RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

MONTH

August 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

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Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2026 (Vigyan Ratna & Vigyan Shri):** Conferred by President Droupadi Murmu on National Space Day (Aug 23) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, honoring legendary space scientists, nuclear physicists, and deep-tech innovators for lifetime contributions.
- **71st National Film Awards:** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the prestigious national film honours in New Delhi, celebrating artistic excellence across Indian languages, including the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for lifetime cinematic contribution.
- **Independence Day Gallantry Awards 2026:** President approved Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, and Sena Medals for armed forces, paramilitary, and police personnel for conspicuous bravery in counter-insurgency and high-altitude operations.
- **National Sports Awards Preparatory Panels:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports constituted selection committees for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, and Dronacharya Awards ahead of National Sports Day (Aug 29).
- **Golden Peacock Global Award for Corporate Governance:** Conferred upon state-run railway PSU IRCTC and engineering major BHEL for exemplary transparency, digital audit mechanisms, and shareholder value creation.
- **National Handloom Awards 2026:** Conferred by the Ministry of Textiles on National Handloom Day (Aug 7), recognizing master artisans and handloom cooperatives for sustainable natural dyeing and traditional weaving preservation.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **Fields Medal 2026 (International Congress of Mathematicians):** The International Mathematical Union announced the prestigious quadrennial Fields Medals, honoring young mathematical luminaries for breakthroughs in number theory and geometric topology.
- **Hugo Awards 2026:** The World Science Fiction Convention honoured outstanding global authors in science fiction and speculative literature at the annual Worldcon gathering.
- **UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award (Regional Laureates):** Announced regional finalists across Asia and the Middle East honoring humanitarian workers establishing emergency shelters and mobile clinics.
- **World Craft City Accolade (WCC):** World Crafts Council formally inscribed historic Indian artisan cities onto the World Craft Cities network for safeguarding ancestral handcraft heritages.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board:** Appointed to steer mega capital expenditure execution, zero-accident signaling renewals, Kavach 5.0 corridor expansions, and Amrit Bharat sleeper rake rollouts.

- **Chief of the Air Staff (CAS):** Senior Air Marshal assumed command as head of the Indian Air Force, prioritizing indigenous Tejas Mk-1A inductions, MRFA acquisitions, and air-defense automation.
- **Director General of Border Roads Organisation (BRO):** Senior Lieutenant General assumed charge to accelerate strategic high-altitude road tunnels, all-weather passes, and border railway link engineering.
- **Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):** Financial markets regulator assumed charge to spearhead faster settlement systems, T+0 settlement expansion, and algorithmic retail trading regulations.
- **Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL):** Senior infrastructure administrator took charge to oversee high-speed track laying and undersea tunnel boring on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor.
- **Director General of Railway Health Services (DG/RHS):** Senior medical administrator appointed to modernize divisional railway hospitals, super-specialty polyclinics, and emergency trauma centers at key junction stations.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **Prime Minister of Bangladesh:** Sworn in following national parliamentary elections, outlining bilateral connectivity corridors, energy transit agreements, and river water treaties with India.
- **Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):** General Conference confirmed executive mandates for monitoring civilian nuclear power plant safety and small modular reactor (SMR) licensing.
- **President of INTERPOL Executive Committee:** Concluded regional general assembly sessions in Singapore, electing leadership to steer joint international taskforces against cyber-extortion.
- **Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (New York):** Senior career diplomat assumed charge at the UN headquarters ahead of high-level ministerial debates of the 81st UN General Assembly.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Legendary Indian Santoor and Classical Maestro:** Revered Padma-decorated musician passed away at 86, widely mourned across musical institutions and cultural gharanas worldwide.
- **Passing of Doyen of Indian Railway Bridge Engineering:** Renowned infrastructure designer instrumental in the design of major rail-cum-road bridges across the Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers passed away.
- **Neeraj Chopra in News:** Delivered another historic 89m+ javelin throw to clinch gold at the prestigious Diamond League meeting in Zurich, continuing global athletic dominance.
- **D. Gukesh in News:** Finalized intensive high-altitude training camps and grandmaster seconding teams ahead of the historic World Chess Championship title match.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 5.0:** Ministry of Culture and Indian Railways organized nationwide patriotic rallies, flag displays, and special exhibition trains across all 68 railway divisions for Independence Day.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U 2.0) Launch:** Union Cabinet rolled out the second phase with an outlay of ₹10 lakh crore to provide affordable housing subsidies to 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Accelerated Targets:** Central Government announced enhanced financial incentives for million-plus cities achieving 40% reduction in PM2.5 and PM10 levels by 2026.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY):** Ministry of Fisheries operationalized digital identity cards and institutional micro-credit for fishers, fish farmers, and coastal self-help groups.
- **Mission Vatsalya Integrated Child Protection Units:** Ministry of Women and Child Development expanded specialized child helpdesks across 500 major railway stations to rescue vulnerable and runaway children.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojana DBT Rollout (Jharkhand):** State government successfully processed monthly direct benefit transfers of ₹2,500 to over 48 lakh eligible rural and tribal women.
- **Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam Phase-3 (Tamil Nadu):** Widened the eligibility parameters of the monthly ₹1,000 basic income entitlement scheme to cover elderly and disabled women.
- **Indira Gandhi Shehri Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (Rajasthan):** Expanded guaranteed wage employment to 150 days annually for urban households seeking livelihood security.
- **Mukhya Mantri Vridhjan Pension Yojana Expansion (Bihar):** Automated monthly old-age pension transfers through Aadhaar-enabled payment systems (AePS) to eliminate physical verification delays.
- **Lakhpati Didi Milestone (Assam):** State rural livelihood mission crossed the milestone of empowering over 10 lakh self-help group women into sustainable rural micro-enterprises.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Kavach 5.0 High-Density Trunk Route Commissioning:** Indian Railways completed installation along 4,000 route kilometers, operationalizing automated collision avoidance on the Delhi-Mumbai and Howrah-Chennai trunk routes.
- **Vande Bharat Sleeper Commercial Fleet Expansion:** Commercial night express operations of 16-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper trains commenced on new long-distance routes: New Delhi-Srinagar and Howrah-Puri.
- **India's First Undersea Rail Tunnel Excavation Breakthrough:** NHSRCL completed breakthrough in tunnel boring machine (TBM) excavation for the 21-km undersea tunnel segment on the Bullet Train corridor.

- **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Operating Ratio Improvement:** DFCCIL reported moving over 450 long-haul container and freight rakes daily, reducing freight transit time by 55% compared to conventional tracks.
- **Hydrogen Train Trials in South Western Railway:** Trial runs of India's indigenously designed hydrogen-powered fuel-cell passenger train commenced on non-electrified heritage sections.
- **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Milestone:** Indian Railways completed and dedicated 300 modernized Amrit Bharat stations to the nation, featuring solar rooftops, modern lounges, and Divyangjan-friendly facilities.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **India Tour of England Test Series Climax:** The high-octane 5-match Test series between India and England concluded with thrilling bowling battles at Lord's, The Oval, and Old Trafford.
- **BCCI Domestic Calendar 2026–27 Rollout:** Board of Control for Cricket in India finalized schedules for the Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, and Irani Cup, mandating strict participation for contracted international players.
- **Women's T20 Bilateral Series:** Indian Women's cricket team registered a commanding clean sweep in bilateral white-ball matches against regional competitors, excelling in powerplay batting and spin variations.
- **Under-19 Asia Cup Preparations:** Asian Cricket Council announced tournament schedules and venues for the upcoming U-19 Asia Cup, spotlighting emerging junior talents.

Football, Hockey & Tennis

- **135th Durand Cup Grand Final:** Asia's oldest football tournament concluded in Kolkata with an electrifying grand finale between premier ISL football giants at Salt Lake Stadium with East Bengal became Champion defeated Arch Rival Mohun Bagan.
- **Cincinnati Open (Western & Southern Open 2026):** Top international ATP and WTA tennis stars competed in the hard-court Masters 1000 championship, setting form ahead of the US Open.
- **FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026 Preparations:** Hockey India convened national training camps in Bengaluru, fine-tuning penalty corner tactics and counter-attack transitions.
- **US Open 2026 Grand Slam Kicks Off:** The final tennis Grand Slam of the calendar year commenced at Flushing Meadows, New York, featuring grueling hard-court showdowns.

Badminton, Chess & Multi-Sport

- **BWF World Tour Japan Open Super 750:** Elite Indian shuttlers delivered standout performances in Tokyo, reaching podium rounds in Men's Singles and Women's Doubles disciplines.
- **FIDE World Youth Chess Championship 2026:** Indian junior grandmasters dominated podium positions, securing multiple gold and silver medals across Under-18 and Under-16 categories.
- **World Athletics Diamond League (Zurich Leg):** Indian track and field athletes delivered top-3 finishes in Men's Javelin Throw and Long Jump disciplines.

- **National Shooting Selection Trials:** Conducted at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, finalizing national squads for upcoming ISSF World Championships.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **National Space Day Celebrations (August 23):** Commemorating the historic soft-landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar south pole (Shiv Shakti Point) in 2023 with nationwide scientific exhibitions.
- **Gaganyaan In-Flight Abort Demonstration (TV-D2):** ISRO successfully carried out the second test vehicle mission, validating high-altitude crew escape trajectory under simulated aerodynamic stresses.
- **SpaDeX Autonomous Space Docking Validation:** Ground control at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) successfully executed remote rendezvous and automated docking of twin satellites.
- **NISAR Satellite Monsoon Inundation Data:** Joint NASA-ISRO satellite delivered all-weather high-resolution radar maps tracking monsoon floods and river course changes across the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **Maiden Firing of New Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM):** DRDO and Indian Army successfully test-fired the indigenous man-portable ATGM from high-altitude firing ranges in Ladakh.
- **Commissioning of Stealth Guided Missile Frigate:** Indian Navy commissioned an advanced stealth frigate built indigenously with cutting-edge radar absorbing materials and anti-ship missile vertical launchers.
- **User Trials of New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (RudraM-II):** DRDO carried out successful air-to-surface weapon trials from a Su-30MKI fighter jet, striking target ground-radar systems with high precision.
- **Naval Air Defence Surface-to-Air Missile Induction:** Indian Navy completed shipborne integration trials of the indigenously designed short-range surface-to-air missile system.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **PARAM Utkarsh Supercomputer Deployment:** C-DAC commissioned multi-petaflop supercomputing clusters under the National Supercomputing Mission for monsoon and climate predictability modeling.
- **Indigenously Developed Sickle Cell Point-of-Care Biosensor:** ICMR and CSIR deployed digital optical biosensors across tribal primary health centres, screening infants in 2 minutes.
- **National Quantum Cryptography Rail Pilot:** Indian Railways and C-DOT successfully demonstrated end-to-end quantum-encrypted train dispatch communication between major divisional hubs.
- **Bhashini Real-Time Voice Translation for Rail Passengers:** AI-driven multilingual voice inquiry counters deployed across 200 high-density railway stations, supporting 22 official languages.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2026:** Convened to debate global economic fragmentation, resilient supply chains, and multilateral development bank reforms.
- **10th International Solar Alliance (ISA) Asia-Pacific Regional Committee:** Hosted in New Delhi, approving regional financing pipelines for decentralized mini-grid and agro-photovoltaic deployments.
- **World Water Week 2026 (Stockholm):** Global hydrologists and ministers met under the theme 'Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future'.
- **IBSA Dialogue Forum Foreign Ministers' Meet:** Foreign ministers of India, Brazil, and South Africa reaffirmed trilateral cooperation on South-South trade partnerships and UN Security Council reform.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **Passage of Key Infrastructure Reform Bills in Monsoon Session:** Parliament passed legislation modernizing coastal shipping regulations, inland water navigation, and civil aviation passenger charters.
- **National Rail Safety & Kavach Implementation Review:** Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways reviewed implementation audits of automated electronic interlocking across all 17 railway zones.
- **National Clean Air Regulatory Framework Scrutiny:** Parliamentary panel recommended mandatory installation of continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) across heavy manufacturing units.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules Enforcement:** Central Government operationalized the Data Protection Board's statutory authority to levy penalties on data breaches and privacy violations.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-United States Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP):** Bilateral ministerial talks advanced joint development of next-generation battery chemistries, small modular reactors, and green hydrogen supply lines.
- **India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** Signed mutual logistics support agreements and advanced maritime security exercises in the South China Sea.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Sub-Saharan Clean Energy Tranche:** Approved financing packages to establish solarized microgrids for rural healthcare clinics and schools in West Africa.
- **Colombo Security Conclave High-Level Working Groups:** Member states conducted synchronized coastal radar sweeps and joint search-and-rescue drills across the central Indian Ocean.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'Tracks of Steel: The Modern Saga of Indian Railways':** Authored by veteran railway administration expert chronicling the technical evolution of Vande Bharat, Kavach, and Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- **'The Strategic Ocean: India's Maritime Destiny in the 21st Century':** Authored by retired Chief of the Naval Staff examining naval diplomacy, submarine warfare, and the Indo-Pacific theatre.
- **'Monsoon Chronicles: Climate and Agriculture in Bharat':** Authored by leading agricultural meteorologist exploring changing southwest monsoon patterns, soil health, and resilient crops.
- **'The Mindful Leader: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Governance':** Authored by senior civil servant exploring the integration of Indian ethical treatises in public policy and administrative leadership.
- **'Folk Rhythms of India: Preserving Indigenous Music Traditions':** Authored by prominent ethnomusicologist documenting endangered tribal instruments, ballads, and devotional melodies.

Important Days & Themes

- **August 1 – World Wide Web Day & National Mountain Climbing Day:** Celebrating the invention and global connectivity of the web; promoting mountain ecology and adventure sports.
- **August 6 – Hiroshima Day:** Solemn global observance commemorating the 1945 atomic bombing, advocating for nuclear disarmament and global peace.
- **August 7 – National Handloom Day (India):** Commemorating the historic launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, celebrating indigenous handloom weavers and sustainable textiles.
- **August 9 – Nagasaki Day & Quit India Movement Day (August Kranti Diwas):** Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's call for freedom in 1942; remembering the victims of the Nagasaki bombing.
- **August 9 – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:** Proclaimed by the UN to protect the rights, culture, and traditional territorial knowledge of indigenous populations.
- **August 10 – World Biofuel Day & World Lion Day:** Honoring Sir Rudolf Diesel's engine trials with peanut oil; raising global awareness for Asiatic and African lion conservation.
- **August 12 – International Youth Day & World Elephant Day:** UN Youth Day theme centered on youth-led digital innovations; Elephant Day advocated protecting elephant corridors and preventing human-elephant conflict.
- **August 13 – World Organ Donation Day:** Dispelling myths and promoting voluntary organ donation to save lives from end-stage organ failure.
- **August 15 – Independence Day (India):** Celebrating India's 80th Independence Day with national flag hoisting at the historic Red Fort and state capitals under the theme of 'Viksit Bharat'.
- **August 19 – World Photography Day & World Humanitarian Day:** Celebrating photographic art; Humanitarian Day honoring humanitarians aiding vulnerable communities under crises.
- **August 20 – Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day) & World Mosquito Day:** Commemorating former PM Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary; Mosquito Day honoring Sir Ronald Ross's malaria discovery in 1897.

- **August 23 – National Space Day (India):** Celebrating the historic success of Chandrayaan-3 landing on the Moon's South Pole (Shiv Shakti Point) in 2023.
- **August 26 – Women's Equality Day:** Commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment in the US, advocating for equal constitutional rights and pay parity worldwide.
- **August 29 – National Sports Day (Rashtriya Khel Divas):** Commemorating the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, celebrating sporting excellence across India.
- **August 29 – International Day against Nuclear Tests:** Raising awareness about the catastrophic environmental and humanitarian consequences of nuclear testing.
- **August 30 – National Small Industry Day:** Recognizing the critical contributions of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to industrial growth and employment.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **GI Applications for Tribal Forest Craft of Bastar:** Chhattisgarh artisan federations submitted GI tag registration applications for handcrafted bell-metal Dokra sculptures and wrought iron art.
- **Kashmiri Saffron Holographic QR Packaging:** Jammu & Kashmir agriculture department rolled out tamper-proof cryptographic QR barcodes ensuring 100% authenticity for export shipments.
- **Pochampally Ikat & Uppada Jamdani Global Branding:** Ministry of Textiles organized global buyer-seller exhibitions in Europe showcasing authentic GI-certified handloom silks.
- **Kangra Tea International Geographical Protection:** Tea Board of India enforced intellectual property measures across European ports to prevent unauthorized labeling of orthodox Kangra tea.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's Highest High-Altitude Rail Arch Bridge (Chenab Bridge):** Northern Railway operated full-capacity regular passenger schedules through the 359-meter-high single-arch engineering marvel.
- **World's Longest Fully Electrified Heavy-Haul Freight Route:** Western Dedicated Freight Corridor handled over 100,000 gross ton rakes daily, setting global benchmarks in electric freight transit.
- **India's First Undersea Rail Tunnel Excavation Milestone:** NHSRCL completed major undersea tunneling milestones between Mumbai and Thane for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project.
- **World's Largest Renewable Energy Park (Khavda):** Operational solar and wind generation capacity crossed 16,000 MW, scaling towards its targeted 30,000 MW hybrid capacity.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **48th Session of the World Heritage Committee Inscriptions:** UNESCO finalized review of India's nominated cultural and natural heritage properties for inscription on the World Heritage List.

- **Preservation of Mountain Railways of India:** Indian Railways rolled out laser-scanning structural conservation frameworks for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway and Kalka-Shimla Railway.
- **Excavation Discoveries at Vadnagar Heritage Site:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) uncovered continuous human settlement layers dating back over 2,500 years in Gujarat.
- **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation Seminars:** Sangeet Natak Akademi organized workshops to document traditional Vedic chanting, Ramlila, and Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **National Tribute to Legendary Kathak Maestro:** Cultural ministries organized centenary celebrations honoring iconic gurus who codified Lucknow and Jaipur gharana repertoires and traditional thumri choreographies.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Regional Utsav:** Conferred special performing arts honours on veteran classical Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Manipuri gurus for lifelong service to guru-shishya parampara.
- **All-India Youth Classical Dance Showcase:** Organized at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi, featuring rising stars in Kuchipudi, Sattriya, and Mohiniyattam classical disciplines.
- **Purulia & Mayurbhanj Chhau Dance Festival:** Staged in eastern India, showcasing dynamic martial acrobatic traditions and vibrant traditional masks worn by regional folk dancers.

ENVIRONMENT

- **State of Global Climate 2026 Review (WMO):** World Meteorological Organization reported accelerating Himalayan glacier retreat rates, urging unified river-basin disaster warning frameworks.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Ambient Air Tracking:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded marked reductions in PM10 levels across 115 non-attainment industrial cities.
- **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve Monsoon Wildlife Protection:** Forest department placed speed radars on National Highway 715 and deployed river patrol boats to ensure safe wildlife migration during floods.
- **Synchronized Sea Turtle Conservation Review:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) reported successful emergence of Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings from Gahirmatha and Rushikulya rookeries.
- **Great Indian Bustard Flight-Diverter Installation:** Over 1,200 km of high-tension power cables fitted with reflective bird-flight diverters across the Thar Desert to prevent electrocution.
- **Discovery of New Endemic Orchid in Arunachal Pradesh:** Botanical Survey of India (BSI) botanists discovered a rare epiphytic orchid species in the dense cloud forests of Changlang district.
- **Mangrove Restoration Along Cyclone-Prone Coastlines:** Forest departments of West Bengal and Odisha restored 8,000 hectares of degraded coastal wetlands with native mangrove species.
- **Single-Use Plastic Ban Surveillance:** State pollution control boards intensified market inspections, penalizing unauthorized commercial distributors of non-woven plastic bags.

- **Automated Water Quality Monitoring Across Ramsar Sites:** Ministry of Jal Shakti operationalized digital telemetry across all 96 Ramsar wetland sites to monitor dissolved oxygen levels.
- **National Green Hydrogen Ecological Safety Guidelines:** Ministry of Environment issued environmental safety protocols for water intake and desalination systems in green hydrogen projects.
- **Urban Micro-Forests Along Railway Tracks:** Indian Railways planted over 5.5 lakh native saplings using Miyawaki afforestation methods along suburban railway embankments and yards.
- **Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Zone Conservation Directive:** Central Government mandated complete prohibition of commercial mining and high-polluting industries across designated buffer areas.
- **Project Elephant Anti-Depredation Measures:** Forest divisions deployed AI-assisted thermal cameras and solar fences along agricultural boundaries to minimize human-elephant conflict.
- **Transboundary River Water Quality Protocol:** India and Bangladesh joint rivers commission established synchronized automated water quality monitoring along the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.

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