaluru and functions under the Ministry of Defence.
- AAI was established on 1 April 1995 by merging IAAI and NAA.

GENERAL & OTHER NEWS

1. India's first eco-educational hub inaugurated at CSIR-NBRI Lucknow.

[11 AUG 2026] -



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh dedicated Prakriti Gyan Dham, India's first eco-educational hub, to the nation at CSIR-NBRI Banthra campus in Lucknow on 8 August 2026. The hub combines biodiversity conservation, environmental learning and plant heritage.

Key Highlights:

- Prakriti Gyan Dham was established at Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre in Banthra.
- PAaVan Path is an interpretive heritage trail for experiential learning about plants and vegetation.
- Indian Heritage Garden contains trees from historically significant locations.
- The garden includes Bawan Imli Tamarind linked to 52 freedom fighters.
- It also includes Mother Dussehri Mango, Patalpuri Banyan and Dandi March tree descendants.
- Vibhav Enclave protects rare, endangered and threatened plant species.
- Bhairav Enclave displays official State Plants of Indian States and Union Territories.
- Bamboosteum houses 43 indigenous and exotic bamboo species.

Additional Information:

- CSIR-NBRI is a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- CSIR-NBRI is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Ministry of Science and Technology oversees CSIR research institutions.