WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

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1. International

2 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.

QUICK FACTS

Visit	PM Modi in Auckland, 10-11 July 2026, hosted by NZ Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.
Trade target	NZ$7 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) two-way trade by 2030, double the current level.
India-NZ FTA	talks launched 16 March 2025 during Luxon's India visit, concluded 22 December 2025, signed 27 April 2026.
New mechanisms	a regular Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, an annual Maritime Security Dialogue (MEA with NZ's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and a JWG on Counter-Terrorism.

- The last Indian PM to visit New Zealand before this was Rajiv Gandhi (October 1986); Indira Gandhi visited in 1968.
- Relationship upgraded to a Strategic Partnership; the Roadmap to 2030 has six pillars and creates no financial or legally binding obligations.
- Under the FTA's Agricultural Productivity Partnership: a Kiwifruit Action Plan and two kiwifruit Centres of Excellence, in Nagaland and Uttarakhand.
- New Zealand reaffirmed support for India's permanent seat on a reformed UN Security Council and acknowledged the value of India joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

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

Outcome	Parties / what it does
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.

QUICK FACTS

Event	Third India-Australia Annual Summit, Melbourne, 9 July 2026 (PM Modi's visit: 8-10 July 2026)
Leaders	PM Narendra Modi and Australian PM Anthony Albanese; PM also met Governor-General Sam Mostyn
Earlier summits	1st in New Delhi (10 March 2023); 2nd on the margins of the G20, Rio de Janeiro (19 November 2024)
Outcomes	18, spanning defence, maritime security, civil nuclear, energy, technology, skills, education and culture
New mechanism	an Annual Defence Ministers' Dialogue

- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) completed six years; it was set up at the 4 June 2020 Leaders' Virtual Summit
- Australia to give $10 million for the Centre for Australia-India Relations' Maitri grants
- Indian community is now Australia's largest overseas-born group (about a million people of Indian origin)

2. Economy

3 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.

QUICK FACTS

Released by	Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI); first data for April 2026
Coverage	19 sub-sectors, about 60% of services, formal-sector enterprises only. Scope follows Sections G to V of NIC 2025
Frequency	monthly, released on the 29th (or the next working day), lag of about 60 days
Status	trial, experimental series; the Railways, Banking and Insurance indices are revised annually
Framework	Technical Advisory Committee on ISP (TAC-ISP), constituted May 2025, chaired by Debjani Ghosh (Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog); its report was released on 7 July 2026
International reference	OECD Compilation Manual for ISP (2007); Eurostat
Excluded	public administration and defence, government health and education, central-bank and other non-bank financial activities, household employers, gambling and other non-market or informal activities

- Base year 2024-25, aligned with the new CPI series (base 2024)

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%).

CPI Inflation Rises to 4.38% in June 2026; Food Inflation at 5.32%

13 Jul

- All-India CPI inflation (base 2024=100) for June 2026 was 4.38% (provisional), up from 3.93% in May; rural 4.74%, urban 3.92%
- Food inflation measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rose to 5.32% (rural 5.45%, urban 5.09%); housing inflation was 2.10%
- Headline inflation has risen every month of 2026, from 2.74% in January, but stays inside the RBI's 2-6% tolerance band around the 4% target
- Telangana (6.36%) had the highest inflation among major states; silver jewellery (133.21%) and potato (-20.34%) were the extreme items
- Released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), MoSPI; July 2026 CPI is due on 12 August 2026

QUICK FACTS

June 2026 CPI inflation	4.38% combined (provisional); rural 4.74%, urban 3.92%
May 2026 (final)	3.93% combined; rural 4.25%, urban 3.53%
CFPI (food) inflation	5.32% in June vs 4.78% in May
Housing inflation	2.10% (rural 2.66%, urban 1.90%)
All-India CPI (General) index for June 2026	107.00 (2024=100)
CFPI	released for rural, urban and combined sectors since May 2014

- Released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, on 13 July 2026
- Prices from 1,407 urban markets (including online) and 1,465 villages, collected by the Field Operations Division of NSO; response rate 100%
- Petrol, diesel and LPG prices are taken as on the 15th of each month
- State and item-wise indices are published on MoSPI's eSankhyiki portal

STATE/UT-WISE CPI INFLATION, JUNE 2026 (PROVISIONAL)

State/UT	Rural	Urban	Combined
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6.42	3.67	5.08
Andhra Pradesh	5.71	4.89	5.39
Arunachal Pradesh	2.33	2.87	2.47
Assam	3.93	2.26	3.59
Bihar	3.38	2.67	3.28
Chandigarh	-	4.26	4.26
Chhattisgarh	4.44	2.89	3.91
Goa	2.58	3.39	3.10
Gujarat	4.39	3.74	4.01
Haryana	4.12	3.49	3.81
Himachal Pradesh	3.12	4.48	3.33
Jammu and Kashmir	3.50	3.38	3.47
Jharkhand	4.65	3.59	4.29
Karnataka	5.25	4.34	4.80
Kerala	5.07	3.74	4.34
Ladakh	4.16	3.64	4.03
Lakshadweep	2.65	3.39	3.19
Madhya Pradesh	5.26	4.82	5.09

State/UT	Rural	Urban	Combined
Maharashtra	4.79	3.18	3.81
Manipur	3.23	2.33	2.94
Meghalaya	2.70	2.46	2.64
Mizoram	1.88	1.43	1.63
Nagaland	2.87	2.76	2.83
NCT of Delhi	3.92	2.94	2.96
Odisha	5.40	4.47	5.15
Puducherry	6.05	5.10	5.39
Punjab	4.25	3.34	3.83
Rajasthan	5.09	3.98	4.70
Sikkim	4.61	4.27	4.49
Tamil Nadu	5.49	5.05	5.24
Telangana	6.94	5.94	6.36
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	4.68	4.11	4.25
Tripura	1.46	2.27	1.65
Uttar Pradesh	4.94	3.75	4.56
Uttarakhand	4.60	3.32	4.13
West Bengal	4.38	3.42	3.95
All India	4.74	3.92	4.38

Source: MoSPI release, Annexure III. Chandigarh has no rural market. Top five among states with population above 50 lakh (Census 2011): Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh. Lowest: Mizoram 1.63%, Tripura 1.65%.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Event	national launch of Letters of Authorisation (LoA) for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas, Bhubaneswar, 9 July 2026
Launched by	Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan; organised by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Legal basis	LoA is mandatory under the High Seas Fisheries Guidelines, 2025 (notified 9 December 2025)
LoA features	vessel-specific, non-transferable, fully online, real-time tracking, linked to the ReALCraft registration portal
Recipients	cooperatives incl. NCEL, Paradeep Marine Primary Fish Production & Marketing Co-op, Malpe Fishermen's Primary Co-op, Thengapattanam Deep Sea Fish Producers Co-op, plus FFPOs and vessel owners
Target resource	tuna and tuna-like species
Budget link	Union Budget 2025-26 announced the EEZ and High Seas framework
India	over 11,000 km coastline, EEZ of nearly 24 lakh sq km, world's second-largest fish producer (~8% of global output), ~3 crore fishers and fish farmers

3. Environment

2 articles

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.

QUICK FACTS

Meeting	7th Governing Body (GB) meeting of National CAMPA, 10 July 2026, CASFOS (Central Academy for State Forest Service), Coimbatore
Chair	Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav — the Environment Minister chairs the GB by design
Continued support	Manipur's brow-antlered deer (Sangai)
Accounts	C&AG certification audit of National Authority CAMPA's FY 2024-25 accounts gave a 'true and fair' view

- New projects (recommended by the Executive Committee): river dolphin conservation and recovery plan; Project Snow Leopard Phase-II with a second population-estimation cycle; conservation action plan for the Indian rhinoceros; pan-India approach for the wild water buffalo
- Digital APO mandatory for States/UTs from FY 2026-27; five zonal orientation workshops held before rollout
- Harit-SANKALP = System for Accreditation, Nursery Knowledge for Afforestation Linkage Platform — QR-code traceability of seed sources, nurseries and planting material, developed with FAO-India

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.

QUICK FACTS

29th NTCA meeting and 91st SC-NBWL meeting	9 July 2026, Central Academy for State Forest Service (CASFOS), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
Publications	STRIDES 2026 (Status of Tiger Reserves: Infrastructure, Development, Ecology & Social Parameters) and 'Roadmap to Rescue'
Proposed	6th MEE cycle, a Tiger Conclave (corporate/philanthropic funding via Tiger Conservation Foundations), and STRIPES (Symposium on Tiger Research, Innovation, Policy, Ecology & Sustainability)
SC-NBWL	Pygmy Hog proposed for the Species Recovery Programme; publications released on rhinoceros, sloth bear and Great Indian Bustard

- Both chaired by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- NTCA approved its Annual Report 2024-25 and the Action Taken Report on its 28th meeting
- SC-NBWL took up 100+ proposals (roads, defence, power lines, mining, renewables etc.) needing clearance under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

4. Agreements & MoUs

1 article

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.

QUICK FACTS

What	Administrative Arrangement under the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, finalised 9 July 2026 at the Third India-Australia Annual Summit, Melbourne
Effect	operationalises the Agreement. It sets the implementation procedures for long-term exports of Australian uranium to India, for peaceful purposes only
Parent agreement	announced on 5 September 2014 during PM Tony Abbott's visit to India; in force from November 2015
Safeguards	all Australian uranium supplied to India remains under IAEA safeguards
Australian policy	uranium goes only to countries covered by a civil nuclear cooperation agreement

- Australia's Parliament passed the Civil Nuclear Transfers to India Bill in December 2016
- Australia holds the world's largest uranium resources, more than one-third of the global total
- India has civil nuclear Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) with 18 countries
- Australia reaffirmed its support for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)