WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

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SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

30 key articles · 12 categories · 7 days

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

1 article

India Women Beat England by 270 Runs in First Women's Test at Lord's

13 Jul

- India women won the first-ever women's Test at Lord's, beating England by 270 runs on 13 July 2026 (match 10-13 July)
- Kranti Gaud (5/37) was Player of the Match; Yastika Bhatia (113) scored the first women's Test century at Lord's
- Union Minister of Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi congratulated the team, captained by Harmanpreet Kaur
- India's women's Test record now stands at 43 matches, 9 wins, 7 losses and 27 draws

2. Awards & Honours

2 articles

FIU-IND's Rs 868 Crore Cyber-Fraud Case Named Runner-up at Best Egmont Case Award 2026

10 Jul

- FIU-IND's case on a large cyber-fraud laundering network won Runner-up at the Best Egmont Case Award (BECA) 2026, announced at the Egmont Group Plenary in Baku, Azerbaijan — one of only two finalists from the Egmont Group's 182 member jurisdictions.
- The case began with intelligence from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and traced about Rs 868 crore of fraud proceeds through more than 5,000 mule bank accounts and cross-border cryptocurrency transactions.
- Acting on FIU-IND's report, the Directorate of Enforcement searched 13 locations, seized Rs 47 lakh cash and about Rs 13.6 crore in USDT, attached Rs 8.67 crore of assets and filed two prosecution complaints under PMLA, 2002.

DoT's BharatNet-based Samriddh Gram wins WSIS Prize 2026 under Action Line C6

09 Jul

- Samriddh Gram, the Department of Telecommunications' BharatNet-enabled 'integrated phygital service delivery' project, was named Global Winner of the WSIS Prizes 2026 under Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment.
- The prize was presented at the WSIS Forum 2026 in Geneva; the WSIS process is led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- Only two Indian projects made the Champion Projects list across the 18 prize categories; over 2.2 million votes were cast worldwide.
- Samriddh Gram runs village-level Samriddhi Kendras offering health, education, agriculture, banking, e-governance, FTTH and PM-WANI Wi-Fi services from one hub.

3. Summits & Conferences

1 article

3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting in Nagpur Adopts Ministerial Declaration

12 Jul

- The 3rd BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting, held in Nagpur (Maharashtra) on 11 July 2026 under India's BRICS Chairship, unanimously adopted a Ministerial Declaration.
- The Declaration sets a shared framework on six themes: circularity in infrastructure, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), transport decarbonisation, an Urban Mobility Hub, logistics supply-chain cooperation and the BRICS Railway Research Network.
- The 3rd BRICS Transport Working Group Senior Officials' Meeting (9-10 July) finalised the text. India said it would ensure a smooth handover of these initiatives to the next chair.
- 2026 is India's fourth BRICS Chairship, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.

4. Schemes & Committees

2 articles

EPFO Amnesty Scheme 2026: Six-Month Window for PF Trusts Without Section 17 Exemption

12 Jul

- EPFO's Amnesty Scheme, 2026 was notified on 29 June 2026 (GSR 525(E)) and is open for six months. It lets establishments running Income-Tax-recognised PF trusts without a formal exemption notification regularise their status retrospectively.
- The trigger is the Finance Act, 2026. Under the Income-tax Act, 2025, a provident fund can now be recognised only if it holds an exemption under Section 17 of the EPF & MP Act, 1952.
- Eligible trusts get retrospective recognition, waiver of the minimum-headcount and corpus-size rules under the Code on Social Security, 2020, and abatement of pending dues, damages and interest assessments.
- Employers apply to the Central Government through their EPFO Regional Office and must complete any special audit within three months.

First Street Food Hubs Approved Under PM SVANidhi; Lakhanpur Among Them

11 Jul

- The first batch of Street Food Hubs under PM SVANidhi has been approved. MoHUA plans up to 50 hubs nationwide, each getting Rs 4 crore.
- Lakhanpur in Kathua district, the road gateway to Jammu & Kashmir from Pathankot, is among the first approved towns.
- MoHUA received 126 proposals from 32 States/UTs, covering 106 Urban Local Bodies and 7 Census Towns.

5. Agreements & MoUs

2 articles

India-Australia Administrative Arrangement Operationalises 2014 Civil Nuclear Pact for Uranium Supply

14 Jul

- India and Australia finalised the Administrative Arrangement under their Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement at the Third India-Australia Annual Summit (Melbourne, 9 July 2026), enabling long-term Australian uranium exports to India.
- The parent agreement was signed in September 2014 and entered into force in November 2015; the Arrangement sets the procedures that make it work. All Australian uranium will stay under IAEA safeguards.
- Australia holds more than one-third of the world's uranium resources, and it exports uranium only to countries with a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.
- The supply backs India's 100 GW-by-2047 nuclear target, the SHANTI Act, 2025 (private participation) and the Nuclear Energy Mission for Small Modular Reactors. Australia also reaffirmed support for India's NSG membership.

CSIR and IP Australia Sign TKDL Access Agreement at India-Australia Summit

10 Jul

- CSIR and IP Australia signed an Agreement on access to CSIR's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) at the 3rd India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne on 9 July 2026 — one of the summit's 18 outcomes.
- IP Australia's patent examiners can now search TKDL for prior art, so patents are not granted on knowledge already documented in India's traditional systems.
- With this agreement, 18 patent offices have TKDL access under Non-Disclosure Agreements; TKDL evidence has led to more than 375 patent applications worldwide being revoked, rejected, amended, withdrawn or abandoned.

6. Defence

4 articles

Nilgiri, Sandhayak and Arnala Classes: India's Indigenous Frigates, Survey Ships and ASW Craft

13 Jul

- INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A Nilgiri-class stealth frigate, was commissioned at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026; only Vindhyagiri remains
- On 21 June 2026 three GRSE-built ships were commissioned together at Kolkata: frigate INS Dunagiri, survey vessel INS Sanshodhak and ASW craft INS Agray
- INS Sanshodhak completes the four-ship Sandhayak class; INS Agray is the fourth of eight Arnala-class ASW shallow water craft
- Indigenous content is 75% for Project 17A and over 80% for the Sandhayak class; 64 of 66 Navy ships and submarines on order are being built in India

INS Mahendragiri, Sixth Project 17A Stealth Frigate, Joins Eastern Fleet

11 Jul

- INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026, in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh.

- It was designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. The ship has over 75% indigenous content, displaces about 6,670 tonnes and reaches up to 28 knots.
- Six P17A frigates have been inducted in 1.5 years; launch-to-delivery time fell from 63 to 31 months and total build time from 95 to 75 months.
- The ship is named after the Mahendragiri range of the Eastern Ghats and carries the motto 'Mighty, Majestic, Matchless'.

THE PROJECT 17A CLASS

Ship	Builder	Inducted
INS Nilgiri	MDL	January 2025
INS Udaygiri	MDL	August 2025
INS Himgiri	GRSE	August 2025
INS Taragiri	MDL	April 2026
INS Dunagiri	GRSE	June 2026
INS Mahendragiri	MDL	11 July 2026
Vindhyagiri	GRSE	Yet to be inducted (as of 11 July 2026)

Source: PIB release PRID 2283586 for induction months; builder split (MDL four, GRSE three) web-verified.

India, Australia adopt Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, replacing 2009 pact

09 Jul

- India and Australia adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (JDDSC) on 9 July 2026, renewing the 2009 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation.
- It commits the two to more complex exercises, wider aircraft deployments from each other's territory, interoperability and a Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap.
- It also covers counter-terrorism information sharing, HADR, the Women, Peace and Security agenda and continued cooperation under the 2023 Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement.

DRDO flight-tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket at 60 km minimum range, Chandipur

08 Jul

- DRDO flight-tested the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur on 8 July 2026, at a user-defined minimum range of 60 km. It struck the target on its predicted trajectory.
- The maiden LRGR test on 29 December 2025 was at its maximum range of 120 km, so the rocket has now been proven at both ends of its envelope.
- It was fired from the in-service Pinaka launcher, so one launcher can fire Pinaka variants of different ranges.
- ARDE designed the rocket with HEMRL, supported by DRDL and Research Centre Imarat. ITR and the Proof & Experimental Establishment coordinated the trial.

7. Science & Tech

3 articles

All Five Indians Win Gold at 56th International Physics Olympiad in Bucaramanga, Colombia

13 Jul

- All five members of India's team — Kanishk Jain, Riddhesh Anant Bendale, Rishit Garg, Shresth Suraiya and Svarit Joshi — won gold at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 in Bucaramanga, Colombia
- India finished joint No. 1 with China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea and Taiwan, each of which also won five golds; 381 students from 87 countries competed
- It is India's second all-gold IPhO result, after the 49th IPhO at Lisbon in 2018
- The team was selected and trained through the Olympiad programme run by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), a national centre of TIFR

MeitY, CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin Release Digital Threat Report 2025-26 on BFSI Cyber Risks

13 Jul

- MeitY, CERT-In and CSIRT-Fin released the second edition of the Digital Threat Report 2025-26 for the BFSI and payments sector, prepared with cybersecurity firm SISA
- Central finding: six of the seven predictions in the previous edition have already fully materialised, as the gap between a threat emerging and being exploited shrinks to months or weeks
- It names 'AI asymmetry' as a defining risk, meaning low-resource attackers can now work at machine speed
- It introduces a 4-layer Gap Archetype Framework, the 'Anatomy of Cyber Failure', and sets out an 18-month roadmap for financial institutions

Australia-India PACTS replaces 2020 cyber framework with five-pillar technology partnership

09 Jul

- India and Australia launched the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS) on 9 July 2026, succeeding and replacing the 2020 Framework Arrangement.
- PACTS has five pillars: supply-chain resilience, critical technology, cybersecurity, digital resilience and defence research collaboration.
- It is chaired by India's Deputy National Security Advisor and Australia's Deputy Secretary (International and Security Group, PM&C), with an annual Senior Officials Meeting.

THE FIVE PILLARS AND THEIR LEADS

Pillar	Indian lead	Australian lead	Sample commitment
1. Supply chain resilience	National Security Council Secretariat	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology (coordinating)	Trusted-vendor mechanism; undersea cables; semiconductor and critical minerals supply chains
2. Critical technology	National Security Council Secretariat	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology	Standards for safe and trustworthy AI; joint space initiatives
3. Cybersecurity	Cyber Diplomacy Division, MEA	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology	Single consolidated cyber mechanism; cyber tech skill incubator hub
4. Digital resilience	Oceania Division, MEA	Office of the Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology	Take India's Digital Public Infrastructure to the Indo-Pacific
5. Defence research	Ministry of Defence	Department of Defence	Link DRDO with Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group; maritime surveillance

Source: PIB release PRID 2282692, 9 July 2026

8. Environment

4 articles

Gandhinagar Sets Guinness Record: 3.61 Lakh Saplings in One Hour by Miyawaki Method

12 Jul

- Guinness World Record, 12 July 2026: over 3.61 lakh saplings planted in one hour by the Miyawaki method in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, organised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation with 25,000+ volunteers.
- The same drive planted more than 1.26 crore saplings across the constituency: about 1.16 crore at 404 public sites and 11 lakh+ in private premises, under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.
- Green cover in the constituency has risen by 11.23%, and the target is 20% by 2029; Oxygen Parks in the constituency rose from 12 to 73 when 61 opened on the day.
- The Miyawaki method, devised by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, packs native species densely so that a small plot becomes a self-sustaining forest within two to three years.

PUBLIC-SITE PLANTATION BY ASSEMBLY SEGMENT

Assembly segment	Saplings	Locations
Sanand	53,64,504	186
Gandhinagar North	18,09,850	97
Vejalpur	17,54,000	10
Kalol	16,64,675	77
Ghatlodia	8,32,370	18
Sabarmati	82,314	6

Source: PIB (MHA). The six segment rows add up to 1,15,07,713 saplings at 394 locations. The release's headline total is 1,15,93,513 at 404 sites, so the rows it lists are fewer than its own total. Naranpura, the seventh segment, appears only in the development-works figures.

Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict Opens at SACON; National HWC Portal Launched

10 Jul

- The Centre of Excellence on Human-Wildlife Conflict opened at WII-SACON, Coimbatore on 10 July 2026, and the National Human-Wildlife Conflict Portal was launched with it.
- The PM announced the Centre at the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (Gir, 3 March 2025). It will be the national hub for research, policy support, capacity building and best practice on conflict management.
- MoEFCC also released the first edition of 'Current Status of Human-Wildlife Conflict in India: An Overview'; the workshop sessions focused on human-elephant conflict, human-big cat conflict and mitigation technology.

National CAMPA Governing Body Approves Dolphin, Snow Leopard, Rhino and Wild Buffalo Projects; Extends MISHTI

10 Jul

- The 7th meeting of the Governing Body of National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority), chaired by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at CASFOS, Coimbatore on 10 July 2026, approved four new species projects: river dolphins, Project Snow Leopard Phase-II, the Indian rhinoceros and a pan-India plan for the wild water buffalo, plus continued support for Manipur's Sangai.
- MISHTI (mangroves) got a three-year extension to 2029 with an extra Rs 500 crore, taking its outlay to Rs 600 crore; Rs 88.40 crore had been released so far across six States/UTs.
- From the 2026-27 cycle, States/UTs must submit their Annual Plans of Operation only through the online Digital APO; a GIS Lab and the Harit-SANKALP nursery-traceability portal (built with FAO-India) were also reviewed.

- Nagar Van Yojana: 652 Nagar Vans/Vatikas developed with Rs 571.50 crore released; Rs 7.28 crore released to ICFRE under the Green Credit scheme.

THE SPECIES IN THE NEW PROJECTS

Species	IUCN status	Key facts
Gangetic river dolphin	Endangered	National aquatic animal since 5 Oct 2009 (1st NGRBA meeting); first survey under Project Dolphin (launched 2020), released March 2025: 6,327 river dolphins — 6,324 Gangetic, 3 Indus; UP 2,397, Bihar 2,220, WB 815, Assam 635
Snow leopard	Vulnerable	Project Snow Leopard launched January 2009; SPAI (2019-2023, released 30 Jan 2024, WII national coordinator) estimated 718 — Ladakh 477, Uttarakhand 124, HP 51, Arunachal 36, Sikkim 21, J&K 9
Indian (greater one-horned) rhinoceros	Vulnerable	National Conservation Strategy for the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros adopted February 2019; about 4,075 individuals (March 2025 estimate)
Wild water buffalo	Endangered	Schedule I; state animal of Chhattisgarh (2001); fewer than 4,000 worldwide, about 99% in Assam — Kaziranga ~2,500; translocation from Kaziranga to Kanha (MP) begun 2026
Sangai (brow-antlered deer)	Endangered	Schedule I; state animal of Manipur; single wild population in Keibul Lamjao NP (1977), the floating park on Loktak Lake

Source: PIB release (projects); population and status figures web-verified from MoEFCC/WII survey releases and IUCN listings.

NTCA's 29th meeting releases STRIDES 2026; wildlife board adds Pygmy Hog to recovery programme

09 Jul

- At the 29th NTCA meeting in Coimbatore on 9 July 2026, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav released STRIDES 2026, a status report on tiger reserves, and 'Roadmap to Rescue', a plan for rescue-rehab-release facilities in tiger landscapes.
- The Authority discussed the 6th cycle of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves, a Tiger Conclave to raise funds through Tiger Conservation Foundations, and a STRIPES research symposium.
- The same day, the 91st Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife recommended adding the Pygmy Hog to the Species Recovery Programme.
- SC-NBWL also discussed a long-term rhino conservation strategy built on the Rhino DNA Indexing System and a future strategy for the Great Indian Bustard, and considered over 100 development proposals needing wildlife clearance.

9. Banking & Finance

1 article

All CPSEs Must Now Settle MSME Invoices Through TReDS, Notification Says

10 Jul

- A Ministry of MSME notification dated 30 June 2026 makes TReDS mandatory: every operating CPSE must now settle invoices from its MSME suppliers through an RBI-authorised TReDS platform.
- CPSEs must disclose the MSME invoices routed and settled on TReDS in the format RBI specifies, and get a statutory auditor's certificate of registration and compliance at the annual audit.
- This delivers a Union Budget 2026-27 announcement. Invoice discounting on TReDS grew from Rs 40,000 crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs 3.47 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

10. Economy

5 articles

MoSPI Releases India's First Index of Services Production for 19 Sub-Sectors

14 Jul

- MoSPI released India's first Index of Services Production (ISP), a trial sub-sectoral index with base year 2024-25, for April 2026. It covers 19 sub-sectors, about 60% of the services sector.
- It is India's first high-frequency indicator dedicated to services output. It will be released on the 29th of every month with a lag of about 60 days; an overall ISP will follow later.
- In April 2026, 14 of the 19 sub-sectors grew in double digits. Accommodation and food led (37.2%), followed by retail trade (30.8%); air transport (-13.9%) and railway transport (-0.4%) contracted.
- The index covers formal-sector enterprises only and uses GST data for statistics for the first time, along with administrative data and ASISSE weights.

FIRST ISP: APRIL 2026 OVER APRIL 2025

Sub-sector	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	Growth
Accommodation and food	100.7	138.14	37.2%
Retail trade	105.1	137.50	30.8%
Administrative and support services	93.6	120.37	28.7%
Real estate	93.8	119.76	27.7%
Telecommunications	96.9	118.94	22.8%
Repair services	100.6	119.93	19.2%
Road transport	93.1	110.34	18.5%
Warehousing and transport support	95.6	112.97	18.2%
Professional, scientific and technical (incl. R&D)	91.2	106.26	16.5%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	109.6	127.53	16.4%
Insurance	95.9	110.88	15.6%
Wholesale trade	104.0	119.87	15.3%
IT and computer-related services	97.4	112.16	15.2%
Banking	106.9	119.88	12.2%
Water transport	99.2	104.87	5.7%
Postal and courier	96.1	99.25	3.3%
Information and broadcasting	111.2	113.95	2.5%
Railway transport	100.0	99.59	-0.4%
Air transport	104.5	89.90	-13.9%

Source: MoSPI release, 14 July 2026. For 2025-26 as a whole, the fastest-growing sub-sectors were accommodation and food (35.6%), retail trade (30.5%), repair services (25.1%), wholesale trade (23.6%) and road transport (22.6%).

Reform Express: Railways Notifies Eight Freight Reforms, Single Pan-India CTO Licence

14 Jul

- Reform Express (14 July 2026): Railways replaced the four-category Container Train Operator (CTO) licence with a single Pan-India CTO licence at a uniform non-refundable fee of Rs 25 crore, valid 20 years.
- Eight reforms (Nos. 10-17) took the Reform Express total to 17 of the Ministry of Railways' target of 52 reforms in 52 weeks in 2026.
- Fertilizer and foodgrain freight moved from slab-based charges to a per tonne per km tariff; fly ash, fertilizer and foodgrains can now move in containers.

- Industry may now propose wagon designs for RDSO evaluation, and oil companies may own or lease their own POL tank wagons.

IFSC Units at GIFT City Exempted from Coastal Shipping Act Licence for Chartering Foreign Vessels

10 Jul

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways notified on 10 July 2026, with immediate effect, that units in the IFSC at GIFT City, Gandhinagar no longer need a licence under Section 11 of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 to charter foreign vessels for EXIM and international trade.
- Earlier such chartering needed a licence from the Director General of Shipping; the exemption aims to build GIFT City into a hub for ship leasing, ship financing and ship-owning.
- The cabotage regime for coastal trade is untouched — the relief covers only EXIM and international operations; 'IFSC' takes its meaning from Section 3(1)(g) of the IFSCA Act, 2019.

Letters of Authorisation open high-seas fishing to Indian vessels; Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission launched

09 Jul

- Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan launched the national programme of Letters of Authorisation (LoA) for high-seas fishing by Indian-flagged vessels at Bhubaneswar on 9 July 2026, and released the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026-2036) document.
- The LoA is mandatory under the Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian-Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025; it is vessel-specific, non-transferable and issued online through the ReALCraft portal.
- First LoAs went to fisheries cooperatives including National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) and to FFPOs; cooperatives and FFPOs get priority under the framework.
- LoA vessels must follow the conservation measures of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, including catch limits and FAD management.
- Seafood exports hit a record Rs 73,891 crore in 2025-26; the Union Budget 2026-27 made EEZ and high-seas catch by Indian vessels duty-free and treats foreign-port landings as exports.

DPIIT amends footwear QCOs: legacy stock deadline to 31 July 2027, R&D sample exemption

09 Jul

- DPIIT amended the two footwear Quality Control Orders of 2024 (notified 12 June 2026), extending the legacy-stock clearance deadline from 31 July 2026 to 31 July 2027.
- Manufacturers may now import up to 4,500 pairs of footwear a year as R&D samples, marked 'NOT FOR SALE' and scrapped after use.
- QCOs are issued under the BIS Act, 2016 and make BIS certification mandatory before sale or import.

11. International

3 articles

India and New Zealand Become Strategic Partners, Adopt Roadmap to 2030

11 Jul

- India and New Zealand elevated their ties to a 'Strategic Partnership' and endorsed the 'Roadmap to 2030' during PM Narendra Modi's visit to Auckland on 10-11 July 2026 — the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years.
- The two sides set a goal of doubling two-way trade in goods and services to NZ$7 billion (about Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030, and agreed to bring the India-New Zealand FTA (signed 27 April 2026) into force early.
- Ten documents were signed, including a Maritime Cooperation Arrangement, a Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement and an arrangement setting up a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.
- New Zealand joined the Global Biofuels Alliance and chose Maritime Security, focused on IUU fishing, as its priority pillar under India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT

Outcome	Parties / what it does
Documents signed (10)	
Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Cooperation	MoD India and NZ Defence Force; dialogue, information exchange, joint activities in the Indo-Pacific
Implementation Arrangement on Hydrography and Nautical Cartography	Joint navigational charts, hydrographic data sharing, training
Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement	Indian Navy and NZ Defence Force; reciprocal logistics during approved activities
Arrangement on a Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism	Led by MEA and NZ MFAT
Memorandum of Cooperation on disaster management	NDMA (India) and National Emergency Management Agency (NZ); earthquake, tsunami, coastal hazards
Memorandum of Cooperation on Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and NZ Ministry for Primary Industries
Memorandum of Arrangement on Tourism	Ministry of Tourism and NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
India-New Zealand Joint Action Plan on Sport	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Sport New Zealand
Memorandum of Arrangement on NMHC, Lothal	National Maritime Heritage Complex and New Zealand Maritime Museum
Arrangement on Cultural Cooperation	Ministry of Culture and NZ Ministry for Culture and Heritage
Announcements (8)	
Strategic Partnership and Roadmap to 2030	Six pillars, reviewed by ministers and senior officials
Trade target	NZ$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) by 2030
Maritime Security Dialogue	Annual, MEA and NZ MFAT
IPOI pillar	NZ nominates Maritime Security, focused on IUU fishing
Global Biofuels Alliance	New Zealand joins
Kiwifruit Action Plan	Two Centres of Excellence, Nagaland and Uttarakhand
NCPOR (Goa) and University of Canterbury MoU	Antarctic research collaboration
NIFTEM-Kundli and Massey University MoU	Food-technology research and student mobility

Source: PIB, List of Outcomes (PRID 2283528). Complete list.

Third India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne yields 18 outcomes, uranium deal operationalised

09 Jul

- The Third India-Australia Annual Summit was held in Melbourne on 9 July 2026 between PM Narendra Modi and PM Anthony Albanese, producing 18 listed outcomes.

- The Administrative Arrangement under the 2014 India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement was finalised, enabling long-term Australian uranium exports to India under IAEA safeguards.
- Both sides adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation (replacing the 2009 declaration), a Joint Statement on Energy Security and the PACTS technology partnership.
- UGC issued a Letter of Intent to Flinders University (Bengaluru campus) and a Letter of Approval to Victoria University (Gurugram campus); three Tamil Nadu antiquities are to be returned.
- Leaders reaffirmed an early conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), building on the 2022 ECTA.

ASI begins restoration of Indonesia's Prambanan temples as Modi, Prabowo unveil plaque

08 Jul

- PM Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto unveiled a plaque at the Prambanan Temple Compounds, Yogyakarta, marking the start of the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) conservation and restoration project there.
- Prambanan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1991, is Indonesia's largest temple complex dedicated to the Trimurti — Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva — and was built in the 9th century.
- The project follows an understanding reached during Prabowo's 2025 State Visit to India, when he was chief guest at India's 76th Republic Day.
- It adds to ASI's record in Southeast Asia: Angkor Wat (1986-93) and Ta Prohm in Cambodia, Vat Phou in Laos and My Son in Vietnam; ASI also earlier documented Borobudur.

12. Polity & Governance

2 articles

Drugs Rules Amended: High-Alcohol Formulations Lose Schedule K Exemption, Move to Schedule H1

10 Jul

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified an amendment to the Drugs Rules, 1945 on 10 July 2026 (the Drugs (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2026): formulations with more than 12% v/v ethyl alcohol in packs above 30 mL no longer enjoy the Schedule K licensing exemption.
- Such products must now hold licences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and move to Schedule H1 — sale only on a Registered Medical Practitioner's prescription, with stricter record-keeping.
- Trigger: exempted tinctures of cardamom, ginger and other aromatic preparations carried up to 80-90% v/v alcohol and were being misused for intoxication; several State Governments had flagged it.

Navi Mumbai Airport notified as port for drug imports under Rule 43A; ports now 42

08 Jul

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare amended Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945 (notified 8 July 2026) to add Navi Mumbai Airport to the ports through which drugs may be imported into India.
- The notification was issued after consulting the Drugs Technical Advisory Board under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Total notified ports of entry for drug imports (road/rail/ship/air) now stand at 42.