WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

22 Jun – 30 Jun 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

37 key articles · 14 categories · 9 days

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IN THIS ISSUE

Sports	1
Awards & Honours	1
Appointments	1
Important Days	1
Ranks & Reports	1
Summits & Conferences	1
Schemes & Committees	10
Defence	2
Science & Tech	2
Banking & Finance	1
Economy	5
National	4
International	2
Polity & Governance	5

HIGHLIGHTS

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 30 Jun | p. 8
PMKSY at 10: 24.61 Million Hectares Irrigation Potential, 110.92 Lakh Ha Under Micro-Irrigation

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 29 Jun | p. 8
Aarogya Setu 2.0, Unified Health Interface and Drug Registry Launched Under ABDM

SCIENCE & TECH — 26 Jun | p. 12
World's First Cu-Cl Nuclear Hydrogen Facility Opens at FBTR, IGCAR Kalpakkam

ECONOMY — 30 Jun | p. 13
Nine Years of GST: 1.65 Crore Taxpayers; GSTAT Appeal Deadline Extended to 31 July 2026

ECONOMY — 26 Jun | p. 13
MSME Sector Snapshot 2026: 31.1% of GDP, 8.7 Crore Udyam Registrations, CGTMSE Cover Doubled

NATIONAL — 29 Jun | p. 14
Rajasthan-Haryana Sign Yamuna Water Project Agreement: 580 MCM via Underground Pipelines

NATIONAL — 26 Jun | p. 14
Vision Document on Drug Control 2026-29 Released at 10th NCORD Apex Meeting

INTERNATIONAL — 28 Jun | p. 15
India-Seychelles: Extradition Treaty, Rs 1,250 Crore Credit Line, UPI MoU; Seychelles Joins CDRI

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	Sports	1 article	3
2	Awards & Honours	1 article	3
3	Appointments	1 article	6
4	Important Days	1 article	7
5	Ranks & Reports	1 article	7
6	Summits & Conferences	1 article	7
7	Schemes & Committees	10 articles	8
8	Defence	2 articles	11
9	Science & Tech	2 articles	12
10	Banking & Finance	1 article	12
11	Economy	5 articles	13
12	National	4 articles	14
13	International	2 articles	15
14	Polity & Governance	5 articles	16

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

1 article

India Wins Maiden AVC Men's Volleyball Cup Bronze as Host; FIVB Rank Rises to 42

29 Jun

- India won its first-ever medal at the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup — bronze in 2026, as first-time hosts — beating Bahrain 3-1 in the third-place match.
- The medal lifted India's men's team 18 places in the FIVB World Ranking, from 60th to 42nd.
- India were unbeaten in the pool stage; the team was captained by Jerome Vinith Charles and coached by Dragan Mihailovi of Serbia.
- Indonesia won the title (their first AVC Cup medal of any colour), beating South Korea in the final.
- Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the squad in Gandhinagar on 29 June 2026.

2. Awards & Honours

1 article

President Confers 105 Distinguished Service Medals at Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 Phase-II

29 Jun

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 105 distinguished service decorations — 7 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals, 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 12 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 56 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals — at Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-II), Rashtrapati Bhavan, 29 June 2026.
- Recipients came from the Army (62), Air Force (27), Navy (15) and Indian Coast Guard (1).
- SYSM recipients include Lt Gen Pratik Sharma (HQ Northern Command) and Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai (Integrated HQ of MoD, Army); Vice Admiral (now Admiral) Krishna Swaminathan received the PVSM.
- SYSM and UYSM (instituted 1980) reward distinguished service in war, conflict or hostilities; PVSM and AVSM (instituted 1960) reward peacetime distinguished service.

FULL LIST OF AWARDEES

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal (7)			
1	Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma	PVSM, AVSM, SM, The Madras Regiment, Headquarters Northern Command	Army
2	Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor	PVSM, AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
3	Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai	UYSM, AVSM, SM***, The Kumaon Regiment, Integrated Headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army)	Army
4	Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
5	Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh	PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retired)	Navy
6	Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari	PVSM, AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
7	Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra	AVSM, VSM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
Param Vishisht Seva Medal (30)			
1	Vice Admiral (Now Admiral) Krishna Swaminathan	AVSM, VSM	Navy

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
2	Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh	AVSM, YSM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
3	Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan	AVSM, NM	Navy
4	Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar	AVSM, NM	Navy
5	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	AVSM, VM, VSM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
6	Air Marshal Tejinder Singh	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
7	Air Marshal Seethepalli Shrinivas	AVSM, VSM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
8	Lieutenant General Viresh Pratap Singh Kaushik	UYSM, YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
9	Lieutenant General Michael Anthony Jude Fernandez	AVSM, VSM, The Corps of Engineers	Army
10	Lieutenant General Navneet Singh Sarna	AVSM, SM, Vsm The Regiment of Artillery	Army
11	Lieutenant General Rashim Bali	UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
12	Lieutenant General Manish Mohan Erry	UYSM, AVSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
13	Lieutenant General Harjeet Singh Sahi	UYSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
14	Lieutenant General Dheerendra Singh Kushwah	AVSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
15	Lieutenant General Sumer Ivan D'CUNHA	SM, The Army Air Defence	Army
16	Lieutenant General Prit Pal Singh	AVSM, The Armoured Corps	Army
17	Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin	AVSM, VSM	Navy
18	Vice Admiral Atul Anand	AVSM, VSM	Navy
19	Air Marshal Vijay Kumar Garg	AVSM, VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical) (Retired)	Air Force
20	Air Marshal Surat Singh	AVSM, VM, VSM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
21	Lieutenant General Arvind Walia	AVSM, The Corps of Engineers (Retired)	Army
22	Lieutenant General Rakesh Kapoor	AVSM, VSM, The Armoured Corps (Retired)	Army
23	Lieutenant General Gajendra Joshi	AVSM, SM, The Infantry (Retired)	Army
24	Lieutenant General Jagmohan Singh Sidana	AVSM, The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (Retired)	Army
25	Lieutenant General K Vinod Kumar	AVSM, The Corps of Signals (Retired)	Army
26	Air Marshal Sunil Kashinath Vidhate	AVSM, YSM, VM, Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
27	Major General Gurpreet Singh	AVSM, SM, VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
28	Major General Pankaj Malhotra	AVSM, SM, The Brigade of The Guards	Army
29	Major General Charnjit Singh Mann	AVSM, VSM, The Armoured Corps	Army
30	Major General Roopesh Mehta	SM, VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
Uttam Yudh Seva Medal (12)			
1	Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth	PVSM, AVSM, The Armoured Corps, Headquarters Southern Command	Army
2	Air Marshal Manish Khanna	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
3	Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava	AVSM, SM, The Parachute Regiment, Headquarters 15 Corps	Army
4	Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat	AVSM, VSM, The Garhwal Rifles, Headquarters 9 Corps	Army
5	Lieutenant General Abhijit S Pendharkar	AVSM, YSM, The Assam Regiment, Headquarters 3 Corps	Army
6	Lieutenant General Gambhir Singh	AVSM, YSM, The Garhwal Rifles, Headquarters 4 Corps	Army
7	Lieutenant General Prasanna Kishore Mishra	AVSM, YSM, SM, The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, Headquarters 16 Corps	Army
8	Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti	AVSM, VSM	Navy
9	Air Marshal Praveen Keshav Vohra	AVSM, VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
10	Air Commodore Ajay Kumar Chaudhary	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
11	Air Commodore Prabhat Malik	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
12	Group Captain Kamran Nazeer	Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (56)			
1	Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry	VSM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
2	Lieutenant General Neeraj Varshney	VSM, The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers	Army
3	Lieutenant General Vikas Rohella	SM**, The Corps of Engineers	Army
4	Lieutenant General Harbinder Singh Vandra	SM, The Corps of Signals	Army
5	Lieutenant General Mohinder Pal Singh	YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
6	Lieutenant General Ranjeet Singh	The Regiment of Artillery	Army
7	Lieutenant General Ajay Kumar	VSM, The Infantry	Army
8	Lieutenant General Shamsher Singh Virk	SM, The Infantry	Army
9	Lieutenant General Aditya Vikram Singh Rathee	SM, VSM, The Brigade of The Guards	Army
10	Lieutenant General Harpal Singh	VSM, The Corps of Engineers	Army
11	Lieutenant General Chiyyarath Gopalan Muralidharan	The Army Medical Corps	Army
12	Lieutenant General Puneet Ahuja	SM, VSM, The Brigade of The Guards	Army
13	Vice Admiral Anand Y Sardesai	VSM	Navy
14	Vice Admiral Rajat Kapoor		Navy
15	Vice Admiral Srinivas Kudaravalli		Navy
16	Vice Admiral Susheel Menon	VSM	Navy
17	Vice Admiral Anil Jaggi		Navy
18	Surgeon Rear Admiral (Now Surgeon Vice Admiral) Vivek Hande	VSM	Navy
19	Air Marshal Mehtab Singh Deswal	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
20	Air Marshal Kondenkolangara Aboo Ahamed Sanjeeb	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical)	Air Force
21	Air Vice Marshal (Now Air Marshal) Settypalli Srinivasa Rao	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics)	Air Force
22	Additional Director General Donny Michael	PTM, TM	ICG
23	Surgeon Vice Admiral Kavita Sahai	SM, Vsm (Retired)	Navy
24	Major General Sudhir Kumar Sharma	SM**, VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
25	Major General Sujeet Shivaji Patil	VSM, The Infantry	Army
26	Major General Gurpreet Singh Choudhry	SM, VSM, The Army Air Defence	Army
27	Major General Ashish Shah	SM, The Armoured Corps	Army
28	Major General Amar Ramdasani	YSM, The Infantry	Army
29	Major General Vikas Choudhary	YSM, The Infantry	Army
30	Major General Tarun Agrawal	The Regiment of Artillery	Army
31	Major General Voodev Parida	VSM, The Regiment of Artillery	Army
32	Major General Sumit Mehta	VSM, The Armoured Corps	Army
33	Major General Vikrant Suresh Deshpande	The Infantry	Army
34	Major General Kuleshwar Singh Dhadwal	SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
35	Major General Vivek Narang	The Infantry	Army
36	Major General Paranvir Singh Punia	SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army

#	Rank and name	Existing awards / arm	Service
37	Major General Kolankara Mohan Nair	YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
38	Major General Arindam Saha	YSM, SM, The Infantry	Army
39	Major General Mahipal Singh Rathore	SM, VSM, The Infantry	Army
40	Major General Awinder Pal Singh Bal	SM, The Infantry	Army
41	Major General Dhananjay Joshi	VSM, The Infantry	Army
42	Major General Mandeep Singh	SM, The Infantry	Army
43	Rear Admiral Nirbhay Bapna	VSM	Navy
44	Air Vice Marshal Kaushik Chatterjee	Medical	Air Force
45	Air Vice Marshal Sanjeev Vashishth	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
46	Air Vice Marshal Vadapalli Ravi Satyanarayan Raju	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical)	Air Force
47	Air Vice Marshal Sanjeev Kumar Taliyan	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
48	Air Vice Marshal Manmeet Singh	Administration/Fighter Controller	Air Force
49	Air Vice Marshal Manu Midha	VM, Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
50	Major General Rajesh Arun Moghe	VSM, The Mechanised Infantry (Retired)	Army
51	Major General Sandeep Kumar	VSM, The Judge Advocate General Department(Retired)	Army
52	Major General Parag Anant Deshmukh	The Army Medical Corps (Retired)	Army
53	Air Vice Marshal Satish Kumar Mathur	Flying (Pilot) (Retired)	Air Force
54	Air Vice Marshal Nand Kumar Nair	VSM, Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics) (Retired)	Air Force
55	Brigadier Pawan Dhull	VSM, The Army Medical Corps	Army
56	Subedar H Hokato Sema	9 Assam	Army

Source: PIB release PRID 2279074 (Ministry of Defence), 29 June 2026. Grouped by medal, highest first; the release lists the AVSM first, in order of presentation. Service numbers omitted.

3. Appointments

1 article

General Dhiraj Seth Takes Over as 31st Chief of the Army Staff, Succeeds Gen Upendra Dwivedi

30 Jun

- General Dhiraj Seth took over as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on 30 June 2026, succeeding General Upendra Dwivedi, who superannuated.
- An NDA Khadakwasla alumnus commissioned into the Armoured Corps (2nd Lancers) in December 1986, he is the first Armoured Corps officer to head the Army since General Shankar Roy Chowdhury, who retired in 1997.
- He is among the few officers to have commanded two Army Commands — South Western and Southern — and earlier led the Sudarshan Chakra Corps; he was Vice Chief of the Army Staff before elevation.
- General Dwivedi's tenure (30 June 2024 to 30 June 2026) covered Operation Sindoor and the raising of new structures such as Rudra brigades, Bhairav battalions and Shaktibaan regiments.

4. Important Days

1 article

12th International Day of Yoga: 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing' Draws 3.07 Crore on Yoga Sangam Portal

23 Jun

- The 12th International Day of Yoga (21 June 2026) was observed on the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing'; the main national event, led by PM Narendra Modi, was at Red Road, Kolkata, with 35,000 participants.
- The Yoga Sangam portal, developed by Ayush Grid, recorded over 3.07 crore participants across 36 States/UTs and 780 districts, and registrations from more than 7.64 lakh organisations.
- MDNIY and the National Ayush Mission ran a 'Gangotri to Gangasagar' campaign of Common Yoga Protocol sessions along about 2,525 km of the Ganga.
- The Ministry of Ayush set a Guinness World Record on 14 June 2026 for the most viewers of a YouTube Live yoga stream (4,35,831).

5. Ranks & Reports

1 article

MoSPI Releases SDG-NIF Progress Report 2026 on 20th Statistics Day

29 Jun

- MoSPI released the Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework (SDG-NIF) Progress Report 2026 on 29 June 2026, the 20th Statistics Day; the NIF 2026 tracks 277 national indicators across all 17 SDGs.
- The theme of the 20th Statistics Day was 'Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data'; Statistics Day marks the birth anniversary of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis (born 29 June 1893).
- Headline gains in the report: social protection coverage 22.0% (2016) to 65.3% (2026); MMR 122 (2015-17) to 87 (2022-24); sex ratio at birth 896 to 918.
- A new thematic bulletin, 'Transforming Lives', covers the 'People' pillar of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs 1-5); MoSPI's Vision Document 2026-2031 was also released.
- Prof. Arup Bose (ISI Kolkata, retd.) received the Sukhatme National Award in Statistics 2026.

6. Summits & Conferences

1 article

11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram launches Digital CoE for Smart Grids and Storage

25 Jun

- India hosted the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram on 25 June 2026 under its BRICS Chairship; it adopted a Joint Communiqué and launched the BRICS Digital Centre of Excellence for Smart Grids and Energy Storage.
- The Energy Track theme was ' (Energy for All)', with three priorities: security and sustainability, access and equity, and technology and innovation.
- BRICS Guiding Principles on Smart Grids and Energy Storage were adopted and the ERCP's updated Terms of Reference endorsed; China holds the Chairship in 2027.

7. Schemes & Committees

10 articles

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

30 Jun

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

198th ESIC Meeting: ABVKY Extended to June 2027, ESIC to Run All New Hospitals

30 Jun

- ESIC extended the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana (ABVKY), its unemployment allowance for Insured Persons, for one more year: 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
- At its 198th meeting, chaired by Labour Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, ESIC decided that all upcoming and newly commissioned ESI hospitals will be managed directly by ESIC.
- It approved an MoU with the Ministry of Ayush to bring Ayush services into ESIC healthcare, and Occupational Disease Centres at five locations.
- It also approved the ESI (General) Regulations, 2026 under the Code on Social Security, 2020, and five new Sub-Regional Offices.

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

29 Jun

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

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

29 Jun

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

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

29 Jun

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

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

29 Jun

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

Kisan Sarathi Agro-Advisory Platform Reaches 2.95 Crore Farmers, 610 Schemes

29 Jun

- Kisan Sarathi, a digital agro-advisory platform launched on 16 July 2021 (ICAR's 93rd Foundation Day), is a joint initiative of MeitY and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, implemented by IASRI and the Digital India Corporation.
- As of 25 June 2026 it has 2.95 crore registered farmers (56.16 lakh women), covers 768 districts in 36 States/UTs and lists 610 schemes, 102 of them central.
- It runs on the Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS), linking farmers to 730+ KVKs, 100+ ICAR institutes and 65+ agricultural universities, in 13 regional languages.

DIKSHA Backgrounder: 2.25 Crore Registered Users, 135 Languages; Uttar Pradesh Leads State-wise

28 Jun

- DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), the Ministry of Education's 'One Nation, One Digital Platform' for school education, had 2.25 crore registered users as on 27 June 2026, according to a PIB Backgrounder.
- The platform supports 135 languages (128 Indian and 7 foreign), carries 7,687 Energised Textbooks and 3.67 lakh e-contents, and has recorded 18.77 crore course enrolments.
- Uttar Pradesh has the most registered users (26.80 lakh), followed by Gujarat (14.64 lakh) and Bihar (12.52 lakh).
- Launched in 2017 and run by NCERT with its constituent unit CIET, DIKSHA is a pillar of PM e-Vidya and hosts NISHTHA teacher training.

REGISTERED USERS BY STATE/UT

State / UT	Registered users
Uttar Pradesh	26.80 lakh
Gujarat	14.64 lakh
Bihar	12.52 lakh
Rajasthan	11.41 lakh
Maharashtra	10.86 lakh
Madhya Pradesh	10.35 lakh
Karnataka	9.69 lakh
Punjab	6.75 lakh
Odisha	6.02 lakh
Andhra Pradesh	5.91 lakh
Tamil Nadu	5.55 lakh
Haryana	5.20 lakh
West Bengal	4.93 lakh
Delhi	4.79 lakh
Chhattisgarh	4.55 lakh
Jharkhand	4.07 lakh
Assam	3.72 lakh
Telangana	3.51 lakh
Kerala	3.02 lakh
Jammu and Kashmir	2.97 lakh
Uttarakhand	2.85 lakh
Himachal Pradesh	2.07 lakh
Chandigarh	82,815
Meghalaya	64,612
Manipur	55,389
Andaman & Nicobar	53,379
Tripura	51,833
Arunachal Pradesh	45,389
Nagaland	40,707
Goa	36,424
Sikkim	27,220
Mizoram	27,170
Puducherry	22,897
Ladakh	14,197

State / UT	Registered users
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11,885
Lakshadweep	1,881

Source: PIB Backgrounder (PRID 2278569). Complete list as published; sorted by users.

MSME Day 2026: PMEGP 2.0 and Samadhaan 2.0 Portals Launched, Services in 22 Languages

27 Jun

- On International MSME Day (27 June 2026), the Ministry of MSME launched the PMEGP 2.0, Samadhaan 2.0, PMS 2.0 and MSME Global Mart 2.0 portals, plus MSME services in all 22 Scheduled languages.
- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan presided over the 'MSME Day 2026 – Udyami Bharat' event in New Delhi.
- NSIC was felicitated on its upgrade from a Schedule 'B' to a Schedule 'A' CPSE, notified on 26 February 2026.

NAFED Launches NAFEX.in e-Auction Portal, DRISHTI, ERP and NAFED Kalyan Scholarship

23 Jun

- Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched NAFED's e-auction portal NAFEX.in on 23 June 2026, alongside DRISHTI (pulses and oilseeds inventory), an ERP system and the NAFED Kalyan scholarship.
- NAFED serves over 74 lakh farmers with a Rs 30,000 crore turnover; its net profit rose from Rs 139 crore to Rs 405 crore and net worth from Rs 358 crore to Rs 2,050 crore.
- NAFED and NCCF are to buy pulses directly from farmers, with payment into bank accounts within 48 hours; 1% of NAFED's profit goes to scholarships for farmers' children.

8. Defence

2 articles

ICGS Akshay, Fourth Adamya-Class Fast Patrol Vessel, Commissioned into Coast Guard

27 Jun

- ICGS Akshay ('Indestructible'), the fourth of eight Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels, was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, on 27 June 2026.
- Designed and built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the 52-metre vessel will handle maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue and marine pollution response.
- The Adamya class is the first Coast Guard ship class with controllable pitch propeller (CPP) propulsion.

DRDO hands IAF Final Operational Clearance for indigenous Netra AEW&C system

25 Jun

- Netra Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) system received Final Operational Clearance (FOC); DRDO handed the certificate to the IAF in Bengaluru on 25 June 2026
- Initial Operational Clearance was given in 2017 — FOC certifies the finalised, fully capable configuration
- Netra is built by DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru, on the Brazilian Embraer EMB-145 jet
- The IAF cited its use during Operation Sindoor and the Balakot strikes

9. Science & Tech

2 articles

Digital India at 11: 12 Chip Projects Worth Rs 1.64 Lakh Crore, 45,000-GPU AI Compute

27 Jun

- Digital India, launched on 1 July 2015 by MeitY, completes 11 years: under the India Semiconductor Mission, 12 projects worth about Rs 1.64 lakh crore are approved — 1 silicon fab, 2 compound-semiconductor fabs and 9 packaging units.
- The IndiaAI Mission (Rs 10,371.92 crore, approved March 2024) has built a shared compute facility of over 45,000 GPUs; its AIKosh platform hosts 12,519 datasets and 307 AI models.
- Electronics is now India's third-largest export category; production rose from Rs 1.9 lakh crore (FY15) to about Rs 12 lakh crore (March 2026).
- The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 came into force on 1 May 2026, with the Online Gaming Authority of India constituted in April 2026.
- India's Global Innovation Index rank improved from 81 (2015) to 38 (2025).

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

26 Jun

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

10. Banking & Finance

1 article

PFC and REC Boards Approve Merger of REC into PFC; Loan Book to Exceed Rs 11 Lakh Crore

30 Jun

- The Boards of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Limited approved a Scheme of Merger under which REC merges into PFC, under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The merged power-sector lender will have an aggregate loan book of over Rs 11 lakh crore.
- REC shareholders will get 88 PFC shares for every 100 REC shares (both of Rs 10 face value), on a record date to be fixed later.
- The scheme needs shareholder, creditor, regulatory and government approvals, and the merged entity must remain a 'Government Company' with the Government of India retaining majority voting rights and control.

11. Economy

5 articles

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

30 Jun

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

First Commercial Export of GI-Tagged Rewa Sundarja Mango Shipped to UAE

27 Jun

- The first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Rewa Sundarja mangoes from Madhya Pradesh — one tonne — was shipped to the UAE on 26 June 2026, facilitated by APEDA.
- Rewa Sundarja got its GI tag on 31 January 2023, the first mango variety from Madhya Pradesh to do so.
- The exporter paid farmers Rs 150/kg against a local price of Rs 100-110/kg.

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

26 Jun

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

DPIIT Notifies Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026 to Ease BIS Sourcing Norms

25 Jun

- DPIIT notified the Transition Facilitation (Quality Control) Order, 2026, a risk-based alternative way to comply with Quality Control Orders.
- Domestic industry may now source inputs from BIS Scheme II licensees (self-declaration based) instead of only Scheme I (ISI Mark) licensees, subject to permission.
- Manufacturers with three continuous years of default-free QCO compliance also get the benefit.
- The move follows the 2025 review of QCOs by the Gauba committee and the rescinding of 14 chemical and polymer QCOs in November 2025.

NITI Aayog Trade Watch Quarterly (Q4 FY26): India's Trade Hits $1.84 Trillion; Pharma Thematic

23 Jun

- NITI Aayog's 8th Trade Watch Quarterly (Q4 FY26, Jan-Mar 2026) records India's goods and services trade up 5.4% to $1.84 trillion in FY26; India stayed the world's 8th-largest services exporter in 2025.
- FY26: exports grew 4.2% and imports 6.5%; services exports rose 9.0%, sustaining a strong services surplus, while merchandise exports moderated.
- The edition's theme is pharmaceuticals: India exported $35.8 billion of pharma and API products in 2025 against global demand of about $1.3 trillion.
- It flags weak presence in biologics and advanced therapies and dependence on imported API inputs, mainly from China.

12. National

4 articles

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

29 Jun

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

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

26 Jun

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

India's First 'Easy Connect' Hub-and-Spoke International Flight Launched from Varanasi

26 Jun

- India's first 'Easy Connect' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model left Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi on 25 June 2026. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu launched it.

- International passengers now clear check-in, immigration and customs at the spoke airport (Varanasi) before the domestic leg to a hub such as Delhi.
- The Hub-and-Spoke strategy aims to make India the aviation hub of choice for Indian passengers by 2030 and for the world by 2047.

AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 Launched to Screen International Arrivals for Ebola at Points of Entry

25 Jun

- AIR SUVIDHA 2.0, a contactless health self-declaration portal for international arrivals, was launched on 25 June 2026 by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DIAL with DGHS.
- It responds to WHO's 17 May 2026 declaration of the Bundibugyo virus disease outbreak in DR Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- Passengers declare 21-day travel and exposure history and symptoms up to 24 hours before arrival; data flows in real time to the Airport Health Officer, Bureau of Immigration, IDSP and state surveillance officers.
- There is no licensed vaccine or specific treatment for Bundibugyo virus; the Ervebo vaccine covers only the Zaire species.

13. International

2 articles

Modi Becomes First Indian PM to Attend Seychelles Independence Day, as 50th-Anniversary Guest of Honour

29 Jun

- PM Narendra Modi attended Seychelles' 50th Independence Day celebrations on 29 June 2026 as Guest of Honour, the first Indian Prime Minister to attend them.
- The day also marked 50 years of India-Seychelles diplomatic ties; Assam Rifles, Indian Navy personnel and a Navy band marched in the national parade.
- Indian Naval Ships Tarkash and Ikshak docked at Port Victoria; the invitation came from President Dr. Patrick Herminie.

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

28 Jun

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

THE NINE MOUS AND AGREEMENTS

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

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

14. Polity & Governance

5 articles

MHA Launches FCRA 2.0 Portal and e-OCI Card for Over 50 Lakh OCI Cardholders

30 Jun

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the FCRA 2.0 Portal and the e-OCI (Electronic Overseas Citizen of India) Card in New Delhi on 30 June 2026.
- FCRA 2.0 makes applications, renewals and annual returns under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act fully digital. It is hosted on the MeghRaj government cloud and incorporates the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026.
- The e-OCI Card moves the whole OCI process online and benefits more than 50 lakh OCI cardholders; the OCI booklet no longer has to be re-issued when a new passport is issued after age 20.
- About 14,500 FCRA organisations are active; the MHA receives 15,000-20,000 applications and about 17,000 annual returns a year.

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

26 Jun

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

DoT opens portal for service authorisations and licence migration under Telecom Act 2023

25 Jun

- Telecom authorisation and licence-migration rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 were notified on 23 June 2026; DoT began accepting applications on the Telecom eServices Portal
- Authorisation rules fall under Section 3(1)(a); migration of existing licences to authorisation terms falls under Section 3(6)
- The shift replaces the licence regime — including the Unified Licence of 2013 — with 'authorisations', built 'digital by design'
- DoT had suspended new Unified Licence, UL (VNO), standalone licence and registration applications from 10 November 2025 pending the new framework

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

25 Jun

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

Haj Policy 2027: 70:30 Quota Retained, Haj Inspector Ratio Tightened to 1:135

22 Jun

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs released Haj Policy 2027 on 22 June 2026, and Haj Committee of India applications opened the same day
- The Haj Committee:private split stays at 70:30 (1,22,518 and 52,507 seats); India's quota last year was 1,75,025
- The State Haj Inspector ratio tightens from 1:150 to 1:135 pilgrims, and Kolkata is added as a Short Haj Package embarkation point