WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

22 Jul – 31 Jul 2026

UPSC EDITION

49 key articles · 12 categories · 10 days

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1. National

1 article

India Reports Zero Left Wing Extremism-Affected Districts After Decades of Insurgency

29 Jul

- No district in India is currently categorised as LWE-affected; the count fell from 126 districts to 90 (April 2018), 70 (July 2021), 38 (April 2024), 8 (December 2025) and to zero (March/April 2026).
- 37 districts are now classed 'Legacy & Thrust' districts requiring continued support, and 1 remains a 'District of Concern'.
- The decline is attributed to the 'National Policy and Action Plan to Address LWE' (2015) and the SAMADHAN doctrine (2017), combining security, development and community-rights measures.
- Rs 3,805.04 crore has been released to LWE-affected states since 2014-15 under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme.
- Information was given by MoS Home Nityanand Rai in a written Rajya Sabha reply.

QUICK FACTS

- LWE-affected districts fell from 126 to 90 (Apr 2018) -> 70 (Jul 2021) -> 38 (Apr 2024) -> 8 (Dec 2025) -> zero (Mar/Apr 2026)
- 37 districts now classed 'Legacy & Thrust'; 1 district classed 'District of Concern'
- National Policy and Action Plan to Address LWE approved in 2015; SAMADHAN doctrine launched in 2017
- Rs 3,805.04 crore released to states since 2014-15 under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme
- 663 Fortified Police Stations built; 15,189 km of roads constructed under LWE-specific road schemes

2. Economy

6 articles

PIB Explainer: How India Is Building a Globally Competitive Tourism Economy

31 Jul

- India recorded 2.9 billion domestic tourist visits in 2024 and 2.02 crore International Tourist Arrivals in 2025, with tourism contributing Rs 15.73 lakh crore (5.22% of GDP) in FY 2023-24.
- Swadesh Darshan (76 projects, Rs 5,295.24 crore, 75 completed) and Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (53 projects, Rs 2,207.08 crore) are building destination-centric tourism infrastructure across 14 thematic circuits.
- The e-Tourist Visa now covers nationals of 175 countries through 33 airports, 19 seaports and 4 land ports; the NIDHI+ platform digitises registration of tourism service providers.
- India climbed to 39th of 119 countries (score 4.25/7) in the WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, up from 54th in the 2021 edition.

QUICK FACTS

Domestic tourist visits	2.9 billion in 2024 (above pre-pandemic levels)
International Tourist Arrivals	~2.02 crore in 2025
Tourism's GDP contribution	Rs 15.73 lakh crore, 5.22% of GDP in FY 2023-24
Jobs supported	84.6 million in tourism and hospitality (2023-24)
International tourism receipts	~USD 31.7 billion in 2025
WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024	India ranked 39th of 119 countries, score 4.25/7

- 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites; 106 National Parks; 18 Biosphere Reserves

IIP Growth Accelerates to 7.3% in June 2026, Led by Electrical Equipment and Auto

28 Jul

- India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 7.3% year-on-year in June 2026 (Quick Estimate), up from 5.1% in May 2026, driven by 7.8% growth in Manufacturing and 10.6% in Electricity & Gas Supply.
- The IIP stands at 123.1 (Base 2022-23=100), against 114.7 in June 2025; Mining & Quarrying grew a modest 1.0%, while Water Supply/Sewerage/Waste Management grew 6.1%.
- 19 of 23 NIC-2-digit manufacturing industry groups recorded positive growth; the top contributors were Electrical Equipment (34.0%), Motor Vehicles/Trailers (17.5%), and Food Products (10.8%).
- By Use-Based Classification, Capital Goods led growth at 14.2%, followed by Intermediate Goods (9.3%) and Consumer Durables (7.7%); the next IIP release (July 2026 data) is due 28 August 2026.

QUICK FACTS

IIP June 2026	7.3% YoY growth (Quick Estimate); index level 123.1 (Base 2022-23=100), vs 114.7 in June 2025
Sectoral growth	Manufacturing 7.8%, Electricity & Gas Supply 10.6%, Water Supply/Sewerage/Waste Mgmt 6.1%, Mining & Quarrying 1.0%

- IIP is released on the 28th of every month (or next working day), compiled by MoSPI from source-agency data on factories/establishments
- New IIP series with base year 2022-23 covers 1,042 items in 463 item groups; Manufacturing weight 76.062%, Mining 11.053%, Electricity & Gas 10.865%, Water Supply etc. 2.020%

India's Exports Scale Record $863.1 Billion in FY2025-26 on FTA Trade

28 Jul

- India recorded highest-ever exports in FY2025-26 at $863.1 billion — merchandise $441.8bn + services $421.3bn — driven by strong FTA-partner trade with UAE, UK and Australia.

- Under India-UAE CEPA (in force since 1 May 2022), 4.45 lakh Certificates of Origin have been issued; tariff lines exported to UAE rose from 7,546 (FY2021-22) to 8,053 (FY2025-26), worth $37.3 billion.
- Under India-Australia ECTA (in force since 29 December 2022), Certificate of Origin issuance rose from 1,482 (FY2020-21) to an average of ~45,527/year; tariff lines rose from 5,396 to 5,668, worth $7.2 billion.
- India-UK CETA entered into force on 15 July 2026, granting duty-free access to 99% of Indian exports to the UK; India-Oman CEPA (in force 1 June 2026) grants duty-free access to 99.38% of Indian export value.

QUICK FACTS

FY2025-26 exports	$863.1 billion (merchandise $441.8bn + services $421.3bn) — highest-ever
India-UAE CEPA	in force 1 May 2022; UAE merchandise exports FY25-26: $37,359.11 million (highest among all FTA partners)
India-Australia ECTA	in force 29 December 2022; exports FY25-26: $7,284.17 million
India-UK CETA	in force 15 July 2026; exports FY25-26 (partial period): $13,444.19 million

32 Operational National Waterways Span 5,155 km; Cargo Movement Nearly Doubles in FY26

28 Jul

- India has 32 operational National Waterways spanning 5,155 km; year-wise NW development funding rose from Rs 425.43 crore (2021-22) to Rs 1,074.48 crore (2025-26, unaudited).
- Cargo movement on National Waterways nearly doubled to 218.24 million tonnes in 2025-26 from 108.79 MMT in 2021-22, with NW-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly) alone carrying 84.78 MMT.
- Passenger traffic on NWs rose from 7.64 crore (2024-25) to 10.56 crore (2025-26); ferry services operate on 23 of the 32 waterways.
- Policy measures include the Jalvahak Scheme (35% cargo incentive on NW-1/2/16), extension of the tonnage tax scheme to inland vessels, and new National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations 2025 opening the sector to private investment.

QUICK FACTS

NW development funding	Rs 425.43 crore (2021-22) -> Rs 1,074.48 crore (2025-26, unaudited)

- 32 operational National Waterways, 5,155 km navigable length
- National Waterways Act, 2016 in effect from 12 April 2016; declared 111 waterways (5 pre-existing + 106 new) as National Waterways
- IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) established 1986 under the IWAI Act, 1985; regulates/develops National Waterways

Grid Storage Push: India's BESS, PSP Capacity Targets Under National Electricity Plan

27 Jul

- The Minister of State for Power told the Rajya Sabha that India's Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity requirement is projected to rise from 8.68 GW/34 GWh by 2026-27 to 47.24 GW/236 GWh by 2031-32, per the National Electricity Plan (Generation) notified in May 2023, entailing an estimated investment of about Rs 3.49 lakh crore by 2031-32.
- Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) capacity requirement is projected to rise from 7.45 GW/47 GWh by 2026-27 to 26.69 GW/175 GWh by 2031-32, with an estimated investment of about Rs 1.29 lakh crore by 2031-32.
- The reply listed 18 policy, regulatory, demand-side and supply-side measures taken since 2022 to promote energy storage — including ISTS charge waivers, CERC-enabled ancillary-services access for storage, and the Rs 18,100-crore PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery manufacturing.

QUICK FACTS

PSP capacity requirement	7.45 GW/47 GWh by 2026-27 -> 26.69 GW/175 GWh by 2031-32; estimated investment ~Rs 1.29 lakh crore by 2031-32
Nodal ministry	Ministry of Power; technical planning body: Central Electricity Authority (CEA); regulator: Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)
NITI Aayog's 'Sectoral Insights	Power (Vol. 7)', released February 2026, flagged energy storage as critical for managing renewable energy (RE) integration variability

- BESS capacity requirement (National Electricity Plan-Generation, notified May 2023): 8.68 GW/34 GWh by 2026-27 -> 47.24 GW/236 GWh by 2031-32; estimated investment ~Rs 3.49 lakh crore by 2031-32
- National Framework for Promotion of Energy Storage Systems notified by the Ministry of Power in September 2023
- PLI Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage: Rs 18,100 crore outlay, approved May 2021 by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, targeting 50 GWh of domestic manufacturing capacity
- Information given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Power, Shri Shripad Naik, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha

Indian Railways Commissions Kavach 4.0; Major Safety Upgrades Slash Accidents

22 Jul

- Indian Railways has successfully commissioned the advanced Kavach 4.0 system on 2,490 route kilometers along the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors.
- Consequential train accidents have dropped dramatically by 88%, from 135 in 2014-15 to just 16 in 2025-26.
- Major infrastructure upgrades include the elimination of all unmanned level crossings on broad gauge and the extensive rollout of LHB coaches.

QUICK FACTS

Technology	Kavach 4.0 (Indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system)
Certification	SIL-4 (highest level of Safety Integrity Level certification)
Approval Date	Kavach 4.0 approved by RDSO on 16.07.2024
Budget Allocation (2026-27)	Rs. 2,066.24 crore for Kavach works
Electronic Interlocking	Provided at 6,671 stations (as of June 2026)
LHB Coach Production	Increased 21 times, reaching 49,366 coaches manufactured during 2014-26

3. Banking & Finance

1 article

PSB Gross NPA Hits Historic Low of 1.9%, RRBs Post Record Rs 10,177-Crore Profit in FY26

28 Jul

- Gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) fell to a historic low of 1.9% as of 31.3.2026, from 7.3% in FY2022, while net profit rose to a record Rs 1.98 lakh crore and aggregate business crossed Rs 283 lakh crore, the Finance Ministry told the Rajya Sabha.
- MSME loans grew 19.6% and retail loans 19.8% year-on-year in FY2025-26, with Capital Adequacy (CRAR) improving to 16.6%.
- Separately, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) posted their highest-ever consolidated net profit of Rs 10,177 crore in FY2025-26, with total deposits of Rs 7,68,621 crore and CRAR of 15.0%, per NABARD data placed before Rajya Sabha the same day.
- The Government launched ECLGS 5.0 in May 2026 with Rs 2,55,000 crore guarantee coverage (including Rs 5,000 crore for scheduled passenger airlines) to ease liquidity stress from the West Asia Crisis.

QUICK FACTS

PSB GNPA	1.9% as of 31.3.2026 (down from 7.3% in FY2022) — a historic/multi-decadal low
PSB net profit	Rs 1.98 lakh crore FY2025-26 (highest-ever); aggregate business Rs 283.3 lakh crore
PSB CRAR	16.6% as of 31.3.2026 (above the RBI/Basel III minimum of 11.5% including CCB)
RRB net profit	Rs 10,177 crore FY2025-26 (highest-ever); RRB GNPA 5.3%, CRAR 15.0%
ECLGS 5.0 launched May 2026	Rs 2,55,000 crore guarantee coverage, incl. Rs 5,000 crore for airlines

4. Polity & Governance

6 articles

PIB Explainer: How India's Anti-Paper-Leak Law Gets Tougher in 2026

31 Jul

- Government has introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, sharply raising penalties under the 2024 Act.
- Individual-offender jail terms rise from 3-5 years to 5-10 years, and fines from up to Rs 10 lakh to up to Rs 50 lakh; organised-syndicate fines rise to at least Rs 10 crore.
- Every State/UT must now designate a Court of Session as a Special Fast Track Court, bound to a 3-month trial after chargesheet.
- Investigations get a first-ever 2-month deadline, and the Centre can now set up a dedicated Special Task Force for a case.

QUICK FACTS

Parent law	Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 — India's first dedicated central law against exam cheating and paper leaks
Amendment	Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha
Individual offender penalty	raised from 3-5 years/Rs 10 lakh fine to 5-10 years/Rs 50 lakh fine
Organised syndicate penalty	raised from 5-10 years/min Rs 1 crore fine to 7-10 years/min Rs 10 crore fine
New trial forum	a Court of Session in every State/UT designated as a Special Fast Track Court
Investigation deadline	2 months from FIR/referral; trial deadline: 3 months from chargesheet
Appeal	to a 2-judge High Court bench, normally within 30 days, never beyond 90 days

Home Ministry Details Justice-Centric Provisions of the New Criminal Law Sanhitas

28 Jul

- A Lok Sabha reply from the Home Ministry sets out the 'justice-centric' provisions of the three new criminal-law Sanhitas — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), all 2023, in force since 1 July 2024.
- Victim-centric changes include Zero FIR, a free copy of the FIR, mandatory case-progress updates within 90 days, and document supply to both victim and accused within 14 days.
- New reformative measures include community service as punishment for minor offences, an expanded scope for summary trials, and trial in absentia for proclaimed offenders.
- Strict statutory timelines now bind investigation (90 days), charge-framing (60 days) and judgment pronouncement (45 days after trial conclusion).

QUICK FACTS

Zero FIR	a complainant can file an FIR at any police station irrespective of jurisdiction

- Three new criminal law codes — BNS, BNSS, BSA (2023) — came into force on 1 July 2024, replacing the IPC (1860), CrPC (1973) and Indian Evidence Act (1872) respectively
- All three Sanhitas received Presidential assent on 25 December 2023
- Community service introduced for the first time as a form of punishment, for minor offences
- Rape of a minor is punishable up to the death sentence under the BNS; gang rape of a minor is punishable with life imprisonment or death

VB-G RAM G Act Replaces MGNREGA, Guarantees 125 Days of Rural Employment

28 Jul

- The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 came into force on 1 July 2026 across rural India, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005; all States/UTs have notified and begun implementing the scheme.
- The Act preserves the statutory, demand-driven right to 125 days of guaranteed wage employment per rural household per year (up from MGNREGA's 100 days) and to unemployment allowance, while adding sustainable livelihood, durable-asset, water-security, climate-resilience and technology-governance goals.
- From 1 July 2026, over 99.5% of workers who demanded employment have been offered it; 5.20 crore persondays generated across 8.46 lakh worksites as on 22.07.2026.
- Under Section 16, every Gram Panchayat must prepare a Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) via participatory Gram Sabha planning, supported by the GIS-based Yuktdhara tool; under Section 21, States must provide Rozgar Sahayaks and Computer Operators for implementation.

QUICK FACTS

Guaranteed employment	125 days/household/year (up from MGNREGA's 100 days)
Section 16	Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) via Gram Sabha participatory planning, supported by the Yuktdhara GIS tool

- VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 in force from 1 July 2026, replacing MGNREGA, 2005
- 5.20 crore persondays generated across 8.46 lakh worksites (as on 22.07.2026); 99.5%+ of employment demand met

Public Examinations Amendment Bill 2026 Doubles Jail Term, Raises Fines for Cheating

28 Jul

- The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, introduced in the Lok Sabha, proposes to raise the punishment for individuals resorting to unfair means from 3-5 years' imprisonment to 5-10 years, and the maximum fine from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.
- For service providers, the maximum fine rises from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore and the debarment period from 4 to 8 years; punishment for their directors/senior management rises to 5-10 years (from 3-10 years), with fines up to Rs 5 crore (from Rs 1 crore).
- Punishment for organised examination crime rises from 5-10 years to 7-10 years' imprisonment, with the maximum fine increased from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore.
- The Bill provides for Special Fast Track Courts, mandating investigation completion within two months and trial within three months of chargesheet filing, and empowers the Centre to refer cases to a Special Task Force.

QUICK FACTS

Organised crime punishment raised	5-10 yrs -> 7-10 yrs; fine: Rs 1 crore -> Rs 10 crore

- Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 — India's first comprehensive law against exam malpractice; enacted 12 Feb 2024, in force from 21 June 2024
- The 2024 Act covers UPSC, SSC, RRBs, IBPS and NTA exams; offences are cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable
- Amendment Bill 2026 raises individual punishment: 3-5 yrs -> 5-10 yrs; fine: Rs 10 lakh -> Rs 50 lakh

Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 Introduced in Lok Sabha

27 Jul

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh introduced the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, to strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 with fast-tracked investigation, Special Fast Track Courts, Special Public Prosecutors and stricter penalties.

- For individuals: minimum imprisonment raised from 3 to 5 years (max up to 10 years, from 5); maximum fine raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.
- For service providers: maximum fine raised from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore; debarment period from conducting exams extended from 4 to 8 years. For organised crime: minimum imprisonment raised from 5 to 7 years; maximum fine raised from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore.
- New Section 12A mandates investigation completion within 2 months and trial completion within 3 months of chargesheet filing, before Special Fast Track Courts; new Section 12B allows appeal to the High Court within 30 days, to be disposed of within 3 months.
- The Bill also empowers the Central Government to refer investigation to a Special Task Force.

QUICK FACTS

Bill introduced by	Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union MoS (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space
Amends	Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 — enacted 12 February 2024, in force from 21 June 2024
Individual offender punishment	imprisonment raised to 5-10 years (from 3-5 years); fine raised to max Rs 50 lakh (from Rs 10 lakh)
Service provider penalty	fine raised to max Rs 5 crore (from Rs 1 crore); debarment extended to 8 years (from 4 years)
Organised crime punishment	imprisonment raised to 7-10 years (from 5-10 years minimum-max); fine raised to max Rs 10 crore (from Rs 1 crore)
New Section 12A	investigation in 2 months, trial in 3 months of chargesheet, via Special Fast Track Courts with Special Public Prosecutors
New Section 12B	appeal to High Court within 30 days, disposal targeted within 3 months

Government Proposes New FCRA Amendments to Strengthen Transparency and Accountability

22 Jul

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was introduced in Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026.
- The bill proposes the provisional vesting of foreign-funded assets in a Designated Authority upon cancellation of FCRA registration.
- The 2026 rules mandate that renewing NGOs must demonstrate utilisation of at least Rs 10 lakh in foreign contributions over the prior two years.

QUICK FACTS

Law	Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (replaced the 1976 Act)
Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs
2026 Bill Introduced	25 March 2026 in Lok Sabha
2026 Rules Notified	22 June 2026
Designated Bank	State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch (since 2020 amendment)
Admin Expense Limit	20% of annual foreign contribution (reduced from 50% in 2020)

5. Defence

1 article

DRDO Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight-Test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

23 Jul

- DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile.
- The test was carried out from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha against an electronic target.
- The 'Kusha' system can neutralize various aerial threats including fighter jets, missiles, and UAVs, significantly boosting India's air defence.

QUICK FACTS

Type	Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM).
Developed By	Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Industry partners.
Test Location	APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
Capability	Can intercept and neutralize high-speed, high-altitude aerial threats including fighter jets, large enemy aircraft, and UAVs.
Significance	Eliminates import dependency for long-range surface-to-air missile systems.

6. Science & Tech

10 articles

Ocean Observation Network and Climate Monitoring: MoES Parliament Replies

30 Jul

- Four Rajya Sabha replies from the Ministry of Earth Sciences (30 July 2026) together detail India's ocean-observation network (19 subsurface moorings, 302 Argo floats since 2014, tsunami buoys and tide gauges under INCOIS), the Mission Mausam-driven modernisation of weather forecasting, Brahmaputra flood-forecasting infrastructure, and the 2026 El Nino outlook.
- Wave-forecast accuracy has improved about 43% since 2014, and INCOIS's coastal forecast system now reaches roughly 70% accuracy; tsunami advisories are issued within the international 10-minute benchmark.
- Under Mission Mausam, the Bharat Forecasting System (BharatFS) delivers 6 km-resolution forecasts down to Gram Panchayat clusters, accessible via e-Gramswaraj, Meri Panchayat and Mausamgram.
- El Nino conditions, weak in June 2026, intensified to moderate by July 2026 and are forecast to strengthen further (potentially to 'very strong') by October-December 2026 — though there is no WMO/IMD-recognised 'Super El Nino' category.

QUICK FACTS

Ocean observation	19 subsurface moorings (16 in India's EEZ, 3 in the equatorial Indian Ocean); Indian Tsunami Early Warning System uses 17 seismic stations, 7 deep-ocean tsunami buoys, 36 coastal tide gauges and 35 GNSS receivers
INCOIS deep-sea/autonomous fleet	302 Argo profiling floats deployed 2014-2025, 12 deep-sea glider missions, 45 drifting buoys, 64 wave drifters
Mission Mausam	Cabinet-approved 11 September 2024, outlay Rs 2,000 crore over two years, implemented by IMD, IITM and NCMRWF under the Ministry of Earth Sciences
Bharat Forecasting System (BharatFS)	6 km resolution, forecasts down to Panchayat-cluster level; global models GFS (IMD) and Mithuna-FS (NCMRWF, Noida) run at 12 km resolution
El Nino (2026)	weak in June, moderate by July, forecast to intensify further (potentially 'very strong') in Oct-Dec 2026 per ONI thresholds — WMO/IMD do not recognise a formal 'Super El Nino' category

– CWC maintains 32 flood-forecast stations on the Brahmaputra and Barak river systems in Assam, issuing forecasts up to 24 hours ahead

Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh Station Progress; Dept of Space Budget Trend

30 Jul

- Two Rajya Sabha replies together cover the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) — India's planned five-module indigenous space station targeted for 2035, with the first module BAS-01 approved in October 2024 for launch by 2028 — and the Department of Space's budget trend since 2021.
- Gaganyaan precursor missions TV-D1, IADT-01 and IADT-02 are complete, with the first uncrewed mission (G1) in advanced preparation; docking-system and refuelling-mechanism concept demonstrations have succeeded.
- Department of Space's budget has stayed roughly flat in nominal terms (Rs 13,949 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 13,416 crore in 2025-26) even as its share of the Union Budget and of GDP has declined; ISRO passed 100 launches from Sriharikota and demonstrated autonomous docking via SPADEX (India the 4th country to do so).
- Government reforms via IN-SPACe and NSIL have opened commercial launch services to private players — cited examples include Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 and Agnikul Cosmos's 3D-printed-engine Agnibaan SOrTeD mission.

QUICK FACTS

Human-Rated Launch Vehicle	HLVM3 (a human-rated variant of LVM3), with a dedicated Crew Escape System
Dept of Space budget	Rs 13,949.09 crore (2021-22) -> Rs 13,416.20 crore (2025-26); its share of the Union Budget fell from 0.40% to 0.26%, and of GDP from 0.05% to 0.03%, over the same period

– BAS-01 (first BAS module) Cabinet-approved October 2024, targeted launch by 2028; full 5-module BAS targeted by 2035

- Gaganyaan approved by the Government in December 2018; original outlay ~Rs 9,023 crore, expanded to ~Rs 20,193 crore after 2024 approvals covering BAS-01
- ISRO achieved 100 launches from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota; SPADEX made India the 4th country to demonstrate autonomous space docking/undocking
- NSIL (NewSpace India Limited) — ISRO's commercial arm, a CPSE under Dept of Space, established 6 March 2019; IN-SPACe is the autonomous nodal body authorising and promoting private-sector space activity

India's Roadmap to 100 GW Nuclear Power by 2047: Reactor Fleet and SMR Plans

30 Jul

- Three Rajya Sabha replies detail India's roadmap to 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 (announced under the Nuclear Energy Mission, Union Budget 2025-26): present capacity of 8.78 GW to reach ~22 GW by 2031-32, NPCIL's share rising to ~54 GW by 2047, with the balance 46 GW from other PSEs, private sector and joint ventures.
- The strategy combines indigenous 700 MWe PHWRs and imported large reactors at greenfield sites with Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) for brownfield use — BARC has designed the 220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200, Rs 5,960 crore), the 55 MWe SMR-55 (twin-unit, Rs 7,000 crore) and a hydrogen-capable High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor, targeting at least 5 indigenous SMRs operational by 2033.
- 24 reactors are currently in commercial operation (8,780 MW); 10 more reactors are under construction (including Kudankulam-3&4&5&6 and the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor) and 10 in pre-project activities, all under continuous safety oversight by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB, constituted 1983).

QUICK FACTS

Present capacity	8.78 GW (24 reactors in commercial operation) -> ~22 GW by 2031-32 -> NPCIL alone to reach ~54 GW by 2047 (balance 46 GW from other PSEs/private sector/JVs)
SMR target	at least 5 indigenous Small Modular Reactors operational by 2033; construction time 60-72 months from financial approval
BSMR-200 (220 MWe)	Rs 5,960 crore; twin-unit SMR-55 (55 MWe): Rs 7,000 crore; HTGCR (up to 5 MWth, hydrogen-capable): Rs 320 crore

- Nuclear Energy Mission announced in Union Budget 2025-26: target of 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047, supporting Net Zero by 2070
- 10 reactors under construction (incl. Kudankulam-3&4, Kudankulam-5&6, PFBR, Gorakhpur GHAVP-1&2, Kaiga-5&6); 10 more in pre-project activities
- AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board) constituted 15 November 1983 under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, to oversee nuclear/radiation safety

Government's Deepfake Legal Framework and CERT-In's AI-Threat Countermeasures

30 Jul

- A Lok Sabha reply lays out India's deepfake legal architecture: IT Act 2000 provisions (identity theft S.66C, impersonation S.66D, obscene content S.67/67A, blocking orders S.69A), BNS 2023 (public mischief S.353, organised cybercrime S.111), and IT Rules 2021 obligating intermediaries to prevent deepfake/impersonation content.
- A 10 February 2026 IT Rules amendment mandates clear labelling/traceable metadata for AI-generated content and slashes takedown timelines — from 36 hours to 3 hours for unlawful content on valid intimation, and to as little as 2 hours for sensitive categories like non-consensual intimate imagery.
- 13 Responsible AI projects approved for deepfake detection (e.g. 'Saakshya' by IIT Jodhpur & IIT Madras) under the IndiaAI Mission's Safe & Trusted AI pillar; CERT-In ran 10 AI-threat cyber exercises (June-July 2026, 1,470 participants from 345 organisations) and ISEA awareness workshops reached 11.37 lakh+ people via 6,650 sessions.

QUICK FACTS

IT Rules 2021 amendment (10 Feb 2026)	mandatory labelling/metadata for AI-generated content; unlawful-content removal timeline cut from 36 to 3 hours; grievance redressal cut from 72 -> 36 hours (general) and 24 -> 2 hours (sensitive categories like nudity/impersonation)
BNS 2023	Section 353 (public mischief via false statements/rumours), Section 111 (organised cybercrime, applicable to deepfake-enabled organised crime)

- 13 Responsible AI projects approved for deepfake detection under IndiaAI Mission's Safe & Trusted AI pillar, including Saakshya (IIT Jodhpur & IIT Madras), AI Vishleshak, and IIT Kharagpur's Real-Time Voice Deepfake Detection System
- CERT-In conducted 10 cyber security exercises on 'Building Resilience against Frontier AI-driven Cyber Threats' (June-July 2026), 1,470 participants from 345 organisations across Power, Telecom, BFSI, Transport, Education, Health, Space
- ISEA (Information Security Education and Awareness): 6,650 workshops conducted, 11.37 lakh+ participants
- Non-compliance with IT Rules due diligence obligations makes intermediaries lose their Section 79 'safe harbour' exemption

Nuclear Energy Mission: 100 GW by 2047 Target, 8,780 MW Installed, SHANTI Act in Force

29 Jul

- India's installed nuclear capacity stands at 8,780 MW across 24 reactors — 3.1% of electricity generation in 2025-26 — with a Nuclear Energy Mission target of 100 GW by 2047
- The roadmap projects ~22 GW by 2031-32 under NPCIL, a further 32 GW under NPCIL post-2032 (PHWR/LWR), and the balance ~45 GW via other PSEs, private players and joint ventures
- The SHANTI Act, 2025 (in force since 21 December 2025) repealed the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, gave AERB full statutory status, and caps private/foreign equity in civilian nuclear projects at 49%
- PFBR (500 MWe), India's first fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam, attained first criticality on 6 April 2026; 10 more reactors (8,000 MW) are under construction across Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Karnataka

QUICK FACTS

Installed nuclear capacity	8,780 MW across 24 reactors — 3.1% of India's electricity generation in 2025-26
Nuclear Energy Mission target	100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047, under the Viksit Bharat vision
Roadmap	~22 GW by 2031-32 under NPCIL; +32 GW under NPCIL post-2032 (indigenous PHWR/LWR); balance ~45 GW via other PSEs, private sector and JVs

- SHANTI Act, 2025 (in force from 21 December 2025) repealed the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010; opens the sector to states, industries and research institutions once rules are framed
- PFBR (500 MWe), Kalpakkam, attained first criticality on 6 April 2026 — India's first fast breeder reactor
- 10 reactors (8,000 MW) currently under construction/commissioning across Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Karnataka

Kavach 4.0 Commissioned on 2,569 Route Km as Train Accidents Fall to Record Low

29 Jul

- Indian Railways reported only 2 consequential train accidents in 2026-27 (up to June), against 135 in 2014-15 — a steep decline aided by technology, infrastructure and maintenance upgrades.
- Kavach Version 4.0, the SIL-4 certified indigenous Automatic Train Protection system, has been commissioned on 2,569 route km, covering the high-density Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah corridors as on 20 July 2026.
- Railway safety expenditure has risen more than three-fold, from Rs 39,200 crore in 2013-14 to a budgeted Rs 1,20,389 crore in 2026-27.
- The data was given by Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

QUICK FACTS

- Only 2 consequential train accidents in 2026-27 (up to June 2026), down from 135 in 2014-15
- Consequential Accident Index fell from 0.11 (2014-15) to 0.01 (2025-26) — a 91% decline

- Safety expenditure rose from Rs 39,200 crore (2013-14) to Rs 1,20,389 crore (2026-27)
- Kavach 4.0 commissioned on 2,569 route km as on 20.07.2026, covering Delhi-Mumbai (1,423 Rkm) and Delhi-Howrah (1,146 Rkm)
- Kavach adopted as India's National ATP system in July 2020; Version 4.0 approved by RDSO on 16.07.2024

144 Crore Aadhaar IDs, 55 Crore UPI Users Power India's Digital Public Infrastructure

29 Jul

- India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) now spans 144+ crore Aadhaar IDs, 55.49 crore UPI users across 731 banks, and 71.66 crore DigiLocker users with 936.03 crore documents issued.
- Common Service Centres have grown from 83,950 (May 2014) to 5.01 lakh (May 2026), covering 2.56 lakh Gram Panchayats and handling 4,854 lakh transactions in 2025-26 alone.
- BharatNet has made 2.21 lakh Gram Panchayats service-ready, and Aadhaar-linked Direct Benefit Transfer has moved over Rs 52 lakh crore across 318 schemes of 56 Ministries.
- Digital India (launched July 2015) built on the foundation of the National e-Governance Plan (approved May 2006), which created State Data Centres, SWANs, SSDGs and the original CSC scheme.
- Data was given by MeitY Ministers Jitin Prasada and Ashwini Vaishnaw in the Lok Sabha on 29.07.2026.

QUICK FACTS

DigiLocker	71.66 crore users, 936.03 crore documents issued by 2,822 issuers
BharatNet	2.21 lakh Gram Panchayats service-ready as of June 2026; Aadhaar-linked DBT has moved Rs 52 lakh crore+ across 318 schemes of 56 Ministries

- 144+ crore Aadhaar IDs generated; UPI serves 55.49 crore users, 6.5 crore merchants, 731 banks — 85% of India's digital payments
- CSCs grew from 83,950 (May 2014) to 5,01,731 (May 2026), covering 2.56 lakh Gram Panchayats; 4,854.03 lakh transactions in FY 2025-26
- Digital India (July 2015) subsumed the National e-Governance Plan (approved May 2006)

IndiaAI Mission's Safe & Trusted AI Pillar: 13 Responsible AI Projects, AI Safety Institute

27 Jul

- The IndiaAI Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024 with a five-year outlay of Rs 10,371 crore, comprises seven pillars — IndiaAI Compute, Foundation Models, AIKosh, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, FutureSkills, Startup Financing and Safe & Trusted AI — Electronics & IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Rajya Sabha on 24 July 2026.
- Under the Safe & Trusted AI pillar, 13 Responsible AI projects have been approved across institutions like IIT Jodhpur, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, NIT Raipur and DIAT, covering bias mitigation, machine unlearning, privacy-preserving AI, explainability and deepfake detection.
- The AI Safety Institute (AISI), announced in January 2025, oversees these projects through a hub-and-spoke model and anchors India's risk-based AI Governance Guidelines, which propose institutional mechanisms — AIGEG, TPEC and AISI itself.
- Mission-wide progress so far: 58 AI Centres of Excellence, 27 India Data & AI Labs (2,500+ students trained, 188 more underway), 686 fellowships across 178 institutions, over 26 lakh YUVA AI for All completions, and 93 lakh GPU hours sanctioned across 237 compute projects.
- As Chair of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, India produced the New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments, a Guidance Note on AI Governance, and the Trusted AI Commons repository, while continuing to engage GPAI, G20 and the UN on global AI governance.

QUICK FACTS

IndiaAI Mission approved	March 2024, by the Union Cabinet; outlay Rs 10,371 crore over 5 years; nodal ministry: Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)
Seven pillars	IndiaAI Compute, Foundation Models, AIKosh, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, Safe & Trusted AI
Safe & Trusted AI pillar	13 Responsible AI projects approved (bias mitigation, machine unlearning, privacy-preserving AI, explainability, deepfake detection, AI risk assessment)
AI Safety Institute (AISI)	announced January 2025; oversees Safe & Trusted AI EoI-selected projects via a hub-and-spoke model
Compute support	15 empanelled providers, 237 projects supported, 93 lakh GPU hours sanctioned

- 20 sovereign AI model proposals identified for support (12 LLMs + 8 SLMs), incl. Sarvam AI (30bn & 105bn parameter models), Gnani.AI, BharatGen, Avataar AI
- 58 AI Centres of Excellence across States/UTs; 27 India Data & AI Labs (2,500+ students trained); 686 fellowships across 178 institutions; 26 lakh+ YUVA AI for All completions
- Reply given by Union Minister for Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw in Rajya Sabha on 24 July 2026

Progress of Nuclear Energy Mission and SHANTI Act 2025

23 Jul

- The Nuclear Energy Mission aims to achieve 100 GWe of nuclear power generation capacity by 2047.
- Parliament enacted the SHANTI Act, 2025, which opens the nuclear energy sector to private participation and grants statutory status to the AERB.
- The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) achieved its first criticality in April 2026, marking the entry into the second stage of India's nuclear programme.

QUICK FACTS

Target Capacity	100 GWe by 2047 (current capacity: 8.78 GW)
SMR Target	Operationalise at least five Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033
Enabling Law	SHANTI Act, 2025 (allows private sector entry)
Nodal Department	Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)
Key Milestone	PFBR attained first criticality on April 6, 2026
Global First	IGCAR demonstrated clean hydrogen production using nuclear heat on June 26, 2026

Government Details Nuclear Energy Mission 2047 and Indigenous SMR Development

22 Jul

- The Nuclear Energy Mission aims to achieve 100 GWe nuclear power capacity by 2047, up from the current 8.78 GW.
- The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is developing the 220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200) and the 55 MWe SMR-55.
- The SHANTI Act 2025 opens the nuclear energy sector to private participation and establishes the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board as a statutory body.

QUICK FACTS

Mission	Nuclear Energy Mission
Target Capacity	100 GWe by 2047
Current Capacity	8.78 GW (expected 22 GW by 2031-32)
SMR Target	5 indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033
Key Law	SHANTI Act, 2025
Approved Site for SMRs	Tarapur, Maharashtra

7. Environment

3 articles

Environmental Clearances in Protected Areas and NCAP Air-Quality Compliance: MoEFCC Replies

30 Jul

- Infrastructure projects touching Tiger Reserves or other Protected Areas must clear a dual-track process: Environmental Clearance (EC) under the EIA Notification, 2006, from the Expert Appraisal Committee (Category A, Centre) or SEAC (Category B, State), AND Wildlife Clearance under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, via the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) — 20 such projects were cleared in FY2024-25 and 2025-26.
- The PARIVESH portal's new Decision Support System (DSS) is a GIS-enabled tool for automated proximity analysis of projects against Protected Areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones, forests and wetlands.
- Under NCAP, City-Specific Clean Air Action Plans cover 130 cities; Rs 16,423.55 crore has been sanctioned (2019-20 to 2025-26) of which Rs 11,575.54 crore (70.5%) is utilised; 108 cities showed PM10 reductions in 2025-26 vs 2017-18, and 14 cities now meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (up from 6 in 2017-18).

QUICK FACTS

- EIA Notification, 2006 issued under Section 3(1) and 3(2)(v) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- Category A projects appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) at Centre; Category B by the State/UT Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC)
- Wildlife Clearance requires State Chief Wildlife Warden -> State Board for Wildlife -> Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL), under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- 20 infrastructure projects in/near Protected Areas or Eco-Sensitive Zones granted Environmental Clearance during FY2024-25 and 2025-26
- NCAP covers 130 cities with City-Specific Clean Air Action Plans; Rs 16,423.55 crore sanctioned (2019-20 to 2025-26), 70.5% utilised; funded via XVth Finance Commission's Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (48 cities) and the Central Sector Scheme 'Control of Pollution' (82 non-attainment cities)
- 11,108 industries in NCAP cities have transitioned to cleaner fuels (natural gas/PNG/LNG/LPG/biogas)

PIB Backgrounder: India's Tiger Conservation Leadership Ahead of International Tiger Day

28 Jul

- PIB released a Backgrounder ahead of International Tiger Day (29 July) highlighting India's status as home to nearly 70% of the world's wild tigers.
- India's tiger population, per the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2022, stands at 3,682 across 58 tiger reserves in 18 states covering ~84,500 sq km (2.56% of India's area).
- The backgrounder details India's institutional architecture (Project Tiger, NTCA), tech-driven monitoring (M-STrIPES, AI camera-trap tools) and global partnerships (Global Tiger Forum, International Big Cat Alliance, ITHCP).
- International Tiger Day traces to the 2010 St. Petersburg Tiger Summit's Tx2 goal to double wild tiger numbers by 2022; global tiger numbers have risen from ~3,200 in 2010 to an estimated 5,711 today, a 78% increase.

QUICK FACTS

International Tiger Day	observed every 29 July
India's tiger population (AITE 2022)	3,682 — nearly 70% of the world's wild tigers
Global wild tiger estimate	~5,711 today vs ~3,200 in 2010, a 78% rise since the Tx2 goal was set

- 58 tiger reserves across 18 states, ~84,500 sq km (2.56% of India's geographical area)
- AITE 2022 covered 20 states and surveyed over 6.41 lakh km on foot — the world's largest biodiversity survey
- NTCA's camera-trap survey holds a Guinness World Record for the largest camera-trap wildlife survey

India's NDC Progress: 37.38% Emissions-Intensity Cut, 54.18% Non-Fossil Power Capacity

27 Jul

- India achieved a 37.38% reduction in GDP emissions intensity by 2022 (from 2005 levels), against its NDC goal of a 45% reduction by 2030.
- Non-fossil fuel-based power capacity crossed 50% of installed capacity in June 2025 — five years ahead of the 2030 NDC target — and reached 54.18% as of 30 June 2026.
- India created an additional carbon sink of 2.44 billion tonnes of CO2-equivalent during 2005-2022, against a 2030 target of 2.5-3.0 billion tonnes.
- India's enhanced 2035 NDC targets: a 47% emissions-intensity cut, 60% non-fossil power capacity, and a 3.5-4.0 billion tonne carbon sink (from the 2005 baseline).
- Three institutional bodies — the PM's Council on Climate Change (PMCCC), Executive Committee on Climate Change (ECCC) and Apex Committee for Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA) — oversee progress toward the 2070 net-zero goal.

QUICK FACTS

India's NDC has 3 quantitative targets	emissions-intensity reduction, non-fossil power-capacity share, and additional carbon sink
Non-fossil power capacity	54.18% as of 30 June 2026 (crossed 50% in June 2025, 5 years ahead of the 2030 target)
Additional carbon sink	2.44 billion tonnes CO2-eq (2005-2022) against a 2.5-3.0 billion tonne 2030 target
Enhanced 2035 NDC	47% emissions-intensity cut, 60% non-fossil capacity, 3.5-4.0 billion tonne carbon sink
India's long-term goal	net-zero emissions by 2070

– Emissions intensity of GDP cut by 37.38% (2022, from 2005 level) against a 45%-by-2030 goal

8. Schemes & Committees

17 articles

Cabinet's PM-SSY: Rs 5,070 Crore Push for Floating Solar with Storage

31 Jul

- Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY), a Rs 5,070 crore scheme to build 5,000 MW of Floating Solar PV with co-located Energy Storage Systems (minimum 2-hour/10,000 MWh storage).
- Central Financial Assistance: Rs 1 crore per MW after commissioning, plus up to Rs 50 lakh per project for feasibility studies such as bathymetry and hydrography.
- Projects will be sanctioned FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with disbursement continuing to FY 2032-33, based on NISE's estimate of ~102.18 GWp of floating solar potential nationwide.
- Expected to cut ~10 million tonnes of CO2 annually and create 16,000-17,000 full-time-equivalent jobs, scaling India's floating solar capacity from ~700 MW today.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY), approved by the Union Cabinet
Total outlay	Rs 5,070 crore
Target	5,000 MW Floating Solar PV with co-located Energy Storage Systems, up from ~700 MW today
Minimum storage	2 hours per project, aggregating to 10,000 MWh
CFA	Rs 1 crore/MW post-commissioning; up to Rs 50 lakh/project for feasibility studies
Timeline	sanctioning FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31; disbursement to FY 2032-33

- Estimated national floating solar potential (NISE): ~102.18 GWp

20,149 Jan Aushadhi Kendras Operational Nationwide, PACS Partnership Expands Rural Reach

31 Jul

- 20,149 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) are operational nationwide as of 30 June 2026 under PMBJP, including 690 in Madhya Pradesh (7 in Khandwa) and 43 in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- FY2025-26 sales reached Rs 2,252.19 crore, saving citizens an estimated Rs 9,000 crore compared to branded-drug prices; district-wise sales data is not maintained by PMBI.
- A new partnership has opened 846 JAKs through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS), with over 4,250 PACS given initial approval, extending the scheme's reach into rural cooperative networks.

QUICK FACTS

FY2025-26 sales	Rs 2,252.19 crore; estimated citizen savings: about Rs 9,000 crore
Supply chain	5 warehouses + 42 distributors; 400 fast-moving products monitored continuously; 200 top/fast-selling medicines incentivised for stocking since September 2024
PACS partnership	846 JAKs opened via Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies; over 4,250 PACS given initial approval

- PMBJP (Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana): launched November 2008; implementing agency PMBI (Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India), established December 2008
- 20,149 JAKs operational nationwide as of 30.06.2026; target 25,000 JAKs by March 2027

Cabinet approves revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced ANSF, Rs 36,441 crore

31 Jul

- The Union Cabinet approved a revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) with a combined outlay of Rs.36,441 crore for 2026-27 to 2030-31 — nearly eight times the previous Khelo India outlay

- New elements include the Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs) category expanding the athlete pool nearly ten-fold, Khelo India Feeder Schools, Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas and a National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB)
- The scheme is aligned with Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and targets the 2030 Commonwealth Games and India's Olympic/Paralympic hosting ambitions

QUICK FACTS

Combined outlay	Rs.36,441 crore for Khelo India + ANSF, 2026-27 to 2030-31
ANSF allocation	Rs.7,387 crore over five years
New institutions	National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), Khelo India Centres of Excellence (KICoEs), SAI Training Centres, Khelo India Accredited Academies, Khelo India Centres, and Youth Sports Companies of the Armed Forces
New school-level initiatives	Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS) and Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas (KIUV)

- Nearly 8x the previous Khelo India outlay (2021-22 to 2025-26: Rs.3,790.50 crore)
- Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs) category expands the structured athlete development pool nearly ten-fold

PMMSY Fisheries Infrastructure: Harbours, Aquaparks, Women's Blue Economy Push

30 Jul

- Four Rajya Sabha replies together detail PMMSY's fisheries-infrastructure push: Rs 20,750 crore total outlay (2020-21 onwards, Centre-State cost-sharing usually 60:40); of 1,547 notified Fish Landing Centres nationally, 423 have been covered under infrastructure development so far.
- ISRO has indigenously developed the Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS, Rs 364 crore) with the 'Nabhmitra' app, to be rolled out to 1 lakh marine fishing vessels for safety, SOS alerts, geo-fencing and cyclone warnings.
- 12 Integrated Aquaparks approved nationally (Rs 713.80 crore total) as end-to-end fisheries value-chain hubs; women beneficiaries get enhanced 60% government financial assistance (vs 40% for general category) for fisheries activities including deep-sea vessel acquisition, seaweed cultivation and value addition.
- NFDB (National Fisheries Development Board) has conducted 4,041 training programmes benefiting 1,75,261 fishers nationally under PMMSY's capacity-building sub-component.

QUICK FACTS

Fishing Harbour/FLC infrastructure	usually 60:40 Centre-State cost-sharing; FIDF (Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund, since 2018-19) offers up to 3% interest subvention
Women beneficiaries	60% government financial assistance (vs 40% general category) for fisheries activities under PMMSY
NFDB (National Fisheries Development Board)	nodal agency for PMMSY training; conducted 4,041 training programmes, benefiting 1,75,261 fishers

- PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana) launched 10 September 2020; total outlay Rs 20,750 crore
- 1,547 notified marine Fish Landing Centres nationally; 423 covered under infrastructure development so far
- VCSS (Vessel Communication and Support System): ISRO-developed, Rs 364 crore, targets 1 lakh fishing vessels with free transponders and the 'Nabhmitra' regional-language app (SOS, geo-fencing, cyclone alerts, Potential Fishing Zone advisories)
- 12 Integrated Aquaparks approved nationally at Rs 713.80 crore total cost; cost-sharing 90:10 (NE/Himalayan States), 60:40 (other States), 100% Centre (UTs)

PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme: Collateral-Free Education Loans for QHEI Admissions

29 Jul

- PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet on 6 November 2024, provides collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans to meritorious students admitted to 1,425 designated Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs), selected by NIRF ranking

- 3% interest subvention on loans up to Rs 10 lakh for families earning up to Rs 8 lakh/year, plus a 75% Government credit guarantee on loans up to Rs 7.5 lakh; budget of Rs 3,600 crore for 2024-25 to 2030-31, targeting 7 lakh students
- In FY 2025-26, 1,10,667 of 6,45,514 total loan applications on the portal were for PM-Vidyalaxmi; 70,852 loans sanctioned and 67,728 disbursed; subvention now paid via a Digital Rupee (CBDC) wallet — 35,777 active wallets, Rs 57.66 crore disbursed as of 22 July 2026

QUICK FACTS

Budget outlay	Rs 3,600 crore (2024-25 to 2030-31); target of 7 lakh fresh beneficiaries
FY 2025-26	1,10,667 PM-Vidyalaxmi applications of 6,45,514 total on the portal; 70,852 sanctioned, 67,728 disbursed

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 6 November 2024; a mission-mode intervention of the Ministry of Education
- 1,425 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) currently covered, shortlisted by latest NIRF ranking
- 3% interest subvention on loans up to Rs 10 lakh for family income up to Rs 8 lakh/year, during the moratorium period
- 75% credit guarantee by Government of India on loans up to Rs 7.5 lakh, to encourage bank lending
- Interest rate capped at bank's Externally Benchmarked Lending Rate (EBLR) + 0.5%; repayment up to 15 years excluding moratorium (course period + 1 year)
- Subvention credited via PM Vidyalaxmi Digital Rupee App (CBDC Wallet) — 35,777 active wallets, Rs 57.66 crore disbursed as of 22 July 2026

RDI Scheme: Rs 2,000cr Sanctioned to TDB & BIRAC, 30 Projects Approved So Far

29 Jul

- The Rs 1-lakh-crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, Cabinet-approved 1 July 2025 and launched by the PM on 3 November 2025, has sanctioned Rs 1,000 crore each to TDB and BIRAC (Rs 2,000 crore total); Rs 500 crore has been disbursed to TDB
- TDB has approved 22 projects worth Rs 4,744 crore (Rs 2,192 crore RDI support); BIRAC has shortlisted 8 projects worth Rs 390.35 crore
- The Scheme gives long-term, low-interest loans and equity — not grants — evaluated on innovation and commercialisation potential rather than collateral, and is pan-India with no state-wise earmarking
- It is operationalised through a Special Purpose Fund inside ANRF, channelling money to Second-Level Fund Managers — so far TDB and BIRAC, both Focused Research Organisations

QUICK FACTS

RDI Scheme	Rs 1 lakh crore outlay over 6 years; Cabinet-approved 1 July 2025, launched by the PM 3 November 2025
TDB	22 projects approved, Rs 4,744 crore total project cost, Rs 2,192 crore RDI Fund support
BIRAC	8 projects shortlisted, Rs 390.35 crore
Funding form	long-term, low-interest loans and equity/equity-linked instruments — explicitly NOT grants

- Rs 1,000 crore each sanctioned to TDB and BIRAC (Rs 2,000 crore total); Rs 500 crore disbursed to TDB in March 2026
- Supports projects at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 and above; pan-India, no state/region earmarking

PM E-DRIVE Incentivises 23.2 Lakh EVs; India's EV Penetration Rises to 8.2%

28 Jul

- Under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme (Rs 10,900 crore outlay, notified 29.09.2024), 23,22,878 EVs have been incentivised with Rs 2,281.94 crore reimbursed to OEMs, as on 22.07.2026; EV penetration has risen from 0.7% (FY2019-20) to 8.2% (FY2025-26).
- Its predecessor, FAME-II (2019-2024, Rs 11,500 crore outlay), supported about 16.72 lakh EVs and deployed 5,197 e-buses; the PLI-Auto Scheme (Rs 25,938 crore, approved 23.09.2021) has attracted Rs 44,326 crore investment and generated 67,820 jobs.

- The PLI Scheme for ACC Battery Storage (Rs 18,100 crore, 50 GWh target) has awarded 40 GWh capacity to four firms and established a 1.4 GWh Giga-scale plant; a new Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (Rs 7,280 crore, 6,000 MTPA target) had its RFP published 20 March 2026.
- Under PM E-DRIVE, Rs 2,000 crore is earmarked for EV public charging stations (6,562 chargers approved so far) and 14,000 e-buses have been allocated across seven metro cities and Jammu & Kashmir.

QUICK FACTS

PM E-DRIVE	Rs 10,900 crore outlay; notified 29.09.2024, effective 01.04.2024 (subsumed EMPS 2024); runs to 31.03.2028
FAME-II (2019-2024)	Rs 11,500 crore outlay; ~16.72 lakh EVs supported, 5,197 e-buses deployed
PLI-Auto	Rs 25,938 crore outlay, approved 23.09.2021; Rs 44,326 crore investment attracted, 67,820 jobs generated (till 31.03.2026)
EV penetration	0.7% (FY2019-20) -> 8.2% (FY2025-26)

PM-AJAY Continuation Proposed With Enhanced Outlay for 2026-31; Rs 4,277 Crore Released So Far

28 Jul

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has proposed continuing PM-AJAY from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an enhanced financial outlay; since its 2021-22 launch, the Centre has released Rs 4,276.62 crore (up to 2025-26) across 30 States/UTs, with Rs 1,100.09 crore released in 2025-26 alone.
- A NITI Aayog DMEO evaluation found PM-AJAY has significantly improved infrastructure, electricity, banking access, healthcare, education and livelihoods in SC-dominated areas.
- Under the Adarsh Gram component, 3,112 villages have been identified since 2018-19, with 3,111 declared Adarsh Gram in Tamil Nadu alone.
- Separately, the government is expanding NCC coverage in SC-concentrated/PM-AJAY areas: of 263 identified schools, only 25 already have NCC units, 8 are waitlisted, and 230 are yet to apply — no Maharashtra school features on the list.

QUICK FACTS

Three components	Adarsh Gram, Grants-in-Aid, Hostels
Released since launch	Rs 4,276.62 crore (up to 2025-26); utilised: Rs 3,185.07 crore; Rs 1,100.09 crore released in 2025-26 alone
Adarsh Gram	3,112 villages identified since 2018-19; 3,111 declared in Tamil Nadu

– PM-AJAY launched 2021-22; merges three erstwhile schemes: PMAGY, SCA to SCSP, and Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)

India's AYUSH Exports Cross $1.25 Billion; Yoga Diplomacy Expands via 100+ MoUs

28 Jul

- Since the UN adopted 21 June as International Day of Yoga in 2014 (on India's proposal), the Ministry of AYUSH has signed 27 Country-to-Country MoUs, 16 Ayush Chair MoUs and 57 Institute-to-Institute MoUs to promote Yoga and AYUSH systems globally, offering 104 annual scholarship slots to foreign nationals.
- WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH jointly developed a Technical Report on Training in Yoga, setting international training standards; new MoUs were signed in 2025 (with Mongolia's Yoga Federation) and 2026 (with a Réunion-based cultural body) for academic collaboration.
- India's AYUSH product exports grew from $869.81 million (FY2020-21) to $1,251.25 million (FY2025-26) — a CAGR of 7.54% — led by Extracts ($593.06 million) and Medicinal & Aromatic Plants ($456.34 million).
- Research councils/institutes under the Ministry (CCRAS, CCRYN, CCRH, NIA, NIN, NEIAH, National Commission for Homeopathy, PCIM&H, ITRA) are running active research, capacity-building and employment-generating programmes across Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy and Homeopathy.

QUICK FACTS

Ministry of AYUSH	27 Country-to-Country MoUs, 16 Ayush Chair MoUs, 57 Institute-to-Institute MoUs for global Yoga/AYUSH promotion; 104 annual scholarship slots for foreign nationals
WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GCTM)	world's first and only such centre, established at Jamnagar, Gujarat; foundation laid by PM Modi with WHO DG Tedros, launched April 2022
AYUSH exports	$869.81 million (FY2020-21) -> $1,251.25 million (FY2025-26), CAGR 7.54%

– International Day of Yoga (21 June) adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 69/131 on 11 December 2014, proposed by India, endorsed by 175 member states

PMMSY Approves Rs 21,461 Crore for Fisheries Development Over Six Years

28 Jul

- Over the last six years, the Department of Fisheries has approved PMMSY projects worth Rs 21,461 crore (Central share Rs 9,571 crore) across 34 States/UTs, releasing Rs 6,206 crore so far; fish production rose from 141.64 lakh tonnes (2019-20) to a record 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024-25).
- PMMSY, running since FY2020-21, has been continued till September 2026 in its existing form, with Rs 2,500 crore allocated for FY2026-27; NITI Aayog's evaluation recommended its continuation.
- Under the Group Accidental Insurance Scheme (GAIS), an average of 35.74 lakh active fishers are enrolled annually, with cover of Rs 5 lakh for death/total disability, Rs 2.5 lakh for partial disability and Rs 25,000 hospitalisation support — sharply higher than under the erstwhile Blue Revolution scheme.
- Under the Union Budget 2026-27's integrated development of reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars, 351 reservoirs and 100 Amrit Sarovars have been identified across states for fisheries infrastructure.

QUICK FACTS

6-year approvals	Rs 21,461 crore (Central share Rs 9,571 crore); Rs 6,206 crore released; continued till September 2026 as-is, Rs 2,500 crore allocated for FY2026-27
Fish production	141.64 lakh tonnes (2019-20) -> 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024-25, record); exports: Rs 46,663 crore (2019-20) -> Rs 73,890 crore (2025-26)

– PMMSY launched September 2020 (effective FY2020-21) as the flagship fisheries/aquaculture scheme; predecessor: Blue Revolution scheme (2015, Rs 3,000 crore outlay)

– 58 lakh direct and indirect jobs created in fisheries/aquaculture-related activities

Devolution Index 2024 Ranks States on Panchayat Empowerment; Rs 2.83 Lakh Crore Released Under 15th FC

28 Jul

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj released 'Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States — An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking, 2024' in February 2025, introducing a Devolution Index ranking States/UTs on six dimensions — Framework, Functions, Finances, Functionaries, Capacity Enhancement, and Accountability.
- During the 15th Finance Commission award period (FY2020-21 to FY2025-26), Rs 2,82,632 crore has been released against a total allocation of Rs 2,97,555 crore to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA, since FY2022-23), Rs 3,601.77 crore has been released over five years; 1.66 crore+ Elected Representatives trained; 90.73% of PRIs (2,40,435 of 2,64,998) generated audit reports in FY2024-25 via the eGramSwaraj-PFMS-AuditOnline digital ecosystem.
- New digital tools include the SAMARTH Panchayat portal (for Own Source Revenue collection) and the Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA, launched 2025) to incentivise Panchayats' own-revenue growth.

QUICK FACTS

15th FC (FY2020-21 to FY2025-26)	Rs 2,82,632 crore released of Rs 2,97,555 crore allocated to PRIs

– 'Panchayat' is a State List subject (Seventh Schedule) under Part IX (Article 243) of the Constitution, added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992 (in force 24 April 1993)

- Article 243G empowers States to devolve powers over the 29 subjects in the Eleventh Schedule to Panchayats — devolution is a State legislative choice, not automatic
- Devolution Index report released February 2025, based on six dimensions: Framework, Functions, Finances, Functionaries, Capacity Enhancement, Accountability

Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, SAMARTH Portal & Model OSR Rules Launched

27 Jul

- Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, the SAMARTH Panchayat Portal, and released Model OSR (Own Source of Revenue) Rules for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme will develop 350 revenue-generating projects over four years (50 in year 1, 100 each in the following three years) from Gram/Block Panchayats' local assets, financed via PPP, CSR, scheme convergence and bank finance, with NABARD and HUDCO as institutional partners.
- The SAMARTH Portal, a unified national platform for digitally managing Panchayat OSR, has already onboarded Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh — registering over 51 lakh taxpayers, generating Rs 95 crore in demand notices and collecting over Rs 27 crore.
- Model OSR Rules give States/UTs an advisory framework for transparent assessment, collection and management of Panchayat revenues such as property tax and user charges, building on Sixteenth Finance Commission recommendations.
- The Ministry also received a Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026 for the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) — one of 4 Panchayati Raj-related awards (3 Gold, 1 Silver) at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance (Jaipur, 1-2 July 2026).

QUICK FACTS

Three instruments launched together	Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme, SAMARTH Panchayat Portal, Model OSR Rules — all by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Atmanirbhar Panchayat Programme	350 projects over 4 years (50 + 100 + 100 + 100); institutional financing partners NABARD & HUDCO
Eligibility	Gram Panchayats need minimum OSR Rs 50 lakh, Block Panchayats need minimum OSR Rs 1 crore (thresholds relaxed for special category States), each with at least 3 years' tenure remaining
SAMARTH Portal	live in Chhattisgarh & Himachal Pradesh; 51 lakh+ taxpayers registered, Rs 95 crore demand generated, Rs 27 crore+ collected; onboarding underway in Maharashtra, Mizoram, Assam, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh

- Launched by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (alias Lalan Singh); also present: MoS Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj
- Both initiatives explicitly build on the Sixteenth Finance Commission's recommendations on strengthening Panchayat Own Source Revenue (OSR)
- Ministry won Gold at NAeG 2026 for the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI); 4 total PRI-related awards (3 Gold, 1 Silver) at the 29th National Conference on e-Governance, Jaipur, 1-2 July 2026

Jal Jeevan Mission: Tap Water Coverage at 82.09%, Scheme Extended to 2028 as JJM 2.0

27 Jul

- The Union Minister for Jal Shakti told the Rajya Sabha that rural tap water coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) — Har Ghar Jal has risen from 16.71% (3.23 crore households) at launch in August 2019 to 82.09% (15.89 crore of 19.36 crore rural households) as on 18.07.2026.
- In March 2026, the Union Cabinet approved extending JJM to December 2028 as 'JJM 2.0', with the total outlay enhanced from Rs 3.60 lakh crore to Rs 8.69 lakh crore (central share up from Rs 2.08 lakh crore to Rs 3.59 lakh crore) and a Comprehensive Implementation and Reform Plan (CIRP) for each State/UT.

- A new 'Jal Arpan' community-led initiative, with a standardised Handbook on Community-Managed Piped Water Systems mandating a 15-day trial run, aims to ensure sustainable handover of completed schemes to Gram Panchayats/VWSCs/Pani Samitis.
- Drinking water remains a State subject — implementation, O&M and user-charge collection rest with States/UTs, with the Centre providing technical and financial support; every connection must meet the BIS:10500 quality standard at 55 litres per capita per day.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) — Har Ghar Jal; launched 15 August 2019; nodal: Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
Goal	assured potable water at 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd), of BIS:10500-prescribed quality, via tap connection, to every rural household
Coverage	16.71% (3.23 crore households) at launch (15.08.2019) -> 82.09% (15.89 crore of 19.36 crore rural households) as on 18.07.2026; 12.66 crore additional households connected since launch
JJM 2.0	Union Cabinet approved extension to December 2028 in March 2026; total outlay Rs 3.60 lakh crore -> Rs 8.69 lakh crore (central share Rs 2.08 lakh crore -> Rs 3.59 lakh crore); additional central outlay Rs 1.51 lakh crore
Implementation tool	Comprehensive Implementation and Reform Plan (CIRP), to be prepared by each State/UT
'Jal Arpan'	community-led event plus a standardised Handbook on Community-Managed Piped Water Systems; mandates a 15-day trial run before scheme handover to GPs/VWSCs/Pani Samitis

- Drinking water is a State subject — planning, approval, implementation and O&M rest with States/UTs; the Centre gives technical and financial assistance only
- Information given by Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Patil in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha

SVEP Supports Over 4.32 Lakh Enterprises; 99% Profitable

25 Jul

- SVEP has supported over 4.32 lakh rural enterprises by mid-June 2026.
- Around 86% of entrepreneurs belong to marginalized communities.
- The Quality Council of India evaluation found 99% of enterprises profitable.

QUICK FACTS

Programme	Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP).
Launch Year	2016.
Parent Scheme	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
Nodal Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development.
Total Enterprises Supported	4.32 lakh (by June 2026).
Total Funding	Cumulative central share of Rs 942.09 crore up to February 2026.

Cabinet Approves BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme with Rs 3,030 Crore Outlay for Chemical Parks

24 Jul

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) scheme on 24 July 2026.
- The scheme aims to establish three world-class, dedicated Chemical Parks across India to boost the chemical manufacturing ecosystem.
- It carries a total financial outlay of Rs 3,030 crore, for implementation over a five-year period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
- The Centre will provide a grant of up to Rs 1,000 crore per park, subject to the host state contributing a minimum of Rs 500 crore.
- Parks will be selected via a challenge method and require a minimum of 2,000 acres (8 sq. km.) of contiguous, encumbrance-free land.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme name	Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan).
Approved by	Union Cabinet on 24 July 2026.
Total Outlay	Rs 3,030 crore.
Implementation Period	Five years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31).
Target	Establishment of three dedicated Chemical Parks.
Funding model	Central grant of up to Rs 1,000 crore per park; minimum state contribution of Rs 500 crore.

Poshan Tracker and Saksham Anganwadi Drive Nutritional Outcomes

24 Jul

- The 'Poshan Tracker' app is enabling real-time monitoring of Anganwadi Centres and beneficiaries under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
- Over 99.88% of registered beneficiaries are Aadhaar verified, and a Nominee Module ensures uninterrupted Take-Home Ration delivery.
- Two lakh Anganwadi Centres have been approved for upgrade to Saksham Anganwadis with better infrastructure.
- The honorarium for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) was enhanced to Rs 4,500/month by the Central Government.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.
Ministry	Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
Key Tool	Poshan Tracker (real-time monitoring app).
Aadhaar Verification	99.88% of registered beneficiaries verified.
Honorarium	AWWs receive Rs 4,500/month (enhanced from Rs 3,000) from the Centre.
Upgrades	2 lakh Anganwadi Centres approved to be upgraded as Saksham Anganwadis.
Beneficiaries	Children (0-6 yrs), pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls (14-18 yrs in Aspirational/NE districts).

Government Highlights PMKVY 4.0 Success and Skilling Reforms Under Skill India Mission

22 Jul

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship detailed the evolution and impact of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) under the Skill India Mission.
- An independent evaluation of PMKVY 4.0 showed a significant 18.8 percentage point increase in employment outcomes for short-term training candidates.
- A new Skills Outcomes Fund, with a proposed corpus of Rs 530 crore, has been established by NSDC to focus on measurable employment and livelihood outcomes.

QUICK FACTS

Mission	Skill India Mission (Launched 2015)
Flagship Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (currently in version 4.0)
Nodal Regulator	National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)
New Financing Model	Skills Outcomes Fund (corpus of ~Rs 530 crore) anchored by NSDC
Digital Integration	Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) launched to unify skilling, education, and employment ecosystems

9. Ranks & Reports

1 article

India Becomes World's 2nd-Largest Seafarer Supplier; Government Launches Mission 20%

28 Jul

- Per the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India has become the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers with 311,936 professionals — 12.16% of the global seafaring workforce — up from fifth place and 5.2% in 2015, behind only the Philippines.
- Indian officers number 140,718 (13.41% of the world's officer workforce); Indian ratings number 171,218 (11.29% of global ratings); global seafarer supply stands at 2.57 million against demand of 2.55 million.
- The Government has launched 'Mission 20%' to raise India's global seafarer share from 12.16% to 20% — one in five seafarers worldwide — via expanded training capacity, industry-academia partnerships and greater opportunities for women.
- Separately, the Shipping Minister reviewed seafarer safety in conflict-sensitive regions (West Asia, Black Sea) with MEA, DG Shipping and Indian Missions in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia and Ukraine; DG Shipping's 24x7 Seafarer Grievance and Assistance Cell is fully operational, alongside new pre-departure orientation and mental-health support measures.

QUICK FACTS

India	world's 2nd-largest seafarer supplier (2026) — 311,936 professionals, 12.16% of global workforce — up from 5th place/5.2% in 2015
Indian officers	140,718 (13.41% of global officer workforce); Indian ratings: 171,218 (11.29% of global ratings)
Global seafarer supply	2.57 million vs demand 2.55 million (BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026)
'Mission 20%'	target to raise India's seafarer share from 12.16% to 20%

10. Sports

1 article

PIB Backgrounder: Khelo India and India's Commonwealth Games 2026 Journey

27 Jul

- Khelo India, launched in 2017 by merging three earlier schemes, has approved 349 infrastructure projects (Rs 3,176 crore), set up 1,067 Khelo India Centres and supports 2,745 Khelo India Athletes as of July 2026.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports budget rose to a record Rs 4,479.88 crore in 2026-27, up from Rs 1,219 crore in 2013-14.
- At Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026 (23 July-2 August), India's 124-member contingent had won 4 medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze) as of 27 July 2026.
- TOPS, launched September 2014 and revamped April 2018, currently supports 51 Core, 52 Para Core and 130 Development athletes with monthly stipends.
- The KIRTI talent-identification initiative has completed 1,87,921 athlete assessments across 174 centres, aiming for India to be a top-10 sporting nation by 2036.

QUICK FACTS

India's CWG 2026 contingent 124 athletes (78 male, 46 female); 4 medals (1 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze) as of 27 July 2026

- Khelo India launched in 2017, merging Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan, Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and National Sports Talent Search Scheme
- 349 infrastructure projects approved (Rs 3,176 crore); 1,067 Khelo India Centres; 267 academies; 2,745 Khelo India Athletes supported (as of July 2026)
- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) launched September 2014, revamped April 2018
- National Sports Policy 2025 (Khelo Bharat Niti 2025) supersedes the National Sports Policy, 2001, targeting 2036 Olympics readiness

11. Important Days

1 article

Health Ministry Marks Eight Years of NVHCP on World Hepatitis Day 2026

28 Jul

- The Health Ministry observed World Hepatitis Day 2026 (theme 'Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down') on 28 July, marking eight years of the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), launched on World Hepatitis Day 2018 to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 (SDG Target 3.3).
- Since inception, NVHCP has screened over 21 crore beneficiaries and treated more than 6 lakh patients free of cost, and now runs 1,153 treatment centres including 70+ specialised sites — surpassing its one-treatment-centre-per-district target.
- Hepatitis B birth-dose coverage has crossed 92%, though only around 65% of pregnant women are currently screened for Hepatitis B — the Ministry has urged States/UTs to reach 100% screening. 7.64 crore pregnant women have been screened and 2.24 lakh newborns of Hepatitis B-positive mothers given HBIG.
- India is among the few countries offering free Hepatitis C treatment and Hepatitis B management, with medicine costs reduced to under one US dollar.

QUICK FACTS

World Hepatitis Day 2026 theme	'Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down'
Hepatitis B birth-dose coverage	92%+; pregnant-women Hepatitis B screening: ~65% (target 100%)

- NVHCP launched 28 July 2018 under the National Health Mission; targets elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030 (SDG Target 3.3)
- 21+ crore beneficiaries screened, 6+ lakh patients treated free, 1,153 treatment centres (incl. 70+ specialised sites) established to date

12. History & Culture

1 article

Sarnath Inscribed as India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site

25 Jul

- The "Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath" has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- The decision was taken at the 48th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea.
- Sarnath becomes India's 45th World Heritage Site, ranking India 6th globally.

QUICK FACTS

Site	Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh).
Status	India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Recognition Body	UNESCO World Heritage Committee (48th Session at Busan, South Korea).
Historical Significance	Site of the Buddha's first sermon (Dharmachakra Pravartana) and formation of the first Sangha.
Key Monuments	Chaukhandi Stupa, Dhamekh Stupa, Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulagandhakuti Vihara, and Ashokan Pillar.
Nodal Agency in India	Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).