WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

15 Jul – 21 Jul 2026

UPSC EDITION

23 key articles · 10 categories · 7 days

Compiled from Press Information Bureau releases, Government of India

IN THIS ISSUE

Economy	4
Banking & Finance	3
Polity & Governance	1
Science & Tech	4
Environment	2
Schemes & Committees	4
Agreements & MoUs	2
Ranks & Reports	1
Awards & Honours	1
Sports	1

HIGHLIGHTS

ECONOMY — 20 Jul | p. 4
Index of Core Industries Rebased to 2022-23; Iron Ore Added as Ninth Industry

BANKING & FINANCE — 20 Jul | p. 6
UPI Crosses 55.49 Crore Users; FY26 Transactions Hit Rs 314 Lakh Crore

SCIENCE & TECH — 21 Jul | p. 10
CDSCO Approves Qdenga, India's First Dengue Vaccine, for Ages 4 to 60

ENVIRONMENT — 21 Jul | p. 13
Five new lichen species of genus Allographa described from the Western Ghats by ARI Pune

SCHEMES & COMMITTEES — 17 Jul | p. 14
Modified UDAN: Rs 28,840 Crore for 100 Airports, 200 Helipads Over FY27-FY36

AGREEMENTS & MOUS — 20 Jul | p. 17
India Becomes 123rd Party to WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

RANKS & REPORTS — 17 Jul | p. 18
NITI Aayog's First Investment Friendliness Index: Gujarat Tops, Five States 'Top Performers'

AWARDS & HONOURS — 18 Jul | p. 19
72nd National Film Awards Announced: Article 370 Best Film; Mammootty, Kartik Aaryan Share Best Actor

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	Economy	4 articles	3
2	Banking & Finance	3 articles	6
3	Polity & Governance	1 article	9
4	Science & Tech	4 articles	10
5	Environment	2 articles	13
6	Schemes & Committees	4 articles	14
7	Agreements & MoUs	2 articles	17
8	Ranks & Reports	1 article	18
9	Awards & Honours	1 article	19
10	Sports	1 article	23

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Economy

4 articles

Maritime India Vision 2030 progress: waterway targets beaten, port capacity at 2,818 MTPA; no Major Port privatised

21 Jul

- Port capacity reached 2,818 million tonnes and cargo throughput 1,668 MT in 2025-26, against Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 targets of 3,500 and 2,200.
- Two MIV 2030 targets are already surpassed — 32 operational National Waterways (target 16) and 218.24 MT inland waterway throughput (target 200); India stays 1st in ship recycling.
- Sagarmala, a central sector scheme with five pillars, has completed 79 projects (Rs 5,374.5 crore) with 54 under implementation; Maharashtra leads with 21 completed.
- No Major Port has been privatised: 11 of the 12 are governed by the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021; Kamarajar Port is a Companies Act company wholly owned by Chennai Port Authority.
- JNPA, Mundra and Pipavav rank in the top 30 of the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index 2025.

QUICK FACTS

Source	three Rajya Sabha written replies by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, 21 July 2026
Major Ports' cargo via PPP	~44% (2013-14) -> 66% (2025-26); MIV target 85%
Renewable energy share at Major Ports	<1% -> 28%; target 60%
Infrastructure status notified 19 Sept 2025	Indian-flagged vessels of 10,000 GT+, India-built vessels of 1,500 GT+
Ship recycling	115 HKC-compliant yards at Alang, Gujarat; Rs 53.5 crore from the Ferrous Scrap Development Fund to 109 yards
Shipbreaking Credit Note	40% of scrap value, usable for up to 5% of a new India-built ship's price
Cruise	terminals at Visakhapatnam (2023), Mumbai (2025), Chennai (2026); cabotage waived for foreign cruise ships; e-Group Visit Visa
Port connectivity	294 rail-road projects — 84 done, 66 under way, 144 at planning
Skilling	92,697 trained in three years; Indian Ship Technology Centre set up as a Section 8 company; skilling pact with Korea's KOICA

- Fleet acquisition plan of 400+ vessels to give Indian shipyards order visibility
- Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme (Budget 2026-27): raise inland waterway + coastal shipping share from 6% to 12% by 2047

MIV 2030 — ACHIEVEMENT VS TARGET

Parameter	2013-14	2025-26	Target 2030
Port capacity (MTPA)	1,400	2,818	3,500
Cargo throughput (MMT)	972	1,668	2,200
% Major Port cargo via PPP	~44%	66%	85%
Operational National Waterways	3	32	16
Inland waterway throughput (MT)	18	218.24	200
Cruise calls	102	224	1,000
Ship recycling rank	1st	1st	1st
Renewable energy share at Major Ports	<1%	28%	60%

Source: MoPSW Rajya Sabha reply, 21 July 2026 (Table I).

THE 12 MAJOR PORTS

Major Port	State	Revenue FY26 (Rs crore)
Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority	Maharashtra	4,356.34
Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla)	Gujarat	3,437.25
Mumbai Port Authority	Maharashtra	3,318.74

Major Port	State	Revenue FY26 (Rs crore)
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority (Kolkata)	West Bengal	3,126.43
Paradip Port Authority	Odisha	2,893.62
Visakhapatnam Port Authority	Andhra Pradesh	2,585.85
Chennai Port Authority	Tamil Nadu	1,516.47
Kamarajar Port Limited (Ennore)	Tamil Nadu	1,272.13
V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Thoothukudi)	Tamil Nadu	1,254.96
New Mangalore Port Authority	Karnataka	1,121.88
Cochin Port Authority	Kerala	1,091.15
Mormugao Port Authority	Goa	607.95
Total	—	26,582.77

Revenue from MoPSW reply (Annexure-B); total rose from Rs 17,671.49 crore in FY 2021-22. Kamarajar is the only Major Port run as a company.

Index of Core Industries Rebased to 2022-23; Iron Ore Added as Ninth Industry

20 Jul

- The Index of Core Industries (ICI) has moved to base year 2022-23 from 2011-12, and iron ore has been added — core industries now number nine, not eight.
- Electricity carries the highest weight in the new series (30.932), followed by refinery products (22.572) and steel (17.584).
- ICI grew 5.0% in June 2026 (provisional), led by iron ore (43.9%); April-June 2026 growth was 3.6%.
- The old 2011-12 series is discontinued; the index will now be released on the 20th of the following month.

QUICK FACTS

Compiled by	Office of Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry
New base year	2022-23 (replaces 2011-12); back series available from April 2023
New entrant	iron ore — core industries rise from 8 to 9
Coal	only raw coal retained; washed coal and coal middlings dropped to avoid double counting
Linking factor (old to new, overall index)	1.47
Release date	20th of the following month (old series: last working day of the next month); July 2026 data due 20 August 2026

- Steel index now uses gross production (earlier net), matching the IIP
- Weights derived from the IIP 2022-23 item weights, rescaled to 100

WEIGHTS: OLD VS NEW SERIES

Sector	Weight, base 2011-12 (%)	Weight, base 2022-23 (%)	June 2026 YoY growth (%)
Electricity	19.85	30.932	9.8
Refinery products	28.04	22.572	-4.7
Steel	17.92	17.584	4.6
Crude oil	8.98	7.43	-4.2
Coal	10.33	5.596	1.4
Iron ore	not included	4.905	43.9
Cement	5.37	4.41	9.8
Natural gas	6.88	3.841	-7.4
Fertilizers	2.63	2.731	-3.3
Overall	100	100	5.0

Source: PIB release of 20 July 2026 (new weights and June 2026 growth); old weights from the OEA 2011-12 series. June 2026 figures are provisional.

India's Cotton Sector: 290.91 Lakh Bales in 2025-26, Mission Targets 498 Lakh by 2031

20 Jul

- India's cotton output was 290.91 lakh bales (4.95 million tonnes) in 2025-26 (provisional), against domestic consumption of 328 lakh bales.
- The Mission for Cotton Productivity (Rs 5,659.22 crore, 2026-27 to 2030-31) targets 498 lakh bales by 2031, covering 140 districts in 14 states.
- MSP for 2026-27 is Rs 8,267/quintal (medium staple) and Rs 8,667/quintal (long staple); CCI bought 105.09 lakh bales at MSP in 2025-26.
- India is the only country growing all four cultivated cotton species and ranks first in cotton area.

QUICK FACTS

India	1st in cotton area (114.84 lakh ha, ~38% of world), 2nd in production and consumption
Only country cultivating all four species	G. arboreum and G. herbaceum (Asian/desi), G. barbadense (Egyptian), G. hirsutum (American upland)
Production 2024-25	297.24 lakh bales; 2025-26 (provisional): 290.91 lakh bales
Zones	North (Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan), Central (Gujarat, Maharashtra, MP), South (Telangana, AP, Karnataka)

- G. hirsutum accounts for ~90% of hybrid cotton; all Bt hybrids in India belong to it
- About 62% of cotton is rain-fed; 1 bale = 170 kg
- Cotton season runs October to September
- Ahmedabad is called the 'Manchester of India'

CCEA Approves National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026), Successor to NIP-2012

15 Jul

- The CCEA approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026), proposed by the Department of Fertilizers, to attract investment in new gas-based urea plants.
- NIPU-2026 separates fixed and variable costs, sets a Return on Equity band of 12% to 16%, and converts fixed cost into rupees after four years to cut foreign-exchange risk.
- The changes are estimated to save over Rs 250 crore per plant compared with NIP-2012.
- NIP-2012 produced 6 new urea units (4 PSU joint ventures, 2 private); its investment window closed in October 2019.
- India has 33 operating urea units with 269.42 LMT capacity, and imports cover the gap between output and demand.

QUICK FACTS

Approved by	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister, 15 July 2026.
Proposal of	Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
Covers	all new gas-based urea manufacturing units set up from now on.
RoE band	floor 12%, ceiling 16%.
Currency risk	fixed cost converted into INR after four years at the prevailing exchange rate.
Estimated saving	over Rs 250 crore per plant versus NIP-2012.
Existing base	33 operational urea units, reassessed/installed capacity 269.42 LMT.

- Urea price to farmers is statutorily fixed at Rs 242 per 45 kg bag (excluding neem-coating charges and taxes).

2. Banking & Finance

3 articles

Financial inclusion status: 58.63 crore Jan Dhan accounts; PMSBY 58.78 crore, APY 9.29 crore enrolments

21 Jul

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) had 58.63 crore accounts holding Rs 3,08,333 crore on 1 July 2026; 55.74% belong to women and 77.80% are in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Insurance enrolments on 1 July 2026: PMJJBY (life) 27.84 crore and PMSBY (accident) 58.78 crore; Atal Pension Yojana had 9.29 crore subscribers on 30 June 2026.
- PM MUDRA Yojana has sanctioned 59.14 crore loans worth Rs 41.71 lakh crore (26 June 2026); Stand-Up India 2.75 lakh loans worth Rs 62,790 crore (31 March 2025).
- The figures were given by MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written Rajya Sabha reply.

QUICK FACTS

Source	written Rajya Sabha reply, MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, 21 July 2026
NMFI's three principles	banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded
PMJDY	58.63 crore accounts, Rs 3,08,333 crore deposits (1.7.2026)

- PMJDY is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFI), launched August 2014
- Women hold 32.68 crore Jan Dhan accounts (55.74%); 45.62 crore (77.80%) are rural/semi-urban
- PMJJBY and PMSBY each give Rs 2 lakh cover; PMSBY also pays Rs 1 lakh for permanent partial disability
- MUDRA loans are collateral-free, up to Rs 20 lakh, for non-farm micro/small units, including activities allied to agriculture

UPI Crosses 55.49 Crore Users; FY26 Transactions Hit Rs 314 Lakh Crore

20 Jul

- UPI had 55.49 crore users onboarded as of June 2026, the Ministry of Finance told the Lok Sabha on 20 July 2026, citing NPCI.
- In FY 2025-26, UPI processed 24,161.69 crore transactions worth Rs 314.23 lakh crore, against 4,595.61 crore worth Rs 84.16 lakh crore in FY 2021-22.
- UPI now runs in 12 live corridors; the latest are Greece (P2P, May 2026), Nepal (P2P, June 2026) and Cambodia (P2M, June 2026).
- Security measures include risk-based transaction limits, NPCI's Comprehensive UPI Information Security Framework (CUISF) 2025 and the Mobile Application Security Framework.

QUICK FACTS

UPI users onboarded	55.49 crore (June 2026), per NPCI
FY 2025-26 volume	24,161.69 crore transactions; value Rs 314.23 lakh crore
First overseas UPI acceptance	Bhutan, with RMA Bhutan (P2M), July 2021
Newest (2026)	Greece with Eurobank S.A. (P2P, May), Nepal with Nepal Clearing House Ltd (P2P, June), Cambodia with Acleda Bank PLC (P2M, June)
Security	NPCI's Comprehensive UPI Information Security Framework (CUISF) 2025 and the Mobile Application Security Framework mandate advanced controls

- UPI is operated by NPCI and authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- NIPL, NPCI's wholly owned international arm, was incorporated in April 2020 to take UPI and RuPay abroad
- 12 live international arrangements across 11 countries (Singapore and Nepal each have separate P2M and P2P links)
- Reply given by MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in a written Lok Sabha answer

UPI IN FIVE FINANCIAL YEARS

Financial Year	Volume (crore)	Value (Rs lakh crore)
2021-22	4,595.61	84.16
2022-23	8,371.44	139.15
2023-24	13,112.95	199.95
2024-25	18,586.60	260.56
2025-26	24,161.69	314.23

Source: Ministry of Finance Lok Sabha reply, 20 July 2026. FY26 over FY25 works out to about 30% volume growth and about 21% value growth; volume is about 5.3 times the FY22 level.

WHERE UPI IS LIVE ABROAD

Country	Live for	Partner institution	Live since
Bhutan	P2M	RMA Bhutan	July 2021
Singapore	P2M	NETS Singapore; HitPay Payment Solutions; LiquidPay Group	August 2021
UAE	P2M	Mashreq Bank (NeoPay); Network International; Magnati	April 2022
Singapore	P2P	BCS PayNow	February 2023
France	P2M	LYRA Network	February 2024
Mauritius	P2M	Bank of Mauritius	February 2024
Sri Lanka	P2M	Lanka Pay Pvt. Ltd.	February 2024
Nepal	P2M	FonePay Payment Services Ltd.	March 2024
Qatar	P2M	Qatar National Bank	September 2025
Greece	P2P	Eurobank S.A.	May 2026
Nepal	P2P	Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL)	June 2026
Cambodia	P2M	Acleda Bank PLC	June 2026

Source: Ministry of Finance Lok Sabha reply, 20 July 2026. P2P = person-to-person remittance; P2M = person-to-merchant payment.

Rural Credit Backgrounder: GLC Target Rs 32.50 Lakh Crore, 28 RRBs, KCC Interest-Subvention Limit Now Rs 5 Lakh

16 Jul

- A PIB backgrounder put the FY 2025-26 Ground Level Credit target for agriculture at Rs 32.50 lakh crore, more than four times the Rs 8 lakh crore of FY 2014-15.
- As on 8 July 2026, KCC applications stood at over 1,178 lakh in cooperative banks, about 739 lakh in commercial banks and over 365 lakh in RRBs. The loan limit under MISS is now Rs 5 lakh.
- India has 28 RRBs after the 'One State, One RRB' merger and 11 small finance banks. 61,842 PACS have moved to common ERP software.
- NABARD's May 2026 RECSS found 77.2% of rural households reporting higher consumption, and about 51% borrowing only from formal sources.

QUICK FACTS

Source	PIB Backgrounder 'Strengthening Rural Credit for Inclusive Growth in India', 16 July 2026.
GLC target for agriculture, FY 2025-26	Rs 32.50 lakh crore, including a Rs 5 lakh crore sub-target for animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries. The FY 2014-15 target was Rs 8 lakh crore.
KCC applications (8 July 2026)	cooperative banks 1,178+ lakh, commercial banks ~739 lakh, RRBs 365+ lakh.
RRBs	28, with 22,000+ branches in 700 districts. Small Finance Banks: 11. Scheduled Commercial Banks: around 120.
Cooperative network	1,458 Urban Cooperative Banks, 34 State Cooperative Banks and 352 DCCBs.
NABARD RECSS (May 2026)	77.2% of rural households report higher consumption. About 51% use only formal credit, and over 27% use both formal and informal.

– Agricultural credit disbursement grew by more than 13% a year over FY15-FY24.

– Rural SCB branches rose from 41,464 in 2014 to 56,193 in July 2025, an increase of over 35%.

3. Polity & Governance

1 article

Rajya Sabha Panel on Subordinate Legislation Reviews CCI Settlement, Commitment and Penalty Rules

21 Jul

- The Rajya Sabha Committee on Subordinate Legislation, chaired by Milind Murli Deora, presented its 257th Report on 21 July 2026.
- It scrutinised four CCI instruments of 2024: the Commitment, Settlement and Turnover/Income Regulations and the Monetary Penalty Guidelines.
- It noted CCI recovers over 98% of legally realisable penalties, but that many penalties are stayed or quashed on appeal, and asked for stronger investigations.
- It asked CCI to treat repeat offences as an aggravating factor, show its penalty arithmetic in each order, and sign MoUs with sectoral regulators under the 2023 Amendment.

QUICK FACTS

Report	257th Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Rajya Sabha; presented 21 July 2026
Chairman	Milind Murli Deora, MP
Instruments examined	CCI (Commitment) Regulations 2024; CCI (Settlement) Regulations 2024; CCI (Determination of Turnover or Income) Regulations 2024; CCI (Determination of Monetary Penalty) Guidelines 2024
Witnesses heard	Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Competition Commission of India
The Committee's job	check whether powers to make rules, regulations and bye-laws delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised

– The four instruments were notified by CCI on 6 March 2024 under the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023

4. Science & Tech

4 articles

CDSCO Approves Qdenga, India's First Dengue Vaccine, for Ages 4 to 60

21 Jul

- CDSCO granted marketing authorisation to Qdenga, Takeda's live-attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine — the first dengue vaccine approved in India.
- It is approved for people aged 4 to 60 in two 0.5 ml subcutaneous doses given three months apart (0 and 3 months).
- Qdenga is made by Takeda GmbH, Germany, and will be imported by Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India; a pivotal Phase III study was run in Indians aged 4-60.
- The vaccine is approved in 42 countries including the EU and UK, carries WHO prequalification, and over 24 million doses have been distributed worldwide.
- The vaccine adds to the vector control, surveillance and case management already run under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

QUICK FACTS

Product	Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine (Live, Attenuated) — brand Qdenga, research code TAK-003
Approving regulator	Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Legal basis of approval	Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs Rules, 1945
Manufacturer	Takeda GmbH, Germany; importer: Takeda Biopharmaceuticals India Pvt. Ltd.; parent Takeda is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan
Age band	4 to 60 years; schedule: two doses of 0.5 ml at 0 and 3 months, subcutaneous
Global footprint	approved in 42 countries; WHO prequalified on 10 May 2024; 24 million+ doses distributed
Dengue burden	2,33,519 cases and 297 deaths in India in 2024 (NCVBDC)
National Dengue Day	16 May

Skyroot's Vikram-1 Reaches Orbit: India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket

18 Jul

- Vikram-1, built by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace, reached Low Earth Orbit on 18 July 2026 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It is India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, and Skyroot is the first Indian private company to make an orbital launch from Indian soil
- The mission is called Mission Aagaman. Vikram-1 is a four-stage rocket that can place 350 kg in LEO. It has an all-carbon-composite structure and a 100% 3D-printed liquid engine on its Orbital Adjustment Module
- It follows Skyroot's suborbital Vikram-S (Mission Prarambh, November 2022), which was India's first private rocket and the first private launch authorised by IN-SPACe
- The reforms behind it: Indian Space Policy 2023, IN-SPACe as the single-window authoriser, NSIL as ISRO's commercial arm, and the 2024 FDI caps of 74% (satellites), 49% (launch vehicles) and 100% (components) under the automatic route
- India's space economy is about USD 8.4 billion and is projected at USD 40-45 billion by 2030 and USD 100 billion by 2040. Space startups grew from 1 in 2014 to over 400 in 2026

QUICK FACTS

Vehicle	Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, built by Skyroot Aerospace (founded 12 June 2018, Hyderabad, by former ISRO scientists Pawan Kumar Chandana and Bharath Daka)
Mission name	Mission Aagaman. Maiden orbital flight on 18 July 2026 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
Capacity	up to 350 kg to Low Earth Orbit. Four stages. About 22 m tall
Firsts claimed by DoS	India's first all-carbon-composite orbital rocket, a 100% 3D-printed liquid engine on the Orbital Adjustment Module, and one of India's longest monolithic carbon-composite stages
Payload manifest (PIB backgrounder)	Skyroot's SCOPE satellite, DCUBED's technology demonstrator, Grahaa Space's SOLARAS S3, and Cosmoserve Space's Embrace, a robotic arm to capture orbital debris. Target orbit 450 km
Symbolic payloads	'Cosmic Bloom' artwork and an 18-karat gold micro-rocket with micro-sculptures of C. V. Raman, Vikram Sarabhai and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

– Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR is in Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh. It became operational on 9 October 1971 with a Rohini-125 sounding rocket and was renamed after Prof. Satish Dhawan on 5 September 2002

India's First Hydrogen Train Flagged Off on 90 km Jind–Sonipat Route in Haryana

17 Jul

- India's first hydrogen-powered train was flagged off by the Prime Minister at Jind, Haryana on 17 July 2026, running the 90 km Jind–Sonipat route.
- The 10-coach, roughly 3,200 hp (2,400 kW) trainset was built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai — the PM called it the world's most powerful and longest hydrogen train.
- It is the first of the 35 trains Indian Railways plans under 'Hydrogen for Heritage' for heritage and hill routes.
- The same event dedicated or laid foundations for projects worth about Rs 14,700 crore, including the Haryana section of the Delhi–Amritsar–Katra Expressway and two medical colleges.
- The PM said railway electrification rose from about 30% (1925–2014) to nearly 99%, and cited Khelo Bharat Niti, Khelo India and TOPS ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

QUICK FACTS

Flagged off	17 July 2026, Jind (Haryana), by PM Narendra Modi; route Jind–Sonipat, 90 km (Northern Railway, Delhi Division).
Rake	10 coaches — 2 hydrogen driving power cars + 8 trailer coaches; capacity about 2,600 passengers.
Power	1,200 kW per power car, 2,400 kW total (3,200 hp); foreign hydrogen trains typically run 3-4 coaches.
Builder	Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai; designed by Indian engineers, built by an Indian company (Make in India).
Fuel supply	Jind hydrogen plant with a 1 MW PEM electrolyser (~430 kg hydrogen/day) and 3,000 kg storage.
Programme	first train of Indian RailwaysHydrogen for Heritage' plan — 35 hydrogen trains on heritage and hill routes.
Package	projects worth about Rs 14,700 crore across rail, highways, health and heritage.
Electrification	began 1925; ~30% of network by 2014; nearly 99% now; Haryana 100%.

NITI Aayog Bioeconomy Roadmap: $691 Billion by 2035, Six National BioMissions, Rs 50,000 Crore Fund

16 Jul

- NITI Aayog released the 'Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035', targeting $691 billion by 2035 and $2.6 trillion by 2047, up from $195.3 billion (4.8% of GDP) in 2025.
- It proposes six National BioMissions: GeneIndia, AgriBio 2.0, BioX Foundry, One Health Grid, Marine Biotechnology and BioPharmaNext.

- A Rs 50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund is proposed, carved out of the existing Rs 1 lakh crore RDI framework.
- At the launch, Dr Jitendra Singh announced India's first Engineering Biology graduation course. The roadmap builds on the BioE3 Policy of 2024.

QUICK FACTS

Document	'Roadmap for Building India as a Leading Bioeconomy Powerhouse by 2035', launched by NITI Aayog in New Delhi on 16 July 2026.
Launched by	Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Science & Technology.
Prepared by	NITI Frontier Tech Hub, in consultation with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), ABLE, industry and academia.
Size so far	from $10 billion in 2014 to $195.3 billion in 2025, which is 4.8% of GDP.
Targets	$691 billion by 2035 and $2.6 trillion by 2047, with over 30 million high-value jobs.
Execution	six National BioMissions. Finance: a proposed Rs 50,000 crore BioEconomy Growth Fund taken from the Rs 1 lakh crore RDI framework.
Skills	India's first Engineering Biology graduation course announced. IITs have begun proposing interdisciplinary programmes with medical institutions.
Policy anchor	the BioE3 Policy, approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2024.

THE SIX PROPOSED NATIONAL BIOMISSIONS

BioMission	Focus
GeneIndia	Health: affordable cell and gene therapies
AgriBio 2.0	Agriculture: climate-resilient crops and bio-inputs
BioX Foundry	Industrial biotechnology: AI-enabled biofoundries
One Health Grid	Pandemic preparedness: integrated disease surveillance
Marine Biotechnology	Blue economy: marine bio-products
BioPharmaNext	Next-generation biopharma: biologics, biosimilars, vaccines, advanced therapeutics

Source: NITI Aayog release, PRID 2285858

5. Environment

2 articles

Five new lichen species of genus Allographa described from the Western Ghats by ARI Pune

21 Jul

- MACS-Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune described five new lichen-forming fungi of genus Allographa from the Western Ghats: A. keralensis, A. nayakae, A. paraconsanguinea, A. persistinspersa and A. semicarbonisata.
- It is the first comprehensive molecular phylogenetic study of Allographa from the Western Ghats, using three DNA markers (mtSSU, nrLSU, RPB2); published in Mycological Progress.
- Allographa (family Graphidaceae, 200+ species) are 'script lichens' whose sensitivity to pollution and habitat change makes them indicators of forest health.
- A. keralensis is named after Kerala; A. nayakae honours Indian lichenologist Dr Sanjeeva Nayaka.

QUICK FACTS

Discovery	five new Allographa species from tropical forests of the Western Ghats
Institution	MACS-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune — autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology
Method	morphology and chemistry combined with multi-locus DNA sequencing (mtSSU, nrLSU, RPB2)
Finding	species that look alike are not always closely related — morphology alone misleads
Output	updated checklist of Western Ghats Allographa, a baseline for conservation planning
Journal	Mycological Progress (Springer)

- New molecular data also generated for known species A. calcea, A. macella, A. aquilonia, A. rimulosa and A. effusosoredica

PARIVARTAN Guidelines Approved: Rs 9,585 Crore Scheme to Replace Old Trucks and Buses in Delhi-NCR

16 Jul

- MoHUA approved the operational guidelines for the Rs 9,585 crore PARIVARTAN scheme, which the Cabinet approved on 3 June 2026. The scheme replaces old trucks and buses in NCR with BS-VI or electric vehicles.
- MoRTH implements the scheme, with funds routed through the NCRPB. Incentives include MV tax concession, registration-fee waiver, 5% interest subvention, a minimum 8% OEM discount, fuel vouchers and one-time assistance for EVs.
- Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have notified 10-year MV tax concessions. 11 OEMs holding over 95% of the commercial-vehicle market signed MoUs.
- Benefits will flow through one digital platform linked to VAHAN, V-Scrap, DigiELV and PFMS.

QUICK FACTS

Aim	replace older, highly polluting trucks and buses in the National Capital Region with BS-VI-compliant or electric vehicles.
Outlay	Rs 9,585 crore, including Rs 5,041 crore in Central budgetary support. Union Cabinet approval: 3 June 2026.
Implementing ministry	MoRTH. Funding channel: the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB).
Target fleet	vehicles meeting BS-IV or earlier norms, about 2.07 lakh in all (1.91 lakh trucks and 16,329 buses) by the Cabinet's estimate.

- PARIVARTAN stands for Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions.
- Guidelines approved on 16 July 2026 by the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, which makes the scheme ready to operationalise.
- Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi notified a 10-year MV tax concession and a registration-fee waiver for new vehicles bought under the scheme.
- 11 OEMs, together holding more than 95% of the commercial-vehicle market, signed MoUs with MoRTH to give the discount.

6. Schemes & Committees

4 articles

Modified UDAN: Rs 28,840 Crore for 100 Airports, 200 Helipads Over FY27-FY36

17 Jul

- Modified UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme) runs for 10 years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, with an outlay of Rs 28,840 crore — it plans 100 new airports from unserved airstrips and 200 modern helipads.
- Viability Gap Funding for airlines gets Rs 10,043 crore; support lasts up to five years, tapers from year three, and route exclusivity is capped at three years.
- Nine-year tally of UDAN (as of 15 July 2026): 679 routes, 95 airports/heliports/water aerodromes, 3.58 lakh flights and over 1.68 crore passengers.
- Operational airports in India rose from 74 in 2014 to 165 as of 15 July 2026.
- Alliance Air began Daman's first direct air link (Daman-Delhi) on 16 July 2026 from the new NAMO Airport, a civil terminal at Indian Coast Guard Air Station Daman.

QUICK FACTS

Modified UDAN	Cabinet approval March 2026; launched 4 July 2026; period FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36; total outlay Rs 28,840 crore.
Targets	100 airports developed from existing unserved airstrips; 200 modern helipads at about Rs 15 crore each.
Funding innovation	the RCS levy — a small fee on selected categories of domestic flights funds regional connectivity from within the sector.
Indigenous aircraft	two HAL Dhruv helicopters for Pawan Hans and two HAL Dornier aircraft for Alliance Air.
Passenger facilities under UDAN	UDAN Yatri Cafés (affordable food), Flybrary (free books) and free Wi-Fi.

- UDAN = Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik; launched 21 October 2016 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation as the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).
- UDAN was conceived under the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016; first UDAN flight: Shimla-Delhi, 27 April 2017, flown by Alliance Air.
- India is the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world.

Cabinet Approves Semicon 2.0 with Rs 1,27,500 Crore Outlay

15 Jul

- The Union Cabinet approved Semicon 2.0 with a budget outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore to build the full semiconductor value chain in India.
- It rests on six pillars: design, machines and materials, more fabs, ATMP/OSAT, R&D towards advanced nodes, and talent.
- Under Semicon 1.0, 12 units worth over Rs 1.64 lakh crore were approved; Micron, Kaynes and CG Semi have begun commercial production.
- India's first fab is due to be commissioned in 2028; the target is a USD 200 billion domestic semiconductor market by 2035.

QUICK FACTS

Decision	Union Cabinet (not CCEA), 15 July 2026; outlay Rs 1,27,500 crore.
Commercial production started	Micron ATMP, Kaynes Semicon, CG Power OSAT.
Current node range	28-110 nm; Semicon 2.0 targets more advanced nodes.
Target	USD 200 billion domestic semiconductor market by 2035.

- Successor to the Semicon India Programme (Semicon 1.0), approved 15 December 2021 with Rs 76,000 crore.
- Implemented through the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), under MeitY.
- 12 units approved so far in six states: Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh.

- First fab scheduled to be commissioned in 2028.

Cabinet Approves Rs 62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

15 Jul

- The Union Cabinet approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with an outlay of Rs 62,500 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- It pays 2.25% to 5% on eligible sales, up to 1.5% extra for domestic sourcing of components, and 3% extra for design and R&D by Indian brands.
- MPMS follows the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, whose tenure ended on 31 March 2026.
- India is the world's second-largest mobile phone maker, and mobile phones became India's largest export item in FY 2025-26.

QUICK FACTS

Approved by	Union Cabinet, 15 July 2026; nodal ministry MeitY.
Outlay	Rs 62,500 crore; tenure 5 years, FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
Base incentive	2.25%-5% of eligible sales of phones made in India.
Domestic-sourcing top-up	up to 1.5% for local key components/sub-assemblies.
Indian-brand top-up	3% of eligible sales for design and R&D.
Expected	cumulative production of about Rs 39 lakh crore and around 60,000 direct jobs.

- 99.2% of phones used in India are made in India.
- Predecessor PLI-LSEM ended 31 March 2026.

World Youth Skills Day 2026: MSDE Unveils Skilling Initiatives, NCVET–ASQA Sign Letter of Intent

15 Jul

- World Youth Skills Day (15 July) 2026, theme 'Skills for a Shared Future': MSDE released IndiaSkills Competition 2026-27 Guidelines (63 skill categories), launched the WorldSkills India Champions Club and a multi-skilled caregiver programme under PMKVY.
- NCVET (India) and the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) signed a Letter of Intent on quality assurance in TVET, as an outcome of the Prime Minister's visit to Australia.
- A proposed Skills Outcomes Fund of about Rs 530 crore, housed in NSDC, will pay against verified certification, placement and retention outcomes for over 2 lakh youth.
- MSDE constituted a Committee on Gender Mainstreaming and extended the NAPS apprenticeship pilot in the North Eastern Region.
- A PIB backgrounder put PMKVY 4.0 at 28.17 lakh trained (30 June 2026) and NAPS at 54.41 lakh apprentices since 2016.

QUICK FACTS

World Youth Skills Day	15 July, declared by the UN General Assembly in 2014; 2026 theme 'Skills for a Shared Future'.
NCVET	India's vocational education regulator, set up 5 December 2018 by subsuming NCVT and NSDA; Chairperson Debashree Mukherjee (also Secretary, MSDE).
ASQA	Australia's national VET regulator, set up under the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011.
Skills Outcomes Fund	~Rs 530 crore, within NSDC; MoUs MSDE–NSDC and NSDC–British Asian India Foundation (India Skills Outcomes Platform).
Caregiver programme	Budget 2026-27 target 1.5 lakh multi-skilled caregivers, 1.3 lakh via the MSDE ecosystem.
Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)	unified skilling platform launched 13 September 2023; IndiaSkills 2026-27 registrations run on it.
India Skills Report 2026	employability 56.4% (46% in 2020).
Demography	over 54% of Indians are below 25; 62%+ are aged 15-59.

- Skill India Mission was launched on World Youth Skills Day, 15 July 2015; MSDE itself was set up in November 2014.
- PM Internship Scheme (Ministry of Corporate Affairs): pilot launched October 2024; target 1 crore internships in top 500 companies over 5 years; pilot stipend Rs 5,000/month.

7. Agreements & MoUs

2 articles

India Becomes 123rd Party to WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

20 Jul

- India became a Party to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS) on 20 July 2026, the 123rd WTO Member to deposit its Instrument of Acceptance.
- The AFS was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), Geneva, June 2022, and entered into force on 15 September 2025 after two-thirds of Members accepted it.
- It bans subsidies to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and to fishing of overfished stocks; aquaculture and inland fisheries are outside its scope.
- India cites its EEZ fisheries rules of 2025 and PMMSY as the domestic framework for implementing it.

QUICK FACTS

Date India became a Party	20 July 2026, Instrument of Acceptance handed to the WTO Director-General by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal
India's position	123rd WTO Member to deposit acceptance
Adopted	by consensus at MC12, Geneva, June 2022
In force	15 September 2025, once two-thirds of WTO Members had accepted
Covers	marine wild-capture fishing and fishing-related activities at sea
Excludes	aquaculture and inland fisheries
Sunset clause (Article 12)	the agreement terminates if comprehensive disciplines are not adopted within four years of entry into force, unless the General Council decides otherwise

- First WTO agreement with an environmental sustainability objective

India-UK CETA and Double Contribution Convention Enter into Force

15 Jul

- The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Agreement on Social Security (Double Contribution Convention) entered into force on 15 July 2026.
- Indian goods get zero-duty access on about 99% of tariff lines, covering almost 100% of India's export value to the UK; India offers concessions on 89.5% of its tariff lines.
- The Double Contribution Convention exempts Indian professionals on temporary UK assignments from paying social security in both countries for up to five years.
- The first Certificates of Origin under CETA were issued on DGFT's eCoO 2.0 platform on a self-certification basis; over 50 consignments worth more than USD 140 million shipped on day one.
- The agreement was signed on 24 July 2025 at Chequers after 14 formal negotiating rounds that began in January 2022.

QUICK FACTS

In force	15 July 2026, CETA together with the Double Contribution Convention (DCC).
Signed	24 July 2025 at Chequers, UK, when both PMs also endorsed India-UK Vision 2035.
India's exports	zero duty on ~99% of tariff lines, ~100% of trade value.
UK's exports	India concedes on 89.5% of tariff lines covering 91% of UK exports; 24.5% of UK export value duty-free immediately.
DCC	no double social security contributions for Indian workers on temporary UK postings, for up to 5 years.
Day one	50+ consignments, over USD 140 million, from 20+ ports, airports, ICDs, SEZs and factories.
Nodal department	Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

- Negotiations launched 13 January 2022; 14 formal rounds and 800+ technical sessions.
- Operational date fixed by the two leaders on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, 30 days earlier.

8. Ranks & Reports

1 article

NITI Aayog's First Investment Friendliness Index: Gujarat Tops, Five States 'Top Performers'

17 Jul

- NITI Aayog released its first Investment Friendliness Index (IFI): Gujarat ranks first, and Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Odisha are the five 'Top Performers'.
- The index covers all 28 states and 8 UTs on 8 pillars and 84 indicators, mixing secondary data with an investor perception survey.
- Peer-group toppers: Gujarat (Large States), Uttarakhand (Hilly and North-Eastern States), Goa (UTs and City States).
- It was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 after the PM asked NITI Aayog at the 9th Governing Council meeting (July 2024) to draft an Investment-Friendly Charter.

QUICK FACTS

Publisher	NITI Aayog. Edition: first ever (2026). Coverage: 28 states + 8 UTs.
Framework	8 pillars, 84 indicators; secondary data plus an investor perception survey.
Score bands	Top Performers (above 50), Frontrunners (45-50), Emerging Performers (40 to below 45), Aspiring (below 40).
Distribution	5 Top Performers, 15 Frontrunners, 8 Emerging Performers, 8 Aspiring.

- Gujarat scored 56.6, the highest; Odisha, the fifth Top Performer, scored 52.4.
- Announced in the Union Budget 2025-26 (1 February 2025) to further 'competitive cooperative federalism'.

RESULTS

Group	1st	2nd	3rd
Overall / Large States	Gujarat (56.6)	Maharashtra (53.7)	Tamil Nadu (53.3)
Hilly and North-Eastern States	Uttarakhand	Assam	Himachal Pradesh
UTs and City States	Goa	Delhi	Chandigarh

Source: PIB release of 17 July 2026 for ranks; scores from the NITI Aayog report as reported by ThePrint and Drishti IAS. Goa (53.1) and Odisha (52.4) complete the five Top Performers.

9. Awards & Honours

1 article

72nd National Film Awards Announced: Article 370 Best Film; Mammootty, Kartik Aaryan Share Best Actor

18 Jul

- 72nd National Film Awards (for films of 2024) were announced on 18 July 2026. Article 370 (Hindi) won Best Feature Film, Bhangaar Best Non-Feature Film and Ram-Nami Best Documentary
- Best Actor was shared by Mammootty (Bramayugam, Malayalam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion, Hindi). Yami Gautam won Best Actress for Article 370
- Randeep Hooda won Best Debut Film of a Director for Swatantrya Veer Savarkar. Amaran won Best Direction (Rajkumar Periasamy) and Kalki 2898 AD won Best Popular Film
- Top awards carry the Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) and Rs 3 lakh. Most craft and acting awards carry the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus) and Rs 2 lakh
- Jury chairs: Jayaraj (Feature), Aseem Sinha (Non-Feature), A. Chandrasekhar (Writing on Cinema)

QUICK FACTS

Edition	72nd National Film Awards, for films certified in 2024. Announced 18 July 2026 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Three sections	Feature Films, Non-Feature Films, and Best Writing on Cinema
Best Feature Film	Article 370 (Hindi), directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios
Films with two or more awards	Article 370 (Best Film, Actress, Music-Songs), Amaran (Direction, Editing, Background Music), Kalki 2898 AD (Popular Film, Production Design), Pushpa: The Rule Part-02 (Screenplay, Costume) and Bramayugam (Actor, Cinematography)
Special Mention (certificate)	Dhanush for Captain Miller, and Suren G. (sound mix) for Meiyazhagan

- Language awards went to 12 Eighth Schedule languages plus two non-scheduled ones, Garhwali (Dholi) and Tulu (IMBU)
- The Non-Feature Best Debut went to Angen, a Santhali film. Santhali entered the Eighth Schedule in 2003 (92nd Amendment)

COMPLETE WINNERS LIST: 72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS (2024)

Award	Film (language)	Awardee	Medal
Feature Films			
Best Feature Film	Article 370 (Hindi)	Jio Studios & B62 Studios (producers); Aditya Suhas Jambhale (director)	Swarna Kamal
Best Debut Film of a Director	Swatantrya Veer Savarkar (Hindi)	Randeep Hooda	Swarna Kamal
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu)	Vyjayanthi Movies; Nag Ashwin Singireddy	Swarna Kamal
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values	Captain Miller (Tamil)	Sathya Jyothi Films; Arun Matheswaran	Rajat Kamal
Best Children's Film	35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu (Telugu)	S Originals & Waltair Productions; Nanda Kishore Emani	Swarna Kamal
Best Direction	Amaran (Tamil)	Rajkumar Periasamy	Swarna Kamal
Best Actor in a Leading Role (shared)	Bramayugam (Malayalam) / Chandu Champion (Hindi)	Mammootty / Kartik Aaryan	Rajat Kamal
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Article 370 (Hindi)	Yami Gautam	Rajat Kamal
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Bhakshak (Hindi)	Sanjay Mishra	Rajat Kamal
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (shared)	Maharaja (Tamil) / Mithya (Kannada)	Sachana Namidass / Ropashree Varkady	Rajat Kamal
Best Child Artist (shared)	Mithya (Kannada) / 35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu (Telugu) / Onko Ki Kothin (Bengali)	Athish S Shetty / Arundev Pothula / Riddhiman Banerjee, Tapomoy Deb, Gitashree Chakraborty	Rajat Kamal

Award	Film (language)	Awardee	Medal
Best Male Playback Singer	Gharat Ganpati (Marathi)	Abhay Jodhpurkar (Navasachi Gauri Mazi)	Rajat Kamal
Best Female Playback Singer	A. R. M (Malayalam)	Vaikom Vijayalakshmi (Angu Vaana Konilu)	Rajat Kamal
Best Cinematography	Bramayugam (Malayalam)	Shehnad Jalal	Rajat Kamal
Best Screenplay (Original)	Pushpa: The Rule Part-02 (Telugu)	Bandreddi Sukumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Screenplay (Adapted)	Swargandharva Sudhir Phadke (Marathi)	Yogesh Deshpande	Rajat Kamal
Best Screenplay (Dialogue)	Lucky Baskhar (Telugu)	Venky Atluri	Rajat Kamal
Best Sound Design	Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 (Hindi)	Manas Choudhury	Rajat Kamal
Best Editing	Amaran (Tamil)	R. Kalaivannan	Rajat Kamal
Best Production Design	Kalki 2898 AD (Telugu)	Nitin Zihani Choudhary	Rajat Kamal
Best Costume Design	Pushpa: The Rule Part-02 (Telugu)	Deepali Noor & Sheetal Sharma	Rajat Kamal
Best Make-up	Committee Kurrollu (Telugu)	P Ravi Kumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Music Direction (Songs)	Article 370 (Hindi)	Shashwat Sachdev	Rajat Kamal
Best Music Direction (Background)	Amaran (Tamil)	G. V. Prakash Kumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Lyrics	Maidaan (Hindi)	Manoj Muntashir (Jaane Do)	Rajat Kamal
Best Choreography	Stree 2 (Hindi)	Vijay Ganguly (Aaj Ki Raat)	Rajat Kamal
Best Action Direction	Maharaja (Tamil)	Anl Arasu	Rajat Kamal
Special Mention	Captain Miller (Tamil) / Meiyazhagan (Tamil)	Dhanush (actor) / Suren G. (sound mix)	Certificate
Best Feature Film in Each Language			
Assamese	Juiphool	Jadumoni Dutta	Rajat Kamal
Bengali	Chalchitra Ekhon	Anjan Dutt	Rajat Kamal
Gujarati	Maaran	Cineman Productions; Abhishek Jain	Rajat Kamal
Hindi	Srikanth	Super Cassettes Industries & Chalk N Cheese Films; Tushar Hiranandani	Rajat Kamal
Kannada	Mithya	Paramvah Pictures & KRG Studios; Sumanth Bhat	Rajat Kamal
Konkani	Mog Asum	Radheshyam Pipalwa & Agnelo Angelo Braganza	Rajat Kamal
Malayalam	Feminichi Fathima	1001 Stories & AFD Cinemas; Fasil Muhammed	Rajat Kamal
Manipuri	Sunita	Yumnam Ajit Singh	Rajat Kamal
Marathi	Mukkam Post Bombilwadi	Vivek Films & Mayasabha Karamanuk Mandali; Paresh Mokashi	Rajat Kamal
Odia	Lahari	Jhilik Motion Pictures; Amartya Bhattacharyya	Rajat Kamal
Tamil	Raayan	Sun TV Network; Dhanush	Rajat Kamal
Telugu	Committee Kurrollu	Pink Elephant Pictures & Shree Radha	Rajat

Award	Film (language)	Awardee	Medal
		Damodara Studios; Yadhu Vamsee	Kamal
Garhwali (non-Eighth Schedule)	Dholi	SC Pharmachem; Dinesh P. Bhonsle	Rajat Kamal
Tulu (non-Eighth Schedule)	IMBU	Pichchar Studio; Shivadhwaj Shetty	Rajat Kamal
Non-Feature Films			
Best Non-Feature Film	Bhangaar (Marathi & English)	Sumira Roy	Swarna Kamal
Best Debut Film of a Director	Angen (Santhali)	Ravi Raj Murmu	Swarna Kamal
Best Biographical / Historical Reconstruction / Compilation Film	Kakori (Hindi)	KSR Brothers & Minti Mishra; Kamlesh K Mishra	Rajat Kamal
Best Arts / Culture Film	Main Nida (Hindi)	Sampreshan Multimedia; Atul Pandey	Rajat Kamal
Best Documentary	Ram-Nami (Hindi)	BBP Studio Virtual Bharat; Bharatbala Ganapathy	Rajat Kamal
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	Piplantri: A Tale of Eco Feminism (Hindi, Rajasthani & English)	Johnsons Suraj Films International; Suraj Kumar	Rajat Kamal
Best Animation Film	Touched as Water (Silent)	JB Productions; Joshy Benedict	Rajat Kamal
Best Short Film (up to 30 min)	Hamsafar (Marathi)	Anushka Motion Pictures; Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi	Rajat Kamal
Best Direction	Statue of Unity - Ekta ka Prateek (Hindi)	Aanand L Rai	Swarna Kamal
Best Cinematography	Life in Loom (English, Tamil, Hindi, Assamese & Bengali)	Edmond Ranson	Rajat Kamal
Best Sound Design	Blue (Tamil)	T S Hari Hara Sudhan	Rajat Kamal
Best Editing	NDA (Hindi)	Manvir Jasrotia	Rajat Kamal
Best Music Direction	Parat 41 degree-chya Magavar / On the Trail of 41 degree (Marathi)	Shivpal Singh Kang	Rajat Kamal
Best Narration / Voice Over	Little Planet: A Tale of Frogs (English)	Soundarya Jayachandran	Rajat Kamal
Best Script	Obur (Hindi & Kashmiri)	Faraz Ali	Rajat Kamal
Special Mention	Bhadra-Kali Natakam (Malayalam) / Chola Dora aur Sui (Hindi)	Ananda Jyothi (Jose Antony) / Jaymin Modi & Lokesh Ghai	Certificate
Best Writing on Cinema			
Best Book on Cinema	Naaniruvude Nimagaagi Naadiruvude Nanagaagi: Kannada Cinemada Thathva matthu Rajakeeya (Kannada)	Kenchanuru Pradeep Kumar Shetty (publisher: Mirror Pusthaka)	Swarna Kamal
Best Film Critic	Hindi	Sanjeev Shrivastava	Swarna Kamal

Source: PIB release PRID 2286143, 18 July 2026. Cash prizes: Swarna Kamal awards Rs 3,00,000 (Rs 1,00,000 for Writing on Cinema); Rajat Kamal awards Rs 2,00,000; shared awards split the prize.

HEADLINE WINNERS: 71ST VS 72ND EDITION

Category	71st (films of 2023)	72nd (films of 2024)
Best Feature Film	12th Fail	Article 370
Best Actor	Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)	Mammootty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion)
Best Actress	Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway)	Yami Gautam (Article 370)
Announced	1 August 2025	18 July 2026

71st edition: announced 1 August 2025, presented 23 September 2025. Its Dadasaheb Phalke Award (for 2023) went to Mohanlal.

10. Sports

1 article

National Anti-Doping Act 2022 and 2025 Amendment Brought Into Force

17 Jul

- The Centre notified the commencement of the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025, announced on 17 July 2026 — India's anti-doping regime now runs on statute.
- The Acts align India's framework with the World Anti-Doping Code and meet its obligations under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- They give statutory backing to testing, results management, education, intelligence and investigations across all sports.
- The 2025 amendment was passed to meet WADA's objection to government control: it guarantees NADA's operational independence and strips the National Board of oversight over it.

QUICK FACTS

National Anti-Doping Act, 2022	Act No. 15 of 2022, received assent on 12 August 2022.
National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025	introduced in Lok Sabha on 23 July 2025; passed by Parliament on 12 August 2025, alongside the National Sports Governance Bill.
Why the 2022 Act sat unused	WADA objected that a government-controlled Board compromised NADA's autonomy.

- Commencement of both Acts notified by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (release of 17 July 2026).
- NADA was first set up on 24 November 2005 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860; the 2022 Act makes it a statutory body headed by a Director General appointed by the Centre.
- All dope-testing laboratories in India must hold WADA accreditation.