



August 17, 2026

Headlining This Week's Brief

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Top Stories

Indiana Drying Out After Deadly Weekend Floods

Multiple rounds of thunderstorms from August 11–17 produced historic flooding across central Indiana, with the [National Weather Service](#) reporting more than a foot of rain in some locations. The flooding prompted widespread water rescues and evacuations, inundated homes and businesses, and washed out numerous roads. Indianapolis experienced its [most significant flooding in more than 30 years](#). The White River rose to major flood levels through the metropolitan area, forcing evacuations, closing roads and parks, and inundating low-lying areas. At the Nora gauge, the river rose to roughly 20.7 feet, nearly 10 feet above flood stage, making this one of the most significant White River floods in Indianapolis since the Great Flood of 1913, according to [NOAA river gauge data](#).

Indiana officials have confirmed [seven storm-related deaths statewide](#), including fatalities in Delaware, Henry, Jennings, Lake, LaPorte and Porter counties. Delaware County reported more than 350 evacuations, while over 100 additional rescues were conducted across central Indiana.

Looking ahead, a Level 2 of 4 excessive rainfall risk is in place [today](#) across southern Ohio, eastern Kentucky, West Virginia, and surrounding areas. Attention will then shift back toward the Central Plains and Midwest beginning [Tuesday](#), as additional storm complexes are expected to develop and move east. A Level 2 risk is outlined Tuesday across eastern Nebraska, Iowa, northern Kansas, and northern Missouri before shifting into southern Illinois, southern Indiana, and western Kentucky by [Wednesday](#). While this does not currently appear comparable to the prolonged stretch of severe weather and flooding

experienced over the past week, another 1–2 inches of rain, with locally higher amounts, could produce scattered flash flooding where soils remain saturated.

Hawaiian Hurricane Aftermath

Lala has moved west of the main Hawaiian Islands, leaving behind exceptional flooding and infrastructure damage. Preliminary [observations](#) show storm-total rainfall reached 43.54 inches at Laupāhoehoe on Hawai‘i Island, with several other locations receiving more than 30 inches. A 140-mph gust was measured at the summit of Mauna Kea, while numerous lower-elevation locations across Hawai‘i Island and Maui recorded gusts of 70–90 mph.

The power grid sustained particularly widespread damage. [Hawaiian Electric](#) reported 178,400 customers without power Sunday evening and approximately 116,000 remained without service early Monday, primarily on O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island. Several major transmission lines were damaged, while flooding, fallen trees, unstable ground, and rugged terrain have complicated access to infrastructure. Hawaiian Electric has warned customers in the hardest-hit rural portions of Hawai‘i Island to prepare for prolonged outages. Company officials have said some areas could remain without electricity for [weeks or even months](#). Approximately 100 utility workers from the mainland are expected to begin arriving Tuesday, with additional restoration work beginning Wednesday.

Recovery operations remain widespread on Monday. The governor and all four county mayors coordinated the [closure of state and county government offices and public schools](#), while crews continue damage assessments, debris removal, and infrastructure repairs. On O‘ahu alone, [Honolulu officials](#) reported 629 fire department calls, 408 emergency medical calls, and 149 reports of fallen trees, damaged roofs or downed power lines during the height of the storm. On Hawai‘i Island, [HDOT](#) has reopened several bridges and Highway 11 between Pāhala and Hilo, although localized lane restrictions and recovery work continue.

Fresh Tensions, Expiration of Interim Ceasefire Point to Renewed U.S.-Iran Hostilities

Recent hopes for a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz failed to materialize amid renewed tensions between Tehran and Washington. Iran's [prerequisites](#) for the strait's safe reopening, including the end of the war and U.S. funding for reconstruction efforts, as well as President Trump's own call [for reparations](#) and continued threats, are expected to further complicate the peace process. With a 60-day ceasefire that both sides have violated multiple times [set to expire](#) on Monday, August 17, fresh hostilities and further escalation appear likely. Traffic through the strait appears to have [effectively stopped](#).

Meanwhile, strikes across the region continue, impacting a widening slate of parties. On August 11, a U.S. helicopter [fired on a Panama-flagged vessel](#) believed to be attempting to violate the U.S. blockade of

Iranian ports, signaling the Trump administration's intent to enforce the blockade, including against vessels flagged to third countries. Oman [warned](#) that continued attacks on shipping in the strait could derail any negotiations currently underway, such as its own attempt to reach a limited agreement with Tehran to reopen the strait to commercial traffic. On Monday, President Trump [threatened to attack Oman](#) if it "gets in the way."

While Tehran likely sees control of the waterway as an [important bargaining chip](#) in any eventual U.S. talks, Iran's military also appears to be assuming a [more offensive posture](#) for the near-term. A slate of new military appointments and recent statement indicate that Tehran is looking "to be more agile and aggressive" as it positions itself for a more protracted conflict.

U.S. Vice President Intervenes as Russia-Ukraine War Threatens Further Global Energy Disruptions

On August 24, Ukrainians around the world will mark the country's Independence Day. The day will be commemorated amid some of the most intense aerial bombardments of the war so far. These attacks are impacting a growing number of communities and industries, including many key refineries and nodes in global energy markets.

In late July, U.S. Vice President JD Vance [reportedly](#) asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to end Kyiv's (highly successful) strikes targeting ships near the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) terminal at the Russian port of Novorossiysk due to the impact those attacks were having on global energy markets. Kyiv has reportedly [halted](#) strikes on the CPC terminal, although exports from the [Sheskhariis terminal](#) at the same port were halted Friday amid drone attacks. Vance's intervention underscores ongoing global concerns about fuel reserves as various conflicts take a growing number of energy production sites and key supply chain nodes offline. Russia, typically a net exporter, has [resorted to imports](#) of Indian gasoline as Ukraine's shift to targeting refineries and other aspects of Moscow's fossil fuel supply chains delivers results.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- **Geoje, South Korea Hit by Severe Flooding:** Nearly 892 mm (35.1 in) of rain fell in [Geoje](#) from August 15– 17, triggering severe flooding and landslides that killed one person, injured four, and forced more than 380 people to evacuate. More than 2,300 damage reports were recorded. An additional 20–60 mm (0.8– 2.4 in) is possible through Tuesday morning.
- **Historic Belgium Fire Burns More Than 2,700 Hectares:** A [major wildfire](#) that began Friday in Belgium's Hautes Fagnes has burned more than 2,700 hectares, making it one of the country's largest wildfire events. Around 600 residents in Belgium and approximately 30 residents near Monschau, Germany, have been evacuated. As of Monday afternoon, the

fire had not expanded significantly since the morning and was contained in areas accessible to crews, although firefighting continues in difficult and inaccessible terrain.

- **Additional Tropical Storm Activity:** The Gulf, Caribbean, and Atlantic remain quiet. In the eastern and central Pacific, the [National Hurricane Center](#) is monitoring two disturbances with moderate to high development potential, but neither currently poses a meaningful landfall threat over the next seven days. In the [western Pacific](#), Northern Mariana Islands interests should closely monitor disturbance 92W, which could strengthen into a tropical storm or typhoon before approaching around August 21-22. Farther west, disturbances 94W and 95W may gradually organize while lingering near northern Vietnam, Hainan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, with heavy rainfall and flooding the primary concerns.

Worldwide

- **Chinese Police Crackdown Could Target Political Dissidents:** Just two weeks into China's new year-long [campaign against organized crime](#), concerns are growing that the effort might be used to target perceived enemies of the state. Between August 1 and 11, Chinese authorities [arrested](#) at least 8,200 people for myriad crimes including "online predatory lending, soft-violence debt collection...coerced consumption, and online harassment." The police operation is the latest in a series of attempts to crack down on organized crime in China since 2018, which authorities say has evolved to adopt "more covert" web-based activities that "undermine the public's sense of security." However, Chinese officials' have historically used law enforcement to harass perceived political enemies at home and [abroad](#). Beijing also has a [history](#) of targeting individuals seen as acting against state interests (such as denouncing government activities online).
- **Cycle of Heat Waves Straining European Power Generation, Driving Rising LNG Costs:** Liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices across Europe are [nearing their highest levels](#) since the beginning of the Iran conflict. A series of heat waves across Europe is not only driving energy demand for air conditioning but also creating drought conditions that are drying up some of Europe's most important waterways for ferrying fuel and generating hydropower. Worsening the impact, some of the continent's alternative means of generating electricity, including coal-fired and nuclear plants, are underperforming this season, with insufficient water levels in local rivers to operate cooling systems.
- **Iran, Oman Oil Spills Creating Disaster in Hormuz-Area Waters:** As efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to commercial traffic continue, the development of environmental emergencies on either end of the waterway could prolong the post-war recovery process. A tanker believed to be carrying around 800,000 gallons of oil that was [abandoned by Russian operators](#) in the Gulf of Oman has run aground, creating an oil spill that [could impact](#) 40 kilometers (25 miles) of Oman's coastline. Following an unexplained explosion

on June 8, the ship Caroline Bezengi was left adrift, with the first signs of an oil leak noted on June 30. In the weeks since, an oil slick covering some 2,000 square kilometers (772 square miles, or nearly 495,000 acres) has developed, threatening a nature reserve and several popular beaches in the country. Meanwhile, at least two oil slicks have also [developed in Iranian waters](#) of the Persian Gulf, with one near Qeshm Island likely related to a strike on the Liberian-flagged Minoan Pioneer on August 3.

- **Expansion of U.S. Strikes in Latin America Likely to Draw Retaliation:** [New agreements](#) between the Trump administration and several Latin American governments will likely see U.S. military operations in the region expand into land-based activities, raising continuity and supply chain risks in countries where these attacks unfold. Colombia, Guatemala, and Honduras will allow the U.S. to pursue cartels and other criminal groups in their territory. The U.S. is also supporting a similar campaign in Ecuador. New operations targeting criminal organizations will likely lead to retaliatory actions that could spill over into public areas, impacting business operations and transportation networks. This is especially likely if U.S. attacks target command structures or sensitive sites such as drug production and storage facilities.
- **Myanmar Escalations Likely to Prevent Breakthrough in Conflict, Return to International Fold:** Analysts recently expected that growing regional engagement and [recent battlefield developments](#) could create an opportunity for peace talks between Myanmar's junta government and the various rebel group opposing it. The Steering Council for the Emergence of a Federal Democratic Union (SCEF), which brings together many of the major ethnic armed organizations and remnants of the ousted civilian government, indicated that it is open to a political settlement with the Tatmadaw as neighboring Thailand pushes for ASEAN to reengage with Myanmar. However, any serious negotiations appear a distant prospect. The SCEF has called for the military to end attacks on civilians and release all political prisoners, but state repression has [reportedly worsened](#) following a March 2026. The junta has also not recognized the SCEF as an interlocutor, apparently preferring to negotiate with the country's vast patchwork of armed groups on a bilateral basis.

Cyber and Regulatory

- **China-Linked Hackers Use Autonomous AI Against Taiwan:** Suspected China-linked hackers used publicly available AI tools to [conduct](#) an autonomous cyberattack against Taiwanese government systems in July. Israeli cybersecurity firm Dream, which discovered and analyzed the operation, [found](#) that attackers deployed up to eight AI agents simultaneously to map government networks, research vulnerabilities, adapt attack methods, and maintain access. The campaign compromised at least 85 government

accounts and exfiltrated more than 2,500 personnel records before expanding to Taiwan's nuclear safety agency and at least seven energy companies. The system was built using the open-source Hermes and OpenClaw agent frameworks and bypassed AI safeguards by presenting malicious activity as authorized security testing. Dream did not attribute the operation to a specific group, although specific communications indicated a probable connection to China.

- **Space-Based Data Centers Present New Risks for Insurers:** Aerospace manufacturer SpaceX has partnered with Google, Blue Origin, and various startups to [explore](#) the potential of orbital data centers. These sites would be mounted on satellites equipped with powerful computer hardware, capable of processing AI workloads using solar energy. SpaceX has proposed outfitting up to one million satellites for AI computing, while Blue Origin has filed plans for 51,600 data center satellites. The concept presents new challenges for insurers due to limited access to historical data or established pricing models. Only around 30 insurers currently specialize in space coverage, with annual premiums typically totaling around \$500-700 million. Potential threats include launch failures and radiation, while repair or replacement operations could require additional launches, each with their own risks. Cost considerations are also a significant factor, with the installation of cutting-edge data centers and AI hardware on these satellites likely to increase the cost to replace that equipment in the event that it is written off.
- **Demonstrators Turn to Offline Messaging Apps During India's Internet Shutdowns:** Indian regulators sought to [restrict access](#) to Bitchat's open-source code after demonstrators [used](#) the messaging app during an internet shutdown. Bitchat uses Bluetooth to let nearby devices exchange messages without internet or cellular service. The app has proven particularly popular in India, which [regularly employs](#) internet shutdowns to suppress demonstrations. Downloads of Bitchat surged during [Cockroach Janta Party \(CJP\)-led](#) demonstrations in New Delhi. Bitchat's effectiveness depends on having enough nearby users to form a functioning Bluetooth mesh network, which could limit its use across dispersed populations. Further government efforts to restrict access to the app, including consequences for those found to use or share it with others, could further limit adoption.
- **Helix Claims Uber Freight Data Breach Gave Access to Almost a Million Files:** Uber Freight is investigating unauthorized access to its systems after the Helix hacking group [claimed responsibility](#) for a breach that took place in recent weeks. The group claims it stole nearly one million files, including customer emails, accounts payable records, and dispatch documents. Uber Freight said the incident was contained and remediated, and that business operations continued as normal. Files allegedly stolen in the breach appear to include customer correspondence from mid-June, though their [authenticity remains](#)

unverified. Google **linked** Helix to UNC6671, a hacking group that uses voice phishing (vishing) to obtain employee credentials. Google researchers traced at least \$10.6 million in ransom payments to associated wallets between January and May 2026. The incident comes amid **increased vishing** activity targeting employees to gain credentials to access corporate environments.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **Subsea Cables Disruptions, Including Deliberate Attacks, Threaten Australia's 'Lifelines':** While 99% of Australia's international internet traffic is carried abroad via 16 subsea cables, the country lacks effective monitoring and repair capabilities to quickly respond to severed cables resulting from commercial accidents, deliberate sabotage, or other causes. Cables off the West Australian coast were recently **severed near a "suspicious vessel,"** prompting Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Mark Hammond to **describe the cables** as "lifelines" whose loss would constitute "an existential threat" to the nation. Despite concerns about the potential for sabotage, fishing and anchoring still cause roughly 70% of damage to subsea cables observed globally. Natural hazards also constitute a significant portion. To better secure its subsea cable network, Canberra will **need** to upgrade and acquire additional repair vessels, assign bureaucratic ownership of the issue, and develop seabed surveillance capabilities to better monitor and protect its connectivity infrastructure.
- **Cycle of Heat Waves Straining European Power Generation, Driving Rising LNG Costs:** Liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices across Europe are **nearing their highest levels** since the beginning of the Iran conflict. A series of heat waves across Europe is not only driving energy demand for air conditioning but also creating drought conditions that are drying up some of Europe's most important waterways for ferrying fuel and generating hydropower. Worsening the impact, some of the continent's alternative means of generating electricity, including coal-fired and nuclear plants, are underperforming this season, with insufficient water levels in local rivers to operate cooling systems.
- **China's Arctic Trade Route Not a Substitute to Major Maritime Chokepoints:** As chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb Strait remain volatile, Chinese shipping company Sea Legend has **launched** its first scheduled container service through the northern sea route (NSR) via the Arctic Ocean, cutting the Ningbo to Felixstowe journey from roughly 40 days (via Suez Canal) to about 18. The route has become more viable as shrinking summer sea ice widens its usable window, and it offers China the means to reduce dependence on vulnerable maritime chokepoints while advancing longstanding "Polar Silk Road" ambitions. However, the route is unlikely to meaningfully offset the current global logistics crisis at scale, being navigable only part of the year, requiring

specialized vessels, and crossing Russian-administered waters, giving Moscow significant control over access. Growing Arctic competition among China, Russia, the U.S., and other players further complicates the route's long-term viability for China or other aspiring users.

- **Heat Waves Straining Grid, Driving Down Small Business Activity in East Asia:** The [combined impact](#) of the brewing El Niño phenomenon and the impact of Typhoon Dolphin is driving [record heat across East Asia](#), hampering business activity and threatening future disruptions unless regional governments address shortfalls in extreme heat preparations. Hong Kong recorded its highest temperature ever (36.9°C, 98.42°F) on [August 9](#), with nine consecutive days above 33°C triggering 6+ hour power cuts for up to [2,400](#) Yuen Long customers. Meanwhile, the costs associated with rising temperatures are weighing on South Korea's small businesses, where cooling costs have nearly [doubled](#) amid the intense heat. A Federation of Korean Industries [survey found](#) that 63% of small business owners reported worsening economic conditions, with commodity expenses rising 28-41% and delivery fees by 10-20%.
- **U.S. Soybean Producers Pivot to New Buyers, Domestic Market Amid Chinese Purchasing Shortfall:** With China on track to buy just half the volume it had pledged to import annually through 2028, U.S. soybean growers have been forced to [pivot to new markets](#), such as third countries and the domestic biofuel sector. This shift has helped keep overall production largely stable despite the export shortfall, according to the American Soybean Association's chief economist. USDA data also [shows](#) domestic crush volumes hitting a record 2.78 billion bushels for the 2026-2027 marketing year. Soybean futures have stayed strong even with a record harvest expected, as higher domestic crush margins and remaining Chinese purchases help absorb the extra supply.

Health

- **Heat Takes Toll on Unprepared U.K. Hospitals:** The United Kingdom's healthcare system is [struggling](#) to cope with increasingly severe heat waves, exposing longstanding weaknesses in hospital infrastructure. Around 90% of England's hospital buildings are [vulnerable to overheating](#), while fewer than 5% of surveyed healthcare workers report consistent access to air conditioning. Staff described unsafe conditions, including dehydration, collapsing colleagues, equipment failures, medication-related risks, and difficulty performing basic procedures. With billions of pounds in overdue maintenance already needed, officials warn that adapting facilities will be costly, but increasingly necessary as extreme heat becomes more frequent.
- **Trump Signs Executive Order on Childhood Vaccination Schedule:** U.S. President Donald Trump signed an [executive order](#) that would reduce the number of vaccines routinely recommended for all children, encourage spacing shots across more medical

visits, and separate combination vaccines such as MMR into individual doses. It also provides for greater scrutiny of vaccine timing and ingredients, and would pressure states to expand religious or personal-belief exemptions. The administration says the changes increase parental choice. However, pediatricians and vaccine experts cited by CNN argue that the recommendations lack supporting scientific evidence and could increase confusion, costs, missed vaccinations, and vulnerability to preventable disease outbreaks. The executive order is likely to face challenges, as official vaccine recommendations in the U.S. follow their own distinct process. Any changes that are made as a result of the order are also likely to take time. Insurers are likely to [continue covering](#) vaccines as long as they remain on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended vaccination schedule, and the White House has said that the Vaccine for Children program will also be unaffected by the order.

- **FDA Proposes New Rule for Food Additives:** The FDA is [proposing](#) to close a longstanding food regulation loophole by requiring manufacturers to notify the agency when they use ingredients deemed “generally recognized as safe,” or GRAS. Currently, companies can independently determine an ingredient is safe without informing regulators. The change is a key part of Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s food policy agenda, and follows concerns that numerous additives have entered the U.S. food supply without FDA review. Consumer advocates [welcomed](#) mandatory notification but said stronger reforms are needed, including independent safety reviews, tougher standards, enforcement mechanisms, and the reassessment of thousands of existing food additives.
- **As Cyclosporiasis Declines and Salmonella Cases Grow, More Questions Emerge Around Regulatory Safeguards:** As reports of new cases of cyclosporiasis [slow](#) in disease hotspot Michigan and the FDA [advising](#) that the best-if-used-by dates on the recalled iceberg lettuce at the heart of the largest outbreak have passed, attention is turning to the legal and regulatory fallout. [Multiple lawsuits](#) have been filed against Taylor Farms, Taco Bell (despite only [receiving](#) 2.5% of the recalled lettuce), and other restaurant operators. Nearly a month after Taylor Farms first said that it was recalling lettuce that passed through its central Mexico facility, federal regulators have [dispatched](#) a team to investigate the plant. It will be the plant's first inspection in seven years, highlighting the [difficulty](#) the FDA has faced in performing even the congressionally-mandated minimum number of foreign inspections. The FDA’s shortcomings have placed a greater burden on individual companies to ensure quality and safety across their supply chains, as exemplified by [Chipotle](#), which traced several Minnesota salmonella cases to jalapeños served in its restaurants and [pulled the peppers](#) days before federal officials made any announcement. Meanwhile, [several other retailers](#) have pulled products due to potential salmonella contamination.

- **CDC Issues Warning on Mosquito and Tick-Borne Disease in Certain Patients:** The CDC is [warning](#) clinicians that patients taking B cell-depleting or modulating drugs, particularly anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies such as rituximab, face an elevated risk of severe arboviral (mosquito or tick-borne) neuroinvasive disease. Published cases show mortality around 40%, with neurologic complications common among survivors. West Nile virus is most frequently reported, but eastern equine encephalitis, Powassan, La Crosse, and other viruses have also caused severe disease. Because no approved treatments exist for many U.S.-endemic arboviruses, the CDC recommends emphasizing mosquito and tick prevention and using molecular testing when infection is suspected. Over the past year, the U.S. has seen higher than normal levels of [tick](#) and [mosquito](#) borne disease as insects capable of spreading disease move into [new territories](#).

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **2026 Vuelta a España Begins this Weekend Amid Specter of Pro-Palestine Protests:** The 2026 Vuelta cycle race opens in Monaco this Saturday, followed by stages across France, Andorra, and Spain. The final stage will take place in Granada on September 13, a change from last year's race where demonstrations against the Israeli Premier Tech cycling team's participation [disrupted](#) the final stage in Madrid. Demonstrators also [disrupted](#) the finish line of last year's stage 11 in Spain. Spanish authorities will [reinforce](#) security measures for this year's race. While Israel's Premier Tech team [rebranded](#) to NSN Cycling under a Swiss license, demonstrations against Israeli participation in the race is likely again this year.
- **Belgium, Spain Brace for School Disruptions Due to Teachers' Strikes:** Belgian teachers' unions have filed a strike notice, in effect now through September 27, over secondary education reforms in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. In a recent interview, the president of the CGSP Education union [said](#) that disruptions at the start of the school year are "very likely," and the Setca-sel private education union is [calling](#) for days of action, including strikes, on August 24 and September 14. In Spain, the CSIF union announced that teachers will mobilize this fall, with a major rally [planned](#) in Madrid on September 16. Teachers in Valencia [suspended](#) a month-long strike at the end of the school year without an agreement, signaling that further action this fall is highly likely.
- **Tunisia to See Another Round of Anti-Government Demonstrations:** Tunisia's opposition movement is gearing up for a demonstration against the government of President Kais Saied this week. The Nafas initiative, a coalition of opposition political parties and civil society groups, is [calling](#) on supporters to gather in Tunis on Thursday, August 20, for a protest demanding improved access to water and electricity, among broader concerns over democracy and living conditions. Thousands of people [took to the streets](#) of Tunis

last month over the country's deteriorating economic conditions, with demonstrators calling for the end of Saied's regime.

- **Student-Led Demonstrations Persist in India, Farmers Plan to March to Delhi:** The father of a Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) activist [died after being attacked](#) in West Bengal's Bankura last week, prompting the CJP to [call for a gherao](#) of the Bankura District Magistrate Office in 10 days. Demonstrations by students are continuing in Jharkhand state this week, with student groups planning to [gherao](#) (surround) Chief Minister Hemant Soren's residence in Ranchi on Thursday, August 20, to demand his resignation over alleged exam irregularities. Police [used tear gas and water cannons](#) to disperse student demonstrators in Ranchi last week. In Bihar state, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is organizing a march in Patna on Wednesday to protest a police officer [firing an AK-47](#) during student protests last month. On Tuesday, TRE-4 teacher recruitment aspirants will [launch an indefinite hunger strike](#) at Patna's Gardanibagh demanding the release of the Teacher Recruitment Examination 4 advertisement and the start of the recruitment process. Meanwhile, police have established barricades on the road at Khanauri on the Punjab-Haryana border as farmers with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) have [pledged](#) to march to New Delhi for a mass meeting on August 29.
- **Week of Action Against ALPRs Headlines Upcoming Demonstrations in U.S.:** A week of action against automated license plate readers (ALPRs), chief among them those produced by Flock Safety, began over the weekend with demonstrations in several cities, including a scooter "takeover" in [Minneapolis](#). A [fight](#) at a protest in Fargo, North Dakota highlighted the ideological diversity of those opposed to cameras, drawing pushback from a wide cross-section of the population. Additional actions are planned for this coming week, with gatherings slated for [Oakland](#) and [Austin](#) on Thursday. Protests are also likely in Atlanta, where Flock will hold its "Flock Forward" conference at an undisclosed location. Meanwhile, demonstrations are planned against data centers in [Baltimore](#) on August 23 and [Durham](#) on August 24. In Washington, D.C., authorities are preparing a significant security deployment for the Freedom 250 Grand Prix, which begins August 22. At the end of the month, on August 28, the capital will see a demonstration on the National Mall as civil rights leader Reverend Al Sharpton leads a [march to defend voting rights](#).

Weekly Intelligence Briefing

August 17, 2026



Upcoming Events

August 22-23: Freedom 250 Grand Prix (Washington, D.C., United States)
August 22-September 13: La Vuelta (Monaco, France, Andorra, Spain)
August 24: Independence Day (Ukraine)
August 25: Mawlid al-Nabi (Global)
August 31-September 1: G20 Finance Ministers' Meeting (Asheville, United States)
August 30-31: Notting Hill Carnival (London, England)
August 31: Independence Day (Malaysia)
September 2: National Day (Vietnam)
September 6: State Election (Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany)
September 7: Independence Day (Brazil)
September 7: Labor Day (United States, Canada)
September 8: Opening of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) (New York City, United States)
September 9-10: GOP Midterm Convention (Dallas, United States)
September 11: 9/11 Anniversary (United States)
September 11-13: Rosh Hashana (Global)
September 12-13: BRICS Summit (New Delhi, India)
September 13: Parliamentary Elections (Sweden)
September 14: Ganesh Chaturthi (India)
September 16: Independence Day (Mexico)
September 18-20: State Duma Elections (Russia)
September 20-21: Yom Kippur (Global)
September 22-29: UN General Assembly High-Level Week (New York City, United States)
September 23: Parliamentary Elections (Morocco)
September 25: Mid-Autumn Festival (China)
September 25-October 2: Sukkot (Global)
October 2: Gandhi Jayanti (India)