CURRENT AFFAIRS PULSE

September 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

Monthly PIB Compilation

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1. Sports

7 articles

Amit Shah Opens India's First World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad

04 Sep

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the Archery Association of India's World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad through video conferencing.
- The competition runs from 5 to 9 September 2026 with 108 athletes from 19 countries, including Bhutan, the United Kingdom, China, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Indonesia and the United States.
- Ahmedabad will host the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and is India's proposed host city for the 2036 Olympic Games.

India Wins Both Junior Hockey Asia Cups: Men Take Sixth Title, Women Retain Crown

13 Sep

- The Prime Minister congratulated India's Junior Men's Hockey Team on winning the Asia Cup 2026 with a 4-1 win in the final, and the Junior Women's team on retaining their title unbeaten.
- The men beat Korea 4-1 for a record sixth title; the women beat China 1-0 for a third title in a row.
- Both teams qualified for their FIH Junior World Cups in 2027.

India win Women's Asia Cup 2026, beating Sri Lanka by 72 runs in Dubai

14 Sep

- The Prime Minister congratulated the Indian Women's Cricket Team on winning the Asia Cup.
- India beat Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on 13 September 2026.
- It was India's eighth Women's Asia Cup title overall and their fourth in the Twenty20 format.

Asian Games 2026: Women's Cricket Wins India's First Gold; Suchika Tariyal Wins First MMA Medal

22 Sep

- India's women's cricket team won gold at the 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026), beating Sri Lanka by 147 runs on 22 September. It was India's first gold of the edition.
- Suchika Tariyal won bronze in the women's traditional 60 kg event, India's first-ever Asian Games medal in mixed martial arts, which made its debut in 2026.
- It was India's second straight women's cricket gold after Hangzhou 2022; Sri Lanka took silver again and Pakistan won bronze.

CRICKET AT THE ASIAN GAMES: WOMEN'S GOLD

Edition	Host	Gold
2010	Guangzhou, China	Pakistan
2014	Incheon, South Korea	Pakistan
2022 (held 2023)	Hangzhou, China	India
2026	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan	India

Cricket was not held at the 2018 Jakarta-Palembang Games.

65th Subroto Cup 2026: Minerva Public School, Mohali Win Junior Boys Title

24 Sep

- Minerva Public School (CISCE), Mohali won the Junior Boys (U-17) title at the 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026. It beat MIC EMHSS, Kerala 3-2 in the final at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi.
- St Patrick's High School, Gumla (Jharkhand) won Junior Girls (U-17). Manik Para Vivekanand Vidyapeeth, Jhargram (West Bengal) won Sub-Junior Boys (U-15), with that final played in Bengaluru.
- Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff and Chairman of the Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society, presented the trophy. The winners received Rs 5 lakh and the runners-up Rs 3 lakh.

65TH SUBROTO CUP (2026): ALL CATEGORY RESULTS

Category	Champion	Runner-up	Final
Junior Boys (U-17)	Minerva Public School (CISCE), Mohali, Punjab	MIC EMHSS (Maqdoomiya Islamic Cultural English Medium HSS), Kerala	3-2, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi, 24 Sept 2026
Junior Girls (U-17)	St Patrick's High School, Gumla, Jharkhand	Springfield Higher Secondary School (NCC), Aizawl, Mizoram	Score not stated in the release
Sub-Junior Boys (U-15)	Manik Para Vivekanand Vidyapeeth, Jhargram, West Bengal	Kamrup Metropolitan Senior Secondary School, Assam	1-0, Subroto Football Ground, AFS Jalahalli, Bengaluru, 9 Sept 2026

Source: PIB release PRID 2314658. The Sub-Junior Boys score, venue and date are from contemporaneous reports; the release names Bengaluru only.

RECENT JUNIOR BOYS (U-17) CHAMPIONS

Edition (Year)	Champion
63rd (2024)	T.G. English School, Manipur
64th (2025)	Farook Higher Secondary School, Kerala (2-0 vs Amenity Public School)
65th (2026)	Minerva Public School, Mohali, Punjab (3-2 vs MIC EMHSS, Kerala)

Earlier editions from news reports; 2026 from the PIB release.

NIMAS Team Makes First Recorded Ascents of 20 Unclimbed 6,000 m Peaks in Ladakh

25 Sep

- A 20-member NIMAS team made the first recorded ascents of 20 unclimbed peaks above 6,000 m in Ladakh, all in 23 days.
- The peaks lie in the Chamser-Lungser, Gyama Nala and Chokula areas. Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal led the team.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh flagged in the First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition in New Delhi on 25 September 2026.

46th Chess Olympiad: India Wins Open Silver, Women's Bronze and Gaprindashvili Trophy

28 Sep

- At the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (15-27 September 2026), India won silver in the Open section and bronze in the Women's section; the Prime Minister congratulated the players on 28 September.
- India also won the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy for the best combined Open and Women's result, its third in a row after Chennai 2022 and Budapest 2024.
- Uzbekistan won the Open (Hamilton-Russell Cup) and China the Women's section (Vera Menchik Cup).
- At the FIDE General Assembly held alongside, Kazakhstan's Timur Turlov was elected FIDE President with Viswanathan Anand as Deputy President.

2. Awards & Honours

8 articles

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024 announced; four awardees named

02 Sep

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards (TNNAA) for 2024 in four categories — Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure and Lifetime Achievement.
- Four awardees were approved: Baljeet Kaur and Skalzang Rigzin (Land Adventure), Rimo Saha (Water Adventure) and Shiv Prasad Chamoli (Lifetime Achievement); the selections followed the recommendations of the National Selection Committee.
- The awards will be conferred by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan along with the National Sports Awards 2025, on a date to be announced separately; each awardee receives a statuette, a certificate and award money of Rs 15 lakh.

India Wins Best-Ever 9 Medals at the 19th Earth Science Olympiad in Turin

04 Sep

- India recorded its best-ever performance at the 19th International Earth Science Olympiad, held in Turin, Italy, from 20 to 27 August 2026, winning 4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- Students from 39 countries competed; Soumik Mandal of DAV Model School, Durgapur finished third in the overall global ranking with 2 gold and 1 silver.
- Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated the team at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi.

President Confers National Awards to Teachers on 82 Educators Across Three Streams

05 Sep

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Awards to Teachers in New Delhi on 5 September 2026, Teachers' Day.
- Eighty-two teachers and educators were selected this year across three streams — 48 from the Department of School Education and Literacy, 21 from higher educational institutions and polytechnics, and 13 skill trainers from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- The President said education is the most effective means of realising the constitutional ideal of equality of opportunity and credited teachers with India's negligible primary school dropout rate.
- The Prime Minister had interacted with the awardees at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg the previous day, raising drug awareness, excessive screen time and the National Education Policy's push to connect classrooms with real-world skills.
- Teachers' Day is observed on 5 September, the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

72nd National Film Awards to be presented at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on 22 September

08 Sep

- The President of India will present the 72nd National Film Awards on 22 September 2026 at Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Gujarat, honouring Indian cinema of 2024.
- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has decided to hold future editions in different states and cities rather than only in the National Capital.

- 'Article 370' was adjudged Best Feature Film, 'Bhangaar' Best Non-Feature Film and 'Ram-Nami' Best Documentary; Mammootty ('Bramayugam') and Kartik Aaryan ('Chandu Champion') share Best Actor, Yami Gautam is Best Actress and Randeep Hooda wins Best Debut Director.

Anant Nag to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 at 72nd National Film Awards

16 Sep

- Veteran actor Anant Nag has been named for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024, on the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee.
- It will be presented at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony on 22 September 2026 at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him for a mark left on Indian cinema and particularly on Kannada cinema over several decades.

President Confers 72nd National Film Awards at Ekta Nagar; Anant Nag Gets Dadasaheb Phalke Award

22 Sep

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 72nd National Film Awards and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 (on actor Anant Nag) at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat on 22 September 2026.
- It was the first time the ceremony was held outside Delhi; 'Article 370' won Best Feature Film, and Mammootty and Kartik Aaryan shared Best Actor.
- Entries: 400 feature films in 34 languages and 161 non-feature films in 24 languages; 22 feature and 23 non-feature awards conferred.
- The I&B Ministry invited States to bid tourist destinations as future venues, and fixed the next WAVES summit for October 2027.

72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS: WINNERS NAMED IN THE RELEASE

Award	Winner	Film
Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2024)	Anant Nag	Lifetime contribution
Best Feature Film	—	Article 370
Best Actor in a Leading Role (shared)	Mammootty	Bramayugam
Best Actor in a Leading Role (shared)	Kartik Aaryan	Chandu Champion
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Yami Gautam	Article 370
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Sanjay Mishra	Bhakshak
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (shared)	Sachana Namidass	Maharaja
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (shared)	Ropashree Varkady	Mithya
Best Direction	Rajkumar Periasamy	Amaran
Best Debut Film of a Director	Ravi Raj Murmu	Angen (Santhali)
Directorial debut recognised	Randeep Hooda	Swatantrya Veer Savarkar
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	—	Kalki 2898 AD
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values	—	Captain Miller
Best Garhwali Film	Dinesh P. Bhonsle (director)	Dholi
Best Tulu Film	Shivadhwaj Shetty (director)	IMBU

Source: PIB releases of 22 September 2026. The release names only these awards and links out to the complete list of all 45 feature and non-feature awards; the full roster is not carried here.

THE LAST TWO EDITIONS

Edition	Ceremony	Venue	Dadasaheb Phalke Award
71st	23 September 2025	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi	Mohanlal (award for 2023)
72nd	22 September 2026	Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat	Anant Nag (award for 2024)

Source: PIB; President's Secretariat.

Lalit Kala Akademi Names 20 Award Winners at 65th National Exhibition of Art

27 Sep

- The Lalit Kala Akademi named 20 artists for the Lalit Kala Akademi Awards at its 65th National Exhibition of Art (NEA).
- The exhibition drew 6,175 artworks from 2,495 artists in 27 States and UTs. A First-Tier Jury chose 270 works for display and a Second-Tier Jury picked the 20 award winners.
- The awards span painting (11), sculpture (6), drawing (1), printmaking (1) and another medium (1).
- The Lalit Kala Akademi, India's National Academy of Art, was inaugurated on 5 August 1954 and works under the Ministry of Culture.

ALL 20 LALIT KALA AKADEMI AWARD WINNERS, 65TH NEA

Artist	Awarded artwork	Medium	Category
Chandra Shekhar Sain	My Entire World - I	Terracotta	Sculpture
Gopal Chandra Naskar	The Tune of The Srimad Bhagavad Gita	Acrylic on canvas	Painting
Kishor Kumar Narkhadiwala	Paryavaran	Oil on canvas	Painting
Mrinal Dey	Hopeless Settlement	Acrylic on canvas	Painting
Nidhi Chopra	Tangible Dreams	Ceramic	Sculpture
Nimai Singh Sarungbam	Mudra - I	Teak wood	Sculpture
Pankaj Kumar Sharma	Haloed Traveler - II	Panel works	Drawing
Pooja Rajpoot	Prakriti Shoshan	White marble	Sculpture
Praveen Kumar	Where The Walls Remember	Mixed medium	Painting
Pritam Madhukar Deuskar	Of Time and The City	Etching	Printmaking
Rajendra Prasad	Sujata With Buddha	Watercolour (wash)	Painting
Ramesh Vithal Thorat	Untitled - II	Oil on canvas	Painting
Raviram Ramakrishnan	Fisherwoman	Copper, oxidised, welded	Sculpture
Sanjay Kumar	When Memories Come Back - 7	Mixed media	Painting
Sanjay Kumar Sahani	Youth	Oil on canvas	Painting
Sanjib Kumar Gogoi	Aakar Nirankar - II	Acrylic and oil on canvas	Painting
Santa Deb	Attraction of Simplicity	Ceramic	Sculpture
Siddharth Shahjirao Shingade	Trees	Mixed media	Painting
Usharanjan Mandal	Wheel of A Crowded City	Mixed media	Any other medium
Vijendra Sharma	Life 2025	Oil on canvas	Painting

Source: Ministry of Culture release, 27 September 2026 (PRID 2315617). Complete list, in the release's alphabetical order.

India Ranks 10th at 48th WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 with 6 Silver, 20 Medals for Excellence

27 Sep

- India finished 10th at the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai (22-27 September 2026), winning 6 Silver Medals and 20 Medals for Excellence.

- This improves on 13th place at WorldSkills Lyon 2024, where India won 4 Bronze Medals and 12 Medals for Excellence.
- India sent its largest-ever contingent of 70 competitors across 63 skills and debuted in 11 new skill categories.
- Smriti Nambiar (Silver, Bakery) was named India's Best of Nation. NSDC coordinated the team under MSDE.

TEAM INDIA'S MEDAL WINNERS, SHANGHAI 2026

Skill	Competitor(s)
Silver Medal (6)	
Bakery	Smriti Nambiar (Best of Nation)
Dental Prosthetics	Mohammed Salam
Digital Interactive Media Design	Kovid Ajay Gangrade
Industrial Design Technology	Parth Vohra
Logistics and Freight Forwarding	Mehrunissa Begum
Retail Sales	Saniya Joshi
Medal for Excellence (20)	
Intelligent Security Technology	Ragul Kanthamma Balraj
Mechatronics	Deepu Mudigerepalya Srinivasa; Jayanth Kariyappa
Mobile Applications Development	Arjun Sumathi Vijayabashkar
Electrical Installations	Dhanush Madhugiri Govindaraju
Plastering and Drywall Systems	Surenthiran Mani
Painting and Decorating	Muskan
Autonomous Mobile Robotics	Aditya Prakash; Debasish Panda
Cabinetmaking	Yashwanth Chary Keshoju
Jewellery	Joy Das
Beauty Therapy	Tahesin Sabir Sutar
Fashion Technology	Vidhi Niravkumar Suthar
Automobile Technology	Md Seraj
Car Painting	Kaif Khan
IT Network Systems Administration	Khushraj Nimesh Rathod
Graphic Design Technology	Rajeeb Lochan Chand
Health and Social Care	Vishnupriya Sunil
Industry 4.0	Mallinath; Suhan Mascarenhas
Chemical Laboratory Technology	Sampada Desai
Additive Manufacturing	Pavan Bhadravati Suresha
Robot Systems Integration	Abhishek Somanna Shignalli; Vinay Muttayya Hiremath

Source: PIB release, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 27 September 2026. Team skills list two competitors.

3. Appointments

5 articles

AVM Shakti Sharma Becomes First Non-Medical Woman Two-Star Officer in the Indian Defence Services

01 Sep

- Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer from outside the Medical Branch in the Indian defence services to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal or its equivalent.
- On 1 September 2026 she assumed the appointment of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters.
- Commissioned into the Education Branch of the Indian Air Force on 18 June 1994, she has served in training establishments, field stations, Command Headquarters and Air Headquarters, and set up the IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT Kanpur and Pune University.
- She had earlier become the first woman officer from the Tri-Services to command a Sainik School, as Principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala.

President appoints Dinesh Sharma Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

05 Sep

- The President of India has appointed Dr Dinesh Sharma as Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with effect from the date he assumes charge of the office.
- The announcement was issued as a Press Communique by the President's Secretariat on 5 September 2026.
- He succeeds Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi, who had held the post since 8 October 2017.
- The Lieutenant Governor is the Administrator of the Union Territory, appointed by the President under Article 239 of the Constitution.
- Andaman and Nicobar is a Union Territory without a legislature, whose capital Port Blair was renamed Sri Vijaya Puram in September 2024.

Indian Postal Service Officer Re-elected APPU Secretary-General for Second Term

06 Sep

- Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, a 1988-batch Indian Postal Service officer, was re-elected unopposed by acclamation as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union at the 14th APPU Congress in Bangkok on 4 September 2026.
- His second four-year term runs from January 2027 to December 2030; he first took charge in January 2023 after being elected at the 13th APPU Congress in 2022.
- The APPU is a 32-member intergovernmental body headquartered in Bangkok and is a restricted (regional) union of the Universal Postal Union, the UN specialised agency for the postal sector.

New Chairperson and members appointed to National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

06 Sep

- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment appointed Bhagwat Prasad Makwana as Chairperson and Kaishab Bihari as Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.
- Manoj Kumar Balmiki, Sushma Gaudiyal and Ravi Ramu Kalose were appointed Members; Sushma Gaudiyal is a returning Member.
- All appointments run up to 31 March 2028, matching the remaining tenure of the present Commission.

Bhagwat Prasad Makwana Takes Charge as Chairperson of Safai Karamcharis Commission

09 Sep

- Shri Bhagwat Prasad Makwana assumed charge as Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK); the Government appointed him to the post on 6 September 2026.
- He has earlier been Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Safai Karamchari Commission of Uttarakhand, an Independent Director on the NHPC board, and a Member of the Central Monitoring Committee under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.
- He holds a Master's degree in Economics and has worked on the welfare and empowerment of Scheduled Caste communities.

4. Important Days

4 articles

AIIA Launches 'AyurVarta' Digital Dialogue Series; Ayurveda Day Now Fixed on 23 September

01 Sep

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Ayush, launched 'AyurVarta', a digital dialogue series carrying expert conversations on Ayurveda to audiences in India and abroad.
- The inaugural episode, between AIIA Director Professor (Vaidya) P. K. Prajapati and Dean (Ph.D.) Professor (Dr.) Mahesh Vyas, was on the theme 'Why is Ayurveda Day celebrated on 23 September?'
- Ayurveda Day was earlier observed on Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras), a movable lunar date; the Government has designated 23 September as its fixed annual date, which falls around the autumnal equinox when day and night are approximately equal.
- Future episodes will cover the scientific foundations of Ayurveda, education, public health, integration with modern medicine, medicinal plants and global expansion, and will be carried on AIIA's YouTube, Facebook, X and Instagram platforms.

11th Ayurveda Day set for 23 September 2026 at Nagpur

07 Sep

- The Ministry of Ayush held the curtain-raiser for the 11th Ayurveda Day, whose main celebration is fixed for 23 September 2026 at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The theme is 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow', built on three campaign strands: integrative healthcare, evidence and research, and community wellbeing with sustainable living.
- Planned deliverables include the National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards 2026, safety dossiers on medicinal plants, Standard Treatment Guidelines for skin diseases, a report on the Ayush Services Sector and Ayush Vision 2030.

World Patient Safety Day 2026 observed on safe care for noncommunicable diseases

17 Sep

- World Patient Safety Day 2026 was observed on 17 September with the WHO theme 'Safe care for noncommunicable diseases' and the slogan 'Safe care for life!'.
- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda addressed the national event at ABVIMS & Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, where the hospital's Quality & Safety Handbook was released.

- He put Ayushman Bharat coverage at about 11.5 crore beneficiaries treated for around Rs 1.6 lakh crore, Jan Aushadhi savings at about Rs 45,000 crore, and NQAS-certified government facilities at 60,000 against a target of about 2 lakh.
- Out-of-pocket expenditure has fallen from about 62 per cent of total health expenditure in 2014 to roughly 43 per cent.

11th Ayurveda Day: First Ayush Services Sector Report and Ayush Vision 2030 Released at Nagpur

23 Sep

- The 11th Ayurveda Day was observed on 23 September 2026, with the national event at Nagpur, Maharashtra, on the theme 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow'.
- The Ministry of Ayush released the first-ever report on the Ayush Services Sector, prepared by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), and 'Ayush Vision 2030'.
- Also launched: the CCRAS-AGNI Assessment Scale web portal, safety dossiers on Gokshura and Chandrasura, Standard Treatment Guidelines on skin disorders and a status report on Ayush-related inventions.
- Ayurveda Day has been fixed on 23 September since 2025; it was earlier observed on Dhanteras, a date that shifts every year.

5. Ranks & Reports

2 articles

NITI Aayog releases second India Electric Mobility Index; top State score rises to 84

16 Sep

- NITI Aayog launched the second edition of the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) at its Workshop on State EV Policies, scoring every State and UT on EV adoption, charging infrastructure and EV research.
- The highest State score rose from 77 to 84 over the year and the median from 36 to 40; 29 of 36 States and UTs have now notified EV policies.
- NITI Aayog Member Rajiv Gauba put existing central support for electric mobility at over Rs 92,000 crore across FAME, PM E-DRIVE, PM e-Bus Sewa and two production-linked incentive schemes.
- He linked the transition to strategic dependence, noting India imports nearly 89 per cent of its crude oil requirement while the automotive sector carries about 7.1 per cent of GDP and 1.9 crore jobs.

NSO Domestic Tourism Survey 2025-26: Pilgrimage Leads Overnight Trips, UP Top Destination

23 Sep

- The NSO's Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (NSS 80th round, July 2025-June 2026) found that 48 of every 100 overnight trips in the past year were for pilgrimage and religious purposes. Uttar Pradesh took the largest share of visitor-trips (15.7%).
- Of overnight trips in the past 30 days, 89% were for social reasons, while business trips cost the most at Rs 5,949 per trip on average.
- Health and medical trips were the costliest of the 365-day trips: Rs 29,454 (rural) and Rs 41,649 (urban).
- Same-day trips rose from the 2014-15 survey: 65.1% of rural and 46.2% of urban households made at least one in the past 30 days.

- The findings are published as NSS Report No. 597, 'Domestic Tourism in India'. It is the third such NSS survey, after the 65th (2008-09) and 72nd (2014-15) rounds.

TOP DESTINATION STATES (SHARE OF VISITOR-TRIPS)

Rank	365-day overnight trips	30-day overnight trips
1	Uttar Pradesh 15.7%	Uttar Pradesh 15.5%
2	Tamil Nadu 13.4%	Bihar 10.5%
3	Rajasthan 8.0%	Tamil Nadu 9.6%

Source: MoSPI press note, DTES July 2025-June 2026. Only the top three are listed in the release.

6. Summits & Conferences

9 articles

BRICS IP Offices Adopt Updated Operational Guidelines at 18th Meeting in New Delhi

02 Sep

- The 18th Meeting of the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices of BRICS countries (IP BRICS) was held in New Delhi from 1 to 3 September 2026, hosted by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (O/o CGPDTM) under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The meeting adopted Updated Operational Guidelines for IP BRICS cooperation and noted progress under the Study on Reinforced Patent Examination Cooperation, meant to streamline examination, cut patent backlogs and improve the exchange of search results between member offices.
- About 35 delegates took part, with Russia, Iran and Ethiopia joining online; deliberations were aligned with the theme of India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

India joins G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting at Chapel Hill; ministers adopt Carolina Principles

07 Sep

- Minister of State for Electronics & IT and Commerce & Industry Jitin Prasada led the Indian delegation to the G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting held on 1-2 September 2026 at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Ministers adopted a consensus Innovation Ministerial Statement built on six pillars, along with the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, the AI Prosperity Objectives and the AI Prosperity Compact.
- India held bilaterals with the European Commission, France, Germany, the African Union and the US Commerce Secretary, and offered India Stack digital public infrastructure solutions to African countries.

9th ASEAN-India Agriculture and Forestry Ministerial adopts new 2026-2030 plan of action

10 Sep

- The Ninth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (9th AIMMAF) was held in New Delhi on 9 September 2026, organised by DARE/ICAR.
- It was co-chaired by India's Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Secretary of the Philippines' Department of Agriculture, representing the ASEAN chair for agriculture and forestry.
- The meeting reviewed the 2021-2025 Medium-Term Plan of Action and looked ahead to a new Plan for 2026-2030 built on four cooperation areas.

- India held bilateral talks with Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Myanmar on the sidelines, covering germplasm exchange, market access, expert deputation and a pending MoU.
- The Tenth AIMMAF will be convened in 2028.

BRICS Business Forum in Delhi Pushes Local-Currency Trade and Open Markets

11 Sep

- The BRICS Business Forum met in New Delhi on 11 September 2026, ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam on 12-13 September under India's Chairship.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asked members to open markets, simplify regulatory procedures and diversify supply chains, noting that BRICS accounts for nearly one-fourth of global trade.
- He urged BRICS countries to link their payment systems and trade in each other's local currencies, citing UPI's 250 billion-plus transactions a year.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said 2026 marks 20 years of institutionalised BRICS cooperation and named supply-chain connectivity and trade facilitation as priorities.
- Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said intra-BRICS trade rose from USD 84 billion in 2003 to nearly USD 1.2 trillion in 2024.

18th BRICS Summit: New Delhi Declaration Adopted as BRICS Marks 20 Years

12 Sep

- BRICS leaders adopted the 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration at the XVIII BRICS Summit (New Delhi, 12-13 September 2026) under the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- The summit marked 20 years of BRICS (2006-2026); two commemorative postage stamps were released.
- The Declaration condemned the 22 April 2025 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, opposed carbon border adjustment mechanisms, and called for UNSC, IMF, World Bank and WTO reform.
- PM Modi proposed a BRICS Continuity and Implementation Mechanism, a BRICS Reform Roadmap and a Seafarers Emergency Support Network.
- China will chair BRICS in 2027 and host the XIX Summit.

Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine, Genetic Resources and IPR Opens in Goa

16 Sep

- The Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights opened in Goa on 16 September 2026 and concludes on 17 September 2026.
- It is organised by the Ministry of Ayush with the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa as nodal institute, alongside the Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Nodal Group on the same subject.
- Delegates from all seven BIMSTEC members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand - shared national policies and legal frameworks.
- Sessions covered documentation of traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, genetic resources, access and benefit-sharing, prior informed consent and community rights, with reference to WIPO and WHO initiatives.
- The Ministry highlighted the BIMSTEC Task Force for Traditional Medicine and the proposed BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Traditional Medicine announced by the Prime Minister at the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok in April 2025.

India at G20 Energy Ministerial in Houston: Clean Cooking, Permitting, Critical Minerals

17 Sep

- Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Manohar Lal led the Indian delegation to the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting at Houston, USA from 14 to 16 September 2026, under the U.S. G20 Presidency.
- The meeting worked across three pillars: Energy Security and Affordable Baseload; Permitting and Regulatory Efficiency; and Critical Minerals and Resilient Supply Chains.
- Outcomes included the G20 Statement on Advancing Clean Cooking Access, a Permitting and Regulatory Efficiency Symposium, the G20 Water Reuse Initiative and the G20 Critical Minerals Meeting Communique.
- India reported installed generation capacity of 552 GW, more than half of it non-fossil, and reiterated its Net Zero by 2070 goal.

25th SCO trade ministers' meeting in Dushanbe agrees Action Plan 2026-2030

18 Sep

- The 25th meeting of SCO ministers responsible for foreign economic and trade activities was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 17 September 2026.
- Ministers agreed an Action Plan for 2026-2030 on multilateral trade and economic cooperation, which now goes to the SCO Council of Heads of Government for approval.
- India set out three pillars for trade — Security, Connectivity and Opportunity — and backed a WTO-centred, rules-based trading system.

9th India International Water Week Opens on 'Climate Resilient Water Management'

22 Sep

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan opened the 9th India International Water Week (22-26 September 2026) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on the theme 'Climate Resilient Water Management'.
- He released the Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework and an AI/ML-driven Integrated Reservoir Sediment Management publication; five Urban River Management Plans were also launched.
- The Netherlands and Germany are partner countries, and the 2nd International WASH Conference is being held alongside.

7. Schemes & Committees

24 articles

EPFO opens VISHWAS, 2026 one-time settlement for PF damages at cut penalty rates

03 Sep

- EPFO has opened VISHWAS, 2026 — a one-time settlement scheme letting employers close long-pending EPF damages disputes at sharply reduced penalty rates.
- The window closes on 28 December 2026 and will not be extended.
- The Bombay, Madras and Kerala High Courts have directed establishments before them to settle under the scheme.

9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah to launch from Varanasi with Anganwadi Centres at its core

08 Sep

- The 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah will be launched on 9 September 2026 at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Its central theme is 'Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari', built on five priorities: dietary diversity and protein, fresh hot cooked meals, community ownership through Anganwadi Management Committees, nutrition-linked early childhood development, and ten years of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
- Poshan Maah is the September campaign of Mission Poshan 2.0, the unified nutrition mission of the Ministry of Women and Child Development that merged POSHAN Abhiyaan, Anganwadi Services (ICDS) and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.
- As on 31 July 2026, the network covered 13.99 lakh Anganwadi Centres, 13.30 lakh Anganwadi workers and about 8.94 crore beneficiaries, tracked on the Poshan Tracker.
- The 8th edition, launched on 17 September 2025 from Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, recorded 14.33 crore activities in convergence with more than 20 Ministries.

International Literacy Day 2026 marked as ULLAS drives the push for a fully literate India

08 Sep

- The Ministry of Education held the national-level celebration of International Literacy Day 2026 in New Delhi, with Minister of State for Education Shri Jayant Chaudhary saying literacy and education must be reimagined as instruments of empowerment and active citizenship.
- The event was organised by the Department of School Education & Literacy around this year's theme, 'Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity'.
- Tripura Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha said the state had reached a 95.6% literacy rate, crossing the Centre's benchmark for being declared fully literate.
- A Literacy Fortnight is running from 1 to 14 September 2026, and an ULLAS Mela at National Bal Bhawan brings together participants from 29 States and UTs.
- The Minister argued that literacy must extend beyond reading and writing to comprehension, financial literacy and digital literacy.

DILRMP 3.0 to build GIS-enabled Land Stack with Rs 565.50 crore outlay

09 Sep

- The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, will launch the Operational Guidelines for DILRMP 3.0 (2026-2031) on 10 September 2026.
- DILRMP 3.0 runs as a Central Sector Scheme with an anticipated outlay of Rs 565.50 crore, covering all States and Union Territories over five years.
- The shift is from record digitisation to a GIS-enabled 'Land Stack' treated as Digital Public Infrastructure, integrating maps, ownership, registration and revenue court cases.
- Interventions include Universal Bhu-Aadhaar (14-digit ULPIN) for every land parcel, paperless registration, a Registration Repository, RCCMS for revenue courts and completion of the NAKSHA urban pilot.
- 75 Sub-Registrar Offices are to be upgraded into 'Registration Seva Kendras' at an outlay of Rs 37.5 crore.

9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah launched at Varanasi with focus on dietary diversity, protein

09 Sep

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre, Varanasi, under the theme 'Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari'.
- The campaign runs from 9 September to 8 October 2026 and focuses on dietary diversity and adequate protein intake, fresh hot cooked meals at Anganwadi Centres, community ownership through Anganwadi Management Committees and SNP menu boards, nutrition and early stimulation, and ten years of PMMVY.
- More than 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres serve over 7.5 crore children, 1.10 crore pregnant and lactating women and nearly 16 lakh adolescent girls.
- Two lakh Anganwadi Centres are being upgraded into Saksham Anganwadis, of which about 24,000 have been approved in Uttar Pradesh.
- PMMVY has completed ten years, transferring over Rs 21,000 crore by Direct Benefit Transfer to more than 4.65 crore mothers.

DILRMP 3.0 guidelines launched: Rs 565.50 crore GIS Land Stack, universal Bhu-Aadhaar, Registration Seva Kendras

10 Sep

- Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Operational Guidelines for DILRMP 3.0 at Krishi Bhawan on 10 September 2026.
- DILRMP 3.0 is a Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 565.50 crore for 2026–2031, 100% centrally funded and released in performance-linked phases through PFMS.
- Its core is a GIS-based 'Land Stack': State Land Stacks, linked through APIs, federate into a National Land Stack that joins cadastral maps, Records of Rights, registrations and court cases.
- Every land parcel gets a 14-digit Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN), and 75 high-footfall Sub-Registrar Offices become Registration Seva Kendras modelled on Passport Seva Kendras.
- Earlier phases digitised 99.90% of Records of Rights and 97% of cadastral maps and computerised 99% of Sub-Registrar Offices.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 to run from 17 September to 17 October

10 Sep

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal reviewed State and UT preparedness for Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026, to be observed from 17 September to 17 October 2026.
- The theme is 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat', with focus areas spanning Cleanliness Target Units, Swachh Paathshala, SafaiMitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivirs, Jan Bhagidari and Swachhata se Samriddhi.
- A nationwide Shramdaan, 'Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath', is planned for 1 October, with Swachh Bharat Diwas drives and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation on 2 October.

Incentive Scheme for Domestic PNG Connections Rewards Gas Firms with Cheaper APM Gas

13 Sep

- The Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections, launched on 18 August 2026 and in effect from 1 September 2026, rewards city gas companies for adding active, billed household connections.
- For every billed domestic connection above a fixed minimum per Geographical Area, a CGD entity gets an extra 200 SCM of low-priced domestic APM gas, replacing costlier LNG it buys for its CNG (Transport) segment.
- The payback period on a household connection is expected to fall from about ten years to nearly three; the scheme runs in two tranches over six months.

- India had 1.74 crore domestic PNG connections as of 18 August 2026, with PNGRB-authorised entities in 309 Geographical Areas covering the entire mainland.
- Supporting steps: an Accelerated Approval Framework with uniform Right-of-Way charges, a push for 5% VAT on natural gas, National PNG Drive 2.0 and a unified registration portal.

Special Campaign 6.0 portal launched as Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 theme announced

16 Sep

- Dr Jitendra Singh launched the web portal for Special Campaign 6.0, run by DARPG from 2 to 31 October, with e-waste disposal as its new focus.
- Over five years the Special Campaign has earned Rs 5,000 crore from scrap, freed 1,000 lakh sq ft of office space and weeded out around 2 crore files.
- Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 begins on 17 September with the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.

100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan opens with nationwide Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh

17 Sep

- The Department of Youth Affairs will open the 100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan on 18 September 2026 with the Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh, a nationwide youth pledge and signature campaign.
- It is delivered through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) and the National Service Scheme: 300 NSS institutions from 18 September, and 485 MY Bharat units on 20 September.
- The parent Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, launched on 2 August 2026, is built on four pillars - Prevent, Protect, Recover and Lead.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 launched by MoHUA and Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

17 Sep

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation jointly launched Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 with a plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' at Children's Park, India Gate, New Delhi.
- The campaign carries the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat' and runs to 2 October, on five pillars from Cleanliness Target Units to Swachhata se Samriddhi.
- On 2 October, Special Gram Sabhas in rural areas and Special Council Meetings in urban areas will review the campaign's outcomes and assess villages' ODF Plus (Model) status.

Biometric Aadhaar Authentication Mandatory for Subsidised LPG Refills from 1 October 2026

19 Sep

- From 1 October 2026, a domestic LPG consumer must have completed Biometric Aadhaar Authentication to book a refill at the regulated Retail Selling Price with subsidy.
- As on 19 September 2026, 27.43 crore active domestic consumers — 89.9 per cent — had completed authentication and need do nothing further.
- Consumers who choose not to authenticate will be supplied LPG at market price without subsidy, in 5 kg or 10 kg cylinders, subject to local availability.
- The implicit subsidy was about Rs 210 per 14.2 kg cylinder in September 2026, having reached Rs 721 in June 2026.

- Accumulated under-recoveries of public sector oil marketing companies on domestic LPG exceeded Rs 62,000 crore as on 31 August 2026.

DDU-GKY 2.0 Training Begins in 14 States from October 2026 with 34,920 Youth

19 Sep

- The Ministry of Rural Development will start DDU-GKY 2.0 training batches across most States and Union Territories from October 2026.
- 1,164 batches covering 34,920 rural youth begin in October in 14 first-phase States/UTs, against a sanctioned target of 3,57,112 trainees there by 31 December 2027.
- Targets for the two-year period 2026-28 have been allocated to all 31 participating States/UTs; over 5 lakh have already reached Project Implementing Agencies.
- States were asked to finish allocating targets to PIAs by 31 October 2026 and to integrate State Treasury Portals with the DDU-GKY 2.0 portal by 30 September 2026.

Biovigilance Programme of India approved; 7th National Formulary of India released

21 Sep

- The Government approved the Biovigilance Programme of India; the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ghaziabad, will lead monitoring of adverse events from medicines and biologicals used in organ and tissue transplantation.
- The 7th edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI 2026) was released: 34 chapters, 20 appendices, 653 drugs including 42 fixed-dose combinations and 30 immunologicals.
- India has risen from 123rd (2009-2014) to 8th globally in contributions to the WHO patient-safety database.
- About 1,150 ADR reporting centres operate nationwide and will be extended to primary healthcare.

Next Phase of UDAN: 21 State/UT MoUs Signed, Challenge Mode for Aerodromes Launched

22 Sep

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation signed 21 MoUs with States/UTs and the Airports Authority of India on 22 September 2026 to implement the next phase of UDAN (Modified UDAN).
- A Challenge Mode Portal now lets States/UTs nominate airstrips and helipads for development; a Scheme Document for the next round of UDAN route bidding was also released.
- Modified UDAN targets 120 new destinations and 4 crore more passengers over ten years; the Cabinet approved it on 25 March 2026 with Rs 28,840 crore for 2026-27 to 2035-36.
- Since 2016 UDAN has operationalised 687 routes and 95 aerodromes, with over 3.66 lakh flights carrying about 1.71 crore passengers.

Cooperative Ride-Hailing Service Bharat Taxi Launched in Five Uttar Pradesh Cities

23 Sep

- Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing service, was launched in Uttar Pradesh on 23 September 2026 in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur and Prayagraj.
- In the six months since its February 2026 launch it has enrolled over 10 lakh drivers ('Saarthis'), handles about 20,000 rides a day and has credited more than Rs 100 crore to drivers.
- It runs on a 'Driver is the Owner' cooperative model with no commission taken from drivers' earnings.

DDU-GKY at 12: 18.47 Lakh Rural Youth Trained, 12.43 Lakh Placed; 2.0 Framework Explained

24 Sep

- DDU-GKY, the Ministry of Rural Development's placement-linked skilling scheme for rural youth aged 15-35, was launched on 25 September 2014 under DAY-NRLM and marks its 12th anniversary.
- Since 2014-15 it has trained over 18.47 lakh candidates in 800+ job roles and placed over 12.43 lakh. Over 9.71 lakh of those trained were women.
- DDU-GKY 2.0 (guidelines notified in May 2025) runs in 31 States/UTs through 749 projects and 760 training centres. Minimum placement is now six months, with 12 months of post-placement tracking.
- 647 RSETIs in 634 districts have trained 63.47 lakh people since 2009 and settled 45.60 lakh of them.

Arogya Manthan 2026: NHA Launches Secure Data Environment, Claims Auto-Adjudication as PM-JAY Turns 8

25 Sep

- At Arogya Manthan 2026 (Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, 25 September 2026), the National Health Authority launched the National Healthcare Providers Registry (NHPR) mobile app, a Secure Data Environment (SDE) and an Auto-Adjudication Framework for AB PM-JAY claims.
- The event marked eight years of AB PM-JAY (launched 23 September 2018) and five years of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (launched 27 September 2021).
- PM-JAY status: over 60 crore beneficiaries covered, over 13 crore hospital admissions, treatment worth more than Rs 2 lakh crore, and over 49 crore Ayushman Cards.
- ABDM status: more than 97.8 crore ABHAs, over 121 crore health records linked, 5.6 lakh+ health facilities and about 11 lakh healthcare professionals registered.
- The SDE, built with IISc Bengaluru, lets approved entities analyse de-identified PM-JAY and ABDM data inside an isolated NHA environment.

STATES AND UTS RECOGNISED AT AROGYA MANTHAN 2026

Programme	Category	Recognised
AB PM-JAY	Highest card saturation among ASHA, AWW and AWH beneficiaries (large State / small State / UT)	Andhra Pradesh / Sikkim / Jammu & Kashmir
AB PM-JAY	Top claim settlement for inter-State portability	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat
ABDM	Top-performing model districts, by district-population category	Bihar, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
ABDM	Most sub-centres using ABDM-enabled HMIS (small State/UT / medium / large State)	Chandigarh / Assam / Uttar Pradesh

Source: PIB release, 25 September 2026.

SHE-Mart Launched from Kollam: 300+ Women-SHG Cooperative Stores Planned in Three Southern States

26 Sep

- SHE-Mart, the women-SHG retail outlet initiative announced in Union Budget 2026-27, was launched from Kollam, Keralam, on 26 September 2026 with the 'Vanitham She-Mart Shops'.
- More than 300 She-Marts are planned across Keralam, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. They will sell local SHG products alongside Bharat Brand atta and rice.
- NCCF launched its 'Janah' brand at the same event. The Lakhpati Didi target is 6 crore women by 2029.

National Digital Tourism Stack and Dekho Apna Desh 2.0 Launched on World Tourism Day 2026

27 Sep

- On World Tourism Day (27 September 2026), the Ministry of Tourism launched the National Digital Tourism Stack. It is being built with ONDC and supported by ICDIA, and a pilot is planned for January 2027.
- It also launched the National Mission for Alternative Destinations, run as Dekho Apna Desh Campaign 2.0, to spread tourist demand from crowded destinations to tourism-ready, lesser-known ones.
- India Tourism Statistics 2026 was released, and five non-binding, non-financial MoUs were exchanged with Airbnb, FlixBus, Glance (InMobi Group), Eicher Group Foundation and MakeMyTrip.
- Visitor data from the Mission will be used to monitor footfall against each destination's assessed carrying capacity.

DAHD Launches Livestock Insurance Portal Under the National Livestock Mission

28 Sep

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched the Livestock Insurance Portal (rashtriyapashubima.dahd.gov.in) on 28 September 2026 for the Livestock Insurance activity of the National Livestock Mission.
- The portal handles policy issuance, premium management, claims, beneficiary verification and real-time monitoring on one platform for farmers, states and insurers.
- More than 30 lakh animals have been insured under the scheme so far this year.

PM-RKVY Sanctions of Rs 1,200 Crore to 10 States; Khet Bachao Abhiyan from 22 October

29 Sep

- A nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan will run from 22 October to 30 November 2026 to promote balanced, Soil Health Card-based fertiliser use; it was announced at the National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Campaign 2026.
- Sanction letters worth over Rs 1,200 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) went to 10 states, led by West Bengal (Rs 290 crore), Haryana (Rs 198 crore) and Chhattisgarh (Rs 181 crore).
- The Centre will procure 100% of the tur, urad and masoor offered at MSP, with payment within 48 hours.
- Monthly virtual Centre-state reviews and a fixed annual calendar of pre-season meetings (kharif: 10 and 17 May; rabi: 10 and 17 September) were announced.

PM-RKVY SANCTIONS BY STATE

State	Amount (Rs crore)
West Bengal	290
Haryana	198
Chhattisgarh	181
Arunachal Pradesh	154
Bihar	114
Karnataka	104
Mizoram	75
Himachal Pradesh	64
Jharkhand	58
Punjab	43

Source: PIB release, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. The release gives the total as 'more than Rs 1,200 crore'; the ten listed amounts add up to Rs 1,281 crore.

PRAGATI-50: MoHUA Names 50 Model Swachh Cities in 24 States Under SBM-U 2.0

29 Sep

- MoHUA launched PRAGATI-50, naming 50 model cities in 24 states to set a higher cleanliness benchmark under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, following the Prime Minister's directions at the 51st PRAGATI meeting.
- Progress will be tracked through a PRAGATI-like digital review mechanism on the Swachhatam Portal; Union Minister Manohar Lal will chair reviews every other month.
- MoHUA and CSIR-CMERI launched the Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre at Durgapur. A third startup cohort of 13 startups with SIIC, IIT Kanpur met the Mission's target of 75 startups.
- Guidelines for source segregation of municipal solid waste under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and an SOP for C&D waste secondary collection centres were released.

Literacy for All: PLFS 2025 Puts Literacy at 81.1%; 10 States/UTs Declared Fully Literate

29 Sep

- India's overall literacy rate is 81.1% as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025: urban 89% and rural 77.4% (age 7+).
- Ten States/UTs declared themselves fully literate in 2024-26 under ULLAS, against a new Ministry of Education definition that treats 95% literacy as full literacy.
- ULLAS has 4.03 crore registered learners and 52.20 lakh+ volunteers, against a target of 5 crore learners in 2022-27 (outlay Rs 1,037.90 crore).
- UDISE+ 2025-26: 24.72 crore+ students enrolled; secondary GER 71.7%, secondary dropout 7.0% and secondary retention 51.9%.
- Higher-education GER rose from 23.7% (2014-15) to 30% (2023-24), against NEP 2020's target of 50% by 2035.

8. Agreements & MoUs

1 article

India-New Zealand FTA to enter into force on 20 October 2026

21 Sep

- The India-New Zealand FTA enters into force on 20 October 2026 (Vijaya Dashami); from that day 100% of India's exports to New Zealand become duty-free.
- The FTA was signed on 27 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, by Piyush Goyal and NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay; New Zealand's Parliament passed the enabling law on 16 September 2026.
- India kept dairy, sugar, edible oils and most meats out of tariff concessions; NZ apples, kiwifruit and Manuka honey get only Tariff Rate Quotas with a Minimum Import Price.
- New Zealand commits to facilitate USD 20 billion of investment into India, plus 5,000 skilled-worker and 1,000 Working Holiday visas a year.

9. Defence

15 articles

Raksha Mantri releases 'RAKSHA', a ten-year roadmap for India's defence diplomacy

03 Sep

- The Raksha Mantri released 'RAKSHA', a document setting out India's defence diplomacy roadmap for the next ten years.
- It rests on four pillars: strategic partnerships, capacity building, indigenous exports and maritime security.
- It positions India as a Net Security Provider and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The release was attended by the service Vice Chiefs, the Defence Secretary and officials of the MEA and the National Security Council Secretariat.

IAF to hold Dronathon-2026 at Pokhran range for indigenous drone and counter-drone systems

08 Sep

- The Indian Air Force is organising Dronathon-2026 to let domestic manufacturers demonstrate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS) capabilities.
- It runs from 14 to 16 September 2026 at the Pokhran range, Jaisalmer, with static displays and live demonstrations to evaluate combat effectiveness.
- Focus areas are surveillance and reconnaissance, autonomous operations, swarm technologies and electronic warfare, aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat.

IAF and Japan Air Self Defence Force to hold Veer Guardian-2026 at Jodhpur

08 Sep

- The Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF) will hold the bilateral air exercise Veer Guardian-2026 at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 9 to 22 September 2026.
- The IAF fields the indigenous LCA Tejas along with Su-30 MKI and Rafale; the JASDF participates with its F-2A fighter aircraft.
- The fourteen-day schedule covers advanced operational missions, mission planning conferences, subject-matter-expert exchanges, and engineering and aerospace-safety interactions.

INS Mysore reaches Lumut for fourth edition of Exercise Samudra Laksamana

10 Sep

- INS Mysore arrived at Lumut, Malaysia, on 9 September 2026 for the fourth edition of the India-Malaysia bilateral maritime exercise Samudra Laksamana.
- The exercise covers harbour and sea phases, cross-deck visits and operational interactions aimed at interoperability between the two navies.
- The deployment is aligned with India's MAHASAGAR vision and the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026.

Colombo Security Conclave Table Top Exercise on Illicit Maritime Activities Concludes at Visakhapatnam

12 Sep

- A three-day Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Table Top Exercise ran from 9 to 11 September 2026 at Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam.

- Its theme was a 'Coordinated Response to Illicit Maritime Activities in the Indian Ocean Region': maritime terrorism, narcotics, human trafficking and IUU fishing.
- Participants reviewed SOPs and information-sharing arrangements for Maritime Domain Awareness, in line with the MAHASAGAR vision.

India-US Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 Begins at Auli and Mahajan Ranges

15 Sep

- The opening ceremony of the 22nd edition of the India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas was held at the Auli Foreign Training Node in Uttarakhand.
- Contingents of 600 personnel from each side are taking part, with the exercise running simultaneously at Auli and the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- The stated aim is to enhance joint capability for employing Integrated Battle Groups in mountainous and semi-mountainous terrain, with emphasis on infantry-dominated operations.
- Technology infusion is a key focus: drones and autonomous systems for surveillance and reconnaissance, and demonstrations of contemporary weapon systems at Mahajan.
- The Indian side was addressed by Major General Amaresh Gunjan, General Officer Commanding, 14 Infantry Division, and the US side by Colonel Benjamin Jackman of the 11th Airborne Division.

HAL delivers Tejas FOC trainers, first HTT-40s to IAF and Dhruv NG to Pawan Hans

18 Sep

- In Bengaluru on 18 September 2026, HAL handed over two LCA Tejas FOC twin-seat trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainers to the IAF, and four Dhruv NG civil helicopters to Pawan Hans Limited.
- The two Tejas trainers are the last aircraft due under the FOC contract.
- The HTT-40 replaces imported basic trainers; 70 were ordered in March 2023, but deliveries slipped because of delays in Honeywell engine supply.
- Dhruv NG, the DGCA-certified civil version of the Dhruv helicopter, is HAL's entry into commercial helicopters.

SLINEX-26: India and Sri Lanka Hold 13th Maritime Exercise at Visakhapatnam

20 Sep

- The 13th edition of SLINEX, the annual India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise, is being held at Visakhapatnam from 17 to 21 September 2026.
- The Indian Navy is fielding INS Kavaratti, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvette, and INS Jyoti, a fleet tanker; the Sri Lanka Navy is represented by SLNS Sindurala.
- The exercise opened with a Harbour Phase under the Eastern Naval Command, covering professional interactions, cross-deck visits and sharing of best practices, to be followed by a Sea Phase focused on operational synergy.
- SLINEX was conceptualised in 2005 and has become the principal navy-to-navy forum between the two countries.
- The Ministry of Defence positions the exercise within India's MAHASAGAR vision for a secure, stable and inclusive maritime environment.

18th India-Mongolia Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT begins at Pithoragarh

21 Sep

- The 18th India-Mongolia exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT runs from 21 September to 3 October 2026 at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- This annual platoon-level exercise alternates between India and Mongolia; each side fields 45 personnel.

- Its focus is counter-insurgency in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN mandate.

IAF-Japan Air Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 Concludes at Jodhpur

22 Sep

- Veer Guardian 2026, the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), concluded at Air Force Station Jodhpur on 22 September 2026 after 14 days.
- The IAF fielded Su-30 MKI, Rafale and LCA Tejas; the JASDF flew the F-2A.
- JASDF Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita flew the Tejas on Distinguished Visitor's Day.

INS Trishul Reaches Toulon for 24th Edition of India-France Naval Exercise VARUNA

24 Sep

- The 24th edition of VARUNA, the bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy, is being held at Toulon, France. INS Trishul arrived on 22 September 2026.
- It includes harbour and sea phases: cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting events, aimed at interoperability.
- VARUNA began in 1993 and has carried its name since 2001. It is a pillar of the India-France Strategic Partnership of 1998.

ICG Ship Shaunak Sails Chennai to Perth Under QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission

25 Sep

- Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak sailed from Chennai to Perth, Australia, on 25 September 2026 under the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission.
- Six Sea Riders are aboard: two officers each from India and Japan, and one each from Australia and the United States.
- The deployment follows the Quad Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement of 26 May 2026. India links it to its MAHASAGAR maritime vision.

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026: IAF Hosts Seven Air Forces at Jodhpur, 26 Sep-12 Oct

27 Sep

- Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026, the IAF's multilateral air exercise, runs at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 26 September to 12 October 2026 under the theme "Power in Partnership".
- Seven countries are participating: Australia, the USA, the UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Several others are observers.
- Foreign aircraft include the F-35 Lightning II, Rafale, F-16, A400M, MRTT, C-130, C-130J and KC-30A.
- This is the second edition. The first, in 2024, was India's first multinational air exercise and was held in two phases at Sulur and Jodhpur.

India-Kazakhstan Exercise KAZIND-2026, 9th Edition, Begins at Oskemen

28 Sep

- The 9th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND is being held at Oskemen, Kazakhstan, from 28 September to 11 October 2026.
- India's 60-member contingent comes mainly from a Garhwal Rifles battalion, with Indian Air Force personnel.

- The focus is joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN mandate, including drones and counter-drone systems.

Second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise AIME-2026 Begins at Subic Bay, Philippines

30 Sep

- The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) began at Subic Bay, the Philippines, on 28 September 2026, with INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish representing India.
- The theme is 'Anchored in Trust, United at Sea'; a Harbour Phase of professional exchanges is followed by a Sea Phase of coordinated exercises.
- The first edition, AIME-2023, was co-hosted with Singapore in May 2023.
- The exercise is framed under India's Act East Policy and the MAHASAGAR vision.

10. Science & Tech

11 articles

Government launches BIO-NIVESH to draw private capital into biotechnology start-ups

03 Sep

- BIO-NIVESH was launched to strengthen engagement between biotechnology innovators and investors and channel private capital into scale-up and commercialisation.
- It was announced at a joint round table with start-ups and investors chaired by the Minister of State for Science and Technology.
- A 'Big Five in Five Years' approach was floated — concentrating resources to build a few large anchor companies around which smaller start-ups can grow.

GSLV-F17 Launches EOS-05, India's First Imaging Satellite in Geosynchronous Orbit

04 Sep

- ISRO's GSLV-F17 launched EOS-05, described by the Prime Minister as India's first-ever imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit.
- The mission lifted off on 4 September 2026 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota - the 19th flight of the GSLV programme.
- EOS-05, also designated GISAT-1A, was placed in a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit and raised towards the geostationary altitude of about 35,786 km by onboard apogee-motor firings.
- From that altitude it can revisit a chosen area in minutes rather than days, supporting cyclone and flood monitoring, agriculture and surveillance.
- The Prime Minister linked the achievement to the deepening ISRO-industry partnership across the space ecosystem.

ORV Sagar Manthan launched: India's first indigenously built ocean research vessel

09 Sep

- The Ocean Research Vessel ORV Sagar Manthan (Yard 3041) was launched at Rishi Bankim Shipyard, Kolkata, on 9 September 2026.

- It was designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The vessel is built under Vertical-4 (Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration) of the Deep Ocean Mission at an approximate cost of Rs 840 crore, with a projected service life of 30 years.
- It will gradually replace the 43-year-old ORV Sagar Kanya, procured from Germany in 1983; delivery for commissioning to NCPOR/MoES is scheduled for 2028.

UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK and Sandbox at Global Fintech Fest

09 Sep

- UIDAI launched the Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK (Software Development Kit) and the Aadhaar Face Authentication Sandbox at the Global Fintech Fest 2026.
- The SDK embeds face authentication inside native Android and iOS apps, removing the need for users to switch between applications, and carries AI/ML-based liveness and anti-spoofing checks.
- The Sandbox lets organisations test the full authentication journey — consent, face capture, liveness, error handling — including failure cases such as invalid digital signatures, timeouts and spoofing attempts, without external biometric hardware.
- UIDAI also released a 'Playbook on ease of Onboarding' for BFSI entities joining the Aadhaar authentication ecosystem.

World's Longest Steel Slag Road at Raigarh Earns Guinness Record for CSIR-CRRI

12 Sep

- A 1.85-km road at Raigarh, Chhattisgarh, built by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute with Jindal Steel, won the Guinness World Record for the 'World's Longest Road Built with Processed Steel Slag Aggregates'.
- The technology turns steel slag, a steel-making by-product, into road aggregates; the Minister said it can cut construction cost by about 40% and give four times the strength of conventional roads.
- CSIR-CRRI and Jindal Steel signed a Technology Transfer Agreement and launched the 'Steel Grit' brand.
- CSIR-CRRI has a work order for a 40-km steel slag road from Jindal Steel's Angul plant in Odisha.

First OPU-IVF Calf Born in Uttarakhand's Badri Cattle via ICAR-NDRI and GBPUAT Pantnagar

12 Sep

- A Badri female calf, produced through Ovum Pick-Up and In Vitro Fertilization (OPU-IVF), was born on 11 September 2026 after a Badri embryo was transferred into a Sahiwal recipient cow.
- The work is a collaboration of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (Karnal) and G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (Pantnagar), funded by the Uttarakhand Biotechnology Council, Haldi.
- Oocytes came from genetically valuable Badri donor cows; semen came from a superior Badri bull supplied by the Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board.
- The programme, begun in 2023, has also produced cloned Badri embryos; OPU-IVF and cloned embryos are next to be transferred into Sahiwal, crossbred and Badri recipients.
- Badri, a small hill breed registered by ICAR-NBAGR in 2016, is Uttarakhand's first registered cattle breed.

Semicon 2.0 Unveiled at SEMICON India 2026: Six Pillars, Rs 1,27,500 Crore

17 Sep

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the fifth edition of SEMICON India at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi on 17 September 2026, themed 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem' and running to 19 September.
- Semicon 2.0, approved by the Union Cabinet on 15 July 2026 with an outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore, widens the mission from fabs and packaging to six pillars covering design, equipment and materials, advanced packaging, applied R&D and talent.
- Investment commitments of about Rs 1 lakh crore have been received and close to 1 lakh jobs are expected across the ecosystem over the next two to three years.
- Commercial lines were launched at CDIL Semiconductor, Mohali and Suchi Semicon, Surat, taking operational commercial ATMP units to five of the twelve approved under Semicon 1.0.

TRAI's third TCCCPR amendment: AI-flagged spam, A2P call rules and consumer appeals

18 Sep

- TRAI notified the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026 on 18 September 2026, amending TCCCPR 2018 to tighten action against spam.
- Operators must now use AI/ML to flag suspected spam numbers and share them; five or more flagged numbers of one sender within ten days trigger graded action up to disconnection.
- Application-to-Person (A2P) robo-calls must be pre-declared, and carry a termination charge of up to Rs 0.05 per minute.
- Consumers get an appeal against UCC complaint decisions within 15 days, and action now starts at 3 complaints in 10 days if the AI system has also flagged the sender.

SEMICON India 2026 Closes with 56 MoUs and RISC-V Grand Challenge Awards

19 Sep

- SEMICON India 2026, the fifth edition of India's flagship semiconductor conference, ran from 17 to 19 September 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, on the theme 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem'.
- The three days produced 56 MoUs, announcements and strategic initiatives — 41 in the first two days and 15 at the concluding session.
- Winners of the Digital India RISC-V Grand Challenge, run under the Chips to Startup Programme, were announced; three teams shared Rs 60 lakh for solutions built on the indigenous SHAKTI and VEGA processors.
- The Prime Minister virtually inaugurated commercial production lines at CDIL Semiconductor, Mohali, and Suchi Semicon, Surat, taking operational commercial units to five of the twelve projects approved under Semicon 1.0.
- Semicon 2.0 was outlined, with an outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore across six pillars.

TRAI Mandates Shorter-Validity Voice-and-SMS-Only Vouchers Under 13th TCPR Amendment

22 Sep

- TRAI notified the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulation, 2026, which requires operators to offer voice-and-SMS-only Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) at a reduced tariff across more validity periods.
- Voice-and-SMS STVs must now mirror every data-bundle validity of 30 days or less, include one renewable on the same date every month, and include at least one longer validity.
- It fixes a gap left by the 2024 Twelfth Amendment, after which operators offered only a few long-validity voice-SMS packs.

TRAI Launches Digital Connectivity Rating Platform to Rate Buildings' Connectivity

25 Sep

- TRAI launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform (dcrp.trai.gov.in) and a field-testing mobile app for DCR agencies. The platform puts the rating of buildings for digital connectivity online, end to end.
- It puts into effect the TRAI (Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity) Regulations, 2024, as amended in 2026, and the Rating Manual 2026 issued on 9 June 2026.
- Consumers can search rated properties and verify each rating certificate through its QR code before buying or leasing.

11. Environment

15 articles

Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 5.0 Launched for 12-19 September; MoES Marks 20 Years With a National Quiz

01 Sep

- Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, launched the fifth edition of 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026: SSSS v.5.0' on 1 September 2026.
- The campaign will run as a week-long nationwide observance from 12 to 19 September 2026, with beach clean-up drives at over 100 locations, a human chain, cycling rallies, marathons, an ocean conservation pledge and the first-ever national Ocean Olympiad for students and youth.
- The Minister launched the SSSS v.5.0 website, the official ocean conservation pledge, an introductory video and an activities-schedule video, alongside the Sagar Prahari mobile app; India's coastline was cited as spanning over 11,000 km.
- Separately, the Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the 'MoES Foundation Day Quiz: Advancing Earth Sciences, Empowering the Nation' with MyGov to mark 20 years of the Ministry - 100 multiple-choice questions in 300 seconds, one attempt per participant, with cash prizes of Rs 10,000 each for three randomly selected all-correct entries.

Vulture Awareness Day 2026: Panchkula Workshop Pushes Vulture Safe Zones and Wild Recovery

06 Sep

- International Vulture Awareness Day 2026 was marked at Panchkula, Haryana, where the Union Environment Minister inaugurated a national workshop themed 'From Crisis to Recovery — Conserving India's Vultures'.
- The workshop was organised by MoEFCC with the Central Zoo Authority, the Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department, the Bombay Natural History Society and the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore.
- During 2025-26 the Pinjore centre housed 356 vultures, bred 35 chicks, released or contributed 87 birds for reintroduction, transferred 90 to other breeding institutions and trained 1,222 participants from 22 institutions.
- The stated policy direction is continued creation of Vulture Safe Zones through vulture-safe veterinary practice, safe food availability and technical capacity for species recovery in the wild.

Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026: 108 of 130 NCAP Cities Cut PM10 Below 2017-18 Levels

07 Sep

- On the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, observed on 7 September, MoEFCC held Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026 and conferred the 5th Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan awards on the best-performing cities and, for the first time, wards.
- Under the National Clean Air Programme, 108 of 130 cities recorded lower annual PM10 in FY 2025-26 than in 2017-18: 72 cut it by more than 20%, 26 by more than 40%, and 14 met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Lucknow topped Category 1, Rourkela Category 2 and Kalinganagar Category 3; ward-level assessment covered over 7,400 wards, with Ward 70 of Lucknow first in Category 1.
- A Compendium of Best Management Practices under NCAP was released, and a first-of-its-kind dialogue brought mayors and local body representatives from 63 NCR cities to take a Clean Air Pledge.

NITI Aayog's e-FAST launches PACT and ZET Marketplace to aggregate demand for electric trucks

07 Sep

- NITI Aayog Member Rajiv Gauba launched the Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT) and the Zero Emission Truck (ZET) Marketplace at the 5th e-FAST India Summit 2026.
- PACT aggregates freight demand from shippers and logistics service providers and converts it into deployment opportunities on identified freight corridors.
- Electric freight vehicle deployments rose more than fourfold, from 201 in FY25 to 826 in FY26, with over 3,000 electric medium- and heavy-duty trucks now in operation.
- Heavy trucks are 3-4% of India's vehicle fleet but account for over a third of transport-sector carbon emissions, while about 70% of India's freight moves by road.
- e-FAST India was launched by NITI Aayog with WRI India on 8 September 2022 as the country's first national electric freight platform.

Mangrove GIS Portal Launched at Bhuj; Gujarat Restores 27,652 ha Under MISHTI

13 Sep

- At a mangrove workshop in Bhuj, Kachchh, on 13 September 2026, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the Mangrove GIS (MGIS) Portal and released the Mangroves Atlas of Gujarat.
- Under MISHTI, Gujarat has restored 27,652 ha against its 2023-27 target of 29,250 ha, including 12,450 ha in Kori Creek.
- The Guneri Inland Mangrove Village Biodiversity Management Committee was felicitated for its community-led conservation.

India Launches Net Zero Portal and NAPCC Dashboard on 32nd World Ozone Day

16 Sep

- Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh launched India's Net Zero Portal and the NAPCC Dashboard at Mumbai on 16 September 2026, at the national celebration of the 32nd World Ozone Day.
- The Net Zero Portal lets Indian entities voluntarily register net-zero targets and disclose greenhouse gas emissions; Scope 1 and Scope 2 reporting is encouraged and Scope 3 reporting is voluntary.
- The NAPCC Dashboard consolidates implementation and indicator data for the National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change for inter-ministerial monitoring.
- The event also saw 248 Industrial Training Institutes adopted by 12 refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturers through a four-party Memorandum of Agreement to train technicians in low-GWP refrigerants.

- India, a Party to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol since 1992, has met its 2015, 2020 and 2025 HCFC phase-out targets and ratified the Kigali Amendment in September 2021.

PM Opens NGT's International Conference on Environment and Climate, Launches NGT Mobile App

19 Sep

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the National Green Tribunal's two-day International Conference on 'The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics' in New Delhi and launched the NGT Mobile Application.
- Participants came from 17 countries, along with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank; the conference runs four technical sessions.
- The Environment Minister stated that non-fossil sources now account for 54.18 per cent of India's installed electricity capacity, passing the 2030 target of 50 per cent nine years early.
- India's forest and tree cover was stated at 8.27 lakh square kilometres, with India retaining third position in annual net forest-area gain in the UN FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025.

Project Rhino Launched on World Rhino Day to Support Rhino Range States

22 Sep

- On World Rhino Day (22 September 2026), the Prime Minister announced Project Rhino, which gives range states financial and technical support for rhino protection, habitat management, genetic improvement and population studies.
- Assam holds nearly 80% of the world's greater one-horned rhinos, and Kaziranga's anti-poaching work was singled out.
- Rhinos are back or well protected in parts of Bihar and West Bengal, and the reintroduction at Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh) was called a success.

6th Cycle of Tiger Reserve Management Evaluation Covers All 58 Reserves, Adds Solid Waste Criterion

25 Sep

- The 6th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEE-TR 2026) began on 25 September 2026. For the first time it covers all 58 Tiger Reserves.
- MEE-TR 2026 adds 'Solid Waste Management' as a separate criterion. It covers waste from forest chowkis, from tourism and biomedical waste from wildlife rescue centres.
- The NTCA runs the exercise with the Wildlife Institute of India, using a framework adapted from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. The Technical Manual for MEE 2026 was released at the inception workshop.
- Earlier cycles, held every four years from 2006 to 2022, assessed 28, 39, 43, 50 and 51 reserves. In 2022 Periyar (Kerala) scored highest, at 94.38%.

MEE CYCLES SO FAR

Cycle	Year	Tiger Reserves evaluated
1st	2006	28
2nd	2010	39
3rd	2014	43
4th	2018	50
5th	2022	51
6th	2026 (launched 25 Sep)	58, all reserves

Source: PIB release, 25 September 2026.

9th India International Water Week Ends; Groundwater Recharge Up From 432 to 448.52 BCM

25 Sep

- The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026, themed 'Climate Resilient Water Management', concluded on 25 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (22-25 September). The Ministry of Jal Shakti organises it.
- It drew 7,224 delegates, 227 exhibitors and 119 paper presentations, with two partner countries and 14 partner States/UTs. Recommendations across seven thematic areas were adopted.
- Total annual groundwater recharge rose from 432 BCM (2017) to 448.52 BCM (2025), per the PIB backgrounder.
- Released at the close: the 1st Census of Springs, 2nd Census of Water Bodies, 7th Minor Irrigation Census, 1st Census of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects, and CWC's Irrigation Atlas.

At FAO's COFO 28 in Rome, India Reports 21.76 Million Hectares Under Bonn Challenge Restoration

28 Sep

- At COFO 28 (FAO Committee on Forestry, Rome, 28 September-2 October 2026), India reported 21.76 million ha brought under restoration against its Bonn Challenge target of 26 million ha by 2030.
- India cited forest and tree cover of 82.74 million ha (25.17% of its area) and FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 ranks: 9th in forest area, 3rd in net annual forest gain.
- It showcased the Aravalli Green Wall (about 6.45 million ha of degraded land identified), MISHTI mangroves, 101 Ramsar sites and 3.5 billion+ saplings under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.

India's First PRAMAAN Certificates Issued Under Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme

29 Sep

- The first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) went to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) for 33,000 hectares of plantations and to Govind Mohapatra, a farmer linked to the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency; Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav presented them in New Delhi.
- PRAMAAN stands for Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of sustainable Management practices for Agroforestry And Natural forestry resources. It is the brand of the IFWCS, which MoEFCC launched in December 2023 and which IIFM Bhopal operates.
- Certification rests on independent audit by bodies accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) of the Quality Council of India; forest management certification is assessed against the Indian Forest Management Standard in the National Working Plan Code 2023.
- The scheme is pitched as India's answer to deforestation-free sourcing rules in export markets, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation.

Cabinet Approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-III: 135 GW Evacuation, 50 GWh Battery Storage

30 Sep

- The Union Cabinet approved Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) on 30 September 2026 to strengthen intra-state transmission for evacuating up to 135 GW of renewable energy.
- GEC-III also funds 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems; total outlay is Rs 1,86,405 crore with Central Financial Support of Rs 54,082 crore, to be set up by FY 2032-33.
- Greenfield lines will be bid out under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (BOOM model); State Transmission Utilities are the implementing agencies.
- The scheme is linked to India's target of 900 GW installed non-fossil capacity by 2035.

National Coastal Mission 2.0 Guidelines Launched: Rs 767 Crore Scheme Till 2030-31

30 Sep

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the implementation Guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0) in New Delhi on 30 September 2026.
- NCM 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of Rs 767 crore, running to 2030-31 across nine coastal States and four Union Territories.
- It subsumes the earlier National Coastal Mission (2021-22 to 2025-26) with effect from 16 May 2025.
- Largest component: Rs 250 crore for green coastal infrastructure on eroding coasts and for coastal zone and marine spatial plans covering about 1,000 km.
- A Project Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary, MoEFCC is the apex body; the Central Pollution Control Board is the Central Nodal Agency for funds.

NCM 2.0: WHERE THE RS 767 CRORE GOES

Component	Outlay (Rs crore)	Indicative implementing agency
1. Climate Resilient Blue Economy Growth (Rs 320 crore)		
Climate-resilient, environment-friendly coastal tourism infrastructure	100	NCSCM / State-UT governments
Pollution abatement, monitoring and control (deep sea discharge studies)	70	CPCB
Coral reef development and management	50	Zoological Survey of India with NCSCM
Marine Research, Conservation & Information Centre cum Oceanarium, Somnath (gap funding)	100	MoEFCC / Government of Gujarat / GEER Foundation
2. Coastal Vulnerability and Risk Reduction (Rs 250 crore)		
Green Coastal Infrastructure for highly eroding coastlines: criteria, guidelines, demonstration projects	250 (with the row below)	NCSCM
ICZMP and CMSP for about 1,000 km of coastline	Included above	NCSCM
3. Climate Change Adaptation with Mitigation Co-benefits (Rs 82 crore)		
Andaman & Nicobar Islands: biosphere management and climate action	62	A&N Forest and Environment Department
Conservation of coastal (sea water) dolphins	20	MoEFCC Wildlife Division / Wildlife Institute of India
4. Capacity Building and Outreach (Rs 15 crore)		
Environmental education, capacity building and awareness	15	MoEFCC
5. Project Management and Preparatory Expenses (Rs 100 crore)		
Committed liability from ENCORE (Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency)	70	NCSCM / MoEFCC
Administrative and operational expenses including MIS	30	MoEFCC / NCSCM or other agency

Source: NCM 2.0 Implementation Guidelines, MoEFCC, September 2026. Figures are indicative; the Project Steering Committee may reapportion within Rs 767 crore with the Minister's approval.

New CAFE Norms Notified for 2027-32: Fuel Benchmark to Tighten 16.7% in Five Years

30 Sep

- The Ministry of Power notified new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) norms for passenger vehicles on 30 September 2026, in force from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032.
- The fuel-consumption benchmark tightens every year, from 3.996 litres/100 km in 2027-28 to 3.3273 litres/100 km in 2031-32 — about 16.7%.
- The reference weight rises from 1,082 kg to 1,229 kg and the target line is flattened: softer for lighter cars, stricter for heavier ones.

- A new Carbon Neutrality Factor credits ethanol blends, biofuels and CBG; recognised fuel-saving technologies go from four to twelve; EVs, hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles earn super credits.
- Manufacturers selling fewer than 1,000 units a year stay exempt; credits can be carried forward, traded, or bought from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

12. Banking & Finance

5 articles

India Post Payments Bank Turns Nine; Launches DakPay Sound Box and Digital Platforms

01 Sep

- India Post Payments Bank marked its 9th Foundation Day on 1 September 2026 and launched the DakPay Sound Box for merchants, a Digital Insurance Technology Platform and a Digital Mutual Fund Platform.
- As on 31 March 2026 the bank had 13.25 crore customers - 77% rural and 49% women - with deposits of Rs 29,104 crore.
- It recorded Rs 21.61 lakh crore of digital financial transactions, including Rs 7.41 lakh crore of UPI remittances, and served 6.5 crore DBT beneficiaries receiving about Rs 1.55 lakh crore.
- AePS transactions numbered 12.06 crore, disbursing Rs 36,140 crore; 29.43 lakh Digital Life Certificates were issued to pensioners.
- IPPB was launched on 1 September 2018 under the Department of Posts with 100% Government of India equity, operating through about 1,65,000 post offices, of which about 1,40,000 are rural.

Global Fintech Fest 2026 opens in Mumbai on agentic AI, tokenisation and quantum

08 Sep

- The 7th Global Fintech Fest is being held in Mumbai from 8 to 11 September 2026 and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 8 September.
- Its theme is 'Potential to Impact: Agentic AI | Tokenisation | Quantum — Trusted, Connected, Global Systems for Inclusive Finance'.
- The principal organisers are the Payments Council of India, the National Payments Corporation of India and the Fintech Convergence Council, with support from MeitY, the Department of Financial Services, the MEA's NEST Division, NITI Aayog, RBI, SEBI, IFSCA and PFRDA.
- UPI processed 2,365.8 crore transactions worth Rs 29.88 lakh crore in July 2026 and 24,509 million transactions in August 2026; it handles nearly half of global real-time digital transaction volume and is live in 11 countries.
- The Prime Minister set a four-point agenda for the sector: top-grade cybersecurity, ethical data protection standards, a regulator-industry innovation ecosystem, and a fintech consumer protection index.

Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 Takes Effect on 1 October, Replacing the 1891 Law

11 Sep

- The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 will come into force on 1 October 2026, appointed by a Gazette notification dated 10 September 2026.
- It received the President's assent on 13 August 2026 and replaces the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891.

- The new Act is technology-neutral: it recognises banking records kept in physical, electronic, digital, virtual, cloud-based and other contemporary forms.
- Certification of banking records is simplified and standardised, and may be done through manual, digital or electronic signatures.
- A court must record a 'special cause' in writing before summoning a bank official where the bank is not a party to the proceedings.

New UPI Framework: MDR of 0.4% Only on Merchant Payments Above Rs 2,000

15 Sep

- A new UPI framework applies a Merchant Discount Rate only to specified person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000; all person-to-person UPI transactions stay free irrespective of amount.
- The Ministry of Finance says about 96% of merchant transactions remain unaffected, because they are either below Rs 2,000 or covered by the zero-MDR framework for small merchants.
- The headline rate is 0.4% on P2M transactions above Rs 2,000, capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above; essential thin-margin sectors pay a flat Rs 5 and capital market payments 0.02%.
- MDR is neither a tax nor a charge collected by the Government or NPCI — it is shared among banks, payment service providers and UPI app providers.
- The framework was introduced under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 after deliberations by the UPI Steering Committee, and 5% of MDR collections will fund UPI adoption among small merchants.

CGTMSE Credit Guarantee Goes Live on TReDS: 75% Cover on MSE Invoice Discounting

25 Sep

- CGTMSE credit guarantee cover is now available on three TReDS platforms, M1xchange, RXIL and DTX (KredX), under a Special Provision announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- Both buyer and seller must be Micro or Small Enterprises. The guarantee covers 75% of the amount in default.
- Maximum exposure is Rs 10 crore for an MSE buyer and Rs 2 crore for an MSE seller, on a revolving basis.
- Invoice discounting on TReDS grew from Rs 40,000 crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs 3.5 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

13. Economy

9 articles

EPF Scheme 2026 opens six-month amnesty to regularise exempt status of provident fund trusts

02 Sep

- The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme 2026, notified on 29 June 2026, introduces Amnesty provisions as a transitional measure — a one-time opportunity for provident fund trusts to regularise their exemption status.
- The window targets PF trusts recognised under the Income Tax Act, 1961 that do not hold a formal exemption order under section 17 of the EPF & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 or section 143 of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- The amnesty runs for six months from notification, up to 28 December 2026; operational guidelines were issued in an EPFO circular dated 11 July 2026.

- Besides retrospective regularisation of exempt status, applicants get a waiver of certain Code on Social Security requirements — minimum employee headcount, corpus size and the three-year compliance rule — and may afterwards choose to operate as either an exempt or an unexempt establishment.
- EPFO has approached the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to reach auditors who can identify eligible trusts, and has asked the Income Tax Department to cross-check EPF coverage and exemption status before granting or continuing recognition of PF trusts.

Japan Credit Rating Agency upgrades India to 'A-' with stable outlook; country ceiling raised to 'A'

02 Sep

- Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) has upgraded India's Long-Term Foreign Currency and Local Currency Issuer Ratings by one notch, from 'BBB+' to 'A-', while retaining a Stable Outlook.
- JCR has simultaneously raised India's country ceiling by one notch, to 'A'.
- The agency cited sustained high growth, the effectiveness of economic policies, better quality of fiscal spending with a capital expenditure tilt, a sounder financial system and a resilient external position.
- Fiscal and growth figures cited: real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in FY26 and 7.8 per cent in Q1 of FY27 per MoSPI, and the Centre's fiscal deficit falling from 4.7 per cent in FY25 to 4.4 per cent in FY26.
- This follows a run of upgrades over the past year: Morningstar DBRS in May 2025, S&P Global Ratings in August 2025 and Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I), Japan, in September 2025.

Cabinet Enhances EPFO Wage Ceiling to Rs 25,000, Widening Mandatory Social Security Cover

16 Sep

- The Union Cabinet approved raising the wage ceiling for mandatory EPFO coverage from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 a month, on a proposal of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- More than 51 lakh additional employees are expected to come within mandatory provident fund, pension and insurance cover.
- The revision takes effect on 17 September 2026; the ceiling had last been raised in September 2014 and stayed unchanged through 2004-2014.
- Annual government outgo is estimated at about Rs 11,339 crore against existing budgetary support of about Rs 10,250 crore, or roughly Rs 56,696 crore over five years.

NHAI Puts 'OneTag' FASTag Portability on the Rajmargyatra App

17 Sep

- 'OneTag', a FASTag portability service, is now available on NHAI's Rajmargyatra app, letting users change their FASTag issuer bank without replacing the physical tag on the vehicle.
- The FASTag ID linked to the vehicle registration number stays unchanged after porting; the old issuer closes the wallet and refunds the balance after applicable adjustments.
- An interoperable FASTag carries a six-month cooling period before it can be ported again.

Customs Duty on Crude Edible Oils Cut: Sunflower to Nil, Soybean and Palm to 5%

24 Sep

- The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude sunflower oil was cut from 10% to nil, and on crude soybean oil and crude palm oil from 10% to 5%, announced on 24 September 2026.

- BCD on the corresponding refined oils was also lowered, but the 19.25% import-duty gap between crude and refined edible oils was kept to protect domestic refiners.
- The aim is to lower landed costs after a sharp rise in international edible oil prices and to contain food inflation.
- Industry was advised to cut its Price to Distributors (PTD) and Maximum Retail Price (MRP) at once so that consumers get the benefit.

Make in India at 12: Official Figures on Electronics, Defence, PLI and New Manufacturing Schemes

24 Sep

- Make in India, launched on 25 September 2014, completes 12 years. It now covers 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0: 15 in manufacturing and 12 in services.
- Electronics production grew nearly sevenfold, from about Rs 1.9 lakh crore (2014-15) to Rs 13.11 lakh crore (2025-26). Mobile-phone output grew about 32-fold.
- Indigenous defence production reached a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26, up from Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15.
- PLI schemes in 14 sectors had drawn Rs 2.6 lakh crore of investment and created 14.6 lakh jobs as of June 2026. Cumulative FDI for 2014-15 to 2025-26 was USD 843 billion.
- New schemes: Semicon 2.0 (Rs 1,27,500 crore), Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (Rs 62,500 crore), BHAVYA (Rs 33,660 crore, 100 industrial parks) and the rare-earth magnet scheme (Rs 7,280 crore).

World Tourism Day 2026: Tourism Is 5.22% of India's GDP, 428.55 Crore Domestic Visits in 2025

26 Sep

- World Tourism Day is observed on 27 September; the 2026 theme is "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism", with El Salvador hosting the official celebrations.
- A PIB backgrounder put tourism's share of India's GDP at 5.22% and its employment at 8.46 crore jobs in 2023-24, up from 6.94 crore in 2019-20.
- Domestic Tourist Visits reached 428.55 crore and Foreign Tourist Visits 2.53 crore in 2025; foreign exchange earnings from tourism rose to Rs 2,76,831 crore.
- India's own celebration at Bharat Mandapam is to launch a National Digital Tourism Stack and Dekho Apna Desh 2.0.

Rabi MSP for 2027-28: Safflower Gets Highest Rise of Rs 675, Wheat Rs 2,610

30 Sep

- The CCEA on 30 September 2026 fixed MSPs for all six mandated Rabi crops for Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28; wheat MSP is Rs 2,610 per quintal (up Rs 25).
- Safflower got the highest absolute increase (Rs 675 to Rs 7,215), followed by rapeseed & mustard (Rs 413) and lentil (Rs 390).
- Margin over cost is highest for wheat (106%) and lowest for safflower (50%), meeting the 2018-19 Budget norm of at least 1.5 times cost.
- Wheat procurement in 2014-15 to 2025-26 totalled 3,715 LMT against 2,254 LMT in 2004-05 to 2013-14.

MSP FOR RABI CROPS, RMS 2027-28 (RS PER QUINTAL)

Crop	MSP 2027-28	Cost of production 2027-28	Margin over cost (%)	MSP 2026-27	Increase
Wheat	2,610	1,264	106	2,585	25
Barley	2,286	1,447	58	2,150	136
Gram	5,958	3,751	59	5,875	83
Lentil (Masur)	7,390	3,854	92	7,000	390

Crop	MSP 2027-28	Cost of production 2027-28	Margin over cost (%)	MSP 2026-27	Increase
Rapeseed & Mustard	6,613	3,367	96	6,200	413
Safflower	7,215	4,810	50	6,540	675

Source: CCEA release, 30 September 2026. Cost includes all paid-out costs plus imputed value of family labour (A2+FL).

ASI 2024-25: Factory GVA Up 9.59%, Jobs Cross 2 Crore; Tamil Nadu Has Most Factories

30 Sep

- The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024-25, released by MoSPI on 30 September 2026, shows Tamil Nadu with the most factories (41,221) and the largest share of factory employment (14.99%), while Maharashtra leads in Gross Value Added (15.92%).
- GVA of the registered manufacturing sector rose 9.59% to Rs 26.94 lakh crore; industrial output rose 7.81%.
- Total persons engaged grew 7.19%, from 1.96 crore to 2.10 crore — more than 14 lakh added — and emoluments grew 12.08%.
- Establishments rose 2.64% to 2.67 lakh; fixed capital grew 10.54% and invested capital 11.10%.
- Basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and food products together gave more than 45% of manufacturing GVA.

TOP FIVE STATES

State	ASI 2023-24	ASI 2024-25
Share of GVA		
Maharashtra	15.95	15.92
Gujarat	14.20	14.10
Tamil Nadu	10.26	10.90
Karnataka	7.47	7.31
Uttar Pradesh	6.80	6.64
Share of total persons engaged		
Tamil Nadu	15.24	14.99
Maharashtra	12.95	13.08
Gujarat	13.07	12.99
Uttar Pradesh	8.30	8.72
Haryana	6.08	6.44

Source: MoSPI press note on ASI 2024-25, Tables 1 and 2.

FIVE-YEAR TREND

Indicator	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Factories (number)	2,50,454	2,49,987	2,53,334	2,60,061	2,66,931
Total persons engaged (crore)	1.61	1.72	1.85	1.96	2.10
GVA (Rs lakh crore)	16.17	20.48	21.97	24.58	26.94
Output (Rs lakh crore)	88.09	119.27	144.87	153.27	165.24
Fixed capital (Rs lakh crore)	36.94	37.26	41.22	46.24	51.12
Net profit (Rs lakh crore)	6.14	9.51	9.76	10.73	11.56

Source: MoSPI press note on ASI 2024-25, Table 3. Value figures converted from Rs lakh and rounded to two decimals.

14. National

7 articles

Goa Police receives President's Colour; AI call agent added to 1930 cyber helpline

07 Sep

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to the Goa Police at Panaji on 7 September 2026.
- Goa Police has introduced an AI-based call agent for the 1930 cyber-fraud helpline that accepts complaints in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Its conviction rate rose from 23 per cent to 53 per cent in a year, and 112 response time fell from 18 minutes to 8 minutes.

DRI seizes 362 tonnes of Pakistan-origin dry dates routed through UAE

14 Sep

- The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized more than 362 metric tonnes of Pakistan-origin dry dates under Operation Deep Manifest.
- Thirteen containers were intercepted at a Container Freight Station at Ambad, Nashik, with documents declaring the UAE as the country of origin.
- The goods had actually moved from Karachi to Jebel Ali, where they were transferred into different containers and a different vessel before shipment to India.
- India has prohibited the direct or indirect import or transit of all Pakistan-origin goods since 2 May 2025.

Ayush Economy at USD 43.4 Billion as India Marks 11th Ayurveda Day

14 Sep

- India marks the 11th Ayurveda Day on 23 September 2026 with the theme 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow'.
- The Ayush market grew from USD 2.85 billion in 2014 to USD 43.4 billion in 2023, with exports rising from USD 1.09 billion to USD 2.16 billion.
- The first exclusive All-India Survey on Ayush found Ayush awareness at 94.8 per cent in rural and 96 per cent in urban areas.
- NITI Aayog released a 'Strategic Roadmap for Making Ayurveda Global' in July 2026, looking ahead to 2047.

MHA Declares Shahzad Bhatti Network a Terrorist Organisation Under UAPA

16 Sep

- The Ministry of Home Affairs declared the Shahzad Bhatti Network a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, announced by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on 16 September 2026.
- The Home Minister said the group smuggles arms, explosives and narcotics across borders and draws youths and petty criminals into terrorism.
- The syndicate was also accused of publishing hateful digital content aimed at India's democratic structure and communal harmony.
- The network was inserted at serial number 46 of the First Schedule of the UAPA, which carries the list of designated terrorist organisations.
- Designation is made by the Central Government under Section 35 of the UAPA by notification in the Official Gazette, without any prior charge, trial or conviction.

PBSHABD: Prasar Bharati's Free News Feed Reaches 3,600 Media Organisations

24 Sep

- PBSHABD (Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination) is Prasar Bharati's free news feed. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting launched it on 13 March 2024.
- It serves 3,600 registered media organisations with text, video, audio, photos and infographics in 15 Indian languages. Access is free up to March 2027.
- It grew out of the Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS), which until 2024 was an internal wire for Akashvani and Doordarshan.

India's First LNG-Powered Train Flagged Off from Sabarmati; WAG-12 Shed and Kavach Section Opened

27 Sep

- India's first LNG-powered train was flagged off from Sabarmati Railway Station, Ahmedabad, on 27 September 2026, alongside railway projects worth Rs 1,472 crore.
- A WAG-12 locomotive maintenance shed built for Rs 700 crore was opened, and Kavach went live on the Sabarmati-Kalol-Sabarmati section (Rs 48 crore); Kavach work began on Ahmedabad-Palanpur and Ahmedabad-Samakhiali.
- Railway electrification now stands at 99.6% of the network, and diesel use fell from 293 crore litres (2015-16) to 108 crore litres (2024-25).
- A trial of the first long-haul double-stack container train from JNPT (Mumbai) to Vadodara was reported completed.

Amit Shah launches Extradition Portal at PRAHAAR counter-terrorism strategy conference

28 Sep

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a new Extradition Portal on 28 September 2026 to speed up bringing back fugitives from abroad.
- He launched it at the 'PRAHAAR – CT Policy and Strategy' conference in New Delhi, which reviewed the seven pillars of India's national counter-terrorism policy.
- 288 fugitives were brought back to India from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026.
- Action against the Shahzad Bhatti Network: over 40 modules busted, over 100 FIRs and 350 arrests across 15 states. MHA has declared the network a terrorist organisation under UAPA.
- Next steps: a PRAHAAR mechanism for the next 10 years, reaching down to police-station level, and dedicated state police teams to track fugitives.

15. International

7 articles

26th SCO Summit at Bishkek Adopts Bishkek Declaration on Grouping's 25th Anniversary

01 Sep

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, held between 31 August and 1 September 2026 — the year the grouping completed 25 years.

- The summit adopted the Bishkek Declaration along with four MoUs and over twenty decisions and statements, covering climate, nuclear safety, energy conservation and combating drug addiction.
- Four India-led proposals found place in the Declaration: English as an official language in the SCO Charter, the Civilisation Dialogue Forum, a Young Scientists' Forum and a Young Authors' Conclave.
- India restated its three-pillar framing of the grouping — Security, Connectivity and Opportunity — pressed for no double standards on terrorism, and said connectivity efforts must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.
- India will host the first edition of the SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum later in 2026.

WHO South-East Asia Region adopts Dili Declaration; India wins two SEARO awards

08 Sep

- Health Ministers of the WHO South-East Asia Region adopted the Dili Declaration on Human Resources for Health: Equity in Specialized Care at the 79th Session of the Regional Committee (RC79) held in Timor-Leste.
- India told the ministerial roundtable that medical colleges have risen from 387 to 858 since 2014 (up 121.71%), MBBS seats from 51,348 to 1,42,464 (up 177.45%) and PG seats from 31,185 to 86,287 (up 176.69%).
- India received two WHO South-East Asia Regional awards — for sustaining elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus over a decade, and for leadership on noncommunicable diseases through primary healthcare.
- The Declaration commits member states to workforce planning, task-sharing, teleconsultation networks, palliative care integration and a regional network of health professional regulators.
- It recalls the 2023 Delhi Declaration on strengthening primary healthcare and is anchored in the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel.

9th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry held in New Delhi

09 Sep

- The 9th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry was held on 9 September 2026 in New Delhi, co-chaired by India's Union Agriculture Minister and the Philippines' Secretary of Agriculture.
- It was preceded by the 10th ASEAN-India Agriculture Working Group Meeting on 8 September 2026, with 45 delegates from 11 ASEAN Member States.
- Ministers welcomed 'ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future' and the ASEAN Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectoral Plan 2026-2030, and looked ahead to the ASEAN-India Medium-Term Plan of Action for Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry 2026-2030.
- The 'India-ASEAN Friendship Spike for Agriculture and Forestry' was unveiled as a symbol of the partnership.
- The 10th Ministerial Meeting will be convened in 2028.

India chairs BRICS in 2026; 18th Summit in New Delhi on 12-13 September

10 Sep

- India holds the BRICS Chairship for 2026, its fourth after 2012, 2016 and 2021, and hosts the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12-13 September 2026.
- The Chairship theme is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', with the Global South's priorities at its centre.
- BRICS now has 11 full members accounting for 49.5% of world population, 40% of global GDP and 26% of global trade.
- More than 350 meetings across 25 cities were held during India's Chairship, producing outcomes in agriculture, health, energy, MSMEs and logistics.

- A Partner Country category created alongside the 2024-25 expansion drew ten countries in 2025 without altering full membership.

India Co-Hosts OneSCD Sickle Cell Partnership Launch at UNGA81; Showcases UHC, Hepatitis Progress

24 Sep

- India co-hosted the launch of OneSCD, a global partnership to advance equity and transform Sickle Cell Disease care, on the sidelines of UNGA81 in New York. Partners include Nigeria, WHO, UNICEF, Africa CDC, the World Coalition on SCD and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- Under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023, goal: elimination by 2047), 7.29 crore people have been screened, over 20 lakh carriers and 2.5 lakh patients identified, and 4.93 crore Sickle Cell Cards distributed.
- Since the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme began in 2018, about 225 million people have been screened, with 1,039 treatment centres. The target is to eliminate Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030.
- At the 7th ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of UHC & Global Health, Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava cited 1.8 lakh+ Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, 900 million+ health IDs and 497 million+ e-Sanjeevani teleconsultations.

23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation in Manila Reviews AITIGA; Trade at USD 128.38 Billion

24 Sep

- India took part in the 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation and the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) in Manila, Philippines, where the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) review was the main agenda item.
- Official figure: India-ASEAN bilateral trade reached USD 128.38 billion in 2025-26, and ASEAN accounted for 10.55% of India's total global trade.
- India wants the AITIGA review to leave the agreement balanced, more effective, user-friendly and trade facilitative, and to address existing trade asymmetries.
- All 11 ASEAN members took part, including Timor-Leste, which was admitted as ASEAN's 11th member in October 2025. The EAS partners attended as well.

Second UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemics: India Presses for Fair Pathogen Benefit-Sharing

26 Sep

- The second UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response met in New York on 25 September 2026 and adopted a political declaration. The first was held in 2023.
- India, represented by Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, said the declaration must not prejudge the ongoing negotiations on the PABS annex of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. It should be implemented according to national circumstances.
- India asked for digital public infrastructure to be treated as a global public good. It cited its COVID-19 record: 300 million vaccine doses to about 100 countries and two UN entities, and medical help to more than 150 countries.

16. Polity & Governance

9 articles

Drug-free India roadmap for July 2026-July 2029 built on four pillars

06 Sep

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah, at a narcotics press conference in Panaji, announced a three-year roadmap from July 2026 to July 2029 for a drug-free India, run in mission mode with fixed timelines and quarterly outcome reviews.
- The roadmap rests on four pillars — intelligence and operation-based enforcement, precursor and synthetic drugs control, demand and harm reduction, and capacity building and coordination — with 25 components and over 200 action points.
- Seizures were placed at over 1.19 crore kg worth about Rs 1.89 lakh crore in 2014-2026, against 26 lakh kg worth about Rs 40,000 crore in 2004-2014.
- De-addiction centres are to be tripled to 1,751, and every state is to get a fully equipped Anti-Narcotics Task Force by March 2027 with 7 per cent central assistance.
- Enforcement is being aimed at the trafficking routes the Minister called the Death Triangle and Death Crescent, with financial investigation and PIT-NDPS action as the sharp end.

Ladakh Lt Governor given additional charge of Jammu and Kashmir

08 Sep

- The President appointed Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lt. Governor of Ladakh, to discharge the functions of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in addition to his own duties.
- The arrangement covers the period of leave of Shri Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Union Territories are administered by the President through an administrator appointed by him under Article 239, which is the source of this power.

E-Commerce Rules amended: dark-pattern audits, sponsored-listing labels from 1 January 2027

10 Sep

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020.
- Platforms must stop manipulating search results, label sponsored listings prominently, and show both the reduced and the prior price - the prior price being the lowest at which the item was offered in the preceding 30 days.
- Every e-commerce entity must join the National Consumer Helpline convergence process; the NCH received 17,71,622 grievances in 2025, of which 5,11,196 (about 29 per cent) concerned e-commerce.
- Compliance with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023 becomes mandatory, with a yearly self-audit and a prominently displayed compliance certificate.
- The amended Rules come into force on 1 January 2027.

TRAI repeals 2012 regulations capping television advertisement duration

10 Sep

- TRAI issued the Standards of Quality of Service (Duration of Advertisements in Television Channels) (Repealing) Regulations, 2026 (4 of 2026) on 10 September 2026, repealing its 2012 regulations along with all orders and directions issued under them.
- The 2012 regulations enforced a ceiling of twelve minutes of advertising in a clock hour, a quality-of-service measure mirroring rule 7(11) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting omitted that sub-rule by a Gazette notification of 21 August 2026, leaving TRAI's parallel regulation inconsistent with the parent rule.

Hindi Diwas 2026: 6th All India Official Language Conference held in Navi Mumbai

14 Sep

- Hindi Diwas 2026 was marked alongside the 6th All India Official Language Conference at Navi Mumbai, with the Union Home Minister as Chief Guest.
- The date commemorates the Constituent Assembly's decision of 14 September 1949 to adopt Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union.
- The Rajbhasha Kirti and Rajbhasha Gaurav Awards were conferred, with the Department of Financial Services taking a first prize and DARPG a special Rajbhasha Utkrishtata Sammaan.
- Language-technology initiatives were highlighted — Kanthasth 2.0 with over five crore sentences, the Hindi Shabd Sindhu dictionary and the Bharti translation tool.
- Thirteen volumes of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language's reports have been completed, four submitted to the President since 2019.

Ministry of Coal Gears Up for Special Campaign 6.0 with E-Waste Focus

14 Sep

- Special Campaign 6.0 for disposal of pending matters will run from 2 to 31 October 2026, with e-waste collection, segregation and disposal as its special theme.
- The Ministry of Coal reported its Campaign 5.0 record: over 1.13 crore sq ft cleared, 14,017 metric tonnes of scrap disposed and Rs 56.85 crore earned.
- DARPG rated the Ministry top performer in Space Freed and third in Revenue Earned among all Union Ministries and Departments in Campaign 5.0.
- Preparatory meetings for Campaign 6.0 were held on 1 September 2026 with nodal officers of CIL and its subsidiaries, NLCIL, SCCL, CCO and CMPFO.

Six States Sign Kishau Multipurpose Project Agreement on Tons River

15 Sep

- The Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana signed the Kishau Multipurpose Project agreement, in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil.
- A 232.6-metre-high concrete gravity dam will be built on the Tons River, which flows along the Uttarakhand-Himachal Pradesh border, with a storage capacity of 1,562 million cubic metres.
- The project has been declared a National Project: the Government of India will bear about 90% of the financial burden and the partner states the remaining 10%, in line with the 1994 basin agreement.
- It will irrigate 97,000 hectares and generate 1,476 million units of clean hydropower, with Delhi named the biggest beneficiary.
- The Government described it as the tenth inter-state water dispute settled since 2018, and said the agreement frees water for the Yamuna's environmental flow.

UIDAI Launches Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0 on 17th Aadhaar Day

29 Sep

- On the 17th Aadhaar Day (29 September 2026), UIDAI launched Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0, a Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) framework, a Token Management System and a revamped website at 'Aadhaar Samvaad' in Kolkata.
- Face Authentication for ePDS, built with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and NIC, gives ration beneficiaries a consent-based, contactless alternative where fingerprints fail.

- SWIK Portal 2.0 lets eligible non-government entities send proposals for Aadhaar authentication under the Good Governance framework directly to the concerned ministry.
- The LITE framework lets low-volume users authenticate through an existing AUA/KUA without building their own infrastructure.

UPSC Turns 100: From the 1926 Public Service Commission to Articles 315-323

30 Sep

- The Union Public Service Commission completes 100 years on 1 October 2026; India's first Public Service Commission was constituted on 1 October 1926 with Sir Ross Barker as Chairman. Its two-day centenary celebration, 'Manthan', opened at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 30 September 2026.
- Lineage: Government of India Act, 1919, then the Lee Commission (1924), the Public Service Commission (1926), the Federal Public Service Commission (1 April 1937) and the UPSC (26 January 1950).
- Part XIV, Articles 315-323 of the Constitution governs the Commission; Members are appointed by the President and can be removed for misbehaviour only after a Supreme Court inquiry.
- Chairman Dr Ajay Kumar set out three guiding principles (Trust, Transparency and Technology) and proposed a Centre of Excellence to work with State Public Service Commissions.
- Applications rose from 42,727 in 1950-51 to a peak of 45,10,044 in 2022-23; women were 299 of the 958 candidates recommended in the Civil Services Examination 2025 (31.2%).

THEN AND NOW

Indicator	Then	Now
Applications, all examinations and selections	42,727 (1950-51)	45,10,044 (2022-23, the peak)
Indians in the ICS	78 of 1,255 officers (1919)	625 Indians to 575 Europeans (1940), the first majority
Examination centres	8 (1950)	86 (2026)
Women recommended, Civil Services Examination	3 of 83 (1952)	299 of 958 (2025); 11 of the top 25 ranks
SC candidates recommended, CSE	9 (1955)	158 (2025)
ST candidates recommended, CSE	2 (1956-57)	73 (2025)
PwBD candidates recommended, CSE	3 (2002)	42 (2025)
Disciplinary cases advised on	53 (1950-51)	446 (2023-24)

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 30 September 2026 (PRID 2316840).