CURRENT AFFAIRS PULSE

June 2026

UPSC EDITION

Monthly PIB Compilation

Compiled from Press Information Bureau releases, Government of India

59	14	30
KEY ARTICLES	CATEGORIES	DAYS COVERED

INSIDE THIS EDITION

National	3
International	2
Economy	15
Banking & Finance	2
Polity & Governance	3
Defence	2
Science & Tech	2
Environment	11
Schemes & Committees	11
Agreements & MoUs	4
Summits & Conferences	1
Awards & Honours	1
Appointments	1
History & Culture	1

HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL — 26 Jun | p. 3
Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29 Released at 10th NCORD Apex Meeting

INTERNATIONAL — 14 Jun | p. 5
Modi-Macron Talks in Nice: Mechanism to Double Trade, Economic Security Dialogue, ISRO-CNES LoI

ECONOMY — 01 Jun | p. 8
IIP rebased to 2022-23: first new-series print shows 4.9% growth in April 2026

BANKING & FINANCE — 05 Jun | p. 18
FEMA NDI Rules Amended: Foreign Individuals Get PIS Route; FAR Opened to 15, 30, 40-Year G-Secs

POLITY & GOVERNANCE — 25 Jun | p. 20
Schedule H2 widened: QR code track-and-trace for vaccines, antimicrobials, NDPS and anti-cancer drugs

DEFENCE — 13 Jun | p. 22
DRDO Demonstrates Multi-Layered BMD up to ICBM Class; Maiden Flight-Test of NASM-MR

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	National	3 articles	3
2	International	2 articles	5
3	Economy	15 articles	8
4	Banking & Finance	2 articles	18
5	Polity & Governance	3 articles	20
6	Defence	2 articles	22
7	Science & Tech	2 articles	23
8	Environment	11 articles	25
9	Schemes & Committees	11 articles	32
10	Agreements & MoUs	4 articles	38
11	Summits & Conferences	1 article	41
12	Awards & Honours	1 article	42
13	Appointments	1 article	49
14	History & Culture	1 article	50

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. National

3 articles

Six States Reach Consensus on Kishau Multipurpose Dam on Tons; Centre to Fund 90% of Water Component

16 Jun

- At a meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 16 June 2026, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan agreed to sign an MoU to implement the long-pending Kishau Multipurpose Project on the Tons, the largest tributary of the Yamuna.
- The Centre will bear 90% of the cost of the project's water component as Central Assistance; the six states will share the remaining 10%.
- Himachal Pradesh's share of water will go to Delhi and Rajasthan, which in return will share the cost of Himachal's portion of the power component.
- After the MoU is signed, the project goes to the Union Cabinet for approval. Kishau is the third upper-Yamuna storage project, after Lakhwar (MoU 2018) and Renukaji (MoU 2019), to reach a six-state MoU.

QUICK FACTS

Project	Kishau Multipurpose Project, a storage dam on the Tons River on the Himachal Pradesh-Uttarakhand border (Sirmaur district, HP / Dehradun district, Uttarakhand)
Decision (16 June 2026)	six basin states agree to sign an implementation MoU; chaired by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah
Funding	90% of the water-component cost from the Centre as Central Assistance; 10% shared by the six states
Water-for-power swap	HP's water share goes to Delhi and Rajasthan, which share the cost of HP's part of the power component
Next step	Union Cabinet approval after the MoU is signed
Dam	about 236 m high roller-compacted-concrete gravity dam at Samberkhera, roughly 50 km upstream of Dakpathar (HPPCL)
Implementing SPV	Kishau Corporation Ltd, a 50:50 HP-Uttarakhand joint venture incorporated on 16 January 2017

- Live storage 1,324 million cubic metres; irrigation benefit about 97,076 hectares
- Kishau is one of the 16 National Projects identified by the Centre in February 2008

Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29 Released at 10th NCORD Apex Meeting

26 Jun

- At the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) on 26 June 2026, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029) and the NCB Annual Report-2025.
- The three-year roadmap has four pillars: Enforcement, Intelligence and Operations; Precursor and Synthetic Drug Control; Demand and Harm Reduction; and Capacity Building, Coordination and Monitoring. Its operating mantra is 'Detect, Disrupt, Destroy'.
- NCB zonal offices at Jammu and Guwahati were e-inaugurated, and an Online Drugs Disposal Fortnight was launched to destroy 2,09,500 kg of narcotics worth Rs 6,000 crore.
- The Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah (17-26 June 2026) drew over 1.31 crore participants and closed on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

QUICK FACTS

Event	10th apex-level NCORD meeting, New Delhi, 26 June 2026, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
Released	'Vision Document on Drug Control (2026-2029)' and 'NCB Annual Report-2025'.
New NCB zonal offices	Jammu and Guwahati (e-inaugurated).
Online Drugs Disposal Fortnight target	2,09,500 kg of narcotics worth Rs 6,000 crore.
NCORD meetings held so far	15,876 district-level, 266 state-level, 7 Executive Committee, and 10 apex-level.
Asks made of States	make ANTFs full-time units, set up exclusive NDPS courts through the High Courts, make financial investigation mandatory in major NDPS cases, and appoint Special Public Prosecutors.
Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah, 17-26 June 2026	1.31 crore+ participants; national event at Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar; MoUs signed with All World Gayatri Pariwar under NMBA and AVYAY.

– The plan is to be reviewed after one year, then reset for its final two years.

Rajasthan-Haryana Sign Yamuna Water Project Agreement: 580 MCM via Underground Pipelines

29 Jun

- Rajasthan and Haryana signed an agreement on 29 June 2026 for the Yamuna Water Project: about 580 million cubic metres (MCM) of Yamuna water to Rajasthan each July-October through three underground pipelines.
- The project lets Rajasthan use its share under the 1994 Upper Yamuna MoU, drawing from the Western Yamuna Canal system; the framework was prepared with the Central Water Commission.
- Drinking water will reach Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan and Bhiwani and Fatehabad in Haryana.
- The agreement covers cost-sharing, water release protocols, maintenance, monitoring and a dispute-resolution mechanism.

QUICK FACTS

Signed	29 June 2026, New Delhi, by the Rajasthan and Haryana governments in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil
Water	~580 MCM to Rajasthan, July to October (monsoon months)
Conveyance	three underground pipelines, each over 3.6 m in diameter, running roughly 300 km from the Hathnikund area
Beneficiary areas	Sikar, Churu, Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan's Shekhawati region); Bhiwani, Fatehabad (Haryana)
Legal basis	Rajasthan's allocation under the 12 May 1994 MoU on sharing the utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin
Technical framework	prepared by the two states with the Central Water Commission (CWC)
Covers	cost-sharing, water allocation, release protocols, O&M, monitoring, transparency and dispute resolution

– Surplus monsoon water is also to be stored in large ponds to recharge groundwater

2. International

2 articles

Modi-Macron Talks in Nice: Mechanism to Double Trade, Economic Security Dialogue, ISRO-CNES LoI

14 Jun

- PM Modi and President Macron held talks at Villa Kerylos, Nice, on 14 June 2026, their first meeting since ties were raised to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February 2026; 13 outcomes were listed.
- India and France will set up a High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade within five years, building on the existing Economic and Financial Dialogue, and instituted an Economic Security Dialogue focused on supply chains and critical minerals.
- They signed a General Security Agreement on the exchange and protection of classified information, and ISRO and CNES signed a Letter of Intent on microgravity research and human space exploration.
- The leaders said India's SHANTI Act, 2025 opens civil nuclear cooperation, including on small and advanced modular reactors.
- Other outcomes: a Declaration of Intent on railways and high-speed rail, an aeronautics skilling Centre of Excellence at NSTI Kanpur, a DST-Inria Centre of Digital Sciences, 10 more Indian start-ups at Station F, and a Joint AI Working Group on AI governance.

QUICK FACTS

Event	bilateral talks between PM Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron, Villa Kerylos, Nice, 14 June 2026
Framework reviewed	Horizon 2047 Roadmap, adopted July 2023 to mark 25 years of the 1998 strategic partnership
Trade	High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade in five years; both sides called for early implementation of the India-EU FTA
New dialogue	Economic Security Dialogue on supply-chain resilience, especially critical minerals
Security	General Security Agreement on the Exchange and Protection of Classified Information
Space	ISRO-CNES Letter of Intent on microgravity research and human space exploration; the two sides also discussed space situational awareness
Nuclear	SHANTI Act, 2025 cited as opening cooperation on small and advanced modular reactors
Mobility	PM thanked France for visa-free airport transit for Indians (in force from 10 April 2026) and invited French universities to open campuses in India

- First meeting since ties were raised to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' during Macron's India visit of 17-19 February 2026
- The Innovation Roadmap 2030, the Bharat Innovates showcase and the India-France ATL Bridge from this visit are covered in the 15 June 2026 PIB article

ALL 13 OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT

No.	Outcome	Area
1	Adoption of India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030	Technology, innovation, research and education
2	Joint India-France AI Working Group on AI governance	Technology, innovation, research and education
3	MoU on a National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Allied Sectors at NSTI Kanpur	Technology, innovation, research and education
4	Expanded use of UPI in France	Technology, innovation, research and education
5	Incubation of 10 more Indian start-ups at Station F	Technology, innovation, research and education
6	Centre of Digital Sciences between DST and Inria	Technology, innovation, research and education
7	ICCR India Chair on 'AI, Innovation and Culture' at Universite Paris-Saclay	Technology, innovation, research and education
8	Letter of Intent between ICMR and France's Health Data Hub	Technology, innovation, research and education

No.	Outcome	Area
9	High-level Mechanism to double bilateral trade in five years, building on the Economic and Financial Dialogue	Trade, investment and supply chains
10	Institution of an Economic Security Dialogue	Trade, investment and supply chains
11	Declaration of Intent on railway and high-speed railway development in India	Trade, investment and supply chains
12	General Security Agreement on the Exchange and Protection of Classified Information	Strategic and space
13	ISRO-CNES Letter of Intent on microgravity research and human space exploration	Strategic and space

Source: PIB, PRID 2272781. Complete list as released.

India-Seychelles: Extradition Treaty, Rs 1,250 Crore Credit Line, UPI MoU; Seychelles Joins CDRI

28 Jun

- Seychelles President Dr Patrick Herminie conferred the Presidential Distinction 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' on PM Narendra Modi on 28 June 2026 — the first time the honour has been awarded.
- PM Modi's State Visit (27-29 June 2026) produced nine MoUs/agreements, including an India-Seychelles Extradition Treaty and a Rs 1,250 crore umbrella Line of Credit from the Export-Import Bank of India.
- NPCI International Payments Ltd signed an MoU with the Central Bank of Seychelles to deploy UPI, and HLL Lifecare will export generic medicines to Seychelles under the Janaushadhi scheme.
- Seychelles announced it is joining the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the National Assembly of Seychelles, in the year both countries mark 50 years of diplomatic relations.

QUICK FACTS

Visit	PM Modi's State Visit to Seychelles, 27-29 June 2026; talks with President Dr Patrick Herminie at State House, Victoria (Mahé) on 28 June
'Guardian of the Blue Horizon'	a Presidential Distinction of Seychelles, awarded for the first time, recognising Blue Economy, climate action and support for Small Island Developing States
Line of Credit	Rs 1,250 crore umbrella LoC between the Government of Seychelles and EXIM Bank, to carry out projects under the Special Economic Package
Seychelles' maritime domain	nearly 1.4 million sq km. INS Nilgiri was at Port Victoria at independence in 1976; INS Tarkash and INS Ikshak were there for the Golden Jubilee

- Seychelles became independent from the UK on 29 June 1976, and India established diplomatic relations the same day, so 2026 marks 50 years of both; a joint commemorative logo was launched
- PM Modi is the first Indian PM to address the National Assembly of Seychelles (an Extraordinary Sitting of the Eighth National Assembly, which has the country's first woman Speaker)
- Seychelles joins CDRI, the coalition PM Modi announced at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019
- Modi's first visit to Seychelles was in 2015, the first Indian Ocean country he visited as PM

THE NINE MOUS AND AGREEMENTS

Agreement	Parties	Purpose
Extradition Treaty	Republic of India - Republic of Seychelles	Legal framework to extradite fugitives; tackle transnational crime
Umbrella Line of Credit (Rs 1,250 crore)	EXIM Bank - Government of Seychelles	Implement Special Economic Package projects
UPI deployment MoU	NPCI International Payments Ltd - Central Bank of Seychelles	Bring UPI to Seychelles; wider payments cooperation
Janaushadhi supply agreement	HLL Lifecare Ltd - Ministry of Health, Seychelles	Export affordable generic medicines and medical supplies
Diplomatic training MoU	SSIFS - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Seychelles	Exchanges, training, capacity building
Agriculture MoU + Work Plan 2026-2031	ICAR - Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Seychelles	Joint research, training, technical study
Seafarers' certification MoU	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways - Seychelles Ministry of Transport, Ports and Civil Aviation	Recognise Indian seafarers' training for Seychelles-flagged vessels

Agreement	Parties	Purpose
Outer space MoU	Government of India - Government of Seychelles	Satellite applications, space technology, capacity building
New Seychelles National Hospital MoU	Government of India - Government of Seychelles	Framework for preliminary preparations for the hospital

Source: PIB, List of Outcomes (PRID 2278656). Complete list.

3. Economy

15 articles

IIP rebased to 2022-23: first new-series print shows 4.9% growth in April 2026

01 Jun

- MoSPI moved the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The first new-series print puts April 2026 growth at 4.9%.
- Sector growth in April 2026: manufacturing 6.2%, electricity and gas 4.9%, water supply-sewerage-waste 6.6%, mining -5.1%.
- Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management is a new sector in the index. Gas supply, minor minerals and rare earth minerals are now covered too.
- The basket grows to 1,042 products in 463 item groups (from 839 items in 407 groups), compiled under NIC 2025.

QUICK FACTS

April 2026 index 118.9, against 113.4 in April 2025 (4.9% growth).

- Base revised 2011-12 to 2022-23. The Technical Advisory Committee on the revision (TAC-IIP) released its report on 25 May 2026.
- 17 of 23 NIC 2-digit manufacturing groups grew. The top contributors were motor vehicles (12.7%), electrical equipment (19.2%) and machinery n.e.c. (12.9%).
- Mining is now split into fuel, metallic (incl. rare earths) and non-metallic (incl. minor) minerals. Electricity is split into renewable and non-renewable generation.
- Items added include stents, vaccines, CCTV cameras, magnetic-stripe cards and aircraft/spacecraft parts. Kerosene, CFLs, sewing machines and printing machinery were dropped.
- Item groups reported in value terms rose from 109 to 234. They are still deflated by WPI; Output PPI will be used once it proves stable.
- 16 source agencies, including new ones such as IREL (India) Limited. Closed factories can now be substituted mid-series.
- Old and new series are linked at sector level by a geometric-mean linking factor. The May 2026 IIP is due on 29 June 2026.

SECTOR WEIGHTS: OLD VS NEW SERIES

Sector	Base 2011-12	Base 2022-23	Growth, April 2026
Mining & Quarrying	14.372	11.053	-5.1%
Manufacturing	77.633	76.062	6.2%
Electricity (& Gas Supply in new series)	7.995	10.865	4.9%
Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management	— (new sector)	2.020	6.6%

Source: MoSPI release, 1 June 2026. New-series electricity splits into renewable 2.332 and non-renewable 7.839, with gas supply at 0.694.

CGA provisional accounts: Centre meets 4.4% fiscal deficit for FY 2025-26; April 2026 accounts out

01 Jun

- The Controller General of Accounts published the provisional (unaudited) Union accounts for FY 2025-26 on 1 June 2026: receipts Rs 33,85,982 crore (99.4% of RE), expenditure Rs 49,05,151 crore (98.8% of RE).
- The gap, the fiscal deficit, works out to Rs 15,19,169 crore, meeting the 4.4%-of-GDP target.
- States received Rs 13,92,971 crore as tax devolution, Rs 1,06,086 crore more than in 2024-25.
- Interest payments of Rs 12,42,575 crore took about a third of revenue spending; capital spending was Rs 10,69,119 crore.
- April 2026 accounts: receipts 5.8% and spending 10.8% of BE 2026-27, with capital spending front-loaded at Rs 1,89,831 crore.

QUICK FACTS

FY26 fiscal deficit	Rs 15,19,169 crore (expenditure minus non-debt receipts) = 4.4% of GDP, equal to both BE and RE.
FY 2026-27 BE fiscal deficit target	4.3% of GDP; debt-to-GDP 55.6% (BE 2026-27) vs 56.1% (RE 2025-26).
CGA	T.C.A. Kalyani, 1991-batch ICAS, 29th CGA, in office since 1 September 2025.

- Released by the CGA, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance: FY 2025-26 provisional accounts and the April 2026 monthly account.
- Receipts reached 99.4% of RE; spending 98.8% of RE.
- Provisional accounts are unaudited; the CAG audits them later.

Provisional Estimates FY2025-26: Real GDP Grows 7.7%, Q4 at 7.8% on New 2022-23 Base

05 Jun

- MoSPI's Provisional Estimates put India's real GDP growth for FY2025-26 at 7.7% (up from 7.1% in 2024-25), with real GDP at Rs 323.12 lakh crore
- Q4 (January-March 2026) real GDP grew 7.8%; real GVA grew 7.9% both in Q4 and for the full year
- Nominal GDP reached Rs 346.36 lakh crore, growing 8.9%
- These are the first Provisional Estimates on the new national accounts series with base year 2022-23, which replaced 2011-12 on 27 February 2026
- The Second Advance Estimate of February 2026 had put FY2025-26 growth at 7.6%; it has now been revised up to 7.7%

QUICK FACTS

Released	5 June 2026 by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) — Provisional Estimates (PE) of annual GDP for FY2025-26 plus Q4 (Jan-Mar) estimates
Real GDP FY2025-26	Rs 323.12 lakh crore, growth 7.7% (2024-25 First Revised Estimate: Rs 299.89 lakh crore, growth 7.1%)
Nominal GDP FY2025-26	Rs 346.36 lakh crore, growth 8.9%
Real GVA FY2025-26	Rs 294.91 lakh crore, growth 7.9% (7.3% in 2024-25); nominal GVA growth 9.1%
Q4 FY2025-26	real GDP Rs 87.77 lakh crore, growth 7.8%; real GVA growth 7.9%; nominal GDP growth 9.1%
Provisional Estimates of GDP	the annual figure compiled at the end of the financial year by aggregating all four quarterly estimates; it supersedes the Advance Estimates and is itself later revised
Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)	household consumption spending — the largest expenditure-side component of GDP
Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)	spending on fixed assets such as buildings and machinery — the investment component of GDP

- Constant prices are now 2022-23 prices — the new series with base year 2022-23 was released on 27 February 2026, replacing base year 2011-12

E85 high-ethanol fuel goes on sale at 48 PSU outlets for flex-fuel vehicles

05 Jun

- E85 fuel (80-85% ethanol, 14-19% petrol) went on retail sale on 5 June 2026 at 48 public-sector OMC outlets, for flex-fuel vehicles only.
- It is priced about Rs 20 a litre below petrol; outlets are to rise to 500 by December 2026 and about 5,000 by December 2027.
- The ramp-up is meant to lift India's aggregate ethanol blending to nearly 26% by 2030-31, beyond the E20 level already reached.
- Blending rose from 1.53% in 2014 to 20%, met five years ahead of the 2030 target, saving over Rs 1.84 lakh crore in foreign exchange.

QUICK FACTS

Rollout path	48 PSU OMC outlets (June 2026) -> 500 (Dec 2026) -> about 5,000 (Dec 2027).
Price	nearly Rs 20/litre cheaper than conventional petrol.
Target	aggregate ethanol blending of nearly 26% by 2030-31.
Blending	1.53% (2014) -> 20% now; E20 met five years ahead of the 2030 deadline.
Gains so far	over Rs 1.84 lakh crore forex saved; about 302 lakh tonnes of crude imports substituted.

- E85 = 80-85% ethanol + 14-19% petrol; designed only for flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs), not ordinary petrol vehicles.
- Launched 5 June 2026 (World Environment Day) by Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at an IndianOil outlet in New Delhi.
- FFVs on E85 cut lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by about 61% vs petrol vehicles; ethanol's Research Octane Number (RON) is about 108.
- The Minister urged States to adopt enabling taxation for E85 fuel and flex-fuel vehicles.

Farm sector in figures: record 150.18 Mt rice, Rs 1.40 lakh crore budget, MSP 2026-27

05 Jun

- Rice output hit a record 150.18 million tonnes in 2024-25, making India the world's largest rice producer; foodgrains reached 357.73 Mt.
- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare budget is Rs 1,40,528.78 crore for 2026-27, against Rs 27,663 crore in 2013-14.
- PM-KISAN has paid over Rs 4.28 lakh crore in 22 instalments to more than 9.44 crore farmer families.
- PMFBY claims of Rs 1.96 lakh crore were paid to about 24.31 crore farmers up to 31 December 2025.
- Ragi recorded the highest MSP growth since 2014-15 (236%); paddy (common) MSP for 2026-27 is Rs 2,441 per quintal.

QUICK FACTS

Agriculture and allied sectors	about 18% of GVA; GVA Rs 20.9 lakh crore (2014-15) -> Rs 48.7 lakh crore (2023-24), CAGR 8.83% at current prices.
Foodgrains	265.05 Mt (2013-14) -> 357.73 Mt (2024-25). Record rice 150.18 Mt, wheat 117.94 Mt, maize 43.40 Mt, oilseeds 42.99 Mt (all 2024-25).
Horticulture	369.05 Mt in 2024-25, about 37% of crop-sector gross value of output.
Edible oil import dependence	63.2% (2015-16) -> 56.25% (2023-24).
Procurement	1,229.2 Mt (2014-2026) vs 698.7 Mt (2004-2014); MSP value Rs 26.32 lakh crore vs Rs 7.41 lakh crore.
Kisan Credit Card	7.81 crore operative accounts (2024-25); Rs 10.20 lakh crore outstanding (March 2025). Ground-level credit: Rs 28.67 lakh crore (2024-25).
Agriculture Infrastructure Fund	Rs 84,202 crore sanctioned for 1.68 lakh projects, mobilising Rs 1.33 lakh crore (March 2026).
e-NAM	1,656 mandis, 1.80 crore farmers, 4,724 FPOs (March 2026). 10,000 FPOs registered (Feb 2026).

MSP 2026-27 VS 2014-15

Crop	MSP 2014-15	MSP 2026-27	Growth
Kharif crops			
Paddy (Common)	1,360	2,441	79%
Paddy (Grade A)	1,400	2,461	76%
Jowar (Hybrid)	1,530	4,023	163%
Jowar (Maldandi)	1,550	4,073	163%
Bajra	1,250	2,900	132%
Maize	1,310	2,410	84%
Ragi	1,550	5,205	236%
Tur (Arhar)	4,350	8,450	94%

Crop	MSP 2014-15	MSP 2026-27	Growth
Moong	4,600	8,780	91%
Urad	4,350	8,200	89%
Groundnut-in-shell	4,000	7,517	88%
Soyabean (Yellow)	2,560	5,708	123%
Sunflower Seed	3,750	8,343	122%
Sesamum	4,600	10,346	125%
Nigerseed	3,600	10,052	179%
Cotton (Medium Staple)	3,750	8,267	120%
Cotton (Long Staple)	4,050	8,667	114%
Rabi crops			
Wheat	1,400	2,585	84%
Barley	1,150	2,150	87%
Gram	3,175	5,875	85%
Masur (Lentil)	3,075	7,000	128%
Rapeseed/Mustard	3,100	6,200	100%
Safflower	3,050	6,540	114%
Commercial crops			
Jute	2,400	5,925	147%
Copra (milling)	5,550	12,027	117%
Copra (ball)	5,830	12,500	114%

Source: PIB Backgrounder 'Empowering India's Annadatas', 5 June 2026. Highest growth: Ragi 236%, Nigerseed 179%, Jowar (Hybrid) 163%; Jute 147%, Masur 128%.

G-Secs Made Tax-Free for Foreign Investors; Fully Accessible Route Widened to 15-40 Year Bonds

06 Jun

- The Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, promulgated on 5 June 2026, makes interest and capital gains on Government Securities tax-free for Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs/FPIs) for income arising on or after 1 April 2026.
- Until now FPIs paid 20% on G-Sec interest, up to 30% on short-term and 12.5% on long-term capital gains under Section 210 of the Income-tax Act, 2025.
- The Fully Accessible Route (FAR) now covers new 15-, 30- and 40-year G-Secs and Sovereign Green Bonds of FAR-eligible tenors.
- Under the General Route, the short-term, concentration and security-wise limits are gone; the overall caps stay at 6% of Central and 2% of State Government Securities.
- FPIs held G-Secs worth Rs 3,75,171 crore on 12 May 2026, only 3.34% of the Rs 112.42 lakh crore outstanding stock.

QUICK FACTS

Instrument	Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, promulgated 5 June 2026; effective for income arising on or after 1 April 2026.
Exempted	interest on G-Secs, and capital gains on their sale, transfer, exchange or redemption, earned by FIIs (including SEBI-registered FPIs). The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) gets the same exemption.
LTCG holding period on G-Secs	more than 12 months if listed, more than 24 months if unlisted.
FAR additions	new issuances of 15-, 30- and 40-year G-Secs, plus Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) of FAR-eligible tenors.
General Route	short-term, concentration and security-wise limits removed. The 'General' and 'Long-Term' FPI categories are merged into one limit each for G-Secs and SGSs.

Unchanged	overall FPI limits of 6% of outstanding Central G-Secs and 2% of State Government Securities.

- Old tax on FPIs (Section 210, Income-tax Act, 2025): interest 20%; STCG up to 30%; LTCG 12.5%.

LPG at Rs 942, Ujjwala at Rs 642: Saudi CP Up 46%, Under-Recovery Rs 700 per Cylinder

07 Jun

- A domestic 14.2 kg LPG cylinder now costs Rs 942 in Delhi. Ujjwala (PMUY) households pay an effective Rs 642 after a Rs 300 DBT, while supplying the cylinder at import parity costs over Rs 1,600.
- The Saudi Contract Price for the 50:50 propane-butane blend rose about 46%, from US$542.50/t in February 2026 to US$790/t in June, after the Strait of Hormuz was closed in late February.
- Cumulative under-recovery on domestic LPG reached Rs 60,000 crore by the end of FY 2025-26, up from Rs 41,338 crore a year earlier. The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 30,000 crore in compensation to the marketing companies.
- About 54% of India's LPG consumption was routed through Hormuz. Domestic LPG output was raised by over 60% (about 32 to 52 TMT) and sourcing was widened to the US, Canada and Algeria.

QUICK FACTS

Domestic 14.2 kg cylinder	Rs 942 for a general consumer in Delhi; effective Rs 642 for a PMUY beneficiary
PMUY support	Rs 300 per cylinder by DBT, which the release applies to the first four refills a year (about what a typical Ujjwala household uses)
Import-linked cost of a domestic cylinder	over Rs 1,600, leaving an under-recovery of about Rs 700 per cylinder
Commercial 19 kg cylinder in Delhi	Rs 3,113.50 (about Rs 164/kg) after five increases, against about Rs 66/kg for households

- Released by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, 7 June 2026
- The Rs 642 Ujjwala price is about a 60% discount to the international price; the Rs 942 price is about a 45% discount
- India used to import 60% of its LPG. About 54% of consumption came through the Strait of Hormuz
- OTP-based delivery verification was raised to about 90% to stop domestic LPG being diverted to commercial use
- LPG is a mixture of propane and butane, sold in India under the Indian Standard IS 4576

PRICE OF A 14.2 KG CYLINDER: INDIA VS OTHER MARKETS

Market	Price per 14.2 kg cylinder (Rs)	Ujjwala consumer pays less by
India (Ujjwala, effective)	642	—
Pakistan	1,046	about 39%
Nepal	1,207	about 47%
Bangladesh	approx. 1,225	about 48%
Sri Lanka	1,241	about 48%
United States	approx. 1,755	about 63%
Australia	approx. 1,765	about 64%
Canada	approx. 2,411	about 73%

Source: PIB release of 7 June 2026, citing government sources and national regulators.

Ease of Doing Business Backgrounder: 2.23 Lakh Startups, ULPIN on 36 Crore Parcels

07 Jun

- A PIB Backgrounder of 7 June 2026 brings together India's Ease of Doing Business reforms, from starting a business to credit, tax and insolvency.
- Startup India has gone from 502 recognised startups in 2016 to over 2.23 lakh by March 2026, with 23.3 lakh direct jobs. About 48% of them have at least one woman director or partner.
- ULPIN, the 14-digit 'Aadhaar for land', had been assigned to over 36 crore land parcels in 29 States/UTs by November 2025. Cadastral maps are digitised for 97.37% of the country.

- PARIVESH brought the average environmental clearance down to 64 days in 2025-26, against a stipulated 105. Under the amended consent guidelines, a Consent to Operate now stays valid until it is cancelled.
- Ranks: 63rd in the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 (142nd in 2014); 41st in IMD World Competitiveness 2025; 38th of 139 in the Logistics Performance Index 2023.

QUICK FACTS

Doing Business Report 2020 (World Bank)	India rose from 142nd (2014) to 63rd (2019), a gain of 79 places. The World Bank discontinued the report on 16 September 2021 over data irregularities and replaced it with B-READY in 2024
IMD World Competitiveness Ranking	India 43rd (2021) -> 41st (2025). The 2025 edition covered 69 economies and Switzerland came first. IMD is based in Lausanne
World Bank Logistics Performance Index 2023	India 38th of 139, up from 54th in 2014
World Bank GovTech Maturity Index	India in Group A in 2020, 2022 and 2025
GST taxpayers	about 60 lakh (2017) -> over 1.64 crore (April 2026)

- PIB Backgrounder released 7 June 2026
- Four Labour Codes in force from 21 November 2025, replacing 29 central laws

CPI May 2026: Retail Inflation Rises to 3.93%, Food Inflation at 4.78%

12 Jun

- All-India CPI (base 2024=100) inflation for May 2026 was 3.93% (provisional). April 2026 was 3.48% (final).
- Rural inflation was 4.25% and urban 3.53%. Food inflation (CFPI) was 4.78% and housing inflation 2.12%.
- Among states with over 50 lakh population, Telangana had the highest inflation (6.15%), followed by Tamil Nadu (5.11%) and Andhra Pradesh (4.90%).
- Jewellery drove the high-inflation list: silver jewellery was up 155.23%. Potato (-23.71%) fell the most.
- Headline inflation has risen every month of 2026 so far, from 2.74% in January, but remains inside the RBI's 2-6% tolerance band.

QUICK FACTS

Release	CPI for May 2026, base 2024=100. Published 12 June 2026 by the National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI
Headline CPI (combined)	3.93%. Rural 4.25%, urban 3.53%
CFPI food inflation	4.78% (rural 4.85%, urban 4.66%)
Housing inflation	2.12% (rural 2.73%, urban 1.91%)
All-India combined index	105.91 in May 2026, up from 105.12 in April

- Prices are collected weekly from 1,407 urban markets (including online markets) and 1,465 villages. The response rate for May was 100%
- The June 2026 CPI is due on 13 July 2026
- Inflation target for April 2026 to March 2031: 4% CPI with a 2-6% band, set under Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934

STATE-WISE INFLATION, MAY 2026

State	Combined inflation (%)
Highest	
Telangana	6.15
Tamil Nadu	5.11
Andhra Pradesh	4.90
Karnataka	4.59
Odisha	4.54
Lowest	
NCT of Delhi	2.50
Jammu and Kashmir	2.84

State	Combined inflation (%)
Chhattisgarh	2.87
Bihar	2.94
Himachal Pradesh	3.05

Source: MoSPI release, Annexure III. Among all States/UTs, Mizoram was lowest (1.03%) and Telangana highest. Chandigarh has no rural market.

WPI Base Year Revised to 2022-23; New Producer Price Indices Launched, WPI to Be Phased Out

15 Jun

- The Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), DPIIT, released the new Wholesale Price Index with base year 2022-23 on 15 June 2026, replacing the 2011-12 series; the basket grows from 697 to 957 items.
- It also launched Producer Price Indices on the same base: a monthly Output PPI, a trial Input PPI (manufacturing only) and a quarterly Service PPI for seven services.
- WPI will be published alongside PPI for five years and then discontinued, a switch aligned with IMF recommendations and the practice of advanced economies.
- First reading under the new series: WPI inflation of 9.68% for May 2026 (8.26% in April), driven by Fuel and Power at 30.33%.

QUICK FACTS

Compiler	Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
Items in the basket	957 (up from 697).
New PPIs on base 2022-23	Output PPI (monthly), trial Input PPI (monthly, manufacturing only, experimental from March 2026), Service PPI (quarterly).
Seven services in the first Service PPI	Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger) and Telecom.
Release calendar	WPI, Output PPI and trial Input PPI on the 14th of the following month; Service PPI 55 days after the quarter closes.

- New base year 2022-23 replaces 2011-12; it is the eighth revision since WPI began in 1942 on a 1939 base.
- WPI to run alongside PPI for five years, then be discontinued.
- The revision was prepared by an 18-member working group chaired by NITI Aayog member Prof. Ramesh Chand, set up in January 2025.

El Nino Kharif Plan: 315 Vulnerable Districts Identified as Monsoon Runs 43% Below Normal

23 Jun

- With the southwest monsoon about 43% below normal, the Centre identified 315 districts as potentially hit by weak rainfall: 111 high-priority (irrigation below 25%), 76 medium (25-50%) and 128 low-priority.
- ICAR and ICAR-CRIDA's District Agriculture Contingency Plans are to be turned into field action plans, with a push for short-duration crops, pulses, Shri Anna (millets) and oilseeds.
- An El Nino Monitoring Cell and a Crop Weather Watch Group were constituted in New Delhi; about 1% extra seed stock is reserved for districts that may need resowing.
- PMFBY, Kisan Credit Card and PM-KISAN are named as the three financial safety nets; the Kharif 2026 foodgrain target is about 176 million tonnes.

QUICK FACTS

Release date	23 June 2026; Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed Kharif preparedness with state agriculture ministers, District Collectors, ICAR, ICAR-CRIDA and IMD.
Monsoon rainfall so far	about 43% below normal; IMD expected weak rain to continue through the week ending 2 July.

- 315 potentially affected districts, mostly across MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- Sowing advised only after 75-100 mm cumulative rainfall and adequate soil moisture, to avoid seed loss and resowing.
- 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras are the main advisory link, alongside Agro-Meteorological Advisory Units; the first KVK opened at Puducherry in 1974.
- Reservoir storage deficits in some basins range from 20% to 60%; fodder is to be moved from surplus to deficit regions.
- Water-harvesting works under MGNREGA and VB-G RAM G are to be prioritised. The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 comes into force on 1 July 2026, guarantees 125 days of wage work and repeals MGNREGA.

MSME Sector Snapshot 2026: 31.1% of GDP, 8.7 Crore Udyam Registrations, CGTMSE Cover Doubled

26 Jun

- PIB's MSME backgrounder (January 2026 data): MSMEs contribute about 31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports, employing over 38.9 crore people, second only to agriculture.
- Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform registrations crossed 8.7 crore as of June 2026; the revised MSME definition took effect on 1 April 2025.
- CGTMSE completed 25 years and its guarantee ceiling was doubled from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore per borrower.
- PM Vishwakarma hit its 30 lakh registration target in two years instead of four; ASPIRE now runs 109 Livelihood Business Incubators across 27 States/UTs.
- Budget 2026-27 gave an additional Rs 2,000 crore to the Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund, which has invested Rs 2,851 crore in 761 MSMEs (May 2026).

QUICK FACTS

Sector share (January 2026 data)	~31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output, 48.58% of exports; 38.9 crore+ employed.
Revised MSME definition	Notification S.O. 1364(E) of 21 March 2025, effective 1 April 2025. Investment limits were raised 2.5x and turnover limits 2x.
CGTMSE	29.03 lakh guarantees worth Rs 3.77 lakh crore approved, 1 January-30 November 2025.
MSME Samadhaan (June 2026)	2,56,892 applications, claims of Rs 55,244.29 crore; 58,148 disposed of by MSE Facilitation Councils.
CHAMPIONS portal, 2025-26	39,494 grievances received, 39,387 resolved (99.72%). An Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal has also been launched for delayed payments.
MSME Sambandh (June 2026)	118 CPSEs procured Rs 31,443.32 crore in FY 2026-27; 54.51% from MSEs (29,769+ enterprises).
44th IITF 2025	the MSME pavilion's theme was 'Vibrant MSMEs, Viksit Bharat', and it won the Silver Medal in the 'Empowering India' category.

- Udyam Registration Portal (launched 1 July 2020) + Udyam Assist Platform (11 January 2023, built by SIDBI for informal micro units): 8.7 crore+ registrations by June 2026.
- Khadi and Village Industries sales crossed Rs 1.27 lakh crore in 2025-26.
- International MSME Day = 27 June (UNGA resolution A/RES/71/279, adopted 6 April 2017).

Cabinet Adds Rs 30,000 Crore to NIIF, Taking Government Commitment to Rs 60,000 Crore

29 Jun

- The Union Cabinet approved an additional Government of India investment commitment of Rs 30,000 crore to the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), raising the total government commitment to Rs 60,000 crore.
- The money will seed NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, successor to NIIF's first flagship infrastructure fund, with a target corpus of close to Rs 30,000 crore.
- NIIF currently manages commitments of about Rs 40,000 crore and has returned close to Rs 12,000 crore to investors through exits.

- The Government holds 49% in NIIF; the rest comes from sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, multilateral banks (AIIB, NDB, ADB) and domestic institutions.

QUICK FACTS

Decision	Union Cabinet approved an additional Rs 30,000 crore GoI commitment to NIIF (announced 29 June 2026)
Total GoI commitment to NIIF now	Rs 60,000 crore
Use	NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, target corpus close to Rs 30,000 crore — transport, energy, digital, urban infrastructure, e-mobility
NIIF	India's 'Sovereign Anchored Fund', managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)
GoI share	49% — fixed; it may neither rise above nor fall below 49% in any NIIF fund

- Cabinet approved NIIF's creation on 29 July 2015; registered with SEBI as a Category II AIF on 28 December 2015
- Governing Council of NIIF is chaired by the Union Finance Minister
- NIIF's first infrastructure fund (Rs 16,000 crore) is India's largest domestic infrastructure fund

IIP Grows 5.1% in May 2026; MoSPI Replaces WPI With Output PPI as Deflator

29 Jun

- Industrial output (IIP) grew 5.1% year-on-year in May 2026, led by manufacturing (5.5%) and electricity & gas supply (9.9%); mining contracted 1.6%.
- MoSPI has dropped the Wholesale Price Index and adopted the Output Producer Price Index (PPI) as the deflator for IIP item groups reported in value terms — 234 of 463 item groups, 36.02% of the index weight.
- The entire IIP 2022-23 series has been re-released on the PPI basis, superseding the WPI-based version published on 1 June 2026.
- Capital goods led use-based growth at 12.9%; consumer durables grew 7.2%.

QUICK FACTS

IIP May 2026 (quick estimate)	5.1% growth; index 122.7 vs 116.7 in May 2025 (base 2022-23 = 100)
Sector growth	Mining & Quarrying -1.6%, Manufacturing 5.5%, Electricity & Gas Supply 9.9%, Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management 5.5%
New deflator	Output PPI replaces WPI for value-reported item groups — 234 of 463 item groups, 36.02% of weight
Reason given	finer price structure, international practice, Technical Advisory Committee recommendation, and a path to PPI-based volume estimates in quarterly GDP
Manufacturing	16 of 23 NIC 2-digit groups grew; top contributors motor vehicles (14.5%), electrical equipment (20.8%), basic metals (4.6%)

- Output PPI (base 2022-23) was released by DPIIT's Office of Economic Adviser on 15 June 2026
- New IIP series with base 2022-23 first released 1 June 2026, replacing base 2011-12
- IIP is released on the 28th of every month (lag cut from 42 to 28 days from April 2025); June 2026 data due 28 July 2026

USE-BASED CLASSIFICATION, MAY 2026

Category	Index May 2026	Growth over May 2025
Primary goods	119.6	2.6%
Capital goods	135.3	12.9%
Intermediate goods	123.1	5.8%
Infrastructure/construction goods	130.8	5.9%
Consumer durables	120.4	7.2%
Consumer non-durables	118.4	3.6%

Source: MoSPI quick estimates, 29 June 2026. Top three contributors to growth: intermediate, capital and primary goods.

Nine Years of GST: 1.65 Crore Taxpayers; GSTAT Appeal Deadline Extended to 31 July 2026

30 Jun

- The Government extended the last date for filing appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) under Section 112 of the CGST Act from 30 June 2026 to 31 July 2026; about 30,000 appeals were filed in the preceding 15 days alone.
- A PIB backgrounder marking nine years of GST (launched 1 July 2017) put registered GST taxpayers at 1.65 crore in May 2026, up from 66.5 lakh in 2017.
- Gross GST collections rose from about Rs 7.4 lakh crore in 2017-18 to about Rs 22.27 lakh crore in 2025-26; April-May 2026 brought about Rs 4.37 lakh crore.
- The Next-Gen GST reforms (GST 2.0), approved at the 56th GST Council meeting, moved rates mainly to two slabs of 5% and 18%, with a 40% rate on luxury and sin goods, from 22 September 2025.

QUICK FACTS

Registered taxpayers	66.5 lakh (2017) to 1.65 crore (May 2026).
GSTAT appeal deadline	30.06.2026 (notified 17.09.2025) extended to 31.07.2026; daily filings peaked at 5,500.
Dual GST	CGST + SGST on intra-state supplies; IGST on inter-state supplies, generally at twice the CGST/SGST rate.

- GST launched 1 July 2017 at a midnight function in Parliament's Central Hall; 1 July is observed as GST Day.
- GST subsumed 17 taxes and 13 cesses of the Centre and the States.
- It is a destination-based consumption tax, levied on 'supply' of goods or services rather than on manufacture, sale or service separately.
- Alcoholic liquor for human consumption is outside GST; GST on crude, petrol, diesel, natural gas and ATF applies only from a date the GST Council recommends.

4. Banking & Finance

2 articles

FEMA NDI Rules Amended: Foreign Individuals Get PIS Route; FAR Opened to 15, 30, 40-Year G-Secs

05 Jun

- DEA notified the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, letting any individual Person Resident Outside India invest in listed Indian equity via the Portfolio Investment Scheme — earlier open only to NRIs/OCIs
- The per-individual limit rises from 5% to 10% of a company; the aggregate limit for all individual PROIs from 10% to 24%
- The Fully Accessible Route now includes new 15-, 30- and 40-year G-Secs and Sovereign Green Bonds of FAR-eligible tenors
- Under the General Route, the short-term, concentration and security-wise limits are removed; overall caps of 6% (Central G-Secs) and 2% (State securities) stay
- FPIs' interest and capital gains on G-Secs are exempt from income tax from 1 April 2026; the same relief applies to the Bank for International Settlements

QUICK FACTS

Instrument	Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
Persons Resident Outside India (PROI)	a FEMA term covering every non-resident; individual PROIs other than NRIs/OCIs can now use the Portfolio Investment Scheme
PIS limits	individual 5% -> 10% of a listed company; all individual PROIs together 10% -> 24%
General Route	three restrictions removed — short-term investment limit, concentration limit, security-wise limit; 'general' and 'long-term' sub-limits merged
Overall General Route caps retained	6% of outstanding Central G-Secs, 2% of State Government Securities
Tax	FPI interest and capital gains on G-Secs exempt w.e.f. 1 April 2026; same exemption for the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

- Announced 5 June 2026 by the Ministry of Finance; the equity change implements a Union Budget 2026-27 announcement
- FAR expanded to new issuances of 15-, 30- and 40-year G-Secs and to Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) in FAR-eligible tenors

India-Nepal Link UPI with Nepal's National Payments Interface for Instant P2P Remittances

11 Jun

- India's UPI and Nepal's National Payments Interface (NPI) were linked for peer-to-peer cross-border remittances, launched on 6 June 2026. Transfers are real-time via mobile banking apps and wallets.
- The integration was built by NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), NPCI's international arm, and Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL).
- It builds on the June 2023 NIPL-NCHL agreement and on UPI QR merchant payments in Nepal via Fonepay, live since early 2024.
- Per the release, UPI is accepted in nine countries: Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

QUICK FACTS

What	a P2P cross-border remittance mechanism linking UPI (India) and NPI (Nepal). Launched on 6 June 2026, per the Ministry of Finance release.
Built by	NIPL (India) with NCHL (Nepal).
Stated aims	financial inclusion, convenience for travellers and businesses, and digital integration between the two economies.

- Users send money in real time through mobile banking apps and digital wallets, with no cash or currency exchange needed.

- It is a person-to-person (P2P) link. Person-to-merchant (P2M) QR payments by Indians in Nepal already ran via Fonepay from 2024.

5. Polity & Governance

3 articles

CEA Releases Report of Committee on Datasets for State Finance Commissions

08 Jun

- Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran released the Report of the Committee on Datasets for State Finance Commissions (SFCs) on 8 June 2026, prepared under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- It maps the datasets SFCs need and recommends Panchayat-level fiscal databases, SFC Cells in States, a common SFC reporting framework and an SFC Manual.
- It also recommends a CAG performance audit of how States have implemented the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
- The Sixteenth Finance Commission has proposed a Rs 10,000 crore Urbanisation Premium and a Rs 87,000 crore performance grant for Panchayats, linked to at least 2.5% annual own-source-revenue growth.

QUICK FACTS

Report	Report of the Committee on Datasets for State Finance Commissions; released 8 June 2026, New Delhi
Released by	Dr V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor; prepared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)
Trigger	Finance Commissions' Conclave on 'Devolution to Development', November 2024, chaired by the 16th FC Chairman
SFC for Panchayats	Article 243I; the same SFC reviews Municipalities under Article 243Y
Article 280(3)(bb)	Union Finance Commission recommends measures to augment a State's Consolidated Fund for Panchayats, based on SFC recommendations

- Committee member Dr Manish Gupta is from NIPFP (National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi; autonomous society, est. 1976)
- Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) won the Gold Award, National Awards for e-Governance 2026; 4 of 16 awards went to Panchayat initiatives

Schedule H2 widened: QR code track-and-trace for vaccines, antimicrobials, NDPS and anti-cancer drugs

25 Jun

- The Health Ministry amended the Drugs Rules, 1945 (25 June 2026) to bring ALL vaccines, antimicrobials, NDPS-Act drugs and anti-cancer drugs under Schedule H2, which mandates a Bar Code/QR Code on the pack.
- Compliance is phased: vaccines, NDPS drugs and anti-cancer medicines from 1 July 2027; antimicrobials from 1 July 2028. Voluntary early adoption is encouraged.
- Schedule H2 (inserted in November 2022) had so far covered only the top 300 drug brands; the QR code must carry nine data elements, from the unique product identification code to excipient details.
- The measure targets spurious and substandard medicines, supports the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, and aids the Nasha Mukt Bharat effort.

QUICK FACTS

Notified by	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare — amendment to the Drugs Rules, 1945 (framed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940).
New categories in Schedule H2	all vaccines, all antimicrobials, all narcotic and psychotropic drugs under the NDPS Act, 1985, and all anti-cancer drugs.
Deadlines	1 July 2027 (vaccines, NDPS drugs, anti-cancer drugs); 1 July 2028 (antimicrobials).
Where the code goes	primary packaging label; secondary label only if the primary lacks space.
Earlier coverage	top 300 pharmaceutical brands (Schedule H2 inserted by G.S.R. 823(E), 17 Nov 2022; in force 1 Aug 2023).
Separate earlier mandate	QR code on every level of packaging of all Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), G.S.R. 20(E) of 18 Jan 2022, in force 1 Jan 2023.
Regulator	Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), under DGHS, headed by the Drugs Controller General (India).

Jan Vishwas Act 2026 Reforms Operationalised in Health: Minor Drug, Cosmetic, Food Offences Decriminalised

26 Jun

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare operationalised the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 changes to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, turning minor and procedural violations into administrative penalties.
- Section 29 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was omitted, Section 28A violations and low-risk cosmetic lapses moved to adjudication, while spurious or adulterated cosmetics remain criminal offences.
- Under the FSS Act, jail for interfering with seized items was cut from six to three months, and the offence of obstructing a Food Safety Officer was dropped because the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita already covers it.
- FSSAI licensing rules now confine FIFO/FEFO stock rotation and record-keeping to food manufacturers; two draft Drugs Rules amendments ease shelf-life norms for imports and test-import permissions.

QUICK FACTS

Omitted	Section 29 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, which carried a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh for using a Government Analyst's report to advertise a drug or cosmetic.
New machinery	Adjudicating Authorities plus an Appeal Mechanism to decide the new administrative penalties.
Still criminal	offences involving spurious or adulterated cosmetics.
Draft G.S.R. 505(E), dated 22 June 2026	residual shelf life of imported drugs to be 12 months at import, replacing the 'more than 60%' rule, except for biologicals and radiopharmaceuticals.
Draft Form 11 reform	small-quantity imports of drugs for testing or analysis move to an acknowledgement-based prior intimation, not a licence.

- Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 = Act No. 8 of 2026; Presidential assent on 7 April 2026.
- It amends 784 provisions across 79 Central Acts run by 23 Ministries: 717 decriminalised for ease of doing business, 67 amended for ease of living.
- Health-sector changes announced as operationalised on 26 June 2026 cover the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

6. Defence

2 articles

DRDO Demonstrates Multi-Layered BMD up to ICBM Class; Maiden Flight-Test of NASM-MR

13 Jun

- DRDO carried out the maiden flight-test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR), one of three consecutive flight-tests on 10-11 June 2026.
- The same tests showed multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) against long-range ballistic missiles: the interceptors hit their targets.
- The Ministry of Defence says the tests place India in the elite group of nations with BMD capability to engage targets up to Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs, range over 5,500 km).
- The tests build on the two-phase BMD programme: Phase-I (PAD and AAD interceptors, about 2,000 km-class threats) and Phase-II (AD-1/AD-2, about 5,000 km-class threats).

QUICK FACTS

Tests	three consecutive flight-tests on 10 and 11 June 2026, announced by the Ministry of Defence on 13 June 2026
BMD result	multi-layered interception of long-range ballistic missile targets. The release does not name the interceptors used
Claim	capability to engage threats up to ICBM class, which puts India in an 'elite group' of nations
Naval result	maiden flight-test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR). The release gives no range
Monitored by	Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO
ICBM definition	a ballistic missile with a range over 5,500 km

- India's BMD work began around 1999. Phase-I, meant to protect New Delhi and Mumbai, was reported complete in 2019

Defence Production Hits Record Rs 1.78 Lakh Crore in FY26; Exports at Rs 38,424 Crore

17 Jun

- India's defence production reached an all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025-26, up 15.6% from Rs 1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25 and 110% above FY 2020-21's Rs 84,643 crore.
- The private sector's share rose to 24% (about Rs 42,000 crore, its highest ever) from 22% the year before; DPSUs and other PSUs made up about 76%.
- Defence exports hit a record Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, up from Rs 686 crore in 2013-14, going to over 80 countries; the target is Rs 50,000 crore by 2029.
- A PIB backgrounder, 'The Defence Decade', published the 2014-26 series: the defence budget rose from Rs 2.53 lakh crore (2013-14) to Rs 7.85 lakh crore (2026-27).

QUICK FACTS

FY 2025-26 defence production	Rs 1.78 lakh crore (record); 15.6% growth year on year
Private sector share	24% (about Rs 42,000 crore); PSU share about 76%
Defence exports FY 2025-26	Rs 38,424 crore (record), to 80+ countries, from 145 exporting firms
Export target	Rs 50,000 crore by 2029
Ecosystem	16 DPSUs, about 500 licensed defence companies, nearly 17,000 MSMEs; industrial licences up from 258 (2015) to 834 (March 2026)
FDI cap	74% via the automatic route for new licences and up to 100% via the government route (raised in 2020)

- About 65% of defence equipment is now made in India, against 65-70% import dependence earlier
- Ordnance Factory Board (about 200 years old) dissolved in October 2021; its 41 factories were regrouped into 7 new DPSUs

7. Science & Tech

2 articles

PIB Space Backgrounder: 400+ Start-ups, 399 Foreign Satellites, Venus Mission by March 2028

21 Jun

- PIB's backgrounder 'India's Space Odyssey' (21 June 2026) records that registered space start-ups grew from one in 2014 to over 400 by February 2026, drawing more than $500 million of investment.
- ISRO launched 399 foreign satellites after 2014 (as of March 2026), against 35 between the 1990s and 2014; India has signed 300+ space cooperation agreements with 61 countries and 5 multilateral bodies.
- NSIL's revenue rose from Rs 321.77 crore (FY 2021-22) to Rs 3,246.09 crore (FY 2024-25), according to the Economic Survey 2025-26; IN-SPACe had facilitated 71 ISRO technology transfers by 31 January 2026.
- The roadmap: Chandrayaan-4 sample return in 2027, the Venus Orbiter Mission in March 2028, BAS-01 (the first space-station module) by 2028, and the Next Generation Launch Vehicle carrying 30 tonnes to LEO.
- India's space economy is valued at $8 billion (2-3% of the global space economy). It is projected to reach $40-45 billion within a decade, with an 8% global share targeted by 2030.

QUICK FACTS

Current launch capability (PSLV, GSLV, LVM3)	up to 10 t to LEO and 4.2 t to GTO.
VIKRAM3201	India's first fully indigenous 32-bit space microprocessor, built by ISRO with the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh, on 180-nm CMOS. It was presented at Semicon India on 2 September 2025 and first flight-validated on PSLV-C60 (POEM-4). A sister chip is KALPANA32.
Axiom-4 (2025)	Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla flew to the ISS on 25 June 2025, carried out 7 Indian microgravity experiments and returned on 15 July 2025.
BIMSTEC Space Programme	led by India; NESAC trains BIMSTEC countries in space applications.

- Space sector opened to private players in 2020; Indian Space Policy 2023 followed.
- Kulasekarapattinam (Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu) is India's second spaceport. Its SSLV complex, whose foundation stone was laid on 28 February 2024, will handle 20-25 launches a year, with the first SSLV launch targeted for FY 2026-27.
- Third Launch Pad at Sriharikota approved in January 2025 at Rs 3,984.86 crore, for next-generation launch vehicles and human spaceflight.
- SSLV technology was transferred to HAL in 2025; an Earth Observation constellation under the PPP model was approved in 2026.

World's First Cu-Cl Nuclear Hydrogen Facility Opens at FBTR, IGCAR Kalpakkam

26 Jun

- On 26 June 2026 the Department of Atomic Energy inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility based on the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) thermochemical cycle using nuclear process heat, at the Fast Breeder Test Reactor, IGCAR Kalpakkam.
- The process was developed indigenously by BARC, Mumbai, and the plant was built jointly by BARC and IGCAR as a technology demonstrator for scaling up nuclear-assisted hydrogen.
- It is a non-electric use of nuclear energy: reactor heat, not electricity, splits water into hydrogen, extending the fast-reactor stage of India's three-stage programme.
- It was inaugurated by Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, DAE and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission.

QUICK FACTS

What	world's first Cu-Cl thermochemical hydrogen plant running on nuclear process heat (technology demonstrator).
Where	Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
Technology owner	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai; plant engineered and commissioned jointly by BARC and IGCAR.
Why Cu-Cl	lower operating temperature (peak about 530 degrees C) and higher thermodynamic efficiency than competing thermochemical routes.

- Inaugurated 26 June 2026 by Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty (Secretary, DAE and Chairman, AEC); IGCAR Director Sreekumar G. Pillai.
- FBTR is described by the release as India's only operating fast-reactor research facility, with more than four decades of operation.

8. Environment

11 articles

Cabinet clears Rs 9,585-crore NCRPB scheme to replace BS-IV and older trucks, buses in Delhi-NCR

03 Jun

- The Union Cabinet approved a two-year scheme, funded through the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) under MoHUA, to replace BS-IV-or-older trucks and buses registered in Delhi-NCR with BS-VI (or stricter) or electric vehicles (3 June 2026).
- Total outlay is Rs 9,585 crore, of which Rs 5,041 crore comes from the Centre and an estimated Rs 1,601 crore from State tax concessions.
- About 2.07 lakh owners — 1.91 lakh trucks and 16,329 buses — across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh stand to benefit.
- BS-III and older vehicles must be scrapped at a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility; BS-IV vehicles may be scrapped or sold outside NCR in non-NCAP towns.
- Benefits include 5% interest subvention for five years, fuel vouchers up to Rs 4,800 a month, State tax waivers and an 8% OEM discount; an Empowered Committee under the Cabinet Secretary will monitor it.

QUICK FACTS

Decision	Union Cabinet, chaired by the PM, 3 June 2026 — a two-year enrolment scheme for replacing old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR.
Funding route	National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; implemented by MoRTH and MoPNG with Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
Outlay	Rs 9,585 crore in all — Rs 5,041 crore Central share + ~Rs 1,601 crore State tax concessions.
Coverage	~2.07 lakh owners (1.91 lakh trucks, 16,329 buses); government vehicles excluded.
Target fleet	BS-IV or earlier -> replaced by BS-VI-or-stricter or electric vehicles registered within NCR.
Delhi-specific rule	Light Goods Vehicles bought under the scheme must be electric; buses must be BS-VI CNG or electric.

– Central benefits run for five years from registration of the new vehicle, beyond the two-year enrolment window.

India's green transformation: 12-year environment record from forest cover to NDC targets

04 Jun

- A PIB backgrounder consolidates 12 years of environment data: forest and tree cover is 8.27 lakh sq km, 25.17% of India's area (ISFR 2023), and forests store 30.43 billion tonnes of carbon.
- Ramsar sites rose from 26 in 2014 to 99 by April 2026; tiger reserves from 46 to 58; tigers from 2,226 (2014) to 3,682 (2022); Asiatic lions from 523 (2015) to 891 (2025); cheetahs in India now number 53.
- Solid-waste processing rose from 17% (2014) to over 77% (2024); the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 replace the 2016 Rules and mandate four-stream segregation.
- NDC: the 33-35% emissions-intensity cut (vs 2005) was reached 11 years early and the 40% non-fossil capacity goal 9 years early; non-fossil sources were 52.57% of installed capacity by February 2026.
- Green India Mission had released Rs 1,019.26 crore to States by March 2026; 626 Nagar Vans/Vatikas have received Rs 557.62 crore.

QUICK FACTS

Frame	'Vishwaas, Nirman, Jan Kalyaan' — three pillars: ecological capability, national capacity, global credibility
Mangrove cover	4,628 sq km (2013) to 4,992 sq km (2023)
Ganga surveys	3,037 gharials in 22 rivers; 6,327 Gangetic dolphins across 8,507 km of 28 rivers
Project Dolphin (15 Aug 2020)	Gangetic and Indus dolphins recognised as distinct species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (2024)	262.4 crore saplings by December 2025, tracked on the Meri LiFE portal
EPR (Mar 2026)	4,574 registered recyclers; 417.57 lakh MT processed, 341.93 lakh MT under EPR certificates
Disaster	NDMP 2016 (revised 2019); CAP-based alert system sent 4,500+ crore messages; 28,000-glacial-lake database

- ISFR 2023 (18th edition, Forest Survey of India, released 21 Dec 2024): forest cover 7.15 lakh sq km (21.76%) + tree cover 1.12 lakh sq km (3.41%)
- Blue Flag beaches (Foundation for Environmental Education, Denmark; 33 criteria): 8 in 2020 to 18 in 2025-26
- Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (Nov 2025): target zero dumpsites by October 2026; 1,138 dumpsites already remediated

Surha Tal in Ballia Becomes India's 100th Ramsar Site

05 Jun

- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, is India's 100th Ramsar site — Wetland of International Importance
- The Prime Minister marked India's century of Ramsar sites on World Environment Day, 5 June 2026
- Surha Tal is a freshwater wetland of 3,432.93 hectares in the middle Ganga basin, declared a bird sanctuary by Uttar Pradesh in 1991
- Uttar Pradesh now has 13 Ramsar sites; India's first two, Chilika and Keoladeo, were listed in 1981

QUICK FACTS

Site	Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, also called Surha Tal — Ballia district, eastern Uttar Pradesh
Status	India's 100th Ramsar site (Wetland of International Importance), hailed by the PM on 5 June 2026
Type	natural perennial freshwater lake in the middle stretch of the Ganga river basin, formed from a Ganga meander and fed by inflow channels
Area	3,432.93 hectares (about 34.3 sq km)
Biodiversity	221 plant, 66 fish, 7 reptile and 3 amphibian species; winter home to migratory and resident waterbirds

- Declared a bird sanctuary by the Uttar Pradesh government in 1991
- Threatened species recorded include the common pochard (IUCN Vulnerable) and the fishing cat (IUCN Vulnerable)
- Uttar Pradesh's Ramsar tally rises to 13; Tamil Nadu has the most Ramsar sites of any state

UTTAR PRADESH'S 13 RAMSAR SITES

Site	Year listed
Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora stretch)	2005
Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary	2019
Sarsai Nawar Jheel	2019
Sandi Bird Sanctuary	2019
Samaspur Bird Sanctuary	2019
Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary	2019
Saman Bird Sanctuary	2019
Sur Sarovar	2020
Haiderpur Wetland	2021
Bakhira Sanctuary	—

Site	Year listed
Patna Bird Sanctuary	—
Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary	—
Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal)	2026

Listing years as recorded on the Ramsar list; '—' where the year could not be verified.

NBA launches VCS-I-ABS benefit-sharing certification; India's biodiversity framework and figures

05 Jun

- On World Environment Day 2026 the National Biodiversity Authority unveiled the Voluntary Certification Scheme – Incentivisation for Access and Benefit Sharing (VCS-I-ABS), the first such scheme among CBD Parties.
- The NBA also released 'Looking at Digital Sequence Information through an Indian Lens' and launched its revamped website.
- India has over 2,76,653 Biodiversity Management Committees and 2,72,648 People's Biodiversity Registers under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Between 2017 and 2026, 12,830 ABS approvals were issued; about Rs 145 crore had reached beneficiaries by May 2026, benefiting around 11,000 BMCs.

QUICK FACTS

VCS-I-ABS	voluntary certification that rewards businesses complying with Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS); developed by MoEFCC, NBA and the Quality Council of India with UNDP, backed by BIOFIN.
NBA publication	'Looking at Digital Sequence Information through an Indian Lens'.
Three-tier governance	NBA (national) -> State Biodiversity Boards / UT Biodiversity Councils -> Biodiversity Management Committees (local).
ABS	12,830 approvals (2017-2026); ~Rs 145 crore released to beneficiaries by May 2026, ~11,000 BMCs benefited.
Section 39 of the BD Act	20 national repositories designated, plus 2 more notified; anyone discovering a new taxon must deposit voucher specimens.
Forest and tree cover	8.27 lakh sq km (25.17% of area); 1,134 protected areas over 1,87,592 sq km; tigers 2,226 (2014) -> 3,682.

- Unveiled 5 June 2026 by the NBA (Chairperson: Virendra Tiwari); World Environment Day 2026 theme: 'Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future'.
- Over 2,76,653 BMCs and 2,72,648 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs); national campaign to digitise PBRs into ePBRs.

Global Wind Day 2026: India's Wind Capacity at 56.09 GW, Record 6.05 GW Added in 2025-26

14 Jun

- Global Wind Day (15 June) 2026: India's installed wind capacity stood at 56.09 GW in March 2026, up from 21.04 GW in March 2014, and India ranks 4th in the world.
- India added a record 6.05 GW of wind in 2025-26, beating the previous record of 4.15 GW set in 2024-25; another 28 GW is under implementation.
- Gross wind potential is 1,163.9 GW at 150 m hub height (695.5 GW at 120 m), led by Rajasthan (284.2 GW) and Gujarat (180.8 GW).
- Targets are 100 GW of wind by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036; Rs 6,853 crore in VGF backs India's first 1 GW of offshore wind off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- India hosts the Global Wind Day 2026 Conference in Goa on 15 June, themed 'Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration'.

QUICK FACTS

Global Wind Day	15 June every year; began in 2007 as 'Wind Day' in Europe (EWEA, now WindEurope) and went global with GWEC in 2009
India's 2026 conference	Goa, 15 June 2026, theme 'Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration'; industry report 'Elevating India's Wind Turbine Exports for Global Markets' to be released
Installed wind capacity	56.09 GW (March 2026), 2.66 times the 21.04 GW of March 2014; India is 4th in the world
Record addition	6.05 GW in 2025-26 (previous record 4.15 GW in 2024-25)
Pipeline	28 GW under implementation; targets of 100 GW by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036
Turbine manufacturing capacity	10 GW (2014) to about 24 GW (March 2026); 70-80% indigenisation of key components
Nodal ministry	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

– About 45% of wind generation comes in peak-demand hours, which complements solar

WIND POTENTIAL AT 150 M, THE EIGHT HIGH-RESOURCE STATES

State	Potential (GW)
Rajasthan	284.2
Gujarat	180.8
Maharashtra	173.9
Karnataka	169.3
Andhra Pradesh	123.3
Tamil Nadu	95.1
Madhya Pradesh	55.4
Telangana	54.7

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 14 June 2026. National total: 1,163.9 GW at 150 m and 695.5 GW at 120 m. Measured through 900+ wind-monitoring stations, with maps at 50, 80, 100, 120 and 150 m.

Project GIB: Great Indian Bustard Captive Stock Reaches 94; 26 Chicks in Fourth Season

14 Jun

- The captive stock of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) has reached 94 birds, up from 70 when the fourth breeding season began in March 2026.
- 26 chicks have hatched in the fourth year of captive breeding: 18 through artificial insemination, 4 through natural breeding and 4 from wild-collected eggs.
- In exchange for wild-collected eggs, 3 chicks hatched in the wild in Rajasthan through 'jumpstart', which improves founder genetic diversity and cuts predation risk.
- The programme is run by MoEFCC, the Rajasthan Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India at the Sam and Ramdevra centres in Jaisalmer.

QUICK FACTS

Species	Great Indian Bustard (Ardeotis nigriceps), one of the heaviest flying birds; IUCN Critically Endangered since 2011
Captive stock	94 birds (June 2026), up from 70 in March 2026
Fourth breeding year	26 chicks = 18 by artificial insemination + 4 by natural breeding + 4 from wild-collected eggs
Latest 3 chicks	1 from a wild-collected egg, 2 from captive-laid eggs
Jumpstart	3 chicks hatched in the wild in Rajasthan in exchange for the wild eggs taken
Centres	Sam and Ramdevra, Jaisalmer (Rajasthan)
Partners	MoEFCC, the Rajasthan government and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun
Wild population	about 150, mostly in Rajasthan

India and Japan Adopt Rules of Implementation for Joint Crediting Mechanism Under Paris Article 6.2

16 Jun

- India and Japan adopted the Rules of Implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) on 8 June 2026, under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. MoEFCC announced it on 16 June.
- The rules create a Joint Committee of both governments, project approval procedures, third-party validation and verification, sustainable-development safeguards, and national registries to track the issuance and transfer of credits.
- They put into operation the Memorandum of Cooperation signed on 7 August 2025, which made India the 31st JCM partner of Japan.
- Some credits may count towards Japan's NDC as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs); the rest can count towards India's NDC.

QUICK FACTS

Rules of Implementation adopted	8 June 2026 (announced by MoEFCC, 16 June 2026)
Legal basis	Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, which covers bilateral 'cooperative approaches'
Rules set up	a Joint Committee, project approval, third-party validation and verification, safeguards, and national registries
Credit split	part to Japan's NDC as ITMOs, the rest to India's NDC
India's national authority for Article 6	NDAIAPA, notified 30 May 2022 under MoEFCC

- MoC on JCM signed 7 August 2025 in New Delhi by Japan's Ambassador Ono Keiichi and MoEFCC Secretary Tanmay Kumar. Documents were exchanged in Tokyo on 29 August 2025 before PMs Modi and Ishiba
- India is Japan's 31st JCM partner country; the first was Mongolia (January 2013)

India Brings 21.76 Million Hectares Under Restoration; Second Bonn Challenge Progress Report Released

17 Jun

- On World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17 June 2026), MoEFCC released India's Second Progress Report on the Bonn Challenge (covering 2011-2020), prepared with IUCN, and a special issue of the Indian Forester.
- India has brought 21.76 million hectares under restoration against its Bonn Challenge target of 26 million hectares by 2030; restoration has generated about 1.22 billion person-days of work.
- The 2026 theme was 'Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.', matching the UN's International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the run-up to UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia.
- The Aravalli Green Wall Initiative beat its annual targets in FY 2025-26; 97.85 million hectares (29.77% of India) is affected by land degradation and desertification.

QUICK FACTS

Report	India's Second Progress Report on the Bonn Challenge (2011-2020), by MoEFCC with IUCN
Progress	21.76 million ha under restoration; target 26 million ha by 2030
India's pledge	13 million ha in 2015 (plus 8 million ha by 2030), raised to 26 million ha at UNCCD COP14, Greater Noida, 2019
Day	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, 17 June; declared by UNGA resolution 49/115 (December 1994), first observed 1995
2026 theme	'Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.'
Land degradation	97.85 million ha, or 29.77% of India's geographical area (Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas); drylands cover about 228 million ha
Watershed Development Component of PMKSY	27 million ha+ treated; 61.3 million geo-tagged assets
Also cited	Joint Forest Management covers about 81.53 million ha; 266 crore+ saplings planted under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'; 260 million+ Soil Health Cards issued

Access and Benefit Sharing: NBA Realises Rs 266 Crore, Disburses Rs 145 Crore to Communities

20 Jun

- India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has realised over Rs 266 crore since 2008 and disbursed around Rs 145 crore to beneficiaries, as reported on 20 June 2026.
- FY 2025-26 alone brought Rs 21.26 crore in realisation and Rs 78 crore in disbursement. Benefits have reached 10,500+ Biodiversity Management Committees in 23 States and 4 UTs.
- Red Sanders gave the largest share (Rs 120 crore, 45%), followed by seeds (Rs 84.61 crore, 32.3%) and pharma/AYUSH (Rs 36.61 crore, 13.8%).
- Under the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, the NBA passes 85-90% of ABS money to State Biodiversity Boards for disbursal.

QUICK FACTS

Disbursed to beneficiaries so far	around Rs 145 crore, including Rs 78 crore in FY 2025-26.
Reach	10,500+ BMCs in 23 States and 4 UTs, 230+ farmers, six State Forest Departments, and six Red Sanders research projects.
Sources of ABS	Red Sanders, medicinal and aromatic plants, seeds, livestock genetic resources, crude herbs, biochemicals and microorganisms.
Local uses	habitat restoration, updating People's Biodiversity Registers, documenting traditional knowledge, medicinal plant parks, community gene banks and livelihoods.

- ABS realised by the National Biodiversity Authority since 2008: over Rs 266 crore (average Rs 14.75 crore a year).
- The release links the framework to the Nagoya Protocol, NBSAP 2024-2030 and Target 13 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

NBA Issues SOP for States to Identify and Notify Threatened Species under Section 38

26 Jun

- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that States and UTs are to use to identify, assess and notify threatened species under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- So far, 159 plant and 173 animal species have been notified as threatened, covering 17 States and 3 UTs.
- State Biodiversity Boards and UT Biodiversity Councils will assess species and recommend them for notification; recovery plans, monitoring and periodic review follow.
- The SOP ties into the 2025 ABS Regulations, which treat Section 38 species differently for benefit-sharing, and into NBSAP 2024-2030 Target 4 on halting extinctions.

QUICK FACTS

Notified so far	159 plant species + 173 animal species, covering 17 States and 3 UTs.
SOP steps	scientific assessment, stakeholder consultation, validation, notification, conservation planning, monitoring, periodic review.
After notification	species recovery and conservation action plans.
Participants	local communities, BMCs, the Botanical Survey of India, the Zoological Survey of India, academia and experts. Traditional knowledge is used alongside field evidence.
Drivers of threat named in the release	habitat degradation, overexploitation, pollution, invasive alien species, climate change.
India is one of 17 megadiverse countries	2.4% of the world's land holds 7-8% of recorded species.

- The NBA's SOP for Notification of Threatened Species under Section 38 is the first uniform procedure for States and UTs.
- Section 38 lets the Central Government, in consultation with the State, notify a species on the verge of extinction (or likely to become extinct) as threatened. Collection is then regulated or prohibited and the species is rehabilitated. The power can be delegated to States.

18 Years of Sariska Tiger Reintroduction: NTCA Road Map and First Project Cheetah Annual Report Released

28 Jun

- On 28 June 2026, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released the Road Map on Active Management of Tigers in India, a Booklet on Reintroduction and Recovery of Tigers, and the Annual Report of Project Cheetah (September 2024-December 2025), at an NTCA workshop in Alwar, Rajasthan.
- The workshop marked 18 years of tiger reintroduction in Sariska Tiger Reserve, which went from local extinction in 2005 to 56 tigers today. The Minister called it the world's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers.
- The number of tiger reserves has grown from 46 to 58 over the past decade, and India met the St. Petersburg Declaration goal of doubling wild tigers by 2022.
- Reintroduction worked in Panna and Sariska with community support but failed in Satkosia (Odisha) without it.

QUICK FACTS

Event	NTCA national workshop 'Tiger Re-introduction: Opportunities & Challenges', Alwar, Rajasthan, 28 June 2026, held with the Government of Rajasthan
Why this date	the first tiger was translocated from Ranthambore to Sariska on 28 June 2008, India's first tiger reintroduction
Sariska	locally extinct in 2005 (poaching; loss confirmed in 2004), 56 tigers now; officials say it can now serve as a SOURCE population for other reserves
Three publications released	Road Map on Active Management of Tigers in India; Booklet on Reintroduction and Recovery of Tigers in India; Annual Report of Project Cheetah (Sept 2024-Dec 2025)
Tiger reserves	up from 46 to 58 over the past decade
Status of Tigers 2022	about 3,682 tigers (mean estimate), roughly 75% of the world's wild tigers
Prey augmentation	translocating gaur and barasingha to rebuild the prey base in tiger-deficient reserves

9. Schemes & Committees

11 articles

Women-Led Development 2014-2026: MMR Falls to 88, Institutional Births Reach 90.6%

02 Jun

- A PIB Backgrounder of 2 June 2026 tracks the shift from 'women's welfare' to 'women-led development' across 2014-2026, scheme by scheme across a woman's life cycle.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio fell to 88 per lakh live births (SRS 2021-23) from 130 (2014-15); NFHS-6 (2023-24) puts institutional births at 90.6% and first-trimester antenatal care at 76.2%.
- PMMVY had enrolled 4.92 crore beneficiaries and paid Rs 20,150 crore by 30 April 2026; female share of school enrolment rose from 32% (2014-15) to 48%.
- Women hold about 46% of elected Panchayati Raj seats (over 14.5 lakh); the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 provides 33% reservation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

QUICK FACTS

Release	PIB Backgrounder 'From Welfare to Women-Led Development', 2 June 2026, covering 2014-2026
MMR	88 per lakh live births (SRS 2021-23, Office of the Registrar General of India, MHA), down from 130 (2014-15); SDG 3.1 target is below 70 by 2030
NFHS-6 (2023-24)	conducted by MoHFW with IIPS Mumbai as nodal agency; national fact sheets released 29 May 2026
Sex ratio	NFHS-5 recorded 1,020 women per 1,000 men, against 943 in Census 2011
PCPNDT Act	enacted 1994 as the PNDT Act; amended and renamed in 2003 to ban pre-conception sex selection too
Gender Inclusion Fund	an NEP 2020 provision for equitable quality education of girls and transgender students
Mission Shakti (since April 2022)	two verticals — Sambal (safety: One Stop Centres, 181 helpline, Nari Adalat) and Samarthya (empowerment: PMMVY, Palna creches, Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas)

India's Health Transformation: Ayushman Bharat, PM-ABHIM and Disease-Elimination Figures

06 Jun

- A PIB backgrounder published 12-year health figures: 44.14 crore Ayushman Cards, 12.03 crore hospitalisations and treatment worth Rs 1,80,435 crore under AB-PMJAY.
- 1.86 lakh+ Ayushman Arogya Mandirs now provide primary care; PM-ABHIM (Rs 64,180 crore, 2021-26) is building 744 integrated public health labs and 631 critical care blocks.
- ABDM counts 20.49 crore ABHA app registrations; U-WIN has registered 11.87 crore children and 3.96 crore pregnant women.
- Disease-control gains: malaria mortality down 78%; kala-azar under 1 case per 10,000 in 633 endemic blocks; Japanese Encephalitis fatality down from 17.6% (2014) to 7.1% (2024).

QUICK FACTS

AB-PMJAY	launched 23 September 2018 at Ranchi. It gives Rs 5 lakh cover per family per year to about 12 crore families (roughly the poorest 40%) and is implemented by the National Health Authority.
AB-PMJAY so far	36,218 hospitals empanelled (19,659 public, 16,559 private); about 40,000 claims a day across more than 1,900 packages.
Ayushman Vay Vandana (29 October 2024)	covers every citizen aged 70 and above, whatever their income. 1.20 crore enrolled; 13.84 lakh treatments worth Rs 3,000 crore (5 June 2026).
Jan Aushadhi	18,000+ Kendras sell generics 50-90% below market price.
Capacity	12 new AIIMS functional since 2014; medical colleges more than doubled; 47 crore+ telemedicine consultations.
NSO 2025 survey (1.39 lakh+ households)	outpatient care at government facilities is free; about half of hospitalised patients paid under Rs 1,100.
National Health Policy, 2017	raise public health spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2025.

West Bengal Joins AB PM-JAY as 36th State/UT, Completing Nationwide Rollout

08 Jun

- West Bengal became the 36th State/UT to implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY on 8 June 2026, completing the scheme's adoption across the whole country.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) signed the MoU with West Bengal's Department of Health & Family Welfare; about 1.43 crore families (~6 crore people) will be covered.
- The State's beneficiary base: 1.24 crore eligible families, ~15.95 lakh families of senior citizens aged 70+ and ~3 lakh families of ASHAs and Anganwadi workers/helpers.
- Nationally, PM-JAY covers 62 crore+ people; 12 crore+ hospital admissions worth over Rs 1.82 lakh crore have been availed, and out-of-pocket health spending fell from 64.6% to 43.4%.
- Odisha (34th, January 2025) and Delhi (35th, April 2025) joined before West Bengal, which was the last holdout.

QUICK FACTS

8 June 2026	West Bengal becomes the 36th State/UT to implement AB PM-JAY, so the scheme now runs in every State and UT.
MoU signatories	Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal, CEO, National Health Authority, and the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, West Bengal.
West Bengal coverage	~1.43 crore families (~6 crore people), with 1.24 crore eligible families + ~15.95 lakh senior-citizen (70+) families + ~3.03 lakh ASHA/AWW/AWH families.
Central contribution for West Bengal	expected to be nearly Rs 1,000 crore a year.
Benefit	Rs 5 lakh health cover per family per year, cashless and paperless, portable across States; 36,000+ empanelled hospitals.
Order of the last joiners	Odisha 34th (MoU January 2025), Delhi 35th (MoU 5 April 2025), West Bengal 36th (8 June 2026).

- NHM resource envelope conveyed to West Bengal for FY 2026-27: Rs 3,505.59 crore; first tranche of Rs 527.58 crore released.
- West Bengal launched a statewide HPV vaccination programme for 14-year-old girls on 30 May 2026: 33,000+ vaccinated against a target of 7.65 lakh.

PMSMA Turns 10: Rs 75 Coin Released as MMR Falls to 87 per Lakh Live Births

09 Jun

- Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), launched on 9 June 2016, completed 10 years on 9 June 2026; Health Minister J.P. Nadda released a Rs 75 commemorative coin and a Rs 5 postal stamp.
- Per the Sample Registration System, India's Maternal Mortality Ratio fell from 130 (2014-16) to 87 (2022-24) per lakh live births; neonatal mortality fell from 24 to 18 per 1,000.
- The UN MMEIG report credits India with an 86% fall in maternal mortality since 1990, against a 48% global decline.
- NFHS-6: institutional deliveries 90.6%, antenatal care 95.9%, four or more ANC visits 65.2%.
- PMSMA has conducted 7.5 crore+ antenatal check-ups and identified about 1.2 crore high-risk pregnancies; 9,000+ private providers volunteer.

QUICK FACTS

Extended PMSMA (E-PMSMA), January 2022	high-risk pregnancies line-listed and tracked up to 45 days after delivery, with SMS alerts and extra ASHA incentives
10-year theme	"10 Years of PMSMA – A Decade of Care"; Rs 75 coin and Rs 5 stamp released

- PMSMA launched by PM Modi on 9 June 2016; ministry: Health and Family Welfare
- Free, specialist-led antenatal check-up on the 9th of every month, mainly for women in the 2nd and 3rd trimesters
- 7.5 crore+ ANC check-ups; ~1.2 crore high-risk pregnancies identified; 9,000+ registered private providers
- Nine assured free services under PMSMA promoted in the anniversary outreach from 9 June 2026
- Private doctors were asked in the July 2016 Mann Ki Baat to give one day a month to PMSMA

Ease of Living 2014-2026: JJM at 81.94% Rural Taps, 10.57 Crore Ujjwala Connections

15 Jun

- Jal Jeevan Mission: rural tap connections rose from 3.23 crore (16.72%) in 2019 to over 15.86 crore (81.94%) by June 2026; JJM 2.0 extends the mission to December 2028 with a Rs 8.69 lakh crore outlay (Rs 3.59 lakh crore central).
- Ujjwala has delivered over 10.57 crore LPG connections; national LPG coverage rose from 55.9% (April 2014) to 107.2% (April 2026).
- PMAY-G has completed 3.05 crore of 3.91 crore sanctioned houses; PMAY-U has completed over 98 lakh of 1.25 crore sanctioned.
- Installed power capacity grew from 248 GW (FY14) to over 532 GW (March 2026); peak demand hit a record 256.1 GW on 25 April 2026.
- UDAN has operationalised 665 routes; India's airports rose from 74 in 2014 to 165 by April 2026.

QUICK FACTS

Source	PIB Backgrounder 'Ease of Living: India's Journey of Inclusive Progress', 15 June 2026 — consolidated 2014-2026 figures
SBM-Gramin	12.14 crore household toilets; 5.69 lakh villages ODF Plus (June 2026); rural sanitation 39% (2014) to 100% (2019)
SBM-Urban	waste processing 16% (2014) to 82% (2026); door-to-door collection 43% to 98%
WHO estimate cited	3,00,000 fewer diarrhoeal deaths in 2019 than 2014
Renewable capacity	274.69 GW (March 2026) vs 76.38 GW (2014); solar 150.26 GW; India 3rd largest clean-energy capacity
PMJDY	58 crore+ accounts, deposits over Rs 3 lakh crore (June 2026); DBT credited Rs 6.9 lakh crore in FY25 across 327 schemes
PMMY	57.7 crore loans worth Rs 40 lakh crore; 66% to women; Tarun Plus category (FY25) lifts ceiling to Rs 20 lakh
Railways	electrification 99.6% (March 2026); Kavach on 3,103 route km; accidents 135 (2014-15) to 16 (2025-26)
Metro	248 km in 5 cities (2014) to 1,155 km in 26 cities (March 2026) — world's 3rd largest
National highways	91,287 km (FY14) to 1,46,572 km (March 2026); road network 63.73 lakh km, 2nd largest globally

PM-KISAN 23rd Instalment: Rs 18,880 Crore to 9.44 Crore Farmers; West Bengal Joins PMFBY

20 Jun

- The 23rd instalment of PM-KISAN (over Rs 18,880 crore to 9.44 crore farmers, 2.18 crore of them women) was released on 20 June 2026 at Tarakeswar, Hooghly, West Bengal, on Paschimbanga Divas.
- Cumulative PM-KISAN transfers have crossed Rs 4.46 lakh crore over 23 instalments since the February 2019 launch; Union Budget 2026-27 allots Rs 60,000 crore to the scheme.
- West Bengal came under PMFBY and RWBCIS from Kharif 2026 (target: 1.10 crore farmers, 30 lakh ha, Rs 28,140 crore insured value), replacing its own Bangla Shasya Bima.
- The state also joined the Digital Agriculture Mission (AgriStack), got 346 natural-farming clusters, and four districts under PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana.

QUICK FACTS

23rd PM-KISAN instalment	released 20 June 2026 at Tarakeswar, Hooghly (West Bengal); the day was marked as 'PM KISAN Utsav Diwas'.
Payout	over Rs 18,880 crore to about 9.44 crore farmers, of whom 2.18 crore are women (women are over 23% of beneficiaries).
Cumulative transfers	over Rs 4.46 lakh crore across 23 instalments since 2019.
Benefit	Rs 6,000 a year per eligible landholding farmer family, in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000, by DBT into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts.
Union Budget 2026-27 allocation for PM-KISAN	Rs 60,000 crore.

- Launched 24 February 2019 at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), with benefits effective from 1 December 2018. It is a Central Sector scheme (100% Centre-funded) under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- Rs 416.75 crore recovered from ineligible beneficiaries (income-tax payers, government and PSU employees, constitutional post holders) as of December 2025.
- National review of PM-KISAN is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary; grievances go through the PM-KISAN portal and CPGRAMS (24,605 on the portal in FY 2024-25).

Aarogya Setu 2.0, Unified Health Interface and Drug Registry Launched Under ABDM

29 Jun

- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched Aarogya Setu 2.0 (the COVID-era app rebuilt as a national Personal Health Record app), the Unified Health Interface (UHI), a national Drug Registry, the Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY WhatsApp chatbot and eSushrut@Clinic under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Ten initiatives in all, also including the Ayushman App, National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX), Common LOINC Codes for India (CLCI) and Bharat Health Terminology Service (BHTS), developed under the National Health Authority (NHA) and NRCeS.
- ABDM has created over 90 crore ABHA accounts and linked more than 100 crore health records.
- UHI is ABDM's open-network service layer: patients and providers on different apps can discover and book each other through a common NHA Gateway; four services are live, including blood-bank discovery via e-RaktKosh.
- The Drug Registry, built with CDSCO and NRCeS on SNOMED CT, becomes ABDM's fourth core registry with 1,23,000+ branded drugs, 10,000+ generics and 29,000+ substances.

QUICK FACTS

ABDM's four core registries	ABHA (individuals), Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR), Drug Registry (medicines — new)
Aarogya Setu	launched 2 April 2020 by NIC/MeitY for COVID contact tracing; MeitY handed it to NHA; ~20 crore downloads
Ayushman Sarathi	PM-JAY WhatsApp chatbot, 24x7, on +91 72908 23838
eSushrut@Clinic	light cloud HMIS built by C-DAC; Rs 499/month for 5 users, Rs 299 after NHA's Rs 200 discount; free for first 3 months
AI initiatives cited	SAHI (Strategy for AI in Healthcare for India) and BODH (benchmarking platform with IIT Kanpur), launched February 2026 at India AI Impact Summit

- Launched 29 June 2026 by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ABDM launched 27 September 2021; implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA)
- ABHA = Ayushman Bharat Health Account, a 14-digit digital health ID; 90 crore+ accounts, 100 crore+ records linked (June 2026)
- UHI runs on open protocols (Decentralized Health Protocol, from the Beckn family that also powers ONDC) via the ABDM Gateway

Anemia Mukt Bharat Becomes Abhiyaan: 7x7x7 Framework and T4 Strategy Released

29 Jun

- Anemia Mukt Bharat (2018) was formally renamed Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan as Health Minister J.P. Nadda released its Operational Guidelines at the 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) meeting, Vigyan Bhawan, 29 June 2026.
- The 6x6x6 strategy becomes 7x7x7: Low Birth Weight babies (0-6 months) are the 7th beneficiary group, 'Eating Right' the 7th intervention, and a digital Monitoring and Evaluation framework the 7th institutional mechanism.
- T3 (Test, Treat, Talk) becomes T4 (Test, Treat, Talk, Track); focus shifts from prophylactic to therapeutic care, with intravenous iron (FCM, iron sucrose) for severe and non-responding pregnant and lactating women.
- Haemoglobin records from JANANI (pregnant women) and RBSK/U-WIN (children) will converge on one Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Portal; 'Jan Bhagidari' community mobilisation launched.

QUICK FACTS

New name	Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan; approach widened to testing, therapeutic management, eating right and community involvement ('Jan Chetna')
6x6x6 -> 7x7x7	new beneficiary = LBW babies (0-6 months); new intervention = Eating Right; new mechanism = digital M&E
IV iron	Ferric Carboxymaltose (FCM) and iron sucrose for severe and non-responding pregnant/lactating women
Digital convergence	JANANI (pregnant women) + RBSK and U-WIN (children) -> unified AMB Abhiyaan Portal
Expected outcome	lower anaemia across the life cycle, and lower IMR and MMR; 'Whole of Government' convergence

- Released 29 June 2026 at the 16th CCHFW meeting, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi — marks eight years of the programme
- Anemia Mukt Bharat launched 2018 by MoHFW as the intensified form of the National Iron Plus Initiative (I-NIPI)
- T4 = Test, Treat, Talk, Track (earlier T3 had no 'Track')

SUMAN Roadmap 2030 Targets MMR Below 70 With Focus on 130 Districts in 13 States

29 Jun

- Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 at the 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare conference on 29 June 2026, aiming to cut India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) below 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030 (SDG target 3.1).
- Time-bound interventions in 130 districts across 13 high-focus States, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Rajasthan; strategies for all States/UTs to reach universal coverage.
- High-risk pregnancies to be tracked through four stages; ASHAs to make bi-weekly home visits in the 8th and 9th months; Birth Waiting Homes, MCH Wings, obstetric HDUs and ICUs in hard-to-reach areas.
- Builds on Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), launched 10 October 2019; India's MMR stood at 87 in 2022-24 (SRS).

QUICK FACTS

Goal	MMR below 70 per 1,00,000 live births by 2030; lower NMR and IMR; zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths
Coverage	130 districts in 13 high-focus States — Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal
Four-stage high-risk pregnancy tracking	antenatal, third trimester, intrapartum, postnatal
New in climate terms	a climate-responsive action plan for heatwaves affecting pregnant women and newborns

- Launched 29 June 2026 at the 16th CCHFW conference; led by the Maternal Health Division, MoHFW, under the RMNCHA+N framework
- Parent scheme SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan) launched 10 October 2019 at the 13th CCHFW — free, assured care for pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery and sick newborns
- SSBSK (Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram) integrated for home-based care from birth to 36 months
- Monitoring through the JANANI portal; a centralised SUMAN Call Centre for grievances

SSBSK Launched: HBNC and HBYC Merged Into One Birth-to-36-Months Child Care Programme

29 Jun

- Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) at the 16th CCHFW meeting on 29 June 2026 — one programme of home and community care for every child from birth to 36 months.
- SSBSK merges Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC, 2011) and Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC, 2018); its motto is 'Pehle Teen Saal Sampoorna Dekhbhal'.
- Risk-stratified care: 'At-risk' newborns get up to 9 home visits in the first 42 days and 'At-risk' children up to 8 visits till 36 months, with joint ANM-CHO visits.
- New platforms: Well-Baby Sessions at every VHSND and a monthly Shishu Shivir at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs; post-partum maternal mental health screening by ASHAs.
- Digital tracking linked to JANANI, U-WIN, MPCDSR, RBSK 2.0 and POSHAN Tracker through ABHA and Baal-ABHA IDs.

QUICK FACTS

Age band	birth to 36 months — first 28 days (newborn survival) and first three years (brain development)
'At-risk' criteria	low birth weight, prematurity, delayed breastfeeding, discharge from newborn care units, malnutrition, recurrent illness, developmental delay
At-risk newborns	up to 9 home visits in 42 days; joint ANM + CHO visits on Day 3 and Day 7
At-risk children	up to 8 home visits till 36 months; joint ANM + CHO visits in the 3rd and 6th months
Frontline team	ASHA, ANM, Community Health Officer (CHO), Anganwadi Worker (AWW)

- Launched 29 June 2026, 16th Central Council of Health and Family Welfare meeting; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Merges HBNC (2011, newborns to 42 days) and HBYC (2018, children 3-15 months)
- Also covers urban slums and migrant settlements; flags excessive screen exposure as a risk to early brain development

PMKSY at 10: 24.61 Million Hectares Irrigation Potential, 110.92 Lakh Ha Under Micro-Irrigation

30 Jun

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), launched 1 July 2015, has provided central assistance above Rs 64,407 crore, benefited over 27 million farmers and created or restored 24.61 million hectares of irrigation potential (as of August 2025).
- Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) has brought 110.92 lakh hectares under micro-irrigation since inception — about 7.98% of India's net sown area.
- PMKSY was continued for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs 93,068.56 crore; Union Budget 2026-27 allocated Rs 6,587 crore.
- Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) was approved in 2025-26 as a sub-scheme of PMKSY-AIBP with an initial outlay of Rs 1,600 crore.

QUICK FACTS

Water-security strands	Jal Sanchay (rainwater storage) and Jal Sinchan (efficient water application).
PDMC subsidy on drip/sprinkler systems	55% for small and marginal farmers, 45% for others.

- Launched 1 July 2015 under the mottos 'Har Khet Ko Pani' and 'More Crop Per Drop'.
- Formed by amalgamating AIBP (then Ministry of Water Resources), the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (Department of Land Resources) and On-Farm Water Management (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).
- About 9.3 lakh farmers receive PDMC support every year.
- PDMC was a PMKSY component 2015-16 to 2021-22; from 2022-23 it runs under PM-RKVY.

10. Agreements & MoUs

4 articles

India-Oman CEPA enters into force: 99.38% of India's exports get duty-free access

01 Jun

- The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force on 1 June 2026. It was signed in Muscat on 18 December 2025.
- Duty-free access now covers 99.38% of India's exports to Oman by value (98.08% of Oman's tariff lines), against 15.33% under MFN tariffs.
- India is only the second country, after the United States, to have a comprehensive bilateral trade pact with Oman.
- Oman opened 127 services sub-sectors and raised the Intra-Corporate Transferee (ICT) ceiling from 20% to 50%.
- Dairy, cereals, fruits, vegetables, edible oils, oilseeds, rubber, leather and spices are kept out of India's market-access offer.

QUICK FACTS

Signed	18 December 2025, Muscat. In force: 1 June 2026.
Pharma	products approved by USFDA, EMA, UK MHRA or TGA get Omani marketing authorisation within 90 days without inspection. Where an inspection is needed, the target is 270 working days.

- Oman is India's second-largest trading partner in the Gulf. Bilateral trade was USD 11.18 bn in FY 2025-26, up from USD 10.61 bn in FY 2024-25.
- Oman's only earlier comprehensive bilateral trade pact is the US-Oman FTA, in force since 1 January 2009.
- All of India's zero-duty concessions apply from day one. They cover gems and jewellery, marine products and engineering goods, where Oman's duties had been up to 5%.
- India liberalised 77.79% of its tariff lines, covering 94.81% of imports from Oman by value. Tariff Rate Quotas and Minimum Import Prices protect sensitive products.
- Oman will mandatorily accept Export Inspection Council (EIC) certificates and recognise India's NPOP organic and halal certification.
- A Social Security Agreement is to be negotiated later, to avoid dual contributions by Indian workers.

India and UK Launch Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory in New Delhi

04 Jun

- The India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) was launched in New Delhi on 4 June 2026 by Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy and UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper.
- It is a joint initiative of TEXMiN, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and the University of Cambridge: a data platform that tracks global critical-mineral supply chains and flags supply risks.
- Announced at the India-UK Prime Ministers' engagement in October 2025, it was formalised by a Research Collaboration Agreement in March 2026 and supports the National Critical Mineral Mission.
- On the same day PM Modi met Cooper and said the India-UK Vision 2035 would continue to guide the partnership.

QUICK FACTS

Launched	4 June 2026, New Delhi, by G. Kishan Reddy (Union Minister of Coal and Mines) and Yvette Cooper (UK Foreign Secretary)
Partners	TEXMiN (Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and the University of Cambridge
Function	monitor global critical-mineral supply chains, spot supply risks and disruptions, and produce market intelligence for policymakers, industry and researchers
Origin	announced at the India-UK PMs' bilateral engagement in October 2025 with £1.8 million under the UK-India Technology Security Initiative, billed as the world's first UK-India Critical Minerals Supply Chain Observatory
Formalised	Research Collaboration Agreement, March 2026; TEXMiN to set up a satellite campus at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad
Policy anchor	supports the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) and the India-UK Technology Security Initiative
Same day	PM Modi met Cooper and said India-UK Vision 2035 would keep guiding the partnership

Centre, Assam and Nagaland Sign Tripartite MoU to Open Oil Operations in Boundary Areas

11 Jun

- A tripartite MoU between the Government of India, Assam and Nagaland was signed in New Delhi on 11 June 2026. It facilitates mineral oil operations in identified 'Areas of Interest' along the Assam-Nagaland boundary.
- Nagaland told the Centre it would allow oil exploration across the whole state, not just the six designated fields. Assam agreed.
- The Home Minister said current extraction of 1,000-1,500 barrels per day could rise more than tenfold.
- The MoU sets up a coordinated framework for operational continuity, the safety of personnel and assets, and coordination among stakeholders. MHA brokered it with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Background: Nagaland's land-and-resources shield under Article 371A. ONGC left Nagaland's Changpang field in 1994. The boundary dispute has been unsettled since 1963.

QUICK FACTS

Parties	Government of India, Government of Assam, Government of Nagaland. Signed in New Delhi on 11 June 2026 in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah.
Also present	Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio.
Scope	mineral oil exploration and production in the identified 'Areas of Interest' in the Assam-Nagaland boundary areas.
Facilitated by	the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
Context given in the release	12 NE agreements since 2019, about 80% fall in violence, over 80% of the North-East freed from AFSPA, and more than 50% of border disputes resolved.

– Beyond the six designated fields, Nagaland has agreed to oil exploration across the entire state.

India-UK CETA and Double Contribution Convention to Enter into Force on 15 July 2026

17 Jun

- The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Double Contribution Convention (DCC) will both enter into force on 15 July 2026, after ratification by both governments.
- CETA gives zero-duty UK access to about 99% of India's tariff lines, covering nearly 100% of trade value; India keeps dairy, cereals, millets, edible oils, oilseeds and apples out of its concessions.
- The DCC exempts Indian workers on temporary UK assignments from paying social security twice, and the exemption has been raised from 3 years to 5 years; over 75,000 professionals and 900 companies are expected to benefit.

- CETA has 30 chapters and, for the first time in a bilateral deal for India, a chapter on government procurement; the UK's services commitments cover 137 sub-sectors.

QUICK FACTS

Agreement	India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); nodal ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Entry into force	15 July 2026, for CETA and the Double Contribution Convention together
Structure	30 chapters, including digital trade, IPR, SMEs, sustainability and government procurement (a first for India in a bilateral pact)
Mobility	1,800 Indian chefs, yoga instructors and classical musicians a year get a dedicated route
Steel	85% of India's exports fall outside the UK steel measures effective 1 July 2026; the rest are protected by quotas and the Authorised Use Scheme
Roots	the Enhanced Trade Partnership and India-UK Roadmap 2030 of May 2021, which set a goal of doubling trade to USD 100 billion by 2030

- Concluded 6 May 2025 after 14 rounds of talks; signed 24 July 2025 in London by Piyush Goyal and UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds
- DCC (Agreement on Social Security) signed 10 February 2026; exemption from dual contributions raised from 3 to 5 years

INDIA'S RECENT TRADE PACTS

Agreement	Partner(s)	Status
India-UAE CEPA	UAE	In force 1 May 2022
India-Australia ECTA	Australia	In force 29 December 2022
India-EFTA TEPA	Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein	Signed 10 March 2024; in force 1 October 2025; USD 100 billion investment and 1 million jobs pledged over 15 years
India-UK CETA	United Kingdom	Signed 24 July 2025; in force 15 July 2026

Source: PIB and Ministry of Commerce releases

11. Summits & Conferences

1 article

16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting Adopts Indore Declaration, Sets Up Four New Networks

13 Jun

- The 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, held in Indore (Madhya Pradesh) on 12-13 June 2026 under India's BRICS Presidency, unanimously adopted the joint declaration, named the 'Indore Declaration'.
- Four new initiatives: a BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Agroecology and Regenerative Agriculture (ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram), a BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture (IIT Delhi), a Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems (PPV&FRA, New Delhi) and the BRICS AGRIN framework.
- Members agreed to turn the existing BRICS Agricultural Research Platform into a 'Knowledge-to-Action Hub'; India hosted a Special Dialogue on the BRICS Grain Exchange.
- It was the first BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting to bring together both member and partner countries (about 100 delegates, around 60 of them foreign).
- The Government said urea will stay at Rs 266 per bag and DAP at Rs 1,350 per bag, with the Centre absorbing the higher cost.

QUICK FACTS

Meeting	16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 12-13 June 2026, chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Outcome	unanimous adoption of the BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Joint Declaration, called the 'Indore Declaration'
Four priorities	food security, nutrition and livelihoods; agricultural trade; regenerative and climate-resilient farming; innovation and investment in food systems. The BRICS Agriculture Working Group had worked through them in meetings over about three months, and its Senior Officials' Meeting preceded the ministerial meeting
BRICS weight (per the release)	about half the world's population, about 42% of global agricultural land and about 42% of global foodgrain output
A first	both member and partner countries attended a BRICS agriculture ministers' meeting
Ministerial Dialogue theme	'Small Farmers, Women and Youth: Shaping the Future of Food Security'
Previous (15th) meeting	Brasilia, 17 April 2025, which launched the BRICS Land Restoration Partnership. The first BRIC agriculture ministers' meeting was held in Moscow on 26 March 2010

– Delegates planted a 'BRICS Vatika' at Meghdoot Garden, Indore, under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign

12. Awards & Honours

1 article

Sangeet Natak Akademi Names 7 Fellows, 108 Awardees and 106 Yuva Puraskar Winners for 2024-25

10 Jun

- Sangeet Natak Akademi elected 7 Fellows (Akademi Ratna) for 2024-25, among them Rita Ganguly, Sudharani Raghupathy, Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma and A V Anand; the fellowship is capped at 40 living holders.
- It selected 108 artists for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) and 106 young artists for the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025.
- Purse money: Rs 3 lakh (Fellow), Rs 1 lakh (Award) and Rs 25,000 (Yuva Puraskar), each with a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.
- The President confers the Fellowship and Awards; the Akademi's Chairman confers the Yuva Puraskar.
- The selections were made at the General Council meeting of 22-26 March 2026 in New Delhi.

QUICK FACTS

Fellows (Akademi Ratna)	7 — Ramlal Bareth, A V Anand, Rita Ganguly, Puru Dadheech, Chittaranjan Jyotishi, Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma, Sudharani Raghupathy
Akademi Puraskar	108 artists (53 for 2024, 55 for 2025) across music, dance, theatre, folk/tribal/puppetry, and overall contribution/scholarship
Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar	106 young artists (51 for 2024, 55 for 2025)

- Announced 10 June 2026 by Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi — Ministry of Culture
- Selections made by SNA's General Council at its 22-26 March 2026 meeting, New Delhi
- Fellowship restricted to 40 at any given time
- Akademi Awards conferred since 1952; the Yuva Puraskar (for artists under 40) since 2006
- Fellowship and Awards conferred by the President of India; Yuva Puraskar by the SNA Chairman

COMPLETE LIST OF FELLOWS AND AWARDEES

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Akademi Ratna (Fellows) — 7		
Ramlal Bareth	Fellowship	Performing arts
A V Anand	Fellowship	Performing arts
Rita Ganguly	Fellowship	Performing arts
Puru Dadheech	Fellowship	Performing arts
Chittaranjan Jyotishi	Fellowship	Performing arts
Pasumarthi Rattaiah Sarma	Fellowship	Performing arts
Sudharani Raghupathy	Fellowship	Performing arts
Akademi Puraskar 2024 — 53 artists		
Arun Kashalkar	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Nirmalya Dey	Music	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
Bharat Bhushan Goswami	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
Sanjay Mukherjee	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
K Vageesh	Music	Carnatic Vocal
N. Vijay Siva	Music	Carnatic Vocal
A S Krishnan	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Morchang
Komanduri Seshadri	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Violin
Rakesh Chaurasia	Music	Creative and Experimental – Flute
Prabhati Mukherjee	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Sugam

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
		Sangeet
Anand Bhate	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Abhang
Samandar Khan Manganiar	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Mand
Rajeswari Sainath	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Bipul Chandra Das	Dance	Kathak
Rajkumari Thambalsana Devi	Dance	Manipuri
Veena Murthy Vijay	Dance	Kuchipudi
Bichitrananda Swain	Dance	Odissi
Prema Ozah Borbayan	Dance	Sattriya
Sreedevi Rajan	Dance	Mohiniattam
Nripen Sahis	Dance	Chhau
Shashidharan Nair	Dance	Creative and Experimental
Kalamandalam Unnikrishnan	Dance	Music for Dance – Kathakali
Surya Narayana Kumara	Dance	Music for Dance – Kuchipudi
Keremane Shivananda Hegde	Dance	Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Theatre – Yakshagana
Satish Dave	Theatre	Direction
T S Nagabharana	Theatre	Direction
Ravi Chaturvedi	Theatre	Direction
Om Katare	Theatre	Direction
Gummadi Gopala Krishna Rao	Theatre	Acting
Vaagai Chandrasekar	Theatre	Acting
Arun Nalavde	Theatre	Acting
Dhiren Merchant	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Dinesh Kumar Poddar	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Mukund Marathe	Theatre	Traditional Theatre, Maharashtra
Dursheti Ramaiah	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Telangana
K Murugan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Puducherry
S C Sharma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Karnataka
Atamjeet Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
Mahendra Ram	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Bihar
Butan Devi & Sombari Devi (Joint)	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Jharkhand
Ranjit Kumar Nag	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance – Sambalpuri, Odisha
Hawa Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Haryana
Veswuzo Phesao	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Nagaland – Chakesang Music
Gulabo Sapera	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Rajasthan – Kalbeliya
Lourembam Bedabati Devi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Manipur
Subhash Narayan Nakashe	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Maharashtra
Kishorbhai Somabhai Mistry	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask &	Instrument making – Rudra Veena

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
	Instrument Making	
T S Sathyavathi	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Music
Voleti Rangamani	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Dance
Shubhada Varadkar	Overall and others	Scholarship in Performing Arts (Dance)
Tapati Chowdhurie	Overall and others	Art Critique (Performing Arts)
Sunanda Nair	Overall and others	Overseas – Dance (Mohiniattam)
Akademi Puraskar 2025 — 55 artists		
Krishna Mohan Pathak	Music	Hindustani Vocal – Dhrupad
Suresh Gandharv	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Shailesh Bhagwat	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Shehnai
Jyoti Hegde	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Rudra Veena
Pantula Rama	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Papanasam Ashok Ramani	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Tripoonithura N Radhakrishnan	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Ghatam
Anoor R. Anantha Krishna Sharma	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
D Srinivas	Music	Carnatic Instrumental – Veena
Yugantar Sindoor	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Satchidananda Das	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Mardala
Seema Anil Sehgal	Music	Other Major tradition of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Roja Kanan	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Krishan Mohan Mishra (Maharaj), Vaswati Mishra & Ram Mohan Maharaj (Trio)	Dance	Kathak
Kalamandalam Krishnakumar	Dance	Kathakali
Irengbam Nalini Devi	Dance	Manipuri
P. Nagajothy & Seetha Nagajothy (Joint)	Dance	Kuchipudi
Ileana Citaristi	Dance	Odissi
Mallika Kandali	Dance	Sattriya
Girija Chandran	Dance	Mohiniattam
Pagulu Jena	Dance	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
K Hariprasad	Dance	Music for Dance – Bharatnatyam
Bhaskar Jyoti Ojah	Dance	Music for Dance – Sattriya
S. Kumar	Dance	Other Major Tradition of Dance Theatre – Bhagvathmela
Kapildev Chandrakant Shukla	Theatre	Direction
Kallol Bhattacharyya	Theatre	Direction
Navdeep Kaur	Theatre	Direction
Pramod D Pawar	Theatre	Direction
Subodh Patnaik	Theatre	Direction
Chetana Das	Theatre	Acting
Suresh Kumar (Hajju)	Theatre	Acting
Makhanlal Saraf	Theatre	Acting
Ashok Patki	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
Usha Nangiar	Theatre	Major Tradition of Theatre – Nangiarkoothu
Anup Ranjan Pandey	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Chhattisgarh

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Bheru Singh Chouhan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Madhya Pradesh – Nirguni
Surjya Kumar Debbarma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Tripura – Chongpreng
Joginder Singh Habbi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Himachal Pradesh
Romalo Ram	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music & Dance, Jammu & Kashmir
Harmanpreet Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Punjab
Ali Mohammad	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Ladakh – Surna
Domin Karbak	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
K. Rosiama	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Mizoram
Rani Maring	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instruments Making
Sushanta Kumar Mahapatra	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Mask Making – Chhau
Mangla Prasad Sharma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instruments Making
Sindhe Chithambara Rao	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Shadow Puppet of Andhra Pradesh
Shiv Narayan Jha (Kunal)	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Theatre
Maneesha Sathe	Overall and others	Overall Contribution in Dance (Kathak)
Rakesh Sinha	Overall and others	Overall Contribution (Art Photography)
Manjari Sinha	Overall and others	Art Critique (Performing Arts)
T S Nandakumar	Overall and others	Overseas – Music (Mridangam)
Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 — 51 artists		
Krishna Bongane and Ankita Joshi (Joint)	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Mahalaxmi Shenoy	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Isher Singh Namdhari	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Tar Shehnai
Priyank Krishna	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Saxophone
Lahari Kolachela	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Sreedev Rajagopalan	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Peri Thyagaraju	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Violin
J.A. Jayant	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Flute
Ranchhodlalji Goswami	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Haveli Sangeet
Matru Prasad Das	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Odissi Sangeet
Vidhi Sharma	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Rahul Dev Mondal	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Namrata Rai	Dance	Kathak
Kottakal Pradeep	Dance	Kathakali
Phuritshabam Debajani Devi	Dance	Manipuri
Ajay Srinivas Chakravarthy P.	Dance	Kuchipudi
Gaurishankar Dash	Dance	Odissi
Meenakshi Medhi	Dance	Sattriya

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Gopika G Nath	Dance	Mohiniattam
Kuna Samal	Dance	Chhau – Saraikela
Lalit Khatana	Dance	Creative and Experimental
Lukram Tamphamani Singh	Dance	Music for Dance (Manipuri)
Prasanna Kumar Soni	Theatre	Playwriting
Atul Satya Koushik	Theatre	Playwriting
Bidyut Kumar Nath	Theatre	Direction
Arpita Dhagat	Theatre	Direction
Anirudh Sarkar	Theatre	Acting
K Veerammal	Theatre	Acting
Rohit Chandra	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Music for Theatre
Kalamandalam Ravikumar	Theatre	Other Major Tradition of Theatre – Mizhavu
Debiprasad Mishra	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Dilip Hira	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Assam
Rumi Taki	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Arunachal Pradesh
Dilkumari Tamang	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Sikkim
Manjoor Khan Manganiyar	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Rajasthan
Amrinder Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Punjab
Somvir Kathurwal	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Haryana
Sharia Hamid	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Jammu & Kashmir
Hema Negi Karasi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Uttarakhand
Vijesh NV	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Mudiyattu, Kerala
Bhawarth Ramchandra Dekhne	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Maharashtra – Bharod
Ovungbeni Ovung	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Nagaland
Chetan Vaman Khedekar	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance and Music, Goa
Gajendra Singh	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Nautanki, Uttar Pradesh
Yumnam Bimota Devi	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Manipur
Inder Jeet	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Himachal Pradesh
Balkrishna Ganpat Masge	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Puppetry, Maharashtra
Mahmood Khan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Instrument Making – Tabla
Amit Khinchi	Overall Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts (Kathak)
Shilpa Nanjappa	Overall Contribution/Scholarship in Performing Arts	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts (Bharatnatyam)
Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2025 — 55 artists		
Rindana Rahasya and Avinash Kumar (Joint)	Music	Hindustani Vocal

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
Rahul Mishra & Rohit Mishra (Joint)	Music	Hindustani Vocal
Ramendra Singh Solanki	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Tabla
Tanmay Deochake	Music	Hindustani Instrumental – Harmonium
Ranjani Vasuki	Music	Carnatic Vocal
Sriranjani Santhanagopalan	Music	Carnatic Vocal
B S Prashanth	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Mridangam
Shaik Mahboob Subhani	Music	Carnatic Instrumental Music – Mandolin
B Suchithra	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Harikatha
Sivasri Skandaprasad	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Sugam Sangeet
Debajit Saikia	Music	Other Major Traditions of Music – Khol of Assam
V T Satchidanandan	Dance	Bharatnatyam
Devika Devendra S Mangalamukhi	Dance	Kathak
Kalamandalam Neeraj	Dance	Kathakali
Tongbram Roneld Meeitei	Dance	Manipuri
Vedantam Siddhendra Varaprasad	Dance	Kuchipudi
Namrata Mehta	Dance	Odissi
Niranjan Saikia Barbayan	Dance	Sattriya
Aswathi Sankarlal	Dance	Mohiniattam
Subhashree Swain	Dance	Chhau – Mayurbhanj
Satwika Penna	Dance	Other Major Traditions of Dance & Dance Theatre – Andhranatyam
Pavani Pasumarthi	Dance	Music for dance
Ghanshyam Sahu	Theatre	Playwriting
Oasis Sougaijam	Theatre	Playwriting
Privendra Kumar Singh	Theatre	Direction
Swati Dubey	Theatre	Direction
Amit Sanouria	Theatre	Direction
Anand Kumar Pandey	Theatre	Acting
Tila Rupa Sapkota	Theatre	Acting
Divyang Srivastav	Theatre	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
Kalamandalam Manikantan	Theatre	Other Major Traditions of Theatre – Mizhavu
Raju Mog	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Tripura
Lawmsangpuia	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance and Music, Mizoram
Akram Khan Behrupiya	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Rajasthan
Shilu Singh Rajput	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Uttar Pradesh – Allah
Manisha Srivastava	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Bihar
Somnath Mahato	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Chhau Purulia, West Bengal
Hito Kiho	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Choir Music, Nagaland
Nirmal Kumar, Mukesh Kumar and Anjali (Trio)	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Uttarakhand
Vipin Viswanatha Pulavar	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask &	Puppetry, Kerala

Awardee	Field	Discipline / art form
	Instrument Making	
C Saravanan	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Puducherry
Pravin Pratap Jhadav	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Maharashtra (Jagar)
Ravice Rashid	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Theatre, Jammu & Kashmir
Twisha Vyas	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Gujarat – Garba
Shanta Cyntrick	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Dance, Andaman & Nicobar
Babita Hembram	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Tribal Dance, Jharkhand
Hirak Jyoti Sarma	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Assam (Tukari Geet)
Sadiq Ali	Folk, Tribal, Puppetry, Mask & Instrument Making	Folk Music, Ladakh
Himanshu Darmora	Overall	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts – Music
Sayak Mitra and Akash Mallick (Joint)	Overall	Overall Contribution in Performing arts (Theatre)

Source: Sangeet Natak Akademi press release and attached list, 10 June 2026. Joint and trio awards are one row; artist counts include every member. Discipline as stated by SNA.

13. Appointments

1 article

India Gets FATF Vice-Presidency for First Time; Vivek Aggarwal to Serve 2026-27

19 Jun

- Vivek Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IAS officer (Madhya Pradesh cadre) and Secretary, Ministry of Culture, has been elected Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force for July 2026-June 2027 - the first time India holds the post.
- The FATF Plenary elects the Vice-President from among FATF members to assist the President; the President for 2026-2028 is Giles Thomson of the United Kingdom.
- The elevation builds on India's 2024 Mutual Evaluation, which placed it in FATF's 'regular follow-up' category - the highest outcome.
- FATF, created in 1989 on a G7 initiative and based in Paris, sets global standards against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

QUICK FACTS

Post	Vice-President, Financial Action Task Force (FATF); term July 2026 to June 2027
Holder	Vivek Aggarwal, IAS 1994 batch, Madhya Pradesh cadre; Secretary, Ministry of Culture
Chosen by	the FATF Plenary, from among FATF members; the Vice-President assists the President
Outgoing President	Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026)
FATF Global Network	more than 200 jurisdictions (FATF members plus the FATF-Style Regional Bodies)
India	FATF observer from 2006; admitted as the 34th member on 25 June 2010

- First time India has held the FATF Vice-Presidency
- FATF Presidency runs for two years. President from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028: Giles Thomson (UK), who was Vice-President in 2025-26

14. History & Culture

1 article

Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi: 44 UNESCO Sites, 653 Antiquities Retrieved Since 2014

18 Jun

- India now has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, up from 31; the 44th, the Maratha Military Landscapes of India, was inscribed in 2025.
- 653 antiquities have been retrieved from abroad since 2014 (as of May 2026), 613 of them in the last five years.
- ASI protects 3,686 centrally protected monuments (April 2026); NMMA has documented 1.84 lakh monuments and 17.20 lakh antiquities (March 2026).
- The Gyan Bharatam Mission (Rs 482.85 crore, 2024-31) is digitising manuscripts, and a National Manuscript Survey began in March 2026.
- PRASHAD has 54 projects sanctioned (Rs 1,726.74 crore, 32 complete), and Swadesh Darshan 2.0 has 53 projects (Rs 2,208.31 crore).

QUICK FACTS

UNESCO World Heritage Sites	44 (from 31); 12 added between 2014 and early 2026; 43rd = Moidams of Charaideo, Assam (2024); 44th = Maratha Military Landscapes (2025).
Intangible Cultural Heritage	the backgrounder counts 15 elements (Yoga, Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja, Garba, Deepawali among them). UNESCO announced Deepavali as India's 16th element at the 20th ICH Committee session, held at the Red Fort in December 2025.
Antiquities retrieved since 2014	653 (May 2026). Sacred relics returned: the Piprahwa relics of the Buddha (2025, after 127 years), the Annapurna idol from Canada (2021, after 108 years) and Rama-Sita-Lakshmana bronzes from the UK (2020).
National Film Heritage Mission (2015)	1,469 titles (4.3 lakh minutes) digitised by December 2025. The National Museum of Indian Cinema (2019, Rs 140.61 crore) is at Gulshan Mahal, Mumbai.

- PIB Backgrounder of 18 June 2026 marks 12 years of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi', the policy of pairing development with heritage.
- India hosted the 46th World Heritage Committee session in New Delhi in 2024.
- Home Minister's post the same day put the count of returned artefacts at 668 and said 11 languages have classical-language status.
- The Vedic Heritage Portal (March 2023) is run by IGNCA; UNESCO lists Vedic Chanting as ICH, and Rigveda manuscripts are on the Memory of the World Register.