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IN THIS ISSUE

Appointments	1
Ranks & Reports	3
Summits & Conferences	1
Schemes & Committees	9
Agreements & MoUs	1
Science & Tech	5
Environment	3
Economy	5
National	1
International	3
Polity & Governance	3

HIGHLIGHTS

RANKS & REPORTS — 07 Jul | p. 3
UDISE+ 2025-26: Secondary GER Rises to 71.7%, Teachers Cross 1.02 Crore

RANKS & REPORTS — 07 Jul | p. 4
PGI 2.0 for 2025-26: Chandigarh Sole Uttam-3, No State in Bottom Two Bands

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 06 Jul | p. 5
Ministry of Cooperation Turns Five: 50,000 e-PACS, Gomay Cooperative Launched, Sahakar CBS Unveiled

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 06 Jul | p. 5
ABDM Links 104 Crore Health Records to 93 Crore ABHA Accounts; Aarogya Setu 2.0 Relaunched

SCIENCE & TECH — 01 Jul | p. 8
India Approves First PinS Helicopter Approach; GAGAN Backs Satellite-Guided Landings

ECONOMY — 07 Jul | p. 10
Kamarajar Port Becomes Second Major Port with 18-Metre Draft, Can Handle Laden Capesize Ships

INTERNATIONAL — 07 Jul | p. 11
India-Indonesia State Visit: BrahMos Pact, IIM Bangalore Campus, ONDC-Based Network

INTERNATIONAL — 02 Jul | p. 12
16th India-Japan Annual Summit: Economic Security Declaration, 16 Outcomes on Takaichi's First Visit

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	Appointments	1 article	3
2	Ranks & Reports	3 articles	3
3	Summits & Conferences	1 article	4
4	Schemes & Committees	9 articles	5
5	Agreements & MoUs	1 article	7
6	Science & Tech	5 articles	7
7	Environment	3 articles	9
8	Economy	5 articles	10
9	National	1 article	11
10	International	3 articles	11
11	Polity & Governance	3 articles	12

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Appointments

1 article

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

01 Jul

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

2. Ranks & Reports

3 articles

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

07 Jul

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

FOUR-YEAR TREND IN KEY INDICATORS

Indicator	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
PTR — Foundational	11	10	10	10
PTR — Preparatory	14	13	13	12
PTR — Middle	18	18	17	17
PTR — Secondary	23	21	21	21
Dropout % — Preparatory	8.7	3.7	2.3	1.8
Dropout % — Middle	8.1	5.2	3.5	3.6
Dropout % — Secondary	13.8	10.9	8.2	7.0
Retention % — Middle	75.8	78.0	82.8	83.7
Retention % — Secondary	44.1	45.6	47.2	51.9
GER % — Middle	90.0	89.5	90.3	89.6
GER % — Secondary	67.6	66.5	68.5	71.7
Transition % — Middle to Secondary	86.7	83.3	86.6	88.3
Single-teacher schools	1,18,190	1,10,971	1,04,125	1,00,843
Zero-enrolment schools	10,294	12,954	7,993	5,663
Schools with internet %	49.7	53.9	63.5	67.4

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

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

07 Jul

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

2025-26 GRADE BANDS

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

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

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

02 Jul

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

3. Summits & Conferences

1 article

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

02 Jul

- The 29th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was held in Jaipur on 1-2 July 2026 and closed by adopting the Jaipur Declaration on e-Governance 2026.
- National Awards for e-Governance 2026 went to 17 initiatives: 10 Gold, 6 Silver and 1 Jury award across seven categories.
- Theme: 'Viksit Bharat 2047: AI-enabled, Data-driven and Secure Digital Governance'; organised by DARPG, MeitY and the Government of Rajasthan.
- BHASHINI launched a Rajasthan Language Model Training Hackathon for datasets in Marwari, Mewari, Dhundhari, Hadoti, Mewati and Bagri.

4. Schemes & Committees

9 articles

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

06 Jul

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

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

06 Jul

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

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

05 Jul

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

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

04 Jul

- PM Modi launched the Modified UDAN (Viksit UDAN) scheme from Jodhpur on 4 July 2026 — about Rs 29,000 crore (Cabinet figure Rs 28,840 crore) over ten years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.

- It funds 100 aerodromes from unserved airstrips (Rs 12,159 crore), 200 helipads (Rs 3,661 crore), O&M support for regional airports (Rs 2,577 crore) and continued Viability Gap Funding (Rs 10,043 crore).
- The scheme pushes indigenous platforms — HAL Dhruv helicopters and Dornier aircraft — for remote routes.
- Since October 2016, UDAN has operationalised 669 routes and connected 95 airports, heliports and water aerodromes, carrying over 1.66 crore passengers.
- AAI's new Rs 480 crore terminal at Jodhpur (20 lakh passengers a year, targeting 5-Star GRIHA) was inaugurated the same day.

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

04 Jul

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

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

04 Jul

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

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

02 Jul

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

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

01 Jul

- The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] Act, 2025 came into force across India on 1 July 2026, giving eligible rural households a statutory right to 125 days of wage employment a year.

- It replaces MGNREGA (2005), which guaranteed 100 days.
- Revised wage rates were notified the same day: no notified daily wage is below Rs 300, and the national average rose from Rs 298.8 to Rs 327.4 (over 10%).
- The Centre released an interim allocation of Rs 95,692.31 crore to States/UTs; the national launch was set for 2 July 2026 in Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh.

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

01 Jul

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

5. Agreements & MoUs

1 article

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

04 Jul

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

6. Science & Tech

5 articles

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

06 Jul

- On World Zoonoses Day (6 July 2026), the Health Ministry released a Learning Resource Package on 10 priority zoonotic diseases and e-learning modules under the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses.

- The 10 priority zoonoses: Anthrax, Brucellosis, Kyasanur Forest Disease, Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Nipah, Mpox, Rabies, Leptospirosis, Scrub Typhus and Zika.
- Draft chapters of a National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses, built on the One Health approach, went to a national multistakeholder consultation; States and UTs will draw up aligned State Action Plans.
- Surveillance is to run through IHIP 2.0 with more sentinel sites and stronger laboratory networks.

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

04 Jul

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

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

03 Jul

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

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

03 Jul

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

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

01 Jul

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

- GAGAN uses 15 reference stations, 2 master control centres, 3 uplink stations and 3 geostationary satellites (GSAT-8, GSAT-10, GSAT-15).

7. Environment

3 articles

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

07 Jul

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

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

07 Jul

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

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

02 Jul

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

8. Economy

5 articles

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

07 Jul

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

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

04 Jul

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

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

03 Jul

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

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

03 Jul

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

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

01 Jul

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

9. National

1 article

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

03 Jul

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

THE SEVEN PROPOSED CORRIDORS

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

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 3 July 2026.

10. International

3 articles

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

07 Jul

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

- 2026-27 declared the 'Tagore-Dewantara Year', marking the centenary of Tagore's 1927 visit to Indonesia; India will restore the Prambanan Temple Compounds.

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

05 Jul

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

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

02 Jul

- The 16th India-Japan Annual Summit was held in New Delhi during Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi's first official visit to India (1-3 July 2026) and produced 16 outcomes, headed by an India-Japan Joint Declaration on Economic Security Cooperation.
- 2027, the 75th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations, will be celebrated as the India-Japan Year of Shared Horizons.
- Memoranda of Cooperation covered biogas (1,000 plants through dairy cooperatives under the Cooperative Biogas for Growth Initiative), batteries, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, mineral exploration and the Next Generation Mobility Partnership.
- Defence: agreement in principle on the UNICORN naval radio antenna, the first India-Japan defence co-development project; the 4th 2+2 Ministerial Meeting is to be held in Tokyo by end-2026.
- Japan backed India's membership of the International Energy Agency and India's bid to host the 4th UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2030.

11. Polity & Governance

3 articles

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

04 Jul

- On 4 July 2026 the MHA designated 23 more individuals as terrorists under Section 35 of the UAPA, listing them in its Fourth Schedule — taking the total since the 2019 amendment from 57 to 80.
- Of the 23, 17 are Pakistani and 6 Indian nationals; all operate from Pakistan or Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- Nine are linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and fourteen to the Lashkar-e-Taiba network (LeT, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, their fronts).
- They are named in the Nagrota, Pathankot, Pampore and Sunjwan attacks, drone-dropped arms, infiltration and terror financing.

THE 23 DESIGNEES

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

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

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

03 Jul

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

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

03 Jul

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