CURRENT AFFAIRS PULSE

July 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

Monthly PIB Compilation

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

6 articles

India Women Beat England by 270 Runs in First Women's Test at Lord's

13 Jul

- India women won the first-ever women's Test at Lord's, beating England by 270 runs on 13 July 2026 (match 10-13 July)
- Kranti Gaud (5/37) was Player of the Match; Yastika Bhatia (113) scored the first women's Test century at Lord's
- Union Minister of Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi congratulated the team, captained by Harmanpreet Kaur
- India's women's Test record now stands at 43 matches, 9 wins, 7 losses and 27 draws

National Anti-Doping Act 2022 and 2025 Amendment Brought Into Force

17 Jul

- The Centre notified the commencement of the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025, announced on 17 July 2026 — India's anti-doping regime now runs on statute.
- The Acts align India's framework with the World Anti-Doping Code and meet its obligations under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- They give statutory backing to testing, results management, education, intelligence and investigations across all sports.
- The 2025 amendment was passed to meet WADA's objection to government control: it guarantees NADA's operational independence and strips the National Board of oversight over it.

PV Sindhu Wins Japan Open 2026, First Indian to Take the Title

19 Jul

- PV Sindhu won the women's singles title at the Japan Open 2026 on 19 July. She is the first Indian to win the tournament.
- She beat World No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 21-17, 21-17 in the final.
- The Japan Open is one of the BWF World Tour's Super 750 events.

PM Hails Anahat Singh's Historic World Junior Squash Championship Gold

26 Jul

- PM Modi congratulated Anahat Singh for winning the 2026 World Junior Squash Championship gold — the first Indian to achieve this feat
- The 18-year-old from Delhi defeated Egypt's Ruqayya Salem 3-0 in the final at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada
- Squash will make its Olympic debut at the LA 2028 Games, approved by the IOC in October 2023

Weightlifter Rishikanta Singh Chanambam Wins Silver at CWG 2026 Glasgow

26 Jul

- PM Modi congratulated Indian Navy weightlifter Rishikanta Singh Chanambam for winning a silver medal at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow
- Chanambam competed in the men's 60 kg category, achieving a personal-best total of 264 kg with a CWG-record snatch of 121 kg
- The 23rd Commonwealth Games are being held in Glasgow, Scotland (July 23 – August 2, 2026) across 10 sports

Mirabai Chanu Wins 4th CWG Medal with Gold in 48 kg Weightlifting at Glasgow 2026

26 Jul

- PM Modi congratulated Saikhom Mirabai Chanu for winning gold in the women's 48 kg weightlifting at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow
- This is Chanu's 4th CWG medal overall (silver 2014 Glasgow, gold 2018 Gold Coast, gold 2022 Birmingham, gold 2026 Glasgow) and third consecutive gold
- Chanu is also the Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist (49 kg) and a recipient of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (2018)

2. Awards & Honours

3 articles

DoT's BharatNet-based Samriddh Gram wins WSIS Prize 2026 under Action Line C6

09 Jul

- Samriddh Gram, the Department of Telecommunications' BharatNet-enabled 'integrated phygital service delivery' project, was named Global Winner of the WSIS Prizes 2026 under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment.
- The prize was presented at the WSIS Forum 2026 in Geneva; the WSIS process is led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- Only two Indian projects made the Champion Projects list across the 18 prize categories; over 2.2 million votes were cast worldwide.
- Samriddh Gram runs village-level Samriddhi Kendras offering health, education, agriculture, banking, e-governance, FTTH and PM-WANI Wi-Fi services from one hub.

FIU-IND's Rs 868 Crore Cyber-Fraud Case Named Runner-up at Best Egmont Case Award 2026

10 Jul

- FIU-IND's case on a large cyber-fraud laundering network won Runner-up at the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026, announced at the Egmont Group Plenary in Baku, Azerbaijan — one of only two finalists from the Egmont Group's 182 member jurisdictions.
- The case began with intelligence from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and traced about Rs 868 crore of fraud proceeds through more than 5,000 mule bank accounts and cross-border cryptocurrency transactions.
- Acting on FIU-IND's report, the Directorate of Enforcement searched 13 locations, seized Rs 47 lakh cash and about Rs 13.6 crore in USDT, attached Rs 8.67 crore of assets and filed two prosecution complaints under PMLA, 2002.

72nd National Film Awards Announced: Article 370 Best Film; Mammootty, Kartik Aaryan Share Best Actor

18 Jul

- 72nd National Film Awards (for films of 2024) were announced on 18 July 2026. Article 370 (Hindi) won Best Feature Film, Bhangaar Best Non-Feature Film and Ram-Nami Best Documentary
- Best Actor was shared by Mammootty (Bramayugam, Malayalam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion, Hindi). Yami Gautam won Best Actress for Article 370
- Randeep Hooda won Best Debut Film of a Director for Swatantrya Veer Savarkar. Amaran won Best Direction (Rajkumar Periasamy) and Kalki 2898 AD won Best Popular Film

- Top awards carry the Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) and Rs 3 lakh. Most craft and acting awards carry the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus) and Rs 2 lakh
- Jury chairs: Jayaraj (Feature), Aseem Sinha (Non-Feature), A. Chandrasekhar (Writing on Cinema)

COMPLETE WINNERS LIST: 72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS (2024)

Award	Film (language)	Awardee	Medal
Feature Films			
Best Feature Film	Article 370 (Hindi)	Jio Studios & B62 Studios (producers); Aditya Suhas Jambhale (director)	Swarna Kamal
Best Debut Film of a Director	Swatantrya Veer Savarkar (Hindi)	Randeep Hooda	Swarna Kamal
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu)	Vyjayanthi Movies; Nag Ashwin Singireddy	Swarna Kamal
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values	Captain Miller (Tamil)	Sathya Jyothi Films; Arun Matheswaran	Rajat Kamal
Best Children's Film	35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu (Telugu)	S Originals & Waltair Productions; Nanda Kishore Emani	Swarna Kamal
Best Direction	Amaran (Tamil)	Rajkumar Periasamy	Swarna Kamal
Best Actor in a Leading Role (shared)	Bramayugam (Malayalam) / Chandu Champion (Hindi)	Mammootty / Kartik Aaryan	Rajat Kamal
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Article 370 (Hindi)	Yami Gautam	Rajat Kamal
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Bhakshak (Hindi)	Sanjay Mishra	Rajat Kamal
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (shared)	Maharaja (Tamil) / Mithya (Kannada)	Sachana Namidass / Ropashree Varkady	Rajat Kamal
Best Child Artist (shared)	Mithya (Kannada) / 35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu (Telugu) / Onko Ki Kothin (Bengali)	Athish S Shetty / Arundev Pothula / Riddhiman Banerjee, Tapomoy Deb, Gitashree Chakraborty	Rajat Kamal
Best Male Playback Singer	Gharat Ganpati (Marathi)	Abhay Jodhpurkar (Navasachi Gauri Mazi)	Rajat Kamal
Best Female Playback Singer	A. R. M (Malayalam)	Vaikom Vijayalakshmi (Angu Vaana Konilu)	Rajat Kamal
Best Cinematography	Bramayugam (Malayalam)	Shehnad Jalal	Rajat Kamal
Best Screenplay (Original)	Pushpa: The Rule Part-02 (Telugu)	Bandreddi Sukumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Screenplay (Adapted)	Swargandharva Sudhir Phadke (Marathi)	Yogesh Deshpande	Rajat Kamal
Best Screenplay (Dialogue)	Lucky Baskhar (Telugu)	Venky Atluri	Rajat Kamal
Best Sound Design	Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 (Hindi)	Manas Choudhury	Rajat Kamal
Best Editing	Amaran (Tamil)	R. Kalaivannan	Rajat Kamal
Best Production Design	Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu)	Nitin Zihani Choudhary	Rajat Kamal
Best Costume Design	Pushpa: The Rule Part-02 (Telugu)	Deepali Noor & Sheetal Sharma	Rajat Kamal
Best Make-up	Committee Kurrollu (Telugu)	P Ravi Kumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Music Direction (Songs)	Article 370 (Hindi)	Shashwat Sachdev	Rajat Kamal
Best Music Direction (Background)	Amaran (Tamil)	G. V. Prakash Kumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Lyrics	Maidaan (Hindi)	Manoj Muntashir (Jaane Do)	Rajat

Award	Film (language)	Awardee	Medal
			Kamal
Best Choreography	Stree 2 (Hindi)	Vijay Ganguly (Aaj Ki Raat)	Rajat Kamal
Best Action Direction	Maharaja (Tamil)	Anl Arasu	Rajat Kamal
Special Mention	Captain Miller (Tamil) / Meiyazhagan (Tamil)	Dhanush (actor) / Suren G. (sound mix)	Certificate
Best Feature Film in Each Language			
Assamese	Juiphool	Jadumoni Dutta	Rajat Kamal
Bengali	Chalchitra Ekhon	Anjan Dutt	Rajat Kamal
Gujarati	Maaran	Cineman Productions; Abhishek Jain	Rajat Kamal
Hindi	Srikanth	Super Cassettes Industries & Chalk N Cheese Films; Tushar Hiranandani	Rajat Kamal
Kannada	Mithya	Paramvah Pictures & KRG Studios; Sumanth Bhat	Rajat Kamal
Konkani	Mog Asum	Radheshyam Pipalwa & Agnelo Angelo Braganza	Rajat Kamal
Malayalam	Feminichi Fathima	1001 Stories & AFD Cinemas; Fasil Muhammed	Rajat Kamal
Manipuri	Sunita	Yumnam Ajit Singh	Rajat Kamal
Marathi	Mukkam Post Bombilwadi	Vivek Films & Mayasabha Karamanuk Mandali; Paresh Mokashi	Rajat Kamal
Odia	Lahari	Jhilik Motion Pictures; Amartya Bhattacharyya	Rajat Kamal
Tamil	Raayan	Sun TV Network; Dhanush	Rajat Kamal
Telugu	Committee Kurrollu	Pink Elephant Pictures & Shree Radha Damodara Studios; Yadhu Vamsee	Rajat Kamal
Garhwali (non-Eighth Schedule)	Dholi	SC Pharmachem; Dinesh P. Bhonsle	Rajat Kamal
Tulu (non-Eighth Schedule)	IMBU	Pichchar Studio; Shivadhwaj Shetty	Rajat Kamal
Non-Feature Films			
Best Non-Feature Film	Bhangaar (Marathi & English)	Sumira Roy	Swarna Kamal
Best Debut Film of a Director	Angen (Santhali)	Ravi Raj Murmu	Swarna Kamal
Best Biographical / Historical Reconstruction / Compilation Film	Kakori (Hindi)	KSR Brothers & Minti Mishra; Kamlesh K Mishra	Rajat Kamal
Best Arts / Culture Film	Main Nida (Hindi)	Sampreshan Multimedia; Atul Pandey	Rajat Kamal
Best Documentary	Ram-Nami (Hindi)	BBP Studio Virtual Bharat; Bharatbala Ganapathy	Rajat Kamal
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	Piplantri: A Tale of Eco Feminism (Hindi, Rajasthani & English)	Johnsons Suraj Films International; Suraj Kumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Animation Film	Touched as Water (Silent)	JB Productions; Joshy Benedict	Rajat Kamal
Best Short Film (up to 30 min)	Hamsafar (Marathi)	Anushka Motion Pictures; Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi	Rajat Kamal
Best Direction	Statue of Unity - Ekta ka Prateek (Hindi)	Aanand L Rai	Swarna Kamal
Best Cinematography	Life in Loom (English, Tamil, Hindi, Assamese &	Edmond Ranson	Rajat

Award	Film (language)	Awardee	Medal
	Bengali)		Kamal
Best Sound Design	Blue (Tamil)	T S Hari Hara Sudhan	Rajat Kamal
Best Editing	NDA (Hindi)	Manvir Jasrotia	Rajat Kamal
Best Music Direction	Parat 41 degree-chya Magavar / On the Trail of 41 degree (Marathi)	Shivpal Singh Kang	Rajat Kamal
Best Narration / Voice Over	Little Planet: A Tale of Frogs (English)	Soundarya Jayachandran	Rajat Kamal
Best Script	Obur (Hindi & Kashmiri)	Faraz Ali	Rajat Kamal
Special Mention	Bhadra-Kali Natakam (Malayalam) / Chola Dora aur Sui (Hindi)	Ananda Jyothi (Jose Antony) / Jaymin Modi & Lokesh Ghai	Certificate
Best Writing on Cinema			
Best Book on Cinema	Naaniruvude Nimagaagi Naadiruvude Nanagaagi: Kannada Cinemada Thathva matthu Rajakeeya (Kannada)	Kenchanuru Pradeep Kumar Shetty (publisher: Mirror Pusthaka)	Swarna Kamal
Best Film Critic	Hindi	Sanjeev Shrivastava	Swarna Kamal

Source: PIB release PRID 2286143, 18 July 2026. Cash prizes: Swarna Kamal awards Rs 3,00,000 (Rs 1,00,000 for Writing on Cinema); Rajat Kamal awards Rs 2,00,000; shared awards split the prize.

HEADLINE WINNERS: 71ST VS 72ND EDITION

Category	71st (films of 2023)	72nd (films of 2024)
Best Feature Film	12th Fail	Article 370
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)	Mammootty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway)	Yami Gautam (Article 370)
Announced	1 August 2025	18 July 2026

71st edition: announced 1 August 2025, presented 23 September 2025. Its Dadasaheb Phalke Award (for 2023) went to Mohanlal.

3. Appointments

6 articles

Armed Forces Change of Guard: Lt Gen Sandeep Jain VCOAS, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit VCAS, Tejinder Singh CISC

01 Jul

- On 1 July 2026 Lt Gen Sandeep Jain became Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Vice Chief of the Air Staff, and Air Marshal Tejinder Singh Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).
- New commanders took over the Army's Southern and South Western Commands and the IAF's Southern and South Western Air Commands.
- HQ Integrated Defence Staff, which the CISC heads, was created in 2001 after the post-Kargil reviews.

Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala Appointed Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, for Two Years

16 Jul

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala as Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), for two years.
- He was head of the IOTWMS Secretariat of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Perth, Australia. Earlier, from August 2020, he was Director of INCOIS, Hyderabad.
- He was Project Manager for India's tsunami early warning system at INCOIS, set up after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Harjit Singh Grewal takes charge as Chairman, National Commission for Minorities

21 Jul

- Harjit Singh Grewal, a Punjab BJP leader, assumed office as Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) on 21 July 2026, for a three-year term.
- S. Munawari Begum, already a Member, took over as Vice Chairperson on 20 July 2026; Glenn Souza Ticlo joined as the Member for the Christian community.
- The chair had been vacant since Iqbal Singh Lalpura's term ended in April 2025.
- NCM is a statutory body under the NCM Act, 1992, for the six notified minorities — Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains.

Pralhad Joshi Gets Education Ministry as Dharmendra Pradhan Resigns

25 Jul

- Dharmendra Pradhan has resigned from the Union Council of Ministers.
- His resignation was accepted by the President under Article 75(2) of the Constitution.
- Pralhad Joshi has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of Education.

Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja Appointed Next DGAFMS

31 Jul

- Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja, currently Director General Medical Services (Air), has been appointed the next Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), succeeding Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin on her retirement on 31 August 2026.
- An AFMC Pune alumnus commissioned in December 1986, he holds an MD in Medicine (1997) and a DM in Gastroenterology from AIIMS New Delhi (2005), and has held key posts including Commandant of AFMC Pune.
- As DG Medical Services (Air), he strengthened medical preparedness for the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission and operationalised the BHISHM Cube for rapid medical response.

Varsha Ashok Aglawe Becomes First Woman Director General of Geological Survey of India

31 Jul

- Smt. Varsha Ashok Aglawe has become the 54th Director General of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and the first woman to head the 176-year-old institution, succeeding Shri Asit Saha.
- A GSI veteran since 1992 with prior service at the Indian Bureau of Mines, she is a palaeontology/palynology expert who identified the Salbardi-Ghorpend area as a new Central Indian dinosaur nesting site and established a Palynology Laboratory at GSI's Lucknow office.
- She has flagged critical mineral exploration, offshore mineral exploration, and deep-seated/concealed deposit exploration as priorities aligned with the Government's mineral-security agenda.

4. Important Days

1 article

Health Ministry Marks Eight Years of NVHCP on World Hepatitis Day 2026

28 Jul

- The Health Ministry observed World Hepatitis Day 2026 (theme 'Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down') on 28 July, marking eight years of the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), launched on World Hepatitis Day 2018 to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 (SDG Target 3.3).
- Since inception, NVHCP has screened over 21 crore beneficiaries and treated more than 6 lakh patients free of cost, and now runs 1,153 treatment centres including 70+ specialised sites — surpassing its one-treatment-centre-per-district target.
- Hepatitis B birth-dose coverage has crossed 92%, though only around 65% of pregnant women are currently screened for Hepatitis B — the Ministry has urged States/UTs to reach 100% screening. 7.64 crore pregnant women have been screened and 2.24 lakh newborns of Hepatitis B-positive mothers given HBIG.
- India is among the few countries offering free Hepatitis C treatment and Hepatitis B management, with medicine costs reduced to under one US dollar.

5. Ranks & Reports

6 articles

NITI Aayog Releases Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global up to 2047

02 Jul

- NITI Aayog released the 'Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global' on 2 July 2026, prepared by its Health Division with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).
- It rests on three pillars (Availability, Acceptability, Propagation) and a phased plan to 2047: short term to 2029, medium term to 2035, long term to 2047.
- Baseline in the report: about 3.55 lakh trained Ayurveda practitioners, 95% of them in India; Ayush exports up from USD 1.09 billion (2014) to USD 2.16 billion (2023), reaching about 150 countries.
- It proposes a Mission Steering Group chaired by the Union Minister of Ayush, backed by a Global Ayurveda Forum.

UDISE+ 2025-26: Secondary GER Rises to 71.7%, Teachers Cross 1.02 Crore

07 Jul

- Ministry of Education released the UDISE+ 2025-26 report: teachers rose to 1,02,73,020, up 8.3% over 2022-23.
- Secondary GER climbed from 68.5% to 71.7%; secondary dropout fell from 8.2% to 7.0% and secondary retention rose from 47.2% to 51.9%.
- Pupil-Teacher Ratio stands at 10 (Foundational), 12 (Preparatory), 17 (Middle) and 21 (Secondary).
- Zero-enrolment schools fell about 29% to 5,663; single-teacher schools fell about 3% to 1,00,843; women are 54.9% of teachers.

FOUR-YEAR TREND IN KEY INDICATORS

Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
PTR — Foundational	11	10	10	10
PTR — Preparatory	14	13	13	12
PTR — Middle	18	18	17	17
PTR — Secondary	23	21	21	21
Dropout % — Preparatory	8.7	3.7	2.3	1.8

Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Dropout % — Middle	8.1	5.2	3.5	3.6
Dropout % — Secondary	13.8	10.9	8.2	7.0
Retention % — Middle	75.8	78.0	82.8	83.7
Retention % — Secondary	44.1	45.6	47.2	51.9
GER % — Middle	90.0	89.5	90.3	89.6
GER % — Secondary	67.6	66.5	68.5	71.7
Transition % — Middle to Secondary	86.7	83.3	86.6	88.3
Single-teacher schools	1,18,190	1,10,971	1,04,125	1,00,843
Zero-enrolment schools	10,294	12,954	7,993	5,663
Schools with internet %	49.7	53.9	63.5	67.4

Source: Ministry of Education release on UDISE+ 2025-26, 7 July 2026. Middle-stage dropout rose slightly (3.5 to 3.6); Foundational and Preparatory retention dipped after three years of gains.

PGI 2.0 for 2025-26: Chandigarh Sole Uttam-3, No State in Bottom Two Bands

07 Jul

- Chandigarh topped the Performance Grading Index 2.0 for 2025-26 with 766.0 of 1,000 points — the only State/UT to reach the Uttam-3 grade.
- Punjab, Kerala, Delhi and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu formed the next band (Prachesta-1); Meghalaya scored lowest at 525.7.
- For the first time no State/UT fell in the bottom two bands (Akanshi-2 and Akanshi-3).
- The Ministry of Education also released PGI for Districts (PGI-D) 2025-26: 600 points, 70 indicators, 11 domains.

2025-26 GRADE BANDS

Grade	States/UTs
Uttam-3	Chandigarh
Prachesta-1	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Punjab, Kerala, Delhi
Prachesta-2	Lakshadweep, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra, Odisha
Prachesta-3	Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Uttarakhand
Akanshi-1	Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tripura, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya

Grades as reported in published analyses of the PGI 2.0 2025-26 report; the PIB release itself does not list them. All 36 States/UTs graded.

NITI Aayog's First Investment Friendliness Index: Gujarat Tops, Five States 'Top Performers'

17 Jul

- NITI Aayog released its first Investment Friendliness Index (IFI): Gujarat ranks first, and Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Odisha are the five 'Top Performers'.
- The index covers all 28 states and 8 UTs on 8 pillars and 84 indicators, mixing secondary data with an investor perception survey.
- Peer-group toppers: Gujarat (Large States), Uttarakhand (Hilly and North-Eastern States), Goa (UTs and City States).
- It was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 after the PM asked NITI Aayog at the 9th Governing Council meeting (July 2024) to draft an Investment-Friendly Charter.

RESULTS

Group	1st	2nd	3rd
Overall / Large States	Gujarat (56.6)	Maharashtra (53.7)	Tamil Nadu (53.3)
Hilly and North-Eastern States	Uttarakhand	Assam	Himachal Pradesh
UTs and City States	Goa	Delhi	Chandigarh

Source: PIB release of 17 July 2026 for ranks; scores from the NITI Aayog report as reported by ThePrint and Drishti IAS. Goa (53.1) and Odisha (52.4) complete the five Top Performers.

India Becomes World's 2nd-Largest Seafarer Supplier; Government Launches Mission 20%

28 Jul

- Per the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India has become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers with 311,936 professionals — 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce — up from fifth place and 5.2% in 2015, behind only the Philippines.
- Indian officers number 140,718 (13.41% of the world's officer workforce); Indian ratings number 171,218 (11.29% of global ratings); global seafarer supply stands at 2.57 million against demand of 2.55 million.
- The Government has launched 'Mission 20%' to raise India's global seafarer share from 12.16% to 20% — one in five seafarers worldwide — via expanded training capacity, industry-academia partnerships and greater opportunities for women.
- Separately, the Shipping Minister reviewed seafarer safety in conflict-sensitive regions (West Asia, Black Sea) with MEA, DG Shipping and Indian Missions in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia and Ukraine; DG Shipping's 24x7 Seafarer Grievance and Assistance Cell is fully operational, alongside new pre-departure orientation and mental-health support measures.

PIB: India Climbs to 57th in Competere Foundation's Market Distortions Performance Index

30 Jul

- India rose 25 places, from 82nd to 57th, in the Competere Foundation's Market Distortions Performance Index, per the report 'India's Next Growth Frontier', assessing reform progress from 2010 to 2023.
- The report credits reforms including GST, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), regulatory-environment improvements and trade-facilitation modernisation, evaluated across three pillars — property rights protection, domestic competition and international competition.
- The report was launched at a discussion organised by the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), IIFT New Delhi, with the Competere Foundation, at the India Habitat Centre.

6. Summits & Conferences

5 articles

29th National e-Governance Conference in Jaipur Adopts Jaipur Declaration; 17 e-Governance Awards Given

02 Jul

- The 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was held in Jaipur on 1-2 July 2026 and closed by adopting the Jaipur Declaration on e-Governance 2026.
- National Awards for e-Governance 2026 went to 17 initiatives: 10 Gold, 6 Silver and 1 Jury award across seven categories.

- Theme: 'Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-enabled, Data-driven and Secure Digital Governance'; organised by DARPG, MeitY and the Government of Rajasthan.
- BHASHINI launched a Rajasthan Language Model Training Hackathon for datasets in Marwari, Mewari, Dhundhari, Hadoti, Mewati and Bagri.

3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting in Nagpur Adopts Ministerial Declaration

12 Jul

- The 3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting, held in Nagpur (Maharashtra) on 11 July 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship, unanimously adopted a Ministerial Declaration.
- The Declaration sets a shared framework on six themes: circularity in infrastructure, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), transport decarbonisation, an Urban Mobility Hub, logistics supply-chain cooperation and the BRICS Railway Research Network.
- The 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group Senior Officials' Meeting (9-10 July) finalised the text. India said it would ensure a smooth handover of these initiatives to the next chair.
- 2026 is India's fourth BRICS Chairship, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.

12th BRICS Labour Ministers' Meeting in Hyderabad Adopts Declaration, Launches BRICS CONNECT

15 Jul

- The 12th BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting was held in Hyderabad on 15 July 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship. It adopted the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration.
- India launched BRICS CONNECT, a platform for technical cooperation, knowledge exchange and capacity building on labour market intelligence, skills forecasting, digital employment services and social security.
- The ILO Director-General said India's social protection system now reaches 1 billion people.
- The Declaration has four priorities: social security and formalisation; women's workforce participation; employability and skills mapping; digital technologies for all workers, including gig and platform workers.

India Hosts 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi

24 Jul

- India hosted the 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in New Delhi on 24 July 2026.
- The meeting was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under India's BRICS Chairship for 2026.
- Chaired by Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai, the meet concluded with the adoption of the 'BRICS Joint Statement on Disaster Risk Reduction'.
- Member nations reaffirmed their commitment to the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Work Plan (2025–2028).
- India emphasised five strategic priorities, including early warning systems, resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting Adopts Declaration in Chandigarh

24 Jul

- The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Chandigarh from 22 to 24 July 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship.
- Chaired by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, the meeting concluded with the unanimous adoption of the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Declaration.

- Key discussions focused on strengthening health security, pandemic preparedness, digital health and tuberculosis research.
- India's NIMHANS, Bengaluru, was designated to coordinate the newly proposed BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness.
- A high-level side event was also held on the integration of digital health and artificial intelligence in healthcare.

7. Schemes & Committees

33 articles

VB-G RAM G Act Takes Effect: 125 Days' Work Guarantee, Rs 300 Wage Floor

01 Jul

- The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025 came into force across India on 1 July 2026, giving eligible rural households a statutory right to 125 days of wage employment a year.
- It replaces MGNREGA (2005), which guaranteed 100 days.
- Revised wage rates were notified the same day: no notified daily wage is below Rs 300, and the national average rose from Rs 298.8 to Rs 327.4 (over 10%).
- The Centre released an interim allocation of Rs 95,692.31 crore to States/UTs; the national launch was set for 2 July 2026 in Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh.

Digital India at 11: UPI Handles 49% of Global Real-Time Payments, Greece 10th UPI Country

01 Jul

- Greece became the 10th country to enable UPI (live from 30 June 2026 through NPCI International and Eurobank), as Digital India, launched on 1 July 2015, completed 11 years.
- UPI now handles nearly 49% of the world's real-time payment transaction volume, making it the largest real-time payment system.
- Poshan Tracker had 13.30 lakh Anganwadi Workers and 8.93 crore beneficiaries registered as of May 2026, with 99.89% Aadhaar verification.
- eSARAS (DAY-NRLM) and Indiahandmade (Ministry of Textiles) are selling SHG and artisan products directly, without intermediaries.

CCEA Cuts Broken-Grain Limit in PMGKAY Rice to 10% Raw, 5% Parboiled

02 Jul

- The CCEA revised PMGKAY rice norms for the first time in nearly three decades: broken grains capped at 10% in raw rice (from 25%) and 5% in parboiled rice (from 16%).
- Procurement of the new-grade rice starts at once and covers all procuring States in phases by Kharif Marketing Season 2027-28; distribution also shifts in phases.
- Broken rice will be separated at the mill and auctioned from millers' premises, saving an estimated Rs 2,161 crore a year on transport, storage and packaging.
- Rice bags will carry QR codes for end-to-end traceability; entitlements of over 80 crore beneficiaries stay unchanged.

Modified UDAN Launched From Jodhpur: Rs 28,840 Crore for 100 Airstrips, 200 Helipads

04 Jul

- PM Modi launched the Modified UDAN (Viksit UDAN) scheme from Jodhpur on 4 July 2026 — about Rs 29,000 crore (Cabinet figure Rs 28,840 crore) over ten years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.
- It funds 100 aerodromes from unserved airstrips (Rs 12,159 crore), 200 helipads (Rs 3,661 crore), O&M support for regional airports (Rs 2,577 crore) and continued Viability Gap Funding (Rs 10,043 crore).
- The scheme pushes indigenous platforms — HAL Dhruv helicopters and Dornier aircraft — for remote routes.
- Since October 2016, UDAN has operationalised 669 routes and connected 95 airports, heliports and water aerodromes, carrying over 1.66 crore passengers.
- AAI's new Rs 480 crore terminal at Jodhpur (20 lakh passengers a year, targeting 5-Star GRIHA) was inaugurated the same day.

LokOS Digitises 94.16 Lakh SHGs Under DAY-NRLM; SHE-LEAPS Enterprise App Runs on It

04 Jul

- LokOS (Lok = People, OS = Operating System), the Ministry of Rural Development's web and mobile platform under DAY-NRLM, now digitises 94.16 lakh SHGs with 10.03 crore members across 34 States/UTs (PIB backgrounder, 4 July 2026).
- SHE-LEAPS, a platform for SHG women's farm and non-farm enterprises, was launched on 29 June 2026 and runs on LokOS.
- LokOS tracks Rs 64,607.66 crore of Community Investment Fund and Rs 9,718.41 crore of Revolving Fund, and about Rs 2 lakh crore a year of SHG transactions.
- It supports the Lakhpati Didi drive: 3.87 crore Potential Lakhpati Didis are tracked, against a national target raised to 6 crore by 2029-30.

Academic Bank of Credits: 26.35 Crore Verified APAAR IDs; Credits Valid for Seven Years

04 Jul

- 26.35 crore verified APAAR IDs — the 12-digit 'One Nation, One Student ID' linked to the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) — had been generated by 2 July 2026 (PIB backgrounder, 4 July 2026).
- ABC, a Ministry of Education initiative regulated by the UGC, stores, transfers and redeems credits; credits stay valid for up to seven years.
- 2,899 higher education institutions are registered, with 9.78 crore grade-sheet records mapped to learners' APAAR IDs; UGC had set 30 June 2026 as the upload deadline for 2025 examinations.
- ABC underpins NEP 2020's multiple entry-exit: over 700 universities and 6,600 colleges offer it.

VB-G-RAM-G: Centre Releases First Installment of Rs 25,863 Crore; Rs 300 Wage Floor

05 Jul

- VB-G-RAM-G (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)) replaced MGNREGA across India from 1 July 2026; on 5 July 2026 the Centre released its first installment (Mother Sanction) of Rs 25,863 crore to the States.
- Wage rates rose about 10% on average, and no State now has a daily wage below Rs 300.
- The installment was sized on States' demand so that wages can be paid within 15 days; States must release their matching share on time.

- Face authentication and geo-tagging are to be implemented in full; Joint Secretary-led Area Officers have been deployed to support States.

Ministry of Cooperation Turns Five: 50,000 e-PACS, Gomay Cooperative Launched, Sahakar CBS Unveiled

06 Jul

- The Ministry of Cooperation, created on 6 July 2021, marked its 5th Foundation Day on 6 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with 50,000 PACS declared e-PACS.
- Gomay Cooperative Society Multi-State Limited was launched to run a dairy circular economy — cattle feed, animal health, artificial insemination, dung management, organic manure and renewable energy.
- NUCFDC unveiled Sahakar CBS, a centralised core banking platform for Urban Cooperative Banks, and Sahakar Sahyogi, a conversational-AI service platform; NDDB's Milk Supply Review Dashboard also went live.
- The national cooperative database now holds 8.58 lakh societies across 30 sectors with 32 crore members; nine national-level cooperative societies now operate, three of them newly created.
- Urban Cooperative Banks' gross NPA fell from 12.8% to 6.2% and net NPA from 5.1% to 0.7% over five years, as stated by the Minister.

ABDM Links 104 Crore Health Records to 93 Crore ABHA Accounts; Aarogya Setu 2.0 Relaunched

06 Jul

- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), launched September 2021, now links over 104 crore health records to over 93 crore ABHA accounts, per a PIB backgrounder of 6 July 2026.
- Aarogya Setu 2.0, the old COVID-19 contact-tracing app rebuilt as ABDM's citizen health app and Personal Health Record, was launched on 29 June 2026 by Health Minister J.P. Nadda.
- The Scan and Share QR service has issued 23.21 crore ABHA-linked tokens, and an IIHMR study found it cut OPD waiting from about an hour to 2-5 minutes.
- Under the Digital Health Incentive Scheme, hospitals have received Rs 107+ crore, labs and pharmacies Rs 2.95 crore and digital solution companies Rs 26+ crore (as of 18 June 2026).

First Street Food Hubs Approved Under PM SVANidhi; Lakhanpur Among Them

11 Jul

- The first batch of Street Food Hubs under PM SVANidhi has been approved. MoHUA plans up to 50 hubs nationwide, each getting Rs 4 crore.
- Lakhanpur in Kathua district, the road gateway to Jammu & Kashmir from Pathankot, is among the first approved towns.
- MoHUA received 126 proposals from 32 States/UTs, covering 106 Urban Local Bodies and 7 Census Towns.

EPFO Amnesty Scheme 2026: Six-Month Window for PF Trusts Without Section 17 Exemption

12 Jul

- EPFO's Amnesty Scheme, 2026 was notified on 29 June 2026 (GSR 525(E)) and is open for six months. It lets establishments running Income-Tax-recognised PF trusts without a formal exemption notification regularise their status retrospectively.
- The trigger is the Finance Act, 2026. Under the Income-tax Act, 2025, a provident fund can now be recognised only if it holds an exemption under Section 17 of the EPF & MP Act, 1952.

- Eligible trusts get retrospective recognition, waiver of the minimum-headcount and corpus-size rules under the Code on Social Security, 2020, and abatement of pending dues, damages and interest assessments.
- Employers apply to the Central Government through their EPFO Regional Office and must complete any special audit within three months.

Cabinet Approves Semicon 2.0 with Rs 1,27,500 Crore Outlay

15 Jul

- The Union Cabinet approved Semicon 2.0 with a budget outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore to build the full semiconductor value chain in India.
- It rests on six pillars: design, machines and materials, more fabs, ATMP/OSAT, R&D towards advanced nodes, and talent.
- Under Semicon 1.0, 12 units worth over Rs 1.64 lakh crore were approved; Micron, Kaynes and CG Semi have begun commercial production.
- India's first fab is due to be commissioned in 2028; the target is a USD 200 billion domestic semiconductor market by 2035.

Cabinet Approves Rs 62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

15 Jul

- The Union Cabinet approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with an outlay of Rs 62,500 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- It pays 2.25% to 5% on eligible sales, up to 1.5% extra for domestic sourcing of components, and 3% extra for design and R&D by Indian brands.
- MPMS follows the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, whose tenure ended on 31 March 2026.
- India is the world's second-largest mobile phone maker, and mobile phones became India's largest export item in FY 2025-26.

World Youth Skills Day 2026: MSDE Unveils Skilling Initiatives, NCVET–ASQA Sign Letter of Intent

15 Jul

- World Youth Skills Day (15 July) 2026, theme 'Skills for a Shared Future': MSDE released IndiaSkills Competition 2026-27 Guidelines (63 skill categories), launched the WorldSkills India Champions Club and a multi-skilled caregiver programme under PMKVY.
- NCVET (India) and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) signed a Letter of Intent on quality assurance in TVET, as an outcome of the Prime Minister's visit to Australia.
- A proposed Skills Outcomes Fund of about Rs 530 crore, housed in NSDC, will pay against verified certification, placement and retention outcomes for over 2 lakh youth.
- MSDE constituted a Committee on Gender Mainstreaming and extended the NAPS apprenticeship pilot in the North Eastern Region.
- A PIB backgrounder put PMKVY 4.0 at 28.17 lakh trained (30 June 2026) and NAPS at 54.41 lakh apprentices since 2016.

Modified UDAN: Rs 28,840 Crore for 100 Airports, 200 Helipads Over FY27-FY36

17 Jul

- Modified UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme) runs for 10 years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, with an outlay of Rs 28,840 crore — it plans 100 new airports from unserved airstrips and 200 modern helipads.

- Viability Gap Funding for airlines gets Rs 10,043 crore; support lasts up to five years, tapers from year three, and route exclusivity is capped at three years.
- Nine-year tally of UDAN (as of 15 July 2026): 679 routes, 95 airports/heliports/water aerodromes, 3.58 lakh flights and over 1.68 crore passengers.
- Operational airports in India rose from 74 in 2014 to 165 as of 15 July 2026.
- Alliance Air began Daman's first direct air link (Daman-Delhi) on 16 July 2026 from the new NAMO Airport, a civil terminal at Indian Coast Guard Air Station Daman.

EPFO Launches VISHWAS, 2026 to Settle Section 14B Damages and Penalty Disputes

17 Jul

- EPFO has launched VISHWAS, 2026, a one-time scheme to settle damages/penalty disputes under Section 14B of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and Section 128 of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- The scheme was notified by G.S.R. 525(E) on 29 June 2026 as part of the EPF Scheme, 2026, and stays open for six months from that date.
- For defaults before 14 June 2024, damages are recalculated at 0.25%, 0.50% or 1.00% a month depending on how long the default lasted.
- Employers must first pay all statutory interest and give up any further appeal; fraud cases are excluded, and applications are filed online.

PM-NAPS North-East apprenticeship intervention extended for 2026-27 with 30,000 target

17 Jul

- MSDE extended the Special Intervention for apprenticeship in the North-Eastern Region under PM-NAPS for FY 2026-27, to be run by IIE Guwahati.
- Target raised to 30,000 apprentices (15,000 outside the NE, 15,000 within it) with an outlay of Rs 57.58 crore.
- The May 2025 pilot engaged 23,470 apprentices against a 26,000 target; NE apprenticeships rose 51% over FY 2024-25.

PM Dedicates 75 Redeveloped Amrit Bharat Stations Across 20 States

18 Jul

- PM Narendra Modi dedicated 75 stations redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) across 20 States in July 2026 (PIB release, 18 July 2026). Combined cost: about Rs 1,570 crore
- This was ABSS's second nationwide dedication, after 103 stations across 18 States and UTs on 22 May 2025. Madhya Pradesh had the most stations (13), followed by Rajasthan (8)
- ABSS was launched by the Ministry of Railways in December 2022. It covers 1,340 stations; redevelopment was complete at 261 as on the date of the release
- Each redeveloped station reflects local heritage: Coonoor honours the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, Kalka is the gateway to the Kalka-Shimla line, and Sanchi is built around its UNESCO-listed Buddhist heritage

THE 75 STATIONS, STATE-WISE

State (stations)	Stations
Andhra Pradesh (3)	Cumbum, Mangalagiri, Rayanapadu
Assam (1)	Majbat
Bihar (1)	Shivnarayanpur
Chhattisgarh (3)	Balod, Champa Junction, Sarona

State (stations)	Stations
Gujarat (4)	Bhaktinagar, Godhra Junction, Porbandar, Pratapnagar
Haryana (2)	Kalka, Narwana
Himachal Pradesh (1)	Amb Andaura
Jharkhand (2)	Muri Junction, Piska
Karnataka (4)	Alnavar Junction, Badami, Bantawala, Koppal
Kerala (6)	Angamali for Kaladi, Chalakudi, Nilambur Road, Parappanangadi, Thalassery, Tirur
Madhya Pradesh (13)	Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Beohari, Bhind, Chhindwara, Harpalpur, Junnar Deo, MCS Chhatarpur, Nainpur Junction, Sanchi, Shivpuri, Tikamgarh, Vidisha
Maharashtra (2)	Baramati, Nandura
Odisha (7)	Balangir, Baripada, Barpali, Bimalgarh Junction, Kesinga, Paralakhemundi, Talcher
Punjab (4)	Jalandhar Cantt, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), Sri Anandpur Sahib, Sri Muktsar Sahib
Rajasthan (8)	Barmer, Dausa, Deeg, Gangapur City, Gotan, Jaisalmer, Khairthal, Somesar
Tamil Nadu (3)	Chennai Park, Chinna Salem, Coonoor
Telangana (1)	Hi-Tech City
Uttar Pradesh (7)	Aishbagh Junction, Dhampur, Fatehpur, Modinagar, Panki Dham, Shamli, Vindhyachal
Uttarakhand (1)	Harrawala
West Bengal (2)	Haldibari, Jalpaiguri Road

Source: PIB release PRID 2286165, 18 July 2026 (complete list, 75 stations).

Coal Gasification at 22.6 MTPA of 100 MT Target; Rs 37,500 Crore Scheme Opens for Bids

20 Jul

- The Ministry of Coal held the Pre-Application Conference on 20 July 2026 for the Rs 37,500 crore Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects, which the Union Cabinet approved on 13 May 2026. Applications close on 7 September 2026.
- The National Coal Gasification Mission targets 100 MT of coal gasification by 2030. About 22.6 MTPA is operational or under implementation: Jindal Steel ~8, Talcher Fertilisers ~2.6 and eight projects under the Rs 8,500 crore scheme ~12.
- The new scheme pays up to 20% of eligible Plant and Machinery cost, against 15% of capex under the 2024 scheme. It is expected to gasify ~75 MTPA of coal, draw Rs 2.5-3 lakh crore of investment and create ~50,000 jobs.

SMILE Beggary Scheme to Expand to 295 Cities, Rehabilitate 35,000 by 2030-31

20 Jul

- SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise), the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's umbrella scheme launched in February 2022, will extend its beggary sub-scheme from 216 to 295 cities by FY 2030-31.
- The plan for 2026-31, approved through the Standing Finance Committee, sets a target of rehabilitating 35,000 persons engaged in begging. Over 10,200 have been rehabilitated so far.
- The next phase focuses on metropolitan cities and on religious, tourist and historical places, towards a "Bhiksha Vritti Mukt Bharat" (Begging-Free India).
- Rehabilitation centres and shelter homes are registered and tracked on the SMILE-Beggary National Portal.

e-Shram Crosses 31.78 Crore Registrations; 15 Central Schemes Integrated

20 Jul

- e-Shram, launched on 26 August 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to build the National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW), had 31,78,31,749 registrations as on 14 July 2026, according to a Lok Sabha reply on 20 July 2026.
- Uttar Pradesh leads with 8.46 crore registrations, followed by Bihar (3.25 crore) and West Bengal (2.67 crore). Lakshadweep has the fewest, 2,876.
- Through the eShram "One-Stop-Solution" (launched 21 October 2024), 15 central schemes are integrated. The largest overlaps with registered workers are ONORC (24.46 crore) and AB-PMJAY (15.10 crore).
- The Code on Social Security, 2020, in force since 21 November 2025, gives gig and platform workers a statutory definition and an aggregator-funded social security route.

E-SHRAM REGISTRATIONS BY STATE/UT (14 JULY 2026)

Rank	State/UT	Registrations
1	Uttar Pradesh	8,45,90,721
2	Bihar	3,24,68,736
3	West Bengal	2,67,08,321
4	Madhya Pradesh	1,95,17,182
5	Maharashtra	1,86,61,199
6	Rajasthan	1,55,09,348
7	Odisha	1,37,65,895
8	Gujarat	1,25,87,229
9	Karnataka	1,11,31,253
10	Jharkhand	98,68,987
11	Tamil Nadu	98,30,406
12	Andhra Pradesh	88,80,562
13	Chhattisgarh	86,67,514
14	Assam	78,82,288
15	Kerala	61,47,650
16	Punjab	59,82,423
17	Haryana	54,43,732
18	Telangana	47,05,625
19	Delhi	36,73,210
20	Jammu And Kashmir	36,63,498
21	Uttarakhand	31,24,417
22	Himachal Pradesh	20,31,768
23	Tripura	9,07,613
24	Manipur	4,75,935
25	Meghalaya	3,76,827
26	Nagaland	2,48,529
27	Arunachal Pradesh	2,20,860
28	Puducherry	2,00,131
29	Chandigarh	1,92,374
30	Goa	90,653
31	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	76,372
32	Mizoram	73,747
33	Sikkim	51,478

Rank	State/UT	Registrations
34	Ladakh	36,365
35	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	36,025
36	Lakshadweep	2,876
—	Total	31,78,31,749

Source: Ministry of Labour & Employment, Lok Sabha written reply, 20 July 2026. The release lists States alphabetically; ranked here.

E-SHRAM REGISTRANTS ENROLLED IN OTHER SCHEMES (14 JULY 2026)

Scheme	Enrolments	Ministry
One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)	24,46,15,089	Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)	15,10,06,017	Health & Family Welfare
Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)	8,53,50,770	Finance (Dept of Financial Services)
Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)	6,20,45,737	Rural Development
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)	3,96,28,336	Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)	2,25,52,084	Finance (Dept of Financial Services)
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)	98,40,347	Rural Development
Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi)	32,66,698	Housing & Urban Affairs
Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)	32,04,450	Women & Child Development
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U)	24,95,467	Housing & Urban Affairs
Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS)	11,75,748	Rural Development (NSAP)
Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)	1,68,147	Rural Development (NSAP)
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	23,967	Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Source: Annexure-II of the reply. It lists 13 schemes; the reply says 15 are integrated in all.

Mission Golden Spice: Rs 175.45 crore value-chain project for Meghalaya's GI-tagged Lakadong turmeric

21 Jul

- Mission Golden Spice — the Integrated Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain Enhancement Project — was launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Meghalaya on 21 July 2026 with an outlay of Rs 175.45 crore.
- It runs five years (2025-2030) in two phases: value-chain strengthening, then expansion and scale-up.
- Targets for 2030: raise farm-gate prices from Rs 30-40 a kg to about Rs 80, and expand the crop from about 2,500 ha to nearly 7,500 ha.
- Lakadong turmeric, from the Jaintia Hills, carries a GI tag (No. 741, awarded 2023) and has 7-10% curcumin, per the release.

SVAMITVA: drone survey done in 3.30 lakh villages, 3.24 crore property cards; scheme extended to September 2026

21 Jul

- The SVAMITVA Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj — drone and CORS mapping of village abadi land to give owners a Record of Rights — has been extended till September 2026.
- Nationally, drone survey is complete in 3.30 lakh villages and 3.24 crore property cards have been prepared for 1.97 lakh villages (Lok Sabha reply, 21 July 2026).
- Uttar Pradesh has finished drone survey in all 90,573 notified villages; about 1.20 crore cards are prepared for ~75,000 villages (83%) and 1.01 crore distributed (as on 13 July 2026).

- An impact evaluation by IIM Ahmedabad found bank loans against property cards and Gram Panchayat property-tax collections both rose after the scheme.

STATE-WISE PROGRESS

State/UT	Notified villages	Drone flying completed	Villages with cards prepared	Property cards prepared
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	186	186	141	7,409
Andhra Pradesh	13,321	13,321	1,067	5,30,351
Arunachal Pradesh	3,647	3,647	0	0
Assam	946	946	0	0
Chhattisgarh	15,791	15,791	3,921	3,20,313
Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman Diu	80	80	75	4,397
Delhi	31	31	30	8,575
Goa	410	410	410	6,72,646
Gujarat	14,951	14,900	11,624	18,62,759
Haryana	6,260	6,260	6,260	25,15,646
Himachal Pradesh	15,196	14,285	364	5,419
Jammu and Kashmir	4,497	4,497	2,130	81,305
Jharkhand	757	240	0	0
Karnataka	27,753	26,098	5,071	10,60,363
Kerala	597	597	0	0
Ladakh	232	232	225	18,788
Lakshadweep	10	10	10	13,563
Madhya Pradesh	43,014	43,014	40,731	68,19,402
Maharashtra	37,819	37,729	23,657	39,70,943
Manipur	2,555	209	0	0
Mizoram	568	568	101	14,962
Odisha	2,724	2,724	43	3,596
Puducherry	96	96	92	2,801
Punjab	12,083	10,966	386	53,591
Rajasthan	36,277	35,975	17,085	15,68,136
Sikkim	1	1	0	0
Tamil Nadu	3	3	0	0
Telangana	5	5	0	0
Tripura	898	19	898	5,71,783
Uttar Pradesh	90,573	90,573	75,424	1,20,31,301
Uttarakhand	7,441	7,441	7,441	2,78,229
TOTAL	3,38,722	3,30,854	1,97,186	3,24,16,278

Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Annexure-I to the reply (figures as published, including Tripura's). The reply also carries district-wise tables for each State, not reproduced here.

Cabinet Approves BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme with Rs 3,030 Crore Outlay for Chemical Parks

24 Jul

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) scheme on 24 July 2026.
- The scheme aims to establish three world-class, dedicated Chemical Parks across India to boost the chemical manufacturing ecosystem.

- It carries a total financial outlay of Rs 3,030 crore, for implementation over a five-year period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- The Centre will provide a grant of up to Rs 1,000 crore per park, subject to the host state contributing a minimum of Rs 500 crore.
- Parks will be selected via a challenge method and require a minimum of 2,000 acres (8 sq. km.) of contiguous, encumbrance-free land.

MSME Ministry Launches Online Dispute Resolution Portal for Fast Payment Recovery

24 Jul

- The Ministry of MSME launched the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal to help micro and small enterprises recover delayed payments faster.
- The portal offers a pre-MSEFC negotiation mechanism and a Digital Guided Pathway to resolve disputes through negotiation and mediation.
- The initiative operates under the World Bank-assisted RAMP Programme and leverages the MSMED Act, 2006.

VB-G RAM G Act 2025 Replaces MGNREGS With 125 Days Guarantee

24 Jul

- Government operationalized the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 from July 1, 2026.
- The new Act enhances statutory employment guarantee to 125 days per rural household from the earlier 100 days under MGNREGA.
- Budget allocation for 2026-27 is a record Rs 95,692.31 crore for the scheme.

Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, SAMARTH Portal & Model OSR Rules Launched

27 Jul

- Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, the SAMARTH Panchayat Portal, and released Model OSR (Own Source of Revenue) Rules for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme will develop 350 revenue-generating projects over four years (50 in year 1, 100 each in the following three years) from Gram/Block Panchayats' local assets, financed via PPP, CSR, scheme convergence and bank finance, with NABARD and HUDCO as institutional partners.
- The SAMARTH Portal, a unified national platform for digitally managing Panchayat OSR, has already onboarded Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh — registering over 51 lakh taxpayers, generating Rs 95 crore in demand notices and collecting over Rs 27 crore.
- Model OSR Rules give States/UTs an advisory framework for transparent assessment, collection and management of Panchayat revenues such as property tax and user charges, building on Sixteenth Finance Commission recommendations.
- The Ministry also received a Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026 for the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) — one of 4 Panchayati Raj-related awards (3 Gold, 1 Silver) at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (Jaipur, 1-2 July 2026).

PMMSY Approves Rs 21,461 Crore for Fisheries Development Over Six Years

28 Jul

- Over the last six years, the Department of Fisheries has approved PMMSY projects worth Rs 21,461 crore (Central share Rs 9,571 crore) across 34 States/UTs, releasing Rs 6,206 crore so far; fish production rose from 141.64 lakh tonnes (2019-20) to a record 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024-25).
- PMMSY, running since FY2020-21, has been continued till September 2026 in its existing form, with Rs 2,500 crore allocated for FY2026-27; NITI Aayog's evaluation recommended its continuation.
- Under the Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS), an average of 35.74 lakh active fishers are enrolled annually, with cover of Rs 5 lakh for death/total disability, Rs 2.5 lakh for partial disability and Rs 25,000 hospitalisation support — sharply higher than under the erstwhile Blue Revolution scheme.
- Under the Union Budget 2026-27's integrated development of reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars, 351 reservoirs and 100 Amrit Sarovars have been identified across states for fisheries infrastructure.

DAANVEER Platform Launched for Citizens to Donate Computers to Gram Panchayats

29 Jul

- DAANVEER, launched 29 July 2026 by MoPR Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj, lets citizens and organisations voluntarily donate verified computer bundles to Gram Panchayats through the Meri Panchayat app.
- Developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and integrated with the DigiHaat marketplace, it offers end-to-end digital tracking from dispatch to installation.
- It builds on MoPR's existing digital ecosystem — e-GramSwaraj, Meri Panchayat, Sabha Saar, AuditOnline, Gram Manchitra — to bridge the computer gap across India's nearly 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats.

100-Week Youth Anti-Drug Movement to Launch 2 August, Led by MY Bharat

29 Jul

- PM Modi will launch the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyaan' on 2 August 2026 — a 100-week youth-led Jan Bhagidari movement against substance abuse, led by MY Bharat
- Over 1 crore youth are expected to take the Nasha Mukti Pledge simultaneously at nearly 10,000 locations across the country
- The campaign complements the existing Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (launched 2020, now covering all districts) and runs through MY Bharat, the autonomous youth-development body launched in October 2023

Cabinet's PM-SSY: Rs 5,070 Crore Push for Floating Solar with Storage

31 Jul

- Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY), a Rs 5,070 crore scheme to build 5,000 MW of Floating Solar PV with co-located Energy Storage Systems (minimum 2-hour/10,000 MWh storage).
- Central Financial Assistance: Rs 1 crore per MW after commissioning, plus up to Rs 50 lakh per project for feasibility studies such as bathymetry and hydrography.
- Projects will be sanctioned FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with disbursement continuing to FY 2032-33, based on NISE's estimate of ~102.18 GWp of floating solar potential nationwide.
- Expected to cut ~10 million tonnes of CO2 annually and create 16,000-17,000 full-time-equivalent jobs, scaling India's floating solar capacity from ~700 MW today.

VB-G RAM G Act in Force: 125-Day Rural Employment Guarantee Replaces MGNREGA's 100 Days

31 Jul

- The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 came into force from 1 July 2026, replacing MGNREGA's 100-day guarantee with a statutory 125-day guaranteed wage-employment framework, alongside unemployment allowance and wage-delay compensation rights.

- For FY2026-27, the Centre has provided Rs 95,692.31 crore — the largest-ever Budget Estimate allocation for rural employment — with total programme outlay (including state share) expected to exceed Rs 1.51 lakh crore.
- All States/UTs have notified the scheme; Rs 25,844.97 crore has been issued as first-instalment mother sanctions, with no dues pending to any State/UT as of the release date.

Cabinet approves revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced ANSF, Rs 36,441 crore

31 Jul

- The Union Cabinet approved a revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) with a combined outlay of Rs.36,441 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31 — nearly eight times the previous Khelo India outlay
- New elements include the Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs) category expanding the athlete pool nearly ten-fold, Khelo India Feeder Schools, Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas and a National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)
- The scheme is aligned with Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and targets the 2030 Commonwealth Games and India's Olympic/Paralympic hosting ambitions

8. Agreements & MoUs

5 articles

India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement Enters into Force on 4 July 2026

04 Jul

- The India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA), signed in New Delhi on 8 September 2025, entered into force on 4 July 2026.
- Israel is the first OECD member with which India has signed an investment treaty under its post-2016 treaty framework.
- The treaty protects investors and their investments while keeping sovereign space to regulate for legitimate public-policy objectives.
- The text is published by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance; FTA talks with Israel were formally launched separately in November 2025.

CSIR and IP Australia Sign TKDL Access Agreement at India-Australia Summit

10 Jul

- CSIR and IP Australia signed an Agreement on access to CSIR's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) at the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne on 9 July 2026 — one of the summit's 18 outcomes.
- IP Australia's patent examiners can now search TKDL for prior art, so patents are not granted on knowledge already documented in India's traditional systems.
- With this agreement, 18 patent offices have TKDL access under Non-Disclosure Agreements; TKDL evidence has led to more than 375 patent applications worldwide being revoked, rejected, amended, withdrawn or abandoned.

India-Australia Administrative Arrangement Operationalises 2014 Civil Nuclear Pact for Uranium Supply

14 Jul

- India and Australia finalised the Administrative Arrangement under their Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement at the Third India-Australia Annual Summit (Melbourne, 9 July 2026), enabling long-term Australian uranium exports to India.
- The parent agreement was signed in September 2014 and entered into force in November 2015; the Arrangement sets the procedures that make it work. All Australian uranium will stay under IAEA safeguards.
- Australia holds more than one-third of the world's uranium resources, and it exports uranium only to countries with a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.
- The supply backs India's 100 GW-by-2047 nuclear target, the SHANTI Act, 2025 (private participation) and the Nuclear Energy Mission for Small Modular Reactors. Australia also reaffirmed support for India's NSG membership.

India-UK CETA and Double Contribution Convention Enter into Force

15 Jul

- The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Agreement on Social Security (Double Contribution Convention) entered into force on 15 July 2026.
- Indian goods get zero-duty access on about 99% of tariff lines, covering almost 100% of India's export value to the UK; India offers concessions on 89.5% of its tariff lines.
- The Double Contribution Convention exempts Indian professionals on temporary UK assignments from paying social security in both countries for up to five years.
- The first Certificates of Origin under CETA were issued on DGFT's eCoO 2.0 platform on a self-certification basis; over 50 consignments worth more than USD 140 million shipped on day one.
- The agreement was signed on 24 July 2025 at Chequers after 14 formal negotiating rounds that began in January 2022.

India Becomes 123rd Party to WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

20 Jul

- India became a Party to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) on 20 July 2026, the 123rd WTO Member to deposit its Instrument of Acceptance.
- The AFS was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), Geneva, June 2022, and entered into force on 15 September 2025 after two-thirds of Members accepted it.
- It bans subsidies to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and to fishing of overfished stocks; aquaculture and inland fisheries are outside its scope.
- India cites its EEZ fisheries rules of 2025 and PMMSY as the domestic framework for implementing it.

9. Defence

16 articles

DRDO flight-tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket at 60 km minimum range, Chandipur

08 Jul

- DRDO flight-tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur on 8 July 2026, at a user-defined minimum range of 60 km. It struck the target on its predicted trajectory.
- The maiden LRGR test on 29 December 2025 was at its maximum range of 120 km, so the rocket has now been proven at both ends of its envelope.
- It was fired from the in-service Pinaka launcher, so one launcher can fire Pinaka variants of different ranges.

- ARDE designed the rocket with HEMRL, supported by DRDL and Research Centre Imarat. ITR and the Proof & Experimental Establishment coordinated the trial.

India, Australia adopt Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, replacing 2009 pact

09 Jul

- India and Australia adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC) on 9 July 2026, renewing the 2009 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation.
- It commits the two to more complex exercises, wider aircraft deployments from each other's territory, interoperability and a Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap.
- It also covers counter-terrorism information sharing, HADR, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and continued cooperation under the 2023 Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement.

INS Mahendragiri, Sixth Project 17A Stealth Frigate, Joins Eastern Fleet

11 Jul

- INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026, in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh.
- It was designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. The ship has over 75% indigenous content, displaces about 6,670 tonnes and reaches up to 28 knots.
- Six P17A frigates have been inducted in 1.5 years; launch-to-delivery time fell from 63 to 31 months and total build time from 95 to 75 months.
- The ship is named after the Mahendragiri range of the Eastern Ghats and carries the motto 'Mighty, Majestic, Matchless'.

THE PROJECT 17A CLASS

Ship	Builder	Inducted
INS Nilgiri	MDL	January 2025
INS Udaygiri	MDL	August 2025
INS Himgiri	GRSE	August 2025
INS Taragiri	MDL	April 2026
INS Dunagiri	GRSE	June 2026
INS Mahendragiri	MDL	11 July 2026
Vindhyagiri	GRSE	Yet to be inducted (as of 11 July 2026)

Source: PIB release PRID 2283586 for induction months; builder split (MDL four, GRSE three) web-verified.

Nilgiri, Sandhayak and Arnala Classes: India's Indigenous Frigates, Survey Ships and ASW Craft

13 Jul

- INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigate, was commissioned at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026; only Vindhyagiri remains
- On 21 June 2026 three GRSE-built ships were commissioned together at Kolkata: frigate INS Dunagiri, survey vessel INS Sanshodhak and ASW craft INS Agray
- INS Sanshodhak completes the four-ship Sandhayak class; INS Agray is the fourth of eight Arnala-class ASW shallow water craft
- Indigenous content is 75% for Project 17A and over 80% for the Sandhayak class; 64 of 66 Navy ships and submarines on order are being built in India

IAF Joins Exercise Pitch Black 2026 at Darwin; Rafale Makes Pitch Black Debut

19 Jul

- The IAF is taking part in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, the Royal Australian Air Force's biennial multinational air combat exercise, from 20 July to 7 August 2026.
- The IAF is flying Rafale fighters, supported by C-17 Globemaster III and IL-78 air-to-air refuelling aircraft. It is the Rafale's first appearance at Pitch Black.
- The IAF also took part in the 2018, 2022 and 2024 editions.

Ex-Agniveers get 50% of CAPF Constable (GD) and Assam Rifles Rifleman vacancies

21 Jul

- A new Ex-Agniveer category now gets 50% of vacancies in Constable (GD) recruitment in the CAPFs and Rifleman recruitment in the Assam Rifles.
- Ex-Agniveers get 3 years' relaxation in the upper age limit (5 years for the first batch) and exemption from the PST, PET and written examination.
- A dedicated Ex-Agniveer wing has been set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs to coordinate their further progression.
- The quota rises from the 10% announced on 18 June 2022; the first batch of Agniveers had not yet completed its four-year term as of 21 July 2026.

Historic 'Samudra Pradakshina': First-Ever Tri-Service All-Women Sailing Expedition Flagged-In

22 Jul

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in 'Samudra Pradakshina', the first-ever Tri-Service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition.
- Nine women officers from the Army, Navy, and Air Force completed a grueling 314-day voyage covering nearly 25,500 nautical miles aboard the IASV Triveni.
- The expedition successfully crossed the Equator twice and rounded the Three Great Capes, earning the crew membership in the prestigious fraternity of Cape Horners.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Malvan to Boost Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities

22 Jul

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Malvan, the second of the indigenously designed Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC).
- Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, the vessel features over 80% indigenous content, reinforcing the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision.
- The ship's crest features the 'Bagh Nakha' (Tiger's Claw), drawing inspiration from the maritime legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Operation Southern Readiness 26-2 Concludes at Southern Naval Command

23 Jul

- Operation Southern Readiness 26-2, a multinational maritime security training engagement, concluded at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi.
- Conducted by the Indian Navy in partnership with the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), it saw participation from 276 personnel across 27 countries.

- The event focused on Maritime Domain Awareness, Counter-Narcotics, Asymmetric Threats, and Operational Sea Training.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight-Test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

23 Jul

- DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile.
- The test was carried out from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha against an electronic target.
- The 'Kusha' system can neutralize various aerial threats including fighter jets, missiles, and UAVs, significantly boosting India's air defence.

DRDO's GTRE Achieves Milestone with Indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine

23 Jul

- The first indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine of the 350 kg thrust class has been successfully developed in India.
- It was designed by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) and manufactured by industry partner Azad Engineering.
- The successful delivery of the engine marks a significant milestone in India's aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities.

Machilipatnam, Seventh Mahe-Class Anti-Submarine Warship, Launched by Cochin Shipyard

29 Jul

- Machilipatnam (BY 529), the seventh of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched on 29 July 2026.
- Named after the historic Andhra Pradesh port city, the ship is fitted for underwater surveillance, ASW operations, Low Intensity Maritime Operations and mine warfare, with indigenous content exceeding 80%.
- It is part of a 16-ship ASW SWC programme contracted in April 2019 — 8 Mahe-class by CSL and 8 Arnala-class by GRSE — whose lead ship, INS Mahe, was commissioned in November 2025.

India's First Department of Military Medicine Inaugurated at Command Hospital, Lucknow

29 Jul

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated India's first dedicated Department of Military Medicine at Command Hospital (Central Command), Lucknow, on 29 July 2026
- Established under the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army), it will run postgraduate programmes in combat medicine/surgery/trauma care and build Centres of Excellence in HADR and CBRNe medicine
- It complements the proposed Global Military Medicine Centre under the Raksha Strategy Vision 2026-30, and sits alongside existing DRDO life-sciences labs (DIPAS, INMAS) that already research soldier physiology and CBRN medicine

PIB: INS Nipun, India's Second Indigenous Diving Support Vessel, Delivered at ~75% Indigenous Content

30 Jul

- 'Nipun', India's SECOND indigenous Diving Support Vessel (DSV), built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (a Ministry of Defence PSU, Visakhapatnam), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 30 July 2026 at Visakhapatnam, built to Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules.
- The vessel is capable of Deep Sea Saturation Diving, carries Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) for salvage/diver monitoring, and will serve as the Mother Ship for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV) for submarine-emergency personnel evacuation.
- Nipun's delivery achieved nearly 75% indigenous content, following the first-of-class DSV 'Nistar' (delivered 2025) — both part of the Navy's push for indigenous deep-sea rescue/salvage capability under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

PIB: Raksha Mantri Felicitates IASV Triveni Crew for First All-Women Tri-Services Circumnavigation

30 Jul

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh felicitated nine women officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force who completed 'Samudra Pradakshina' — the first-ever all-women Tri-services circumnavigation — aboard the Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni: a 314-day, ~25,500 nautical-mile voyage across four oceans.
- The expedition met all internationally recognised circumnavigation criteria: crossing all longitude meridians, the Equator twice, the International Date Line, and rounding the Three Great Capes (Leeuwin, Horn, Good Hope) — earning the crew membership in the 'Cape Horners' fraternity.
- Flagged off 11 September 2025 and flagged-in 22 July 2026 (Mumbai), felicitated in New Delhi on 30 July 2026.

COAS Launches Indigenous Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel for -42°C Operations

31 Jul

- Chief of the Army Staff Gen Dhiraj Seth launched indigenously developed Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) Diesel in New Delhi, jointly developed by the Indian Army and Oil Marketing Companies.
- XWG Diesel remains effective down to -42°C, is BS-VI compliant and meets IS 1460:2025 specifications, and needs no engine modification in existing Army vehicles.
- The fuel was developed within a year and also has civilian applications in high-altitude and severe-winter regions.

10. Science & Tech

21 articles

India Approves First PinS Helicopter Approach; GAGAN Backs Satellite-Guided Landings

01 Jul

- India's first Private Point-in-Space (PinS) Instrument Approach Procedure for helicopters was approved on 1 July 2026 at Undavalli Heliport, Andhra Pradesh — developed by the Airports Authority of India and approved by DGCA.
- PinS uses satellite navigation to let helicopters fly instrument approaches to heliports that have no conventional landing aids.
- The same day, a PIB backgrounder explained GAGAN, India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System built by ISRO and AAI, days after it guided India's first satellite-based approach by a commercial jet (27 June 2026, Udaipur).
- GAGAN uses 15 reference stations, 2 master control centres, 3 uplink stations and 3 geostationary satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10, GSAT-15).

BSIP Radiocarbon-Dates Munger Banyan at 700 Years, Oldest Accurately Dated

03 Jul

- A banyan (Ficus benghalensis) in Munger, Bihar, radiocarbon-dated to about 700 years by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, is the oldest accurately dated banyan.
- The team dated alpha-cellulose from near the pith using Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, calibrated against the IntCal20 curve; the protocol was published in Quaternary Research.
- The result overturns the belief that the tree was planted before the ~300-350-year-old 'Burra Bunglow'; it is likely a remnant of a natural forest.

Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas: Third National Zoonotic Mock Drill Held at Vidisha

03 Jul

- Pashujanya Yudh Abhyas (PYA), the third national-level mock drill under the National One Health Mission, was held at Khari village, Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh), from 29 June to 3 July 2026.
- Run by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, it simulated an Influenza A (H1N1) outbreak in animals with spillover risk to humans and wildlife.
- Animal health, human health, wildlife and lab agencies worked under the National Joint Outbreak Response Team.

CG Semi OSAT Plant at Sanand Starts Commercial Production — India's Third Chip Unit

04 Jul

- CG Semi's OSAT facility at Sanand, Gujarat — built with Renesas Electronics (Japan) and Stars Microelectronics (Thailand), investment over Rs 7,600 crore — began commercial production on 4 July 2026, the third Indian chip plant to do so in 2026.
- The first two were Micron's ATMP unit (28 February 2026) and Kaynes Semicon's OSAT (31 March 2026), both also at Sanand.
- Of 12 semiconductor projects approved by the Centre, three are now producing; five are expected to be operational by end-2026.
- The plant went from groundbreaking (13 March 2024) to commercial production in 27 months; it produces 20 crore units a year now, targeting 500 crore.

Health Ministry Names 10 Priority Zoonoses, Consults on National Action Plan on World Zoonoses Day

06 Jul

- On World Zoonoses Day (6 July 2026), the Health Ministry released a Learning Resource Package on 10 priority zoonotic diseases and e-learning modules under the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses.
- The 10 priority zoonoses: Anthrax, Brucellosis, Kyasanur Forest Disease, Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Nipah, Mpox, Rabies, Leptospirosis, Scrub Typhus and Zika.
- Draft chapters of a National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses, built on the One Health approach, went to a national multistakeholder consultation; States and UTs will draw up aligned State Action Plans.
- Surveillance is to run through IHIP 2.0 with more sentinel sites and stronger laboratory networks.

Australia-India PACTS replaces 2020 cyber framework with five-pillar technology partnership

09 Jul

- India and Australia launched the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS) on 9 July 2026, succeeding and replacing the 2020 Framework Arrangement.

- PACTS has five pillars: supply-chain resilience, critical technology, cybersecurity, digital resilience and defence research collaboration.
- It is chaired by India's Deputy National Security Advisor and Australia's Deputy Secretary (International and Security Group, PM&C), with an annual Senior Officials Meeting.

THE FIVE PILLARS AND THEIR LEADS

Pillar	Indian lead	Australian lead	Sample commitment
1. Supply chain resilience	National Security Council Secretariat	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology (coordinating)	Trusted-vendor mechanism; undersea cables; semiconductor and critical minerals supply chains
2. Critical technology	National Security Council Secretariat	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology	Standards for safe and trustworthy AI; joint space initiatives
3. Cybersecurity	Cyber Diplomacy Division, MEA	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology	Single consolidated cyber mechanism; cyber tech skill incubator hub
4. Digital resilience	Oceania Division, MEA	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology	Take India's Digital Public Infrastructure to the Indo-Pacific
5. Defence research	Ministry of Defence	Department of Defence	Link DRDO with Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group; maritime surveillance

Source: PIB release PRID 2282692, 9 July 2026

All Five Indians Win Gold at 56th International Physics Olympiad in Bucaramanga, Colombia

13 Jul

- All five members of India's team — Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi — won gold at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 in Bucaramanga, Colombia
- India finished joint No. 1 with China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea and Taiwan, each of which also won five golds; 381 students from 87 countries competed
- It is India's second all-gold IPhO result, after the 49th IPhO at Lisbon in 2018
- The team was selected and trained through the Olympiad programme run by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a national centre of TIFR

MeitY, CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin Release Digital Threat Report 2025-26 on BFSI Cyber Risks

13 Jul

- MeitY, CERT-In and CSIRT-Fin released the second edition of the Digital Threat Report 2025-26 for the BFSI and payments sector, prepared with cybersecurity firm SISA
- Central finding: six of the seven predictions in the previous edition have already fully materialised, as the gap between a threat emerging and being exploited shrinks to months or weeks
- It names 'AI asymmetry' as a defining risk, meaning low-resource attackers can now work at machine speed
- It introduces a 4-layer Gap Archetype Framework, the 'Anatomy of Cyber Failure', and sets out an 18-month roadmap for financial institutions

24-Million-Year-Old Kewda (Pandanus) Fossil Leaves Found in Assam's Makum Coalfield: BSIP Study

15 Jul

- Four fossil leaves of the kewda (Pandanus) family, about 24 million years old, were found in the Tikak Parbat Formation of the Makum Coalfield, Assam — showing the lineage has survived in India for at least 24 million years.
- The study, by Harshita Bhatia and Gaurav Srivastava of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow, an autonomous DST institute, was published in the journal Geobios.

- It links older Pandanus fossils from Europe and North America (85-66 million years ago) with younger ones from tropical Asia and Australia, marking India as a refuge for ancient tropical plants.

Biomedical Research Career Programme Phase-III Launched with Rs 1,500 Crore DBT-Wellcome Outlay

15 Jul

- Phase-III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP) was launched on 15 July 2026 with Rs 1,500 crore: Rs 1,000 crore from the Department of Biotechnology and Rs 500 crore from the Wellcome Trust, UK.
- It is run through the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance and funds fellowships and research grants from early-career to senior scientists.
- Since 2008, BRCP has supported more than 500 researchers across more than 200 institutions.
- India's bioeconomy grew from USD 10 billion (2014) to over USD 195 billion (2025) and is targeted at USD 300 billion by 2030.

NITI Aayog Bioeconomy Roadmap: $691 Billion by 2035, Six National BioMissions, Rs 50,000 Crore Fund

16 Jul

- NITI Aayog released the 'Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035', targeting $691 billion by 2035 and $2.6 trillion by 2047, up from $195.3 billion (4.8% of GDP) in 2025.
- It proposes six National BioMissions: GeneIndia, AgriBio 2.0, BioX Foundry, One Health Grid, Marine Biotechnology and BioPharmaNext.
- A Rs 50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund is proposed, carved out of the existing Rs 1 lakh crore RDI framework.
- At the launch, Dr Jitendra Singh announced India's first Engineering Biology graduation course. The roadmap builds on the BioE3 Policy of 2024.

THE SIX PROPOSED NATIONAL BIOMISSIONS

BioMission	Focus
GeneIndia	Health: affordable cell and gene therapies
AgriBio 2.0	Agriculture: climate-resilient crops and bio-inputs
BioX Foundry	Industrial biotechnology: AI-enabled biofoundries
One Health Grid	Pandemic preparedness: integrated disease surveillance
Marine Biotechnology	Blue economy: marine bio-products
BioPharmaNext	Next-generation biopharma: biologics, biosimilars, vaccines, advanced therapeutics

Source: NITI Aayog release, PRID 2285858

ICAR's 98th Foundation Day: 386 varieties in a year, indigenous ASF vaccine, 100 Climate Smart Villages goal

16 Jul

- ICAR marked its 98th Foundation Day (observed every 16 July) in New Delhi on 16 July 2026; India's first indigenous African Swine Fever vaccine, developed by ICAR-NIHSAD Bhopal, was among the releases.
- In 2025-26 ICAR developed 386 improved varieties across 44 crops: 94% are climate-resilient and 29 are biofortified. On the day, 43 varieties, 17 technologies and 14 publications were released.
- Goals set by the Agriculture Minister: 100 Climate Smart Villages and ICAR technologies reaching 100 million farmers by the centenary, plus Rs 10,000 crore of internal resources by 2029.
- 72 MoUs were signed with 51 industry partners to commercialise ICAR technologies.

India's First Hydrogen Train Flagged Off on 90 km Jind–Sonipat Route in Haryana

17 Jul

- India's first hydrogen-powered train was flagged off by the Prime Minister at Jind, Haryana on 17 July 2026, running the 90 km Jind–Sonipat route.
- The 10-coach, roughly 3,200 hp (2,400 kW) trainset was built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai — the PM called it the world's most powerful and longest hydrogen train.
- It is the first of the 35 trains Indian Railways plans under 'Hydrogen for Heritage' for heritage and hill routes.
- The same event dedicated or laid foundations for projects worth about Rs 14,700 crore, including the Haryana section of the Delhi–Amritsar–Katra Expressway and two medical colleges.
- The PM said railway electrification rose from about 30% (1925–2014) to nearly 99%, and cited Khelo Bharat Niti, Khelo India and TOPS ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

Skyroot's Vikram-1 Reaches Orbit: India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket

18 Jul

- Vikram-1, built by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace, reached Low Earth Orbit on 18 July 2026 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It is India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, and Skyroot is the first Indian private company to make an orbital launch from Indian soil
- The mission is called Mission Aagaman. Vikram-1 is a four-stage rocket that can place 350 kg in LEO. It has an all-carbon-composite structure and a 100% 3D-printed liquid engine on its Orbital Adjustment Module
- It follows Skyroot's suborbital Vikram-S (Mission Prarambh, November 2022), which was India's first private rocket and the first private launch authorised by IN-SPACe
- The reforms behind it: Indian Space Policy 2023, IN-SPACe as the single-window authoriser, NSIL as ISRO's commercial arm, and the 2024 FDI caps of 74% (satellites), 49% (launch vehicles) and 100% (components) under the automatic route
- India's space economy is about USD 8.4 billion and is projected at USD 40-45 billion by 2030 and USD 100 billion by 2040. Space startups grew from 1 in 2014 to over 400 in 2026

White Rabbit-Based IST Dissemination Network Commissioned at RRSL Bengaluru

18 Jul

- A White Rabbit technology-based Indian Standard Time (IST) Dissemination Demonstration Network was commissioned at the Regional Reference Standard Laboratory (RRSL), Bengaluru, on 16 July 2026 under the 'One Nation, One Time' initiative
- It was built jointly by the Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) and ISRO, and distributes UTC(NPLI)-traceable IST using Precision Time Protocol (PTP)-based White Rabbit technology
- Secure IST dissemination between RRSL Bengaluru and NSE Chennai has already been verified, with SEBI, NSE and BSNL as partners; the target users are banking, stock markets, telecom, power, transport and digital governance
- The legal backing is the Legal Metrology Act, 2009: the Draft Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025 were released for comments on 15 January 2025

CDSCO Approves Qdenga, India's First Dengue Vaccine, for Ages 4 to 60

21 Jul

- CDSCO granted marketing authorisation to Qdenga, Takeda's live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine — the first dengue vaccine approved in India.
- It is approved for people aged 4 to 60 in two 0.5 ml subcutaneous doses given three months apart (0 and 3 months).

- Qdenga is made by Takeda GmbH, Germany, and will be imported by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India; a pivotal Phase III study was run in Indians aged 4-60.
- The vaccine is approved in 42 countries including the EU and UK, carries WHO prequalification, and over 24 million doses have been distributed worldwide.
- The vaccine adds to the vector control, surveillance and case management already run under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

India Hosts BRICS Senior Health Officials to Shape Consensus on Global Health Resilience

22 Jul

- As part of India's BRICS Chairship, the Senior Officials' Meeting for the BRICS Health Ministerial took place in Chandigarh.
- The meeting emphasized the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', identifying nine priority areas for health sector collaboration.
- Key Indian initiatives highlighted included the 'BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle' and the proposed 'BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence for Mental Health'.

India Hosts BRICS Network University to Advance Academic Cooperation

22 Jul

- The Union Ministry of Education successfully convened the International Governing Board (IGB) meeting of the BRICS Network University (BRICS NU) virtually.
- The conference focused heavily on Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, proposing it as a new International Thematic Group under the BRICS NU framework.
- The meeting also reviewed the BRICS Network University Action Plan (2025-2028) and adopted a new International Governing Board Declaration.

India's First Hydrogen Train Completes Successful Trial

25 Jul

- India's first Hydrogen Train was flagged off between Jind and Sonipat on July 17, 2026.
- It has travelled over 1,200 km, saving more than 3,200 litres of diesel consumption.
- The train uses hydrogen fuel cell technology, producing only water vapour as a by-product.

IMC 2026 Theme 'Scale Without Boundaries' Unveiled Alongside Gwalior Telecom Manufacturing Zone

29 Jul

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia unveiled 'Scale without boundaries' as the theme for the 10th India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026, to be held 7-10 October 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.
- IMC 2026 is built around four pillars — Srishti, Suraksha, Sashakt and Samvardhan; IMC, launched in 2017, is jointly organised by DoT and COAI, and its 2025 edition drew 1.4 lakh+ visitors from 101 countries.
- Separately, DoT and the Madhya Pradesh Government will sign an MoU on 30 July 2026 to establish India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ), Phase-I, at Gwalior.
- The TMZ complements DoT's existing PLI Scheme for Telecom & Networking Products (Rs 12,195 crore outlay, launched 2021).

Kavach 4.0 Commissioned on 2,569 Route Km as Train Accidents Fall to Record Low

29 Jul

- Indian Railways reported only 2 consequential train accidents in 2026-27 (up to June), against 135 in 2014-15 — a steep decline aided by technology, infrastructure and maintenance upgrades.
- Kavach Version 4.0, the SIL-4 certified indigenous Automatic Train Protection system, has been commissioned on 2,569 route km, covering the high-density Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors as on 20 July 2026.
- Railway safety expenditure has risen more than three-fold, from Rs 39,200 crore in 2013-14 to a budgeted Rs 1,20,389 crore in 2026-27.
- The data was given by Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

11. Environment

16 articles

Borjuli Wild Rice Site in Assam's Sonitpur Notified as Biodiversity Heritage Site

02 Jul

- The Borjuli site in Sonitpur district, Assam, has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site to conserve wild rice (Oryza rufipogon) in its natural habitat; the release credits the National Biodiversity Authority.
- The site came out of an NRAA-funded project run since 2022 by ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, with the Assam State Biodiversity Board.
- Wild rice carries genes for flood, pest and disease tolerance that breeders use for climate-resilient rice; NRAA wants similar sites for other crop wild relatives.

Mizoram University's Natural History Museum Becomes India's 21st Designated Repository

07 Jul

- The Natural History Museum (NHM), Mizoram University, Aizawl, was notified on 19 June 2026 as India's 21st Designated Repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The Central Government (MoEFCC) notified it on the recommendation of the National Biodiversity Authority; it will hold voucher specimens and type specimens of new species from the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot.
- The designation advances National Biodiversity Target 4 of India's NBSAP (2024-2030), aligned with Target 4 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Delhi Declares 5,000 ha of Ridge as Forest; Mission 70 Lakh Plantation and Ridge Rejuvenation Launched

07 Jul

- The Delhi Government has declared 5,000 hectares of the Delhi Ridge as forest land. The 1994 preliminary notification of 7,784 ha under the Indian Forest Act had waited 30 years for a final notification.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched Mission 70 Lakh Plantation under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' and the Delhi Ridge Rejuvenation Campaign on 7 July 2026.
- Invasive trees on the Ridge are to be replaced with long-lived native species such as peepal, banyan, neem, gular, arjun and jamun within three years.
- An agreement with the National Dairy Development Board is to turn about 1,500 tonnes a day of dairy dung, which now reaches the Yamuna, into biogas and manure.

NTCA's 29th meeting releases STRIDES 2026; wildlife board adds Pygmy Hog to recovery programme

09 Jul

- At the 29th NTCA meeting in Coimbatore on 9 July 2026, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released STRIDES 2026, a status report on tiger reserves, and 'Roadmap to Rescue', a plan for rescue-rehab-release facilities in tiger landscapes.
- The Authority discussed the 6th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves, a Tiger Conclave to raise funds through Tiger Conservation Foundations, and a STRIPES research symposium.
- The same day, the 91st Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife recommended adding the Pygmy Hog to the Species Recovery Programme.
- SC-NBWL also discussed a long-term rhino conservation strategy built on the Rhino DNA Indexing System and a future strategy for the Great Indian Bustard, and considered over 100 development proposals needing wildlife clearance.

Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict Opens at SACON; National HWC Portal Launched

10 Jul

- The Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict opened at WII-SACON, Coimbatore on 10 July 2026, and the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal was launched with it.
- The PM announced the Centre at the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (Gir, 3 March 2025). It will be the national hub for research, policy support, capacity building and best practice on conflict management.
- MoEFCC also released the first edition of 'Current Status of Human-Wildlife Conflict in India: An Overview'; the workshop sessions focused on human-elephant conflict, human-big cat conflict and mitigation technology.

National CAMPA Governing Body Approves Dolphin, Snow Leopard, Rhino and Wild Buffalo Projects; Extends MISHTI

10 Jul

- The 7th meeting of the Governing Body of National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority), chaired by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at CASFOS, Coimbatore on 10 July 2026, approved four new species projects: river dolphins, Project Snow Leopard Phase-II, the Indian rhinoceros and a pan-India plan for the wild water buffalo, plus continued support for Manipur's Sangai.
- MISHTI (mangroves) got a three-year extension to 2029 with an extra Rs 500 crore, taking its outlay to Rs 600 crore; Rs 88.40 crore had been released so far across six States/UTs.
- From the 2026-27 cycle, States/UTs must submit their Annual Plans of Operation only through the online Digital APO; a GIS Lab and the Harit-SANKALP nursery-traceability portal (built with FAO-India) were also reviewed.
- Nagar Van Yojana: 652 Nagar Vans/Vatikas developed with Rs 571.50 crore released; Rs 7.28 crore released to ICFRE under the Green Credit scheme.

THE SPECIES IN THE NEW PROJECTS

Species	IUCN status	Key facts
Gangetic river dolphin	Endangered	National aquatic animal since 5 Oct 2009 (1st NGRBA meeting); first survey under Project Dolphin (launched 2020), released March 2025: 6,327 river dolphins — 6,324 Gangetic, 3 Indus; UP 2,397, Bihar 2,220, WB 815, Assam 635
Snow leopard	Vulnerable	Project Snow Leopard launched January 2009; SPAI (2019-2023, released 30 Jan 2024, WII national coordinator) estimated 718 — Ladakh 477, Uttarakhand 124, HP 51, Arunachal 36, Sikkim 21, J&K 9
Indian (greater one-horned) rhinoceros	Vulnerable	National Conservation Strategy for the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros adopted February 2019; about 4,075 individuals (March 2025 estimate)
Wild water buffalo	Endangered	Schedule I; state animal of Chhattisgarh (2001); fewer than 4,000 worldwide, about 99% in Assam — Kaziranga ~2,500; translocation from Kaziranga to Kanha (MP) begun 2026

Species	IUCN status	Key facts
Sangai (brow-antlered deer)	Endangered	Schedule I; state animal of Manipur; single wild population in Keibul Lamjao NP (1977), the floating park on Loktak Lake

Source: PIB release (projects); population and status figures web-verified from MoEFCC/WII survey releases and IUCN listings.

Gandhinagar Sets Guinness Record: 3.61 Lakh Saplings in One Hour by Miyawaki Method

12 Jul

- Guinness World Record, 12 July 2026: over 3.61 lakh saplings planted in one hour by the Miyawaki method in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation with 25,000+ volunteers.
- The same drive planted more than 1.26 crore saplings across the constituency: about 1.16 crore at 404 public sites and 11 lakh+ in private premises, under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.
- Green cover in the constituency has risen by 11.23%, and the target is 20% by 2029; Oxygen Parks in the constituency rose from 12 to 73 when 61 opened on the day.
- The Miyawaki method, devised by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, packs native species densely so that a small plot becomes a self-sustaining forest within two to three years.

PUBLIC-SITE PLANTATION BY ASSEMBLY SEGMENT

Assembly segment	Saplings	Locations
Sanand	53,64,504	186
Gandhinagar North	18,09,850	97
Vejalpur	17,54,000	10
Kalol	16,64,675	77
Ghatlodia	8,32,370	18
Sabarmati	82,314	6

Source: PIB (MHA). The six segment rows add up to 1,15,07,713 saplings at 394 locations. The release's headline total is 1,15,93,513 at 404 sites, so the rows it lists are fewer than its own total. Naranpura, the seventh segment, appears only in the development-works figures.

PARIVARTAN Guidelines Approved: Rs 9,585 Crore Scheme to Replace Old Trucks and Buses in Delhi-NCR

16 Jul

- MoHUA approved the operational guidelines for the Rs 9,585 crore PARIVARTAN scheme, which the Cabinet approved on 3 June 2026. The scheme replaces old trucks and buses in NCR with BS-VI or electric vehicles.
- MoRTH implements the scheme, with funds routed through the NCRPB. Incentives include MV tax concession, registration-fee waiver, 5% interest subvention, a minimum 8% OEM discount, fuel vouchers and one-time assistance for EVs.
- Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have notified 10-year MV tax concessions. 11 OEMs holding over 95% of the commercial-vehicle market signed MoUs.
- Benefits will flow through one digital platform linked to VAHAN, V-Scrap, DigiELV and PFMS.

JSJB 2.0 Reports 1.5 Crore Recharge Structures; Catch the Rain Drive Runs to 4 August

19 Jul

- Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB: CTR) was launched on 1 June 2026. It merges the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative with the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign.

- JSJB 2.0 reported more than 1.5 crore groundwater recharge structures against a target of 1 crore by 31 May 2026. Physical verification is still under way.
- JSJB 1.0 (1 April 2024 to 31 May 2025) reported more than 27 lakh structures against a target of 10 lakh.
- After the PM's appeal in the 135th Mann Ki Baat (28 June 2026), a nationwide water-conservation drive is running from 4 July to 4 August 2026.

Five new lichen species of genus Allographa described from the Western Ghats by ARI Pune

21 Jul

- MACS-Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune described five new lichen-forming fungi of genus Allographa from the Western Ghats: A. keralensis, A. nayakae, A. paraconsanguinea, A. persistinspersa and A. semicarbonisata.
- It is the first comprehensive molecular phylogenetic study of Allographa from the Western Ghats, using three DNA markers (mtSSU, nrLSU, RPB2); published in Mycological Progress.
- Allographa (family Graphidaceae, 200+ species) are 'script lichens' whose sensitivity to pollution and habitat change makes them indicators of forest health.
- A. keralensis is named after Kerala; A. nayakae honours Indian lichenologist Dr Sanjeeva Nayaka.

Ministry of Coal Releases 'AAROH': First Comprehensive Report on Scientific Mine Closure

22 Jul

- The Ministry of Coal released 'AAROH', India's first report documenting the scientific closure and ecological repurposing of 42 coal mines.
- An Implementation Agreement was signed with Germany's GIZ to facilitate technical cooperation and knowledge exchange on sustainable mine closure.
- The event also featured the inauguration of 'Coal NEER' plants, transforming mine discharge water into safe bottled drinking water for local communities.

Implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026

23 Jul

- The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 came into force on April 1, 2026, superseding the 2016 rules.
- The rules mandate a four-stream segregation of solid waste at source and introduce Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility.
- Special provisions have been included for waste management in hilly areas and islands, supported by the Swachh Bharat Mission.

AAROH Report Released Highlighting India's Scientific Mine Closure Framework

24 Jul

- The AAROH Annual Report on Mine Closure was released, detailing India's journey in scientifically closing 42 mines.
- An Implementation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Coal and GIZ (Germany) for technical cooperation.
- Coal NEER plants were inaugurated for productive utilisation of mine water.

91.1% of India's Marine Fish Stocks Found Sustainable: ICAR-CMFRI

28 Jul

- ICAR-CMFRI's Marine Fish Stock Status of India (2022) publication found 91.1% of 135 assessed marine fish stocks in India's EEZ to be sustainable, with no palpable decline in trawl-based landings during 2021-2025.
- Fisheries is a State subject; coastal States enforce their own Marine Fishing Regulation Acts (MFRA) governing zoning, mesh-size, seasonal bans, and gear restrictions within 12 nautical miles.
- PMMSY supports Turtle Excluder Devices, sea ranching, artificial reefs, deep-sea vessel acquisition and mariculture/seaweed farming to protect traditional fishers and inshore stocks.

India Becomes World's Top Ship-Recycling Nation, Alang Yard Handles 35.4% Global Share

28 Jul

- In 2025, India became the world's leading ship-recycling nation with 35.4% of global volume; the Alang-Sosiya Yard (Gujarat, established 1982-83) handles 98% of India's ship recycling, with 128 operational plots and 4.5 million LDT/year capacity — over 8,900 ships (71+ million LDT) recycled since inception.
- The yard employs about 15,000 directly and supports 1.5 lakh+ people indirectly; a 35-bed Level III Trauma Centre run by the Indian Red Cross Society has treated 4.79 lakh+ patients as of June 2026.
- India has aligned domestic law with the Hong Kong Convention (entered into force June 2025) via the Recycling of Ships Act 2019, Rules 2021 and Regulations 2026; 115 Alang plots have achieved HKC compliance so far.
- A Shipbreaking Credit Note Scheme gives ship owners a credit note worth 40% of scrap value (usable toward up to 5% of a new Indian-built ship's contract value); Gujarat plans to expand Alang's capacity to 9 million LDT/year.

Global Tiger Day: NTCA Launches Eco-Tourism Webpage, India at 3,682 Tigers

29 Jul

- India's tiger count stands at 3,682 across 58 Tiger Reserves; NTCA launched a new Eco-tourism webpage integrating booking links for all reserves on Global Tiger Day 2026
- The Prime Minister noted India is home to almost 70% of the world's wild tiger population
- Global Tiger Day (29 July) marks the 2010 St Petersburg Tiger Summit's TX2 goal to double the world's wild tiger population

12. Banking & Finance

6 articles

All CPSEs Must Now Settle MSME Invoices Through TReDS, Notification Says

10 Jul

- A Ministry of MSME notification dated 30 June 2026 makes TReDS mandatory: every operating CPSE must now settle invoices from its MSME suppliers through an RBI-authorised TReDS platform.
- CPSEs must disclose the MSME invoices routed and settled on TReDS in the format RBI specifies, and get a statutory auditor's certificate of registration and compliance at the annual audit.
- This delivers a Union Budget 2026-27 announcement. Invoice discounting on TReDS grew from Rs 40,000 crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs 3.47 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

Rural Credit Backgrounder: GLC Target Rs 32.50 Lakh Crore, 28 RRBs, KCC Interest-Subvention Limit Now Rs 5 Lakh

16 Jul

- A PIB backgrounder put the FY 2025-26 Ground Level Credit target for agriculture at Rs 32.50 lakh crore, more than four times the Rs 8 lakh crore of FY 2014-15.
- As on 8 July 2026, KCC applications stood at over 1,178 lakh in cooperative banks, about 739 lakh in commercial banks and over 365 lakh in RRBs. The loan limit under MISS is now Rs 5 lakh.
- India has 28 RRBs after the 'One State, One RRB' merger and 11 small finance banks. 61,842 PACS have moved to common ERP software.
- NABARD's May 2026 RECSS found 77.2% of rural households reporting higher consumption, and about 51% borrowing only from formal sources.

UPI Crosses 55.49 Crore Users; FY26 Transactions Hit Rs 314 Lakh Crore

20 Jul

- UPI had 55.49 crore users onboarded as of June 2026, the Ministry of Finance told the Lok Sabha on 20 July 2026, citing NPCI.
- In FY 2025-26, UPI processed 24,161.69 crore transactions worth Rs 314.23 lakh crore, against 4,595.61 crore worth Rs 84.16 lakh crore in FY 2021-22.
- UPI now runs in 12 live corridors; the latest are Greece (P2P, May 2026), Nepal (P2P, June 2026) and Cambodia (P2M, June 2026).
- Security measures include risk-based transaction limits, NPCI's Comprehensive UPI Information Security Framework (CUISF) 2025 and the Mobile Application Security Framework.

UPI IN FIVE FINANCIAL YEARS

Financial Year	Volume (crore)	Value (Rs lakh crore)
2021-22	4,595.61	84.16
2022-23	8,371.44	139.15
2023-24	13,112.95	199.95
2024-25	18,586.60	260.56
2025-26	24,161.69	314.23

Source: Ministry of Finance Lok Sabha reply, 20 July 2026. FY26 over FY25 works out to about 30% volume growth and about 21% value growth; volume is about 5.3 times the FY22 level.

WHERE UPI IS LIVE ABROAD

Country	Live for	Partner institution	Live since
Bhutan	P2M	RMA Bhutan	July 2021
Singapore	P2M	NETS Singapore; HitPay Payment Solutions; LiquidPay Group	August 2021
UAE	P2M	Mashreq Bank (NeoPay); Network International; Magnati	April 2022
Singapore	P2P	BCS PayNow	February 2023
France	P2M	LYRA Network	February 2024
Mauritius	P2M	Bank of Mauritius	February 2024
Sri Lanka	P2M	Lanka Pay Pvt. Ltd.	February 2024
Nepal	P2M	FonePay Payment Services Ltd.	March 2024
Qatar	P2M	Qatar National Bank	September 2025
Greece	P2P	Eurobank S.A.	May 2026
Nepal	P2P	Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL)	June 2026
Cambodia	P2M	Acleda Bank PLC	June 2026

Source: Ministry of Finance Lok Sabha reply, 20 July 2026. P2P = person-to-person remittance; P2M = person-to-merchant payment.

PSB Gross NPA Hits Historic Low of 1.9%, RRBs Post Record Rs 10,177-Crore Profit in FY26

28 Jul

- Gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) fell to a historic low of 1.9% as of 31.3.2026, from 7.3% in FY2022, while net profit rose to a record Rs 1.98 lakh crore and aggregate business crossed Rs 283 lakh crore, the Finance Ministry told the Rajya Sabha.
- MSME loans grew 19.6% and retail loans 19.8% year-on-year in FY2025-26, with Capital Adequacy (CRAR) improving to 16.6%.
- Separately, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) posted their highest-ever consolidated net profit of Rs 10,177 crore in FY2025-26, with total deposits of Rs 7,68,621 crore and CRAR of 15.0%, per NABARD data placed before Rajya Sabha the same day.
- The Government launched ECLGS 5.0 in May 2026 with Rs 2,55,000 crore guarantee coverage (including Rs 5,000 crore for scheduled passenger airlines) to ease liquidity stress from the West Asia Crisis.

PIB: BMIP Launches Sovereign-Backed P&I Cover; War Risk Premiums Down 35-40%

30 Jul

- The Department of Financial Services (DFS) launched India's first sovereign-backed Protection & Indemnity (P&I) insurance product under the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP), designed by New India Assurance, offering an indemnity limit of up to US$1.5 billion for third-party liabilities (crew/cargo, pollution, wreck removal).
- BMIP has operated since 12 May 2026 under a Rs 12,980 crore sovereign guarantee; war-risk premium rates have fallen 35-40% from their West Asia-conflict peak, and 1,608 Cargo/Hull War Risk policies had been issued as on 29 July 2026.
- The initiative supports Atmanirbhar Bharat by building domestic underwriting capacity and reducing dependence on foreign maritime insurance markets.

Favara-UPI Corridor Goes Live: India's Newest Cross-Border UPI Linkage, With Maldives

31 Jul

- The Favara-UPI cross-border payment corridor went live between the Maldives and India on 30 July 2026, letting Maldivians send real-time payments to UPI-linked Indian bank accounts.
- Two Maldivian banks — Bank of Maldives Plc and Maldives Islamic Bank Plc — are live in the initial phase, transacting through their mobile banking apps.
- The corridor converts Maldivian Rufiyaa to Indian Rupees instantly; permitted uses are family-maintenance and gift remittances.
- It follows a NIPL-Maldives Monetary Authority agreement signed in July 2025 and extends UPI's cross-border footprint, alongside separate acceptance linkages the currency already has in nine other countries.

13. Economy

23 articles

MECON Limited Granted Miniratna Category-I Status by Ministry of Steel

01 Jul

- The Ministry of Steel granted Miniratna Category-I status to MECON Limited, a Schedule 'A' CPSE headquartered in Ranchi.
- MECON posted three straight years of profit, with PBT of Rs 104.53 crore in FY 2025-26, and a net worth of Rs 535.42 crore on 31 March 2026.
- The status gives its Board more financial and operational autonomy for investment and expansion.

Board of Trade Sets USD 1 Trillion Export Target, 90-Day Drive in 120 Districts

03 Jul

- India set a USD 1 trillion export target (about USD 530 bn merchandise + USD 470 bn services) at the Board of Trade meeting chaired by Piyush Goyal on 3 July 2026, after record FY 2025-26 exports of USD 863 billion.
- A 90-Day Drive under the Districts as Export Hubs initiative will cover 120 priority districts in 27 States/UTs, backed by 24 DGFT Regional Authorities and 11 partner agencies.
- States were given a seven-point agenda: export committees, the BHAVYA industrial parks scheme and labour rules, testing labs, the Export Promotion Mission, DGTR remedies, import substitution and trade fairs.
- The Rs 25,000 crore-plus Export Promotion Mission, through NIRYAT PROTSAHAN and NIRYAT DISHA, was placed at the centre of MSME-led export growth.

First Made-in-India EXIM Shipping Container Unveiled for Maersk at Dadri ICD

03 Jul

- India's first export-import (EXIM) shipping container built in India for a global line, A.P. Moller-Maersk, was unveiled at the Maersk-CONCOR ICD, Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) on 3 July 2026.
- Maersk ordered 1,000 more India-made containers from DCM Shriram Group; the container meets ISO specifications and the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC).
- The Rs 10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (Union Budget 2026-27) offers capex, opex and R&D support to lift annual capacity about tenfold.

PM Dedicates 9 MMTPA HPCL Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra; Shekhawati Yamuna Pipeline Announced

04 Jul

- PM Modi dedicated the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery (HRRL) at Pachpadra, Balotra district — a 9 MMTPA refinery-cum-petrochemical complex, a 74:26 HPCL–Rajasthan joint venture — to the nation on 4 July 2026, among projects worth about Rs 1.06 lakh crore.
- He highlighted a Rs 34,000 crore Rajasthan–Haryana agreement to carry Yamuna water from the Hathnikund Barrage to Shekhawati (Sikar, Churu, Jhunjhunu) by underground pipeline.
- The foundation of Jaipur Metro Phase-2 was laid; it will take Jaipur's network beyond 50 km.
- About 54,000 youth received Rajasthan government appointment letters; the PM said India now has the world's fourth-largest refining capacity.

Kamarajar Port Becomes Second Major Port with 18-Metre Draft, Can Handle Laden Capesize Ships

07 Jul

- Kamarajar Port (Ennore, Tamil Nadu) is now India's second Major Port with an 18-metre draft, after Visakhapatnam, following completion of Capital Dredging Phase VI.
- The Rs 440 crore project deepened the outer approach channel from 20 m to 23 m and the inner entrance channel from 19 m to 22 m.
- The port can now take fully laden Capesize vessels with cargo parcels of up to 1,70,000 DWT, making it 'Cape Compliant'.
- Kamarajar Port Limited is India's only corporatised Major Port, run as a company and a subsidiary of Chennai Port.

Letters of Authorisation open high-seas fishing to Indian vessels; Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission launched

09 Jul

- Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the national programme of Letters of Authorisation (LoA) for high-seas fishing by Indian-flagged vessels at Bhubaneswar on 9 July 2026, and released the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026-2036) document.
- The LoA is mandatory under the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025; it is vessel-specific, non-transferable and issued online through the ReALCraft portal.
- First LoAs went to fisheries cooperatives including National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) and to FFPOs; cooperatives and FFPOs get priority under the framework.
- LoA vessels must follow the conservation measures of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, including catch limits and FAD management.
- Seafood exports hit a record Rs 73,891 crore in 2025-26; the Union Budget 2026-27 made EEZ and high-seas catch by Indian vessels duty-free and treats foreign-port landings as exports.

DPIIT amends footwear QCOs: legacy stock deadline to 31 July 2027, R&D sample exemption

09 Jul

- DPIIT amended the two footwear Quality Control Orders of 2024 (notified 12 June 2026), extending the legacy-stock clearance deadline from 31 July 2026 to 31 July 2027.
- Manufacturers may now import up to 4,500 pairs of footwear a year as R&D samples, marked 'NOT FOR SALE' and scrapped after use.
- QCOs are issued under the BIS Act, 2016 and make BIS certification mandatory before sale or import.

IFSC Units at GIFT City Exempted from Coastal Shipping Act Licence for Chartering Foreign Vessels

10 Jul

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways notified on 10 July 2026, with immediate effect, that units in the IFSC at GIFT City, Gandhinagar no longer need a licence under Section 11 of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 to charter foreign vessels for EXIM and international trade.
- Earlier such chartering needed a licence from the Director General of Shipping; the exemption aims to build GIFT City into a hub for ship leasing, ship financing and ship-owning.
- The cabotage regime for coastal trade is untouched — the relief covers only EXIM and international operations; 'IFSC' takes its meaning from Section 3(1)(g) of the IFSCA Act, 2019.

MoSPI Releases India's First Index of Services Production for 19 Sub-Sectors

14 Jul

- MoSPI released India's first Index of Services Production (ISP), a trial sub-sectoral index with base year 2024-25, for April 2026. It covers 19 sub-sectors, about 60% of the services sector.
- It is India's first high-frequency indicator dedicated to services output. It will be released on the 29th of every month with a lag of about 60 days; an overall ISP will follow later.
- In April 2026, 14 of the 19 sub-sectors grew in double digits. Accommodation and food led (37.2%), followed by retail trade (30.8%); air transport (-13.9%) and railway transport (-0.4%) contracted.
- The index covers formal-sector enterprises only and uses GST data for statistics for the first time, along with administrative data and ASISSE weights.

FIRST ISP: APRIL 2026 OVER APRIL 2025

Sub-sector	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	Growth
Accommodation and food	100.7	138.14	37.2%
Retail trade	105.1	137.50	30.8%
Administrative and support services	93.6	120.37	28.7%
Real estate	93.8	119.76	27.7%
Telecommunications	96.9	118.94	22.8%
Repair services	100.6	119.93	19.2%
Road transport	93.1	110.34	18.5%
Warehousing and transport support	95.6	112.97	18.2%
Professional, scientific and technical (incl. R&D)	91.2	106.26	16.5%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	109.6	127.53	16.4%
Insurance	95.9	110.88	15.6%
Wholesale trade	104.0	119.87	15.3%
IT and computer-related services	97.4	112.16	15.2%
Banking	106.9	119.88	12.2%
Water transport	99.2	104.87	5.7%
Postal and courier	96.1	99.25	3.3%
Information and broadcasting	111.2	113.95	2.5%
Railway transport	100.0	99.59	-0.4%
Air transport	104.5	89.90	-13.9%

Source: MoSPI release, 14 July 2026. For 2025-26 as a whole, the fastest-growing sub-sectors were accommodation and food (35.6%), retail trade (30.5%), repair services (25.1%), wholesale trade (23.6%) and road transport (22.6%).

Reform Express: Railways Notifies Eight Freight Reforms, Single Pan-India CTO Licence

14 Jul

- Reform Express (14 July 2026): Railways replaced the four-category Container Train Operator (CTO) licence with a single Pan-India CTO licence at a uniform non-refundable fee of Rs 25 crore, valid 20 years.
- Eight reforms (Nos. 10-17) took the Reform Express total to 17 of the Ministry of Railways' target of 52 reforms in 52 weeks in 2026.
- Fertilizer and foodgrain freight moved from slab-based charges to a per tonne per km tariff; fly ash, fertilizer and foodgrains can now move in containers.
- Industry may now propose wagon designs for RDSO evaluation, and oil companies may own or lease their own POL tank wagons.

CCEA Approves National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026), Successor to NIP-2012

15 Jul

- The CCEA approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026), proposed by the Department of Fertilizers, to attract investment in new gas-based urea plants.
- NIPU-2026 separates fixed and variable costs, sets a Return on Equity band of 12% to 16%, and converts fixed cost into rupees after four years to cut foreign-exchange risk.
- The changes are estimated to save over Rs 250 crore per plant compared with NIP-2012.
- NIP-2012 produced 6 new urea units (4 PSU joint ventures, 2 private); its investment window closed in October 2019.
- India has 33 operating urea units with 269.42 LMT capacity, and imports cover the gap between output and demand.

Coal Ministry Opens Online Registration for Coal Exchanges under Coal Exchange Rules, 2026

15 Jul

- On 15 July 2026 the Ministry of Coal launched the online portal for applications to register Coal Exchanges, moving the reform from rules to operation.
- The Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) is the authority that registers and oversees Coal Exchanges; a registration stays valid for 25 years.
- Coal Exchanges were enabled by the MMDR Amendment Act, 2025, which introduced Mineral Exchanges; the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026 supply the framework.
- Applicants register, upload documents, pay fees through the BharatKosh portal and track their application online at coalcontroller.gov.in/coalexchange.

Index of Core Industries Rebased to 2022-23; Iron Ore Added as Ninth Industry

20 Jul

- The Index of Core Industries (ICI) has moved to base year 2022-23 from 2011-12, and iron ore has been added — core industries now number nine, not eight.
- Electricity carries the highest weight in the new series (30.932), followed by refinery products (22.572) and steel (17.584).
- ICI grew 5.0% in June 2026 (provisional), led by iron ore (43.9%); April-June 2026 growth was 3.6%.
- The old 2011-12 series is discontinued; the index will now be released on the 20th of the following month.

WEIGHTS: OLD VS NEW SERIES

Sector	Weight, base 2011-12 (%)	Weight, base 2022-23 (%)	June 2026 YoY growth (%)
Electricity	19.85	30.932	9.8
Refinery products	28.04	22.572	-4.7
Steel	17.92	17.584	4.6
Crude oil	8.98	7.43	-4.2
Coal	10.33	5.596	1.4
Iron ore	not included	4.905	43.9
Cement	5.37	4.41	9.8
Natural gas	6.88	3.841	-7.4
Fertilizers	2.63	2.731	-3.3
Overall	100	100	5.0

Source: PIB release of 20 July 2026 (new weights and June 2026 growth); old weights from the OEA 2011-12 series. June 2026 figures are provisional.

MoSPI Revises Base Years for GDP, IIP, and CPI to Reflect Modern Economy

22 Jul

- MoSPI has revised the base year for GDP and IIP from 2011-12 to 2022-23 to better reflect the current structure of the Indian economy.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) base year has been updated from 2012=100 to 2024=100.
- National Sample Surveys have been modernized using digital platforms like Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) and e-SIGMA, drastically reducing data release times.

India Achieves 20% Ethanol Blending Target Early

23 Jul

- India achieved its target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20) five years ahead of schedule, with average blending reaching 20% by mid-2026.
- Scientific studies and field validations by agencies like ARAI and NITI Aayog confirm E20 fuel is safe and causes no abnormal engine wear.
- The program has saved over Rs 1.97 lakh crore in foreign exchange and reduced carbon emissions by approximately 952 lakh metric tonnes.

Coal Exchange Rules, 2026 Notified for Structured Price Discovery under MMDR Act

27 Jul

- The Ministry of Coal has notified the 'Coal Exchange Rules, 2026' (Gazette Notification G.S.R. 442(E), dated 4 June 2026) under Section 18B(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 — a provision inserted by the MMDR Amendment Act, 2025.
- The Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) has been appointed (Notification S.O. 5730(E), 10 December 2025) as the authority to register and regulate Coal Exchange(s) to be set up in the country.
- Any entity, including captive and commercial coal miners, can transact and enter delivery-based contracts on the Exchange, with the CCO-approved bidding mechanism and quality-based price adjustment designed to prevent market manipulation.

India's Exports Scale Record $863.1 Billion in FY2025-26 on FTA Trade

28 Jul

- India recorded highest-ever exports in FY2025-26 at $863.1 billion — merchandise $441.8bn + services $421.3bn — driven by strong FTA-partner trade with UAE, UK and Australia.
- Under India-UAE CEPA (in force since 1 May 2022), 4.45 lakh Certificates of Origin have been issued; tariff lines exported to UAE rose from 7,546 (FY2021-22) to 8,053 (FY2025-26), worth $37.3 billion.
- Under India-Australia ECTA (in force since 29 December 2022), Certificate of Origin issuance rose from 1,482 (FY2020-21) to an average of ~45,527/year; tariff lines rose from 5,396 to 5,668, worth $7.2 billion.
- India-UK CETA entered into force on 15 July 2026, granting duty-free access to 99% of Indian exports to the UK; India-Oman CEPA (in force 1 June 2026) grants duty-free access to 99.38% of Indian export value.

Coal Exchange Rules 2026 Create Regulated Online Trading Platform for Coal

29 Jul

- The Coal Exchange Rules, 2026, notified on 4 June 2026 under Section 18B of the MMDR Act, 1957, create an online, regulated platform for transparent coal, lignite and processed-coal trading.
- The Coal Controller Organisation (CCO) is the designated Authority to register and regulate Coal Exchanges, with powers over market oversight, inspection and dispute resolution.

- Every Coal Exchange must run a Settlement Guarantee Fund with at least 50% in safe/liquid instruments, and the online registration platform opened on 15 July 2026, with operationalisation expected within 12 months.
- Information was given by MoS Coal & Mines Satish Chandra Dubey in a written Lok Sabha reply.

India's GERD Hits 0.84% of GDP; Private Sector Overtakes Government in R&D Spend

29 Jul

- India's GERD rose from Rs 1,32,567 crore (2019-20, 0.66% of GDP) to Rs 2,44,768 crore (2023-24, 0.84% of GDP), per DST's 'Research & Development Statistics 2025-26' report
- The private sector's share of total R&D spending overtook the government's for the first time in 2023-24 — 51.8% private vs 48.2% government
- The government cites the Rs 1-lakh-crore RDI Scheme, ANRF's Rs 14,000-crore budgetary provision and missions like the National Quantum Mission and the India Semiconductor Mission as levers to push R&D spending higher

MoSPI Revises CPI Base Year from 2012=100 to 2024=100, Expands Item Basket to 358

29 Jul

- MoSPI revised the Consumer Price Index (CPI) base year from 2012=100 to 2024=100, with the new series released on 12 February 2026.
- Price collection now covers 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets across 434 towns, plus 12 online markets in large cities to capture e-commerce prices — and the weighted item basket has grown from 299 to 358 items.
- The new basket and weights are based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24; provisional Combined inflation for June 2026 stood at 4.38%.
- Information was given by Minister of State Rao Inderjit Singh in the Lok Sabha.

PIB: Inside India's First Telecom Manufacturing Zone — SPV Structure, Incentives and Anchor Investors

30 Jul

- DoT and the Government of Madhya Pradesh signed an MoU for India's first integrated Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) — a 350-acre plug-and-play cluster in Gwalior — via an SPV with 51% Madhya Pradesh equity and 49% DoT equity; the Centre funds 100% of Phase-I core infrastructure (Rs 493 crore).
- Madhya Pradesh is providing ~170 acres of land free of cost (combined value ~Rs 596 crore) plus fiscal incentives: 50% capital subsidy (capped Rs 200 crore), employment assistance of Rs 5,000/month/employee for 5 years, and a 50% export freight subsidy.
- Initial commitments stand at ~Rs 3,500-5,000 crore (Phase-I) against a projected Rs 12,000-15,000 crore total investment and ~14,000 direct jobs; anchor investors include Dixon Technologies, HFCL, Tejas Networks, VVDN and Syrma SGS, with synergies planned with ISM, ECMS and the Telecom Technology Development Fund.

India's R&D Expenditure (GERD) Crosses Rs 2.44 Lakh Crore in 2023-24: Parliament Data

30 Jul

- Per DST's Research & Development Statistics 2025-26, India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) rose from Rs 1,32,567 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 2,44,767.81 crore in 2023-24, and GERD as a share of GDP rose from 0.66% to 0.84% over the same period.

- Private-sector R&D spend nearly tripled in the period (Rs 44,753.54 crore to Rs 1,26,906.60 crore) and, for the first time in the data shown, edged past government-sector R&D spend (Rs 1,26,906.60 crore vs Rs 1,17,861.21 crore) in 2023-24.
- India's Global Innovation Index (GII) rank, assessed by NITI Aayog, improved from 46th (2021) to 38th (2025); India ranks as the top performer in Central & South Asia and among lower-middle-income countries.

DPCO 2013 Amended: NPPA Eases Prior Price Approval, Caps Overcharging Liability

31 Jul

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals notified amendments to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 via S.O. 3516(E) dated 30 June 2026.
- Manufacturer liability for overcharging is now capped to the actual quantity of stock overcharged, instead of the entire consignment.
- Existing manufacturers can now adopt an NPPA-fixed retail price for a new formulation within 12 months, without seeking separate prior approval, by intimating NPPA on Form-1A.
- Records now need to be kept for only the preceding 7 financial years, and separate ceiling prices are allowed for the same drug where therapeutic rationale justifies it.

14. National

4 articles

Bullet Train Template: MAHSR Model to Guide Seven New High-Speed Corridors

03 Jul

- A standardised design template, built on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) experience, is being developed for all future bullet-train corridors: common piers, viaducts, track, stations, electrification and signalling, with site-specific foundations only.
- MAHSR covers about 508 km with 12 stations; its first service, on the Surat-Vapi section, is expected in August 2027.
- Seven more corridors covering nearly 4,000 km and about Rs 16 lakh crore of investment have been identified.
- ICF and BEML are building indigenous 280 kmph trainsets, against the 180 kmph design speed of Vande Bharat.

THE SEVEN PROPOSED CORRIDORS

Corridor	Projected travel time
Delhi-Varanasi	3 h 50 min
Varanasi-Patna-Siliguri	2 h 55 min
Chennai-Bengaluru	1 h 13 min
Bengaluru-Hyderabad	2 h
Chennai-Hyderabad	2 h 55 min
Mumbai-Pune	48 min
Pune-Hyderabad	1 h 55 min

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 3 July 2026.

Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 in force since 15 March 2026; seafarer safeguards and Gulf advisories

21 Jul

- The Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 came into force on 15 March 2026, replacing the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.
- It adds statutory safeguards for abandoned seafarers and tighter oversight of Recruitment and Placement Services.
- The Directorate General of Maritime Administration issued advisories from January to June 2026 restricting deployment of Indian seafarers to Iran and Gulf conflict areas.

India Reports Zero Left Wing Extremism-Affected Districts After Decades of Insurgency

29 Jul

- No district in India is currently categorised as LWE-affected; the count fell from 126 districts to 90 (April 2018), 70 (July 2021), 38 (April 2024), 8 (December 2025) and to zero (March/April 2026).
- 37 districts are now classed 'Legacy & Thrust' districts requiring continued support, and 1 remains a 'District of Concern'.
- The decline is attributed to the 'National Policy and Action Plan to Address LWE' (2015) and the SAMADHAN doctrine (2017), combining security, development and community-rights measures.
- Rs 3,805.04 crore has been released to LWE-affected states since 2014-15 under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme.
- Information was given by MoS Home Nityanand Rai in a written Rajya Sabha reply.

Indian Railways Transports India's First Live Donor Heart by Train via Vande Bharat Express

31 Jul

- Indian Railways transported India's first live donor heart by train, carried aboard Train No. 20901 Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Capital Vande Bharat Express from Surat to Ahmedabad for transplantation at the U.N. Mehta Institute of Cardiology & Research Centre.
- A dedicated Green Corridor from Ahmedabad Railway Station Platform 1 to the hospital was set up jointly by the Railway Protection Force and Gujarat Police to ensure uninterrupted, time-critical movement.
- The mission demonstrated Vande Bharat's speed and reliability for time-sensitive organ transplantation, expanding Indian Railways' role in emergency healthcare logistics.

15. International

12 articles

16th India-Japan Annual Summit: Economic Security Declaration, 16 Outcomes on Takaichi's First Visit

02 Jul

- The 16th India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi during Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi's first official visit to India (1-3 July 2026) and produced 16 outcomes, headed by an India-Japan Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation.
- 2027, the 75th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations, will be celebrated as the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons.
- Memoranda of Cooperation covered biogas (1,000 plants through dairy cooperatives under the Cooperative Biogas for Growth Initiative), batteries, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, mineral exploration and the Next Generation Mobility Partnership.

- Defence: agreement in principle on the UNICORN naval radio antenna, the first India-Japan defence co-development project; the 4th 2+2 Ministerial Meeting is to be held in Tokyo by end-2026.
- Japan backed India's membership of the International Energy Agency and India's bid to host the 4th UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2030.

India to Chair UNCTAD's Ninth Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Protection

05 Jul

- India, represented by Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare, chairs the Ninth Session of UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Protection Law and Policy, Palais des Nations, Geneva, 6-8 July 2026.
- The session launches the UN Principles for Consumer Product Safety, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2025, and includes a voluntary peer review of Argentina's consumer law.
- The National Consumer Helpline secured refunds of over Rs 91.77 crore across 36 sectors in fourteen months by resolving over 1.47 lakh refund grievances before litigation.

India-Indonesia State Visit: BrahMos Pact, IIM Bangalore Campus, ONDC-Based Network

07 Jul

- Indonesia conferred the Bintang Adipurna, its highest civilian honour, on PM Modi during his State Visit (6-8 July 2026); Modi also became the first Indian PM to address the Indonesian Parliament.
- 14 MoUs/agreements were exchanged, including Cooperation on the BrahMos Missile System, an Air-to-Air Missile Cooperation Agreement and a SAIL-Krakatau Steel stainless-steel slab joint venture.
- IIM Bangalore will set up its first international campus at Singhasari SEZ, Malang; Indonesia Open Network (ION) was launched on India's ONDC architecture.
- 2026-27 declared the 'Tagore-Dewantara Year', marking the centenary of Tagore's 1927 visit to Indonesia; India will restore the Prambanan Temple Compounds.

ASI begins restoration of Indonesia's Prambanan temples as Modi, Prabowo unveil plaque

08 Jul

- PM Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto unveiled a plaque at the Prambanan Temple Compounds, Yogyakarta, marking the start of the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) conservation and restoration project there.
- Prambanan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1991, is Indonesia's largest temple complex dedicated to the Trimurti — Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva — and was built in the 9th century.
- The project follows an understanding reached during Prabowo's 2025 State Visit to India, when he was chief guest at India's 76th Republic Day.
- It adds to ASI's record in Southeast Asia: Angkor Wat (1986-93) and Ta Prohm in Cambodia, Vat Phou in Laos and My Son in Vietnam; ASI also earlier documented Borobudur.

Third India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne yields 18 outcomes, uranium deal operationalised

09 Jul

- The Third India-Australia Annual Summit was held in Melbourne on 9 July 2026 between PM Narendra Modi and PM Anthony Albanese, producing 18 listed outcomes.

- The Administrative Arrangement under the 2014 India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was finalised, enabling long-term Australian uranium exports to India under IAEA safeguards.
- Both sides adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (replacing the 2009 declaration), a Joint Statement on Energy Security and the PACTS technology partnership.
- UGC issued a Letter of Intent to Flinders University (Bengaluru campus) and a Letter of Approval to Victoria University (Gurugram campus); three Tamil Nadu antiquities are to be returned.
- Leaders reaffirmed an early conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), building on the 2022 ECTA.

India and New Zealand Become Strategic Partners, Adopt Roadmap to 2030

11 Jul

- India and New Zealand elevated their ties to a 'Strategic Partnership' and endorsed the 'Roadmap to 2030' during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Auckland on 10-11 July 2026 — the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years.
- The two sides set a goal of doubling two-way trade in goods and services to NZ$7 billion (about Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030, and agreed to bring the India-New Zealand FTA (signed 27 April 2026) into force early.
- Ten documents were signed, including a Maritime Cooperation Arrangement, a Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement and an arrangement setting up a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
- New Zealand joined the Global Biofuels Alliance and chose Maritime Security, focused on IUU fishing, as its priority pillar under India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT

Outcome	Parties / what it does
Documents signed (10)	
Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Cooperation	MoD India and NZ Defence Force; dialogue, information exchange, joint activities in the Indo-Pacific
Implementation Arrangement on Hydrography and Nautical Cartography	Joint navigational charts, hydrographic data sharing, training
Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement	Indian Navy and NZ Defence Force; reciprocal logistics during approved activities
Arrangement on a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism	Led by MEA and NZ MFAT
Memorandum of Cooperation on disaster management	NDMA (India) and National Emergency Management Agency (NZ); earthquake, tsunami, coastal hazards
Memorandum of Cooperation on Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and NZ Ministry for Primary Industries
Memorandum of Arrangement on Tourism	Ministry of Tourism and NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
India-New Zealand Joint Action Plan on Sport	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Sport New Zealand
Memorandum of Arrangement on NMHC, Lothal	National Maritime Heritage Complex and New Zealand Maritime Museum
Arrangement on Cultural Cooperation	Ministry of Culture and NZ Ministry for Culture and Heritage
Announcements (8)	
Strategic Partnership and Roadmap to 2030	Six pillars, reviewed by ministers and senior officials
Trade target	NZ$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030
Maritime Security Dialogue	Annual, MEA and NZ MFAT
IPOI pillar	NZ nominates Maritime Security, focused on IUU fishing
Global Biofuels Alliance	New Zealand joins
Kiwifruit Action Plan	Two Centres of Excellence, Nagaland and Uttarakhand
NCPOR (Goa) and University of Canterbury MoU	Antarctic research collaboration
NIFTEM-Kundli and Massey University MoU	Food-technology research and student mobility

Source: PIB, List of Outcomes (PRID 2283528). Complete list.

Codex Commission adopts India-hosted CCSCH standards for large cardamom, coriander and vanilla

16 Jul

- The 49th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49, Geneva, 6-10 July 2026) adopted Codex standards for large cardamom, coriander and vanilla.
- All three were finalised at the 8th session of the India-hosted Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8, Guwahati, October 2025); the Spices Board is CCSCH's Secretariat.
- India was accepted as Co-Chair, with the European Union as Chair, of a new Electronic Working Group on risk analysis for new food products.
- Large cardamom is indigenous to India's North-Eastern Himalayan region; India is among the largest producers and exporters of coriander, but imports much of its vanilla.

Murmu Makes First-Ever Indian Presidential Visit to Moldova; ITEC Slots Doubled

20 Jul

- President Droupadi Murmu reached Chisinau on 20 July 2026, the first visit ever by an Indian President to Moldova, on the first leg of a State Visit to Moldova, North Macedonia and Romania.
- India doubled ITEC training slots for Moldovan professionals, including specialised courses in AI and emerging technologies, and invited Moldovan diplomats to AI and cyber-diplomacy courses at the Foreign Service Institute.
- The two Presidents agreed to deepen cooperation in agriculture, logistics, health and pharma, renewable energy, Digital Public Infrastructure and AI; Murmu also opened the India-Moldova Business Forum with President Maia Sandu.

President Murmu makes first-ever Indian presidential visit to North Macedonia

21 Jul

- Droupadi Murmu became the first President of India to visit North Macedonia (Skopje, 20-21 July 2026), the second leg of State Visits to Moldova, North Macedonia and Romania.
- She held talks with President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, addressed the Assembly of North Macedonia and opened an India-North Macedonia Business Forum.
- India will double ITEC training slots for North Macedonia, including AI courses. North Macedonia intends to join the ISA, CDRI and Global Biofuels Alliance.

16th BRICS Health Ministers' Declaration Adopted

23 Jul

- The 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Declaration was adopted to deepen health cooperation and strengthen resilient, equitable health systems.
- A dedicated Sub-Working Group on the BRICS Integrated Early Warning System was established for rapid response to mass infectious diseases.
- The BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness will be coordinated by India's NIMHANS.

India Hosts BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

23 Jul

- Under India's BRICS Chairmanship in 2026, the NDMA is hosting the BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi.
- The meeting will accelerate the implementation of the BRICS DRR Work Plan (2025–2028).

- Ministers from the 10 BRICS member countries will adopt a Joint Statement reaffirming their commitment to disaster resilience.

First Direct Commercial Freight Train Links Kolkata Port to Nepal's Biratnagar

28 Jul

- Indian Railways operated its first-ever direct commercial container freight train — 40 wagons carrying canola — from Kolkata Port to Biratnagar Customs Yard, Nepal, under the revised India-Nepal Rail Transit Protocol, eliminating transshipment at the border.
- The service builds on the broad-gauge Jogbani (India)-Biratnagar (Nepal) rail link, jointly inaugurated by PM Modi and Nepal's PM in June 2023; the revised Rail Transit Protocol followed a Letter of Exchange signed in November 2025.
- Direct rail movement is expected to cut transit time, logistics costs and cargo handling for India-Nepal cross-border trade, benefiting exporters, importers and logistics operators.

16. Polity & Governance

9 articles

16th Finance Commission: Rs 4.35 lakh crore for Rural Local Bodies, 2026-31

03 Jul

- The 16th Finance Commission has recommended Rs 4,35,236 crore for Rural Local Bodies for 2026-27 to 2030-31, about 84% more than the comparable Rs 2,36,805 crore under the 15th FC.
- Basic Grants of Rs 3,48,188 crore are split equally into tied and untied halves; Performance Grants of Rs 87,048 crore are split equally between RLB and State performance grants.
- Per capita allocation to Rural Local Bodies rises to Rs 953, the highest so far, against Rs 176 under the 13th FC.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj held a national workshop of State ministers on the Department of Expenditure's Operational Guidelines for these grants and is preparing a Model Own Source Revenue (OSR) Rules Framework.

NCW Women Helpline 14490: 24x7 Short Code With Digital Complaint Registration

03 Jul

- The National Commission for Women runs a 24x7 toll-free Women Helpline on the short code 14490, linked to its existing number 7827170170.
- Any woman or girl above 18 can register a complaint digitally and reach trained psychological counsellors, referral support and scheme information.
- Complaints within NCW's mandate get a unique case number; for serious crimes NCW can form an Inquiry Committee.

MHA Adds 23 to UAPA Fourth Schedule; Designated Individual Terrorists Rise to 80

04 Jul

- On 4 July 2026 the MHA designated 23 more individuals as terrorists under Section 35 of the UAPA, listing them in its Fourth Schedule — taking the total since the 2019 amendment from 57 to 80.
- Of the 23, 17 are Pakistani and 6 Indian nationals; all operate from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

- Nine are linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and fourteen to the Lashkar-e-Taiba network (LeT, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, their fronts).
- They are named in the Nagrota, Pathankot, Pampore and Sunjwan attacks, drone-dropped arms, infiltration and terror financing.

THE 23 DESIGNEES

No.	Name (main alias)	Nationality	Affiliation
1	Masood Ilyas Kashmiri	Pakistani	JeM
2	Mohammad Musadiq (Doctor)	Pakistani	JeM
3	Mufti Mohammad Asghar Khan (Abu Saad)	Pakistani	JeM (Amir, PoK military wing)
4	Hafiz Abdul Shakoor (Qari Jarrar)	Pakistani	JeM, HuM
5	Abdullah Jihadi (Shahnawaz)	Pakistani	JeM
6	Firdous Ahmed Bhat	Indian	LeT
7	Ghulam Farid (Gulshan Kumar)	Pakistani	JeM
8	Haroon Rashid Ganai (Shunu)	Indian	LeT
9	Bilal Ahmed Mir (Ahmed Bhai)	Indian	LeT, TRF
10	Abid Qayoom Lone	Indian	LeT
11	Nazir Ahmed Gujjar (Abu Manazil)	Indian	LeT
12	Abdul Rauf (Hafiz Abdur Rauf)	Pakistani	LeT, JuD, FIF
13	Ashfaq Ahmed	Pakistani	JeM
14	Hafiz Khalid Walid	Pakistani	LeT, JuD
15	Maulana Imdad Ullah Makki	Pakistani	JeM
16	Maulana Saifullah Khalid	Pakistani	LeT, PMML
17	Mohammad Yaqoob (Abu Sumama)	Pakistani	LeT
18	Maulana Yusuf Taibi	Pakistani	LeT, JuD
19	Owais Farooz (Owais Ahmed Mir)	Indian	LeT
20	Qari Yaqub Sheikh	Pakistani	JuD, PMML
21	Rana Iftikhar	Pakistani	LeT, JuD
22	Wasim Noor Jat (Qari Wasim)	Pakistani	JeM
23	Mohammad Shahid Faisal (Ustad)	Pakistani (originally Indian)	LeT, Al-Qaeda, ISIS

Source: MHA release, PIB, 4 July 2026. Affiliations as stated in the release.

Navi Mumbai Airport notified as port for drug imports under Rule 43A; ports now 42

08 Jul

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare amended Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945 (notified 8 July 2026) to add Navi Mumbai Airport to the ports through which drugs may be imported into India.
- The notification was issued after consulting the Drugs Technical Advisory Board under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Total notified ports of entry for drug imports (road/rail/ship/air) now stand at 42.

Drugs Rules Amended: High-Alcohol Formulations Lose Schedule K Exemption, Move to Schedule H1

10 Jul

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified an amendment to the Drugs Rules, 1945 on 10 July 2026 (the Drugs (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2026): formulations with more than 12% v/v ethyl alcohol in packs above 30 mL no longer enjoy the Schedule K licensing exemption.
- Such products must now hold licences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and move to Schedule H1 — sale only on a Registered Medical Practitioner's prescription, with stricter record-keeping.
- Trigger: exempted tinctures of cardamom, ginger and other aromatic preparations carried up to 80-90% v/v alcohol and were being misused for intoxication; several State Governments had flagged it.

Nationwide Implementation of New Criminal Laws Underway

25 Jul

- The three new criminal laws—BNS, BNSS, and BSA—came into force across India on July 1, 2024.
- The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has trained over 83,740 officers from the five pillars of the criminal justice system.
- The Central Government is supplementing State efforts through the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 and modernization schemes.

PM Constitutes Nilekani-Led Task Force on Examination Reforms and NTA Overhaul

26 Jul

- PM Modi announced the constitution of a high-powered task force on examination reforms chaired by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani
- The six-member panel includes former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, former IB Director Tapan Deka, IIT Madras Director V. Kamakoti, former Education Secretary Anita Karwal, and logistics expert Amrit Lal Meena
- The task force has a three-month mandate to overhaul the examination ecosystem — including NTA governance, technology-driven security, and prevention of paper leaks
- This follows the K. Radhakrishnan Committee (2024, 101 recommendations) and the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

Home Ministry Details Justice-Centric Provisions of the New Criminal Law Sanhitas

28 Jul

- A Lok Sabha reply from the Home Ministry sets out the 'justice-centric' provisions of the three new criminal-law Sanhitas — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), all 2023, in force since 1 July 2024.
- Victim-centric changes include Zero FIR, a free copy of the FIR, mandatory case-progress updates within 90 days, and document supply to both victim and accused within 14 days.
- New reformative measures include community service as punishment for minor offences, an expanded scope for summary trials, and trial in absentia for proclaimed offenders.
- Strict statutory timelines now bind investigation (90 days), charge-framing (60 days) and judgment pronouncement (45 days after trial conclusion).

VB-G RAM G Act Replaces MGNREGA, Guarantees 125 Days of Rural Employment

28 Jul

- The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 came into force on 1 July 2026 across rural India, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005; all States/UTs have notified and begun implementing the scheme.
- The Act preserves the statutory, demand-driven right to 125 days of guaranteed wage employment per rural household per year (up from MGNREGA's 100 days) and to unemployment allowance, while adding sustainable livelihood, durable-asset, water-security, climate-resilience and technology-governance goals.
- From 1 July 2026, over 99.5% of workers who demanded employment have been offered it; 5.20 crore persondays generated across 8.46 lakh worksites as on 22.07.2026.
- Under Section 16, every Gram Panchayat must prepare a Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) via participatory Gram Sabha planning, supported by the GIS-based Yuktdhara tool; under Section 21, States must provide Rozgar Sahayaks and Computer Operators for implementation.

17. History & Culture

1 article

Sarnath Inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site

25 Jul

- The "Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath" has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- The decision was taken at the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea.
- Sarnath becomes India's 45th World Heritage Site, ranking India 6th globally.