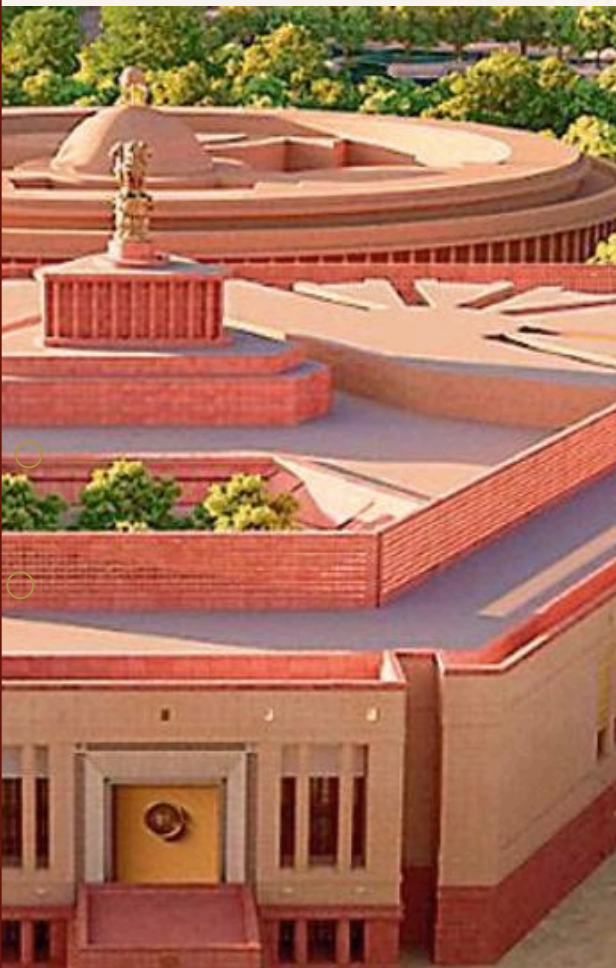


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At the Centre

01

BRICS Summit programme begins in India ahead of leaders’ meeting

India began hosting the 18th BRICS Summit programme in New Delhi on 11 September, with the leaders’ sessions scheduled for 12–13 September. The meeting brings together the expanded 11-member bloc, including China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, alongside partner countries and international bodies. Under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”, discussions cover cross-border payments, supply chains and reform of global financial institutions. Proposed outcomes include a BRICS Incubator Network, Startup Innovation Fund and logistics cooperation framework.

CPRG INSIGHT

India last chaired BRICS in 2021, when it had five members; it now hosts an expanded 11-member bloc whose value will depend on concrete work on payments, supply chains and development finance. Trump’s threat of an extra 10 percent tariff on countries aligning with BRICS, linked to concerns over reducing reliance on the dollar, raises the economic cost of appearing anti-American. India’s role is therefore to build practical alternatives for the Global South without allowing BRICS to become an anti-Western alliance.

02

ISRO launches EOS-05, India's first imaging satellite in geosynchronous orbit

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched Earth Observation Satellite-05 (EOS-05), which is also called the "eye in the sky." It is the first dedicated imaging satellite from Geosynchronous orbit in India. It will provide continuous real-time imagery, leaving no black spots. It weighs 2,367 kg, which makes it the heaviest payload injected into orbit by the standard GSLV configuration.

CPRG INSIGHT

It is a crucial step in view of rising natural hazards like cloud bursts, floods, and forest fires. Continuous imagery will help in keeping track of developments in vulnerable regions. This will also aid in tracking the porous Indian borders from infiltration, which will help strengthen the capabilities of the Indian armed forces. This can possibly open avenues for information-sharing diplomacy with neighbouring countries on natural disasters, which are not advanced in space technologies.

03

DGFT Launches Open API Facility for Certificate of Origin on Trade Connect e-Platform

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has introduced an Open API facility enabling exporters to integrate their ERP or accounting software directly with the DGFT's Certificate of Origin (CoO) system, eliminating repetitive data entry. The facility, covering both preferential and non-preferential CoOs across major FTAs, including CEPA, the ASEAN-India FTA and the UAE-India CEPA, offers three secure APIs for authentication, application submission and certificate verification, backed by SHA-256 RSA encryption and IP-restricted access for exporters.

CPRG INSIGHT

This move reflects India's broader push toward “system-to-system” trade facilitation, reducing manual friction in export documentation: a long-standing complaint from MSME exporters juggling multiple portals. By allowing direct ERP integration, DGFT is effectively treating exporters' own software as an extension of government infrastructure, a model that could be replicated across other trade compliance touchpoints. For India's Ease of Doing Business and export competitiveness agenda, this signals a shift from digitisation (moving paper online) to true interoperability (systems talking to systems), critical as India targets \$2 trillion in exports and deeper integration with FTA partners like the UK, UAE and EFTA.

04

Ministry of Coal issues the first sector-specific CSR framework

It is the first sector-specific CSR framework since statutory CSR was introduced under the Companies Act, 2013, and is meant to direct coal company spending in mining areas towards measurable outcomes rather than one-off activity. The event also marked over 1,050 bone marrow transplants under Coal India's Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojana and more than 1,500 free corrective cardiac surgeries under Nanha Sa Dil, with over 2 lakh children screened

CPRG INSIGHT

This announcement signals a maturing shift in India's PSU-driven CSR: from ad hoc philanthropy to institutionalised, outcome-based healthcare delivery on a national scale. Coal India's willingness to fund high-cost interventions like bone marrow transplants (₹10 lakh/patient) demonstrates how CPSEs can fill critical gaps in India's public health infrastructure, particularly for rare and capital-intensive treatments underserved by insurance schemes. A sector-wide CSR framework, developed with IICA, also hints at forthcoming standardisation pressure on other coal-sector companies to align spending with measurable outcomes rather than compliance-driven CSR reporting, a trend worth tracking across other extractive-sector PSUs.

05

MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS

UIDAI releases Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK and Sandbox

UIDAI released the Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK and Sandbox at Global Fintech Fest 2026, letting banks, fintechs and other partners embed face authentication directly into their apps instead of relying on the separate FaceRD app. The SDK is a ready-to-use code library which developers plug into their Android/iOS apps to add face capture, AI/ML-based liveness checks, and anti-spoofing, without building that tech from scratch. The Sandbox is a separate testing environment where developers can validate the full authentication flow, consent, face capture, liveness checks, and error handling and even simulate failures like network drops or spoofing attempts before going live. UIDAI also released an “Ease of Onboarding” playbook. Face Authentication, live since 2021, has processed over 500 crore transactions across nearly 200 adopting entities.

CPRG INSIGHT

This move signals UIDAI's shift from being a pure identity backend to an active enabler of embedded fintech UX. By pushing face authentication natively into partner apps via SDK, UIDAI reduces drop-offs during RBI-mandated multi-factor authentication, a persistent pain point for BFSI conversion rates. The parallel Sandbox launch also lowers integration risk for smaller fintechs lacking biometric testing infrastructure.

Across the States

06

Maharashtra approves ₹4,250-crore PRAGATI project to rebuild primary healthcare

The Maharashtra Cabinet approved PRAGATI (Primary Healthcare Reimagined with Advanced Governance and Accessible Technology Integration), a five-year project running from 2026 to 2031 with an outlay of ₹4,250 crore. The Asian Development Bank lends ₹2,975 crore and the state contributes ₹1,275 crore. It covers screening and treatment of non-communicable diseases, cancer diagnostics, telemedicine and electronic health records. About ₹1,500 crore goes to hospital infrastructure in Kolhapur, Nanded, Pune, Latur and Nagpur, adding 1,600 beds.

CPRG INSIGHT

The real change is not simply the addition of 1,600 beds. PRAGATI puts early screening, referrals, specialist care and digital records within one project. This gives health centres a clearer route for moving a patient from the first diagnosis to the right hospital, instead of leaving each stage to work separately. It matters especially for cancer and other long-term illnesses, where care often continues across several facilities

07

Karnataka approves Aerospace Policy 2026–31 targeting ₹60,000 crore investment

The Cabinet approved the Karnataka Aerospace Policy 2026–31 with targets of ₹60,000 crore in investment and 60,000 jobs over five years. The statewide policy covers aerospace and defence manufacturing, aviation, space technologies, drones and avionics, with differentiated financial incentives by location. It is intended to encourage new aerospace investment beyond Bengaluru while building on Karnataka’s existing manufacturing ecosystem.

CPRG INSIGHT

Karnataka was the first Indian state to introduce a separate aerospace policy in 2013, though Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have since introduced their own. What is different this time is the seven specialised clusters and the higher land subsidy outside Bengaluru. Since only the first three investors in each cluster receive the subsidy, the policy is designed to bring in anchor firms quickly and spread aerospace activity beyond the capital.

08

Assam approves the Assam Green Cess Policy, 2026

The Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Green Cess Policy, 2026. It creates a framework to levy a green cess on sectors that use or strain natural resources. The Cabinet agreed in principle to cover stone crushing units, brick kilns, imported timber, pollution index based industrial units, transfer of ownership of pre-owned motor vehicles, and commercial extraction of groundwater. Revenue will go towards repairing embankments and financing solar power projects. Rates and sector-wise notifications are yet to be issued.

CPRG INSIGHT

This changes who pays for environmental repair. The new framework allows Assam to collect a dedicated charge from businesses and activities that use natural resources or create a higher environmental burden. However, the Cabinet has approved only the framework. Until sector-wise rates and notifications are issued, businesses still do not know what they will pay or when the cess will begin.

09

Chhattisgarh clears Export Promotion Policy 2026-30

The Chhattisgarh Cabinet cleared the Chhattisgarh Export Promotion Policy 2026-30 on 9 September. It aims to build export and logistics infrastructure, improve market access and trade facilitation for exporters, and promote exports of value added agricultural and industrial goods through e-commerce platforms, trade fairs and exhibitions. The same meeting approved a ₹500 crore Chief Minister's Startup and NIPUN Mission, with entrepreneurship development centres in all 33 districts, 100 emerging technology labs and five industry excellence centres.

CPRG INSIGHT

Chhattisgarh's export problem is not only finding buyers. As a landlocked state, firms must also move goods over long distances before they reach a port. By placing logistics, market access and value addition under one policy, the state is addressing this full chain. The focus on processed farm and industrial goods also allows more of the product's value, and the jobs created in processing, to remain in Chhattisgarh.

10

Odisha government approves its largest ever power sector investment worth Rs 15,948 cr

The Odisha Cabinet approved ₹15,948.70 crore under the Mukhya Mantri Shakti Bikash Yojana to expand the state's transmission network. Odisha will build its first 765 kV network, with grid substations at Khuntuni, Duburi and Kolabira, two new 400 kV substations at Kansbahal and Titlagarh, and ten new 220 kV substations, completing 220 kV ring networks at Rourkela, Sambalpur and Bargarh. Transformation capacity rises from 29,889 MVA to 63,364 MVA, with 79 substations modernised

CPRG INSIGHT

This is a grid upgrade, not a power-generation scheme. A 765 kV network can move large volumes of electricity over longer distances, while ring networks give major centres another supply route if one line fails. Remote monitoring and predictive maintenance also allow OPTCL to spot faults earlier. Together, these changes make it easier to carry solar power from western and southern Odisha to growing industrial and urban demand without overloading the existing network.

11

Mizoram launches 'One Department, One Bank' system and Smart ATI digital portal

Mizoram signed an MoU with eight banks for its One Department, One Bank system, under which each department routes its funds through a single designated bank. The banks are SBI, Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank, Mizoram Rural Bank, Axis, HDFC, ICICI, Union Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. Eight departments come first, with department-bank mapping still to be finalised. Chief Minister Lalduhoma also set a credit deposit ratio target of 67 per cent by 2028-29, and inaugurated the Smart ATI app and a digital learning laboratory in Aizawl.

CPRG INSIGHT

Earlier, departments and Drawing and Disbursing Officers could keep government money across separate bank accounts, leaving the Finance Department without a full view of unused balances. States such as Punjab and Haryana have consolidated idle funds or specific receipts, but no other state appears to use this same one-bank-per-department model. Mizoram's system brings each department's accounts under one designated bank, making balances and transfers easier to track and giving the state a clearer view of available, committed and idle cash.

12

Tamil Nadu Assembly passes the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation (Amendment) Bill, 2026

The Bill amends the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018. It caps clearance timelines under scheduled state laws at 21 days. Where a law prescribes a longer period or none at all, 21 days applies; where it prescribes less, the shorter period stands. Public and local holidays are excluded, and timelines under Central law are untouched. A new Section 16-A creates a Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Commission chaired by the Chief Secretary, with up to 20 members, covering projects of ₹200 crore or more or 5,000 jobs.

CPRG INSIGHT

Time-bound and deemed approvals already exist elsewhere: Telangana gives mega projects provisional clearance within 15 days, while Punjab gives eligible units in-principle approval within three days. Tamil Nadu's 2018 law already gave its single-window system statutory backing, including deemed approvals and binding decisions at higher levels. The amendment's main change is a common 21-day limit across 22 state laws and a dedicated Chief Secretary-led commission for large projects, helping resolve delays caused by different departmental timelines.

DIPLOMACY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

India & the World

13

India and Morocco hold their first Joint Defence Committee meeting

India and Morocco held their first Joint Defence Committee meeting in New Delhi on 8 September 2026, discussing training, peacekeeping, military exercises, medical cooperation, cyber defence and defence industries. Both sides agreed to deepen ties ahead of the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations in 2027. The Moroccan delegation also met defence public sector undertakings to explore co-production and technological collaboration. The meeting follows a defence MoU signed during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's September 2025 visit to Morocco, which energised bilateral defence ties. The relationship had earlier been elevated to a "strategic partnership" after talks between PM Modi and King Mohammed VI and was reinforced by November 2025 foreign ministry consultations in Rabat. This meeting marks a major institutional step forward.

CPRG INSIGHT

The inaugural India-Morocco Joint Defence Committee meeting signals India's rising stature as a credible defence manufacturing partner, not just a buyer. Morocco's interest in co-production, joint ventures and technology collaboration reflects growing global confidence in Indian defence capabilities. As India pushes to expand defence exports, such institutional mechanisms, anchored in recurring dialogue, help convert diplomatic goodwill into lasting industrial partnerships, reinforcing India's strategic influence across Africa and the wider Global South.

14

Defence Minister makes his first visit to Sri Lanka

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Sri Lanka from September 8 to 10, 2026, marks the first trip by an Indian defence minister to the island nation since K.C. Pant's visit in 1988, during the turbulent period surrounding the Indo-Lanka Accord. Singh had originally been scheduled to make this trip in September 2023, but it was postponed at the eleventh hour, making this visit nearly three years in the making. In Colombo, he addressed the Indian diaspora, reaffirmed India's solidarity, and met Sri Lanka's Ministry of Defence to discuss secure sea lanes and maritime cooperation under PM Modi's MAHASAGAR vision, including search-and-rescue, counter-narcotics, and the fishermen's issue. The visit builds on 2025's landmark defence MoU and follows Sri Lanka's naval chief visiting India in August, with three new agreements now set to be signed, reflecting India's role as a steady "Vishwa Mitra" in the Indian Ocean.

CPRG INSIGHT

This visit reflects India's layered approach to diplomacy. It carries particular significance for resolving the long-standing issue of Tamil fishermen, with renewed emphasis on dialogue to address the matter constructively. At the same time, engaging Sri Lanka as a key maritime neighbour remains essential for safeguarding India's strategic interests and security in the Indian Ocean. Viewed through a wider diplomatic lens, the visit also underscores India's efforts to counter China's debt-trap diplomacy in the region, while reinforcing its position as a leading voice of the Global South.

15

India endorses the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security

India has formally endorsed the Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, joining over twenty like-minded nations, including the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, in committing to open, interoperable and secure next-generation networks. Announced at the G20 Innovation Ministerial in North Carolina, the initiative supports the vision of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to establish India as a global 6G leader, with an aspiration to contribute ten per cent of global 6G standards and patents. The Department of Telecommunications will steer India's engagement, building upon the Bharat 6G Vision and Bharat 6G Alliance, while preserving India's independent standing in international standardisation forums

CPRG INSIGHT

By joining this initiative, India becomes a co-architect of the emerging 6G order, an opportunity which helps recalibrate its indigenous roadmap with fresh urgency. Bolstered by the growing technological credibility of ISRO and DRDO, India is well positioned to move beyond adoption and standard-following and instead set the pace for 6G development, potentially guiding other nations along the path it charts.

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