

Highlights of 15 August 2026 Current Affairs

- On August 15, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of the historic **Red Fort in New Delhi** to mark India's 80th Independence Day. The national event featured the first-ever rendition of the National Song "*Vande Mataram*" at the ceremony to commemorate its 150th anniversary, while seating enclosures across the venue were themed after major Indian lakes.
- **Udaipur** hosted the Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities Meeting to address fair competition in renewable energy, while Jaipur hosted both the 10th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting and the 16th BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting (adopting the *Jaipur Consensus*).
- Bhubaneswar hosted the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting under Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, resulting in the adoption of the 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Declaration.
- Mumbai served as the host city for the **BRICS WAVES Bazaar 2026**, organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to foster cross-border media and production collaborations.
- NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Ashok Kumar Lahiri released a report titled "*Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub*", identifying 12 core priority manufacturing sectors—such as automobiles, steel, and electronics—to accelerate industrial growth toward the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.
 - Out of these 12, the report highlights **four high-potential focus sectors**—Chemicals, Textiles, Telecom & Networking Equipment, and Solar PV Manufacturing—to drive scale, enhance domestic value addition, reduce import dependencies, and deepen India's integration into global supply chains.
- Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh informed Parliament that IN-SPACE approved India's first fully commercial, indigenous Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The project will be executed by **Allied Orbits Private Limited**—a consortium led by Bengaluru-based **PixxelSpace India**, alongside Dhruva Space, PierSight Space, and SatSure Analytics—with an investment of over ₹1,200 crore to build, own, and operate 12 state-of-the-art EO satellites in India by 2029.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T), through its digital and AI infrastructure arms (LTN Compute and Vyoma.AI), secured a ₹10,000–15,000 crore order to establish India's largest single-cluster NVIDIA B300 AI factory at its gigawatt-scale data centre campus in **Chennai** for US-based Together AI. Housing 10,000 GPUs with an initial Phase 1 capacity of 250 MW, the project positions Tamil Nadu as a major hub for large-scale AI compute infrastructure, GPU-as-a-Service, and high-performance cloud workloads in India.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) signed a strategic agreement with Norway-based Hystar AS at its Corporate Office in **New Delhi** to support phased indigenisation and local manufacturing of Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyser systems in India. Executed through BHEL's Heavy Power Equipment Plant in Hyderabad, **Telangana**, the partnership aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission to strengthen domestic clean energy manufacturing capabilities.
- The Principal Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in **New Delhi** launched e-Inspection and e-Certified Copy Services under the e-Courts 2.0 initiative.

Inaugurated virtually by NCLT President Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal, the digital portal enables stakeholders across India to apply for, inspect, and receive certified tribunal records online.

- The Embassy of India in **Kathmandu** signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Nepal's Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives, Federal Affairs and General Administration for 8 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) worth NPR 803 million across 7 districts in Nepal. Funded through Indian grant assistance, the grassroots projects cover education, healthcare, and agriculture, including the digitization of B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (Sunsari), construction of local hospitals in Dailekh and Sunsari, and cold storage/agricultural promotion facilities in Bhojpur, Dhading, Humla, and Syangja.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI, headquarter in Mumbai) issued a consultation paper proposing a mandatory, colour-coded Credit Risk-o-Meter. Mapping credit ratings (AAA to D) across a six-level visual risk scale, the framework aims to simplify default risk assessment and standardise credit comparisons for retail investors purchasing debt securities.
- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA, headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar) granted an Investment Banking license to Nexent Capital IFSC Private Limited under the IFSCA (Capital Market Intermediaries) Regulations, 2025. Operating out of GIFT City, the firm is authorized to manage cross-border IPOs, FPOs, SPAC listings, and debt capital market transactions to help international businesses access global capital markets.
- JSW Neo Energy (subsidiary of Mumbai-headquartered JSW Energy) signed a Joint Venture agreement with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) to develop the 920 MW Punatsangchhu-III Hydroelectric Project on the Punatsangchhu River in Wangdue Phodrang District, Bhutan. Structured on a BOOT basis with DGPC holding 51% and JSW Neo Energy holding 49%, the ₹245 million initial equity investment marks JSW Energy's first international power generation venture.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) presented the Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, during World Elephant Day celebrations. Seven mahouts and handlers from **Jaldapara National Park, West Bengal**, were recognized for bravery during severe flash floods—Bikash Kharia and Rajiv Oraon for protecting captive elephants, and a 5-member team for safely guiding 13 displaced wild one-horned rhinoceroses.
- Natarajan Chandrasekaran announced his decision to step down as the Executive Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited upon the completion of his term on February 20, 2027. First appointed as Chairman in February 2017 following his nearly three-decade trajectory at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Chandrasekaran led the conglomerate's expansion into semiconductors, aviation (re-acquisition of Air India), digital applications, and green energy initiatives.