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1. International

2 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.

QUICK FACTS

Visit	State Visit to Indonesia, 6-8 July 2026, at the invitation of President Prabowo Subianto; official talks at Istana Merdeka, Jakarta, on 7 July.
Previous leg	Prabowo was Chief Guest at India's 76th Republic Day (State Visit, 23-26 January 2025).
Outcome count	14 MoUs/agreements and 6 announcements.
Honour	Bintang Adipurna — Indonesia's highest civilian honour, instituted 1959; highest class of the Star of the Republic of Indonesia. Reported as Modi's 33rd international honour; he is the second Indian PM to receive it, after Jawaharlal Nehru.

- First Indian PM to address the Indonesian Parliament (Speaker of the House: Puan Maharani).
- Modi proposed a 'Ganga-Mahakam Vision' for ties; Viksit Bharat 2047 paired with 'Indonesia Emas 2045'.
- Indonesia backed India's BRICS Presidency 2026; Modi cited India's MAHASAGAR vision for the Indian Ocean.
- Indonesia intends to join India's International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

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.

QUICK FACTS

Edition	16th India-Japan Annual Summit; the 15th was held in Tokyo on 29-30 August 2025 with then PM Shigeru Ishiba.
Sanae Takaichi	Japan's first woman Prime Minister, in office since 21 October 2025; born in Nara Prefecture.
Nara	Japan's capital (Heijo-kyo) from 710; its temples, including Todai-ji with the bronze Great Buddha, are the UNESCO World Heritage site 'Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara' (1998).
Relationship upgrades	Global Partnership (2000), Strategic and Global Partnership (2006), Special Strategic and Global Partnership (September 2014, Modi-Abe summit in Tokyo). Annual summits held since 2006.
Three priority areas agreed	defence and security; economic partnership (economic security, energy resilience, technology, innovation); people-to-people exchanges.
Investment goal	10 trillion yen of Japanese private investment over ten years (set at the 15th Summit) and double the number of Japanese companies in India.
UN	both are G4 members backing each other for permanent UNSC seats; mutual support agreed for non-permanent seat bids for the 2028-29 and 2033-34 terms.

– Visitors between the two countries crossed 540,000 in 2025.

2. Economy

1 article

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.

QUICK FACTS

Benefits cited	larger ships, lower freight per tonne through economies of scale, and more bulk cargo capacity for EXIM trade.

- Kamarajar Port, formerly Ennore Port, lies on the Coromandel Coast about 18 km north of Chennai Port. It is India's 12th Major Port.
- Declared a Major Port under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 in March 1999, and incorporated as Ennore Port Limited under the Companies Act, 1956 in October 1999.
- It is the only corporatised Major Port. Chennai Port acquired the Centre's stake in March 2020, making KPL its subsidiary.
- New operational draft is 18.0 m. The port was the first Major Port with 18 m draft after Visakhapatnam.
- It can now handle fully laden Capesize vessels of up to 1,70,000 DWT.

3. Polity & Governance

1 article

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.

QUICK FACTS

Award period	16th Finance Commission, 2026-27 to 2030-31; chaired by Dr Arvind Panagariya.
Rural Local Body grants	Rs 4,35,236 crore, up about 84% on the 15th FC's comparable Rs 2,36,805 crore.
Per capita RLB allocation	Rs 176 (13th FC, 2010-15) to Rs 953 (16th FC), the highest so far.
15th FC period	Rs 2,82,632 crore released of Rs 2,97,555 crore allocated (about 95%), the highest release share by any FC for local bodies.

- Basic Grants Rs 3,48,188 crore = Tied Rs 1,74,094 crore + Untied Rs 1,74,094 crore.
- Tied grants are for sanitation, solid waste management and water management.
- Performance Grants Rs 87,048 crore, shared equally between RLB Performance Grants and State Performance Grants.
- Operational Guidelines for the grants are issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

4. Science & Tech

1 article

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).

QUICK FACTS

Type	Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) — corrects GPS and adds integrity alerts; it is not a separate constellation.
DGCA certification	en-route RNP 0.1 on 30 Dec 2013; approach with vertical guidance (APV-1) on 21 Apr 2015 — third SBAS in the world to reach APV-1 and the first serving the equatorial region.
27 June 2026	an IndiGo Airbus A320 flew an LPV approach using GAGAN at Maharana Pratap Airport, Udaipur, under DGCA supervision — India's first satellite-based approach by a commercial jet.
1 July 2026	first PinS instrument approach procedure approved at Undavalli Heliport, near Amaravati in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh; designed to DGCA rules and ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.
Minister of Civil Aviation	Ram Mohan Naidu.

- GAGAN = GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation; developed jointly by ISRO and the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- Fully operational since 2015; serves the Indian Flight Information Region.
- PinS allows Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) helicopter operations to heliports without conventional instrument landing infrastructure; uses include air ambulance, disaster relief, offshore, pilgrimage and regional connectivity.

5. Environment

1 article

PMO Reviews El Nino Preparedness: Contingency Plans for 262 Districts, ICAR SOP for KVKs

07 Jul

- IMD told a PMO review (7 July 2026) that a weak-to-moderate El Nino is expected in July-August 2026; the all-India monsoon deficit had narrowed to -12% by 7 July.
- District Agriculture Contingency Plans were updated for 262 vulnerable districts, and ICAR issued an SOP, 'Managing El Nino Risks in Indian Agriculture', for Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
- Saturation campaigns for PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Kisan Credit Card were started in vulnerable states; the Crop Weather Watch Group now meets weekly with the states.
- Works under VB-G RAM G, in force from 1 July 2026, had generated 1 crore person-days by the date of the review.

QUICK FACTS

IMD's caution	an El Nino year does not necessarily produce below-normal rainfall.

- Review chaired by Dr P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the PM, on 7 July 2026; more than 15 ministries/departments attended.
- Monsoon onset was delayed by about 10 days in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.
- The all-India rainfall deficit fell to -12% by 7 July 2026, after above-normal rain in the first week of July.
- July brings more than 30% of the monsoon season's rainfall, so it is the month to watch.
- Foodgrain output has held up in past deficient years because of climate-resilient varieties and technologies.
- Consumer Affairs reported adequate buffers of rice, wheat and pulses; Fertilizers reported sufficient stock and a likely opening balance for Rabi.

6. Schemes & Committees

5 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.

QUICK FACTS

Ministry of Cooperation	set up 6 July 2021; before that, cooperation was handled in the Ministry of Agriculture for 62 years. Minister: Amit Shah (also Home Minister).
Foundation Day 2026 venue	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; guiding motto 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi'.
Godowns	135 transferred, 85 dedicated, foundation stones for 47 more.
BBSSL tissue-culture facilities	bhoomi pujan at Barabanki (UP) and Jalgaon (Maharashtra); BBSSL-ICAR MoU on seed systems signed.
Cooperatives' share (per the Minister)	~20% of agricultural credit, 35% of fertiliser distribution, 31% of sugar production.
Announced next	a cooperative life insurance company and a Utility Aggregator Cooperative on the Bharat Taxi model.

- 50,000 PACS converted into e-PACS — their entire business now runs electronically, with e-audit.
- Gomay Cooperative Society Multi-State Limited — new national dairy circular-economy cooperative, launched 6 July 2026.
- Cooperative Milk Producers Organization Multi-State Limited inaugurated; NCD 3.0 and a geo-tag mobile app launched; model bye-laws for dairy cooperatives released.
- Over 152 major initiatives launched by the Ministry since 2021.

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).

QUICK FACTS

ABDM	launched 27 September 2021 by the PM; Cabinet outlay Rs 1,600 crore for five years (2021-22 to 2025-26); piloted first in six UTs.
Implementing agency	National Health Authority (NHA), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
ABHA	14-digit unique health identifier that links a person's records across hospitals, labs, insurers and national programmes, with consent.
Milestone path	100 crore records linked to 90 crore ABHA in May 2026, and 104 crore to 93 crore by July 2026.
Privacy by design	records stay with whoever created them; there is no central government server, and sharing is consent-based, revocable and time-bound.
eSushrut@Clinic (launched June 2026)	lightweight HMIS for small clinics, built by C-DAC; 2,200+ facilities onboarded.

- New apps must clear a sandbox and a security audit before connecting to ABDM.
- SAHI and BODH were launched on 17 February 2026 at the India AI Impact Summit, Bharat Mandapam.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Regional Connectivity Scheme – Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik); launched by PM at Jodhpur, 4 July 2026.
Nodal ministry	Ministry of Civil Aviation.
UDAN so far	669 routes, 95 airports/heliports/water aerodromes, 1.66 crore+ passengers.
Indigenous platforms promoted	HAL Dhruv (helicopter) and Dornier 228 (19-seat turboprop licence-built by HAL at Kanpur).
Jodhpur New Terminal Building	built by Airports Authority of India, Rs 480 crore, 23,342 sq m, 20 lakh passengers a year (old terminal ~4 lakh), 6 aerobridges.
Original UDAN fare cap	Rs 2,500 for a one-hour fixed-wing flight on at least 50% of seats.

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 25 March 2026: Rs 28,840 crore, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 (release rounds it to ~Rs 29,000 crore).
- Original UDAN launched 21 October 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016; first flight Shimla–Delhi, 27 April 2017.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Deciding body	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA); announced by Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi on 1 July 2026, PIB release 2 July 2026.

- Applies to rice under PMGKAY and Other Welfare Schemes; the first revision of PDS rice quality specifications in about 30 years.
- Pilot already run in Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Odisha, Telangana and Chhattisgarh; pilot rice will now be distributed.
- Broken rice to go into HDPE bags, cutting jute bag demand; its sale adds revenue and trims the food subsidy.
- Broken rice from milling is to be put to industrial uses.
- QR-code tagging of rice bags for supply-chain traceability and plugging leakages.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Full name	Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G).
Nodal ministry	Ministry of Rural Development.
Legislative path	introduced in Lok Sabha 16 Dec 2025; passed by both Houses 18 Dec 2025; Presidential assent 20 Dec 2025; in force nationwide 1 July 2026.
Guarantee	125 days of wage employment per rural household per financial year (MGNREGA: 100 days).
Largest wage increases (15-25%)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh.
Interim allocation released before day one	Rs 95,692.31 crore.
Entitlement document	Rural Employment Guarantee Card, distributed at the national launch on 2 July 2026 at Mukkavaripalle village, Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh, alongside a VB-G RAM G software platform.

- Wage floor after the 1 July 2026 notification: Rs 300/day; national average notified wage Rs 327.4 (was Rs 298.8).

7. Ranks & Reports

2 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.

QUICK FACTS

Report	UDISE+ 2025-26 on School Education in India, released 7 July 2026 by the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education & Literacy), in both the existing and NEP-stage formats.
Teachers	1,02,73,020 in 2025-26 (94,83,294 in 2022-23).
Girls' share of enrolment	48.4%; female teachers: 54.9%.

- UDISE+ = Unified District Information System for Education Plus; online, school-level data system running since 2018-19, covering about 14.7 lakh schools.
- It succeeded UDISE (2012-13), which merged DISE (elementary) and SEMIS (secondary).
- Schools with computers 69.9%, internet 67.4%, electricity 95.0%, ramps with handrails 58.2%, rainwater harvesting 29.9%.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Publisher	Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education; released 7 July 2026.
System size cited	14.67 lakh schools, 1.03 crore teachers, about 24.72 crore students.
Top	Chandigarh, 766.0 (Uttam-3). Bottom: Meghalaya, 525.7 (Akanshi-1).

- PGI grades States/UTs into bands rather than ranks, so several can share a band.
- PGI-States was first released for 2017-18; restructured as PGI 2.0 from 2021-22 to align with NEP 2020.
- The top grade band needs more than 940 points; no State/UT has reached it.
- The gap between the top and bottom scorer narrowed to 240.3 points.

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.