WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

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23 key articles · 9 categories · 7 days

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Awards & Honours

1 article

President approves 78 gallantry awards and 89 Mention-in-Despatches for Independence Day 2026

14 Aug

- President Droupadi Murmu approved 78 gallantry awards, including 13 posthumous, to personnel of the Defence Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the eve of Independence Day 2026.
- The breakdown is 9 Kirti Chakras (7 posthumous), 1 Bar to Shaurya Chakra, 19 Shaurya Chakras (1 posthumous), 5 Bars to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 36 Sena Medals (Gallantry) with 5 posthumous, 3 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 5 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- A further 89 Mention-in-Despatches were approved — 75 for the Indian Army, 4 for the Navy and 10 for the Air Force — spanning operations including Rakshak, Hifazat, Orchid, Meghdoot, Snow Leopard, Talash and Chakravyuh.
- Separately, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced 1,057 Gallantry and Service Medals for Police, Fire, Home Guard and Civil Defence and Correctional Services personnel — 301 Medals for Gallantry, 92 President's Medals for Distinguished Service and 664 Medals for Meritorious Service.
- Honorary commissions were also announced: on the Army side 438 Honorary Captains and 1,803 Honorary Lieutenants on the active list, with 1,365 Honorary Captains, 485 Honorary Lieutenants, 4,225 Honorary Subedar Majors, 776 Honorary Subedars and 5,897 Honorary Naib Subedars after retirement.

2. Summits & Conferences

2 articles

CCI Hosts BRICS Competition Authorities in Udaipur; Joint Statement Adopted

09 Aug

- The Competition Commission of India organised the Meeting of Heads of BRICS Competition Authorities on 8 August 2026 in Udaipur, Rajasthan, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- A Joint Statement titled 'Strengthening Cooperation to Promote Fair Competition, including in Renewable Energy Markets' was adopted.
- CCI steered a collaborative BRICS study on the 'Emerging Competition Landscape in the Renewable Energy Sector in BRICS', whose findings were presented at the meeting.
- CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur said competition law interventions must remain principled, evidence-based and anchored in the core objectives of competition law.
- Brazil's competition authority CADE briefed participants on the Xth BRICS International Competition Conference, to be held in Brazil in 2027.

XI BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting Adopts Bhopal Declaration Under India's Chairship

08 Aug

- The XI BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting concluded in Bhopal under India's BRICS Chairship with the adoption of the Bhopal Declaration.
- Fourteen countries took part — 10 BRICS member countries and 4 partner countries — with 55 delegates in all.
- The Declaration covers creative industries, UNESCO multinational nominations, restitution of cultural property, traditional knowledge systems and creators' rights in the context of Artificial Intelligence.
- India announced a pilot Voluntary Artist Registry to facilitate cultural exchange across BRICS.

- The Culture Track ran through three working group meetings — virtual in April, Varanasi in June and Bhopal in August 2026.

3. Defence

1 article

Defence production hits Rs 1.78 lakh crore, exports Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26

14 Aug

- A PIB Backgrounder issued for the 80th Independence Day places India's defence production at a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025-26, with Defence PSUs and other public entities supplying about 76% and the private sector 24%.
- Defence exports rose from Rs 686 crore in FY 2013-14 to Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26 — a 56-fold rise reaching more than 80 countries; DPSUs contributed Rs 21,071 crore (54.84%) and private firms Rs 17,353 crore (45.16%).
- The stated targets are Rs 3 lakh crore of annual defence production and Rs 50,000 crore of exports by 2029.
- Ten Positive Indigenisation Lists covering 5,521 items had been notified till May 2026 — five each by the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Defence Production.
- In a parallel Akashvani address on the eve of Independence Day, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh said the Defence Acquisition Council granted Acceptance of Necessity worth over Rs 8.75 lakh crore in the past year and that India now has 145 defence exporters.

4. Science & Tech

2 articles

Semicon 2.0 and IndiaAI Mission Drive India's Chip-to-AI Build-Out

13 Aug

- Semicon India 2.0 was approved in July 2026 with a Rs 1,27,500 crore outlay, scaling up the Rs 76,000 crore Semicon 1.0 programme across six pillars — chip design, equipment and materials, fabrication, advanced packaging, R&D and talent.
- Twelve semiconductor projects have been approved across six states with investment commitments above Rs 1.64 lakh crore; three facilities have already begun commercial production.
- The IndiaAI Mission, with an outlay of about Rs 10,372 crore, had expanded shared compute to more than 45,000 GPUs as of June 2026, and 237 projects had used 93.18 lakh subsidised GPU hours by August 2026.
- Twenty indigenous foundation model proposals — 12 large multimodal models and 8 small language models — were selected from 506 applications; AI Kosh hosted over 14,000 datasets and 331 AI models as of July 2026.
- India was ranked third globally in the Stanford Global AI Vibrancy Report 2025 and joined the Pax Silica coalition on resilient silicon supply chains at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

GERD Rises to 0.84% of GDP as ANRF and Rs 1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund Anchor Research Push

13 Aug

- Gross expenditure on research and development rose from Rs 1,32,567.01 crore, or 0.66% of GDP, in 2019-20 to Rs 2,44,767.81 crore, or 0.84% of GDP, in 2023-24, as per the DST's Research & Development Statistics 2025-26.

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation, established under the Department of Science and Technology, provides strategic direction for research across the sciences and runs the MAHA and PAIR programmes; a Research, Development and Innovation Fund with a Rs 1 lakh crore corpus over six years is to catalyse private investment in sunrise and strategic sectors.
- India has more than 2.40 lakh DPIIT-recognised startups, over half of them from Tier-II and Tier-III cities; it ranks third globally in scientific publications and sixth in patent filings.
- India's Global Innovation Index rank improved from 81st in 2015 to 38th in 2025.
- The INSPIRE Programme supported 49,805 students under INSPIRE-MANAK, 24,276 under INSPIRE-SHE, 3,364 INSPIRE Fellowships and 477 Faculty Fellowships in 2025-26; the government stated that INSPIRE-SHE has not been shelved but is under redesign.

5. Environment

5 articles

World Elephant Day Marked at Visakhapatnam With Rs 500 Crore Southern Conflict Plan

13 Aug

- National celebrations of World Elephant Day 2026 were held at Visakhapatnam, where the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change conferred the Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026.
- India has 33 Elephant Reserves, 150 scientifically identified elephant corridors and nearly 60% of the world's wild Asian elephant population.
- A Regional Action Plan for Human-Elephant Conflict in Southern India — covering Karnataka, Keralam, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu — was released with support of Rs 500 crore from the Government of India.
- Project Elephant, launched in 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, has completed more than three decades; a publication titled '30 Giant Steps' marking milestones from 2020 to 2026 was released.
- The 23rd Steering Committee Meeting of Project Elephant was held at Visakhapatnam, and a nationwide awareness campaign with the National Museum of Natural History reached over 20 lakh students from 21,450 schools.

World Elephant Day 2026: India Counts 22,446 Wild Elephants Across 33 Reserves and 150 Corridors

12 Aug

- World Elephant Day is observed on 12 August; India holds nearly 60% of the world's wild Asian elephants.
- The DNA-based Synchronous All India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE) 2021-25 puts India's wild elephant population at 22,446.
- India protects elephants through 33 Elephant Reserves covering 80,777 sq km across 14 States and 150 validated corridors.
- Railway mitigation has cut train-hit elephant deaths from 26 in 2013 to 12 in 2024.
- The Gajah Suchana app holds DNA profiles of registered captive elephants, and the Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024 regulate their movement.

Asiatic lion population rises from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025; range expands to 35,000 sq km

10 Aug

- Marking World Lion Day 2026, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, stated that the Asiatic Lion population has risen from 523 in 2015 to 891 in 2025.
- The lion range has expanded from around 30,000 sq km in 2020 to nearly 35,000 sq km.
- Project Lion was announced by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2020 for long-term conservation of the species.
- Project Lion follows a landscape-level approach covering habitat enhancement, disease monitoring and veterinary support, scientific population tracking, technology-aided interventions, biodiversity protection, benefit sharing and community involvement.
- The Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, and the Prime Minister separately highlighted the role of forest officers, frontline workers and local communities in the recovery.

Groundwater Assessment 2025: recharge 449 BCM, extraction 247 BCM, extraction stage 60.63%

10 Aug

- As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment, 2025, India's total Annual Ground Water Recharge is 449 Billion Cubic Metres, Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 408 BCM, and Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses is 247 BCM.
- Of the 247 BCM extracted, 215 BCM (87%) goes to irrigation, 28 BCM (11%) to domestic use including drinking water, and 4 BCM (2%) to industry.
- The national Stage of Ground Water Extraction — the ratio of annual extraction to annual extractable resource — is 60.63%, and nine States/UTs exceed the national average: Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Karnataka. 281 districts are above the national average.
- The Central Water Commission's Assessment of Water Resources of India, 2024 put average annual per capita water availability for 2021 at 1,573.19 cubic metres.
- The Annual Ground Water Quality Report, 2025 finds groundwater generally potable, with nearly 99% of monitoring stations showing quality suitable for irrigation; in Bihar, of 584 samples analysed, electrical conductivity exceeded permissible limits in 5, fluoride in 39 and nitrate in 78.

India Crosses 300 GW Non-Fossil Power Capacity, Over 60% of Its 2030 Target

09 Aug

- India crossed 300 GW of non-fossil fuel based installed electricity generation capacity as on 31 July 2026 — over 60% of the 500 GW targeted by 2030.
- The breakdown is solar 164.59 GW, wind 58.14 GW, hydro 57.24 GW, bio-power 11.75 GW and nuclear 8.78 GW, totalling 300.50 GW.
- Non-fossil sources now account for over 54% of India's total electricity generation capacity of around 552 GW.
- A record 55.29 GW of non-fossil capacity was installed during 2025-26, including 44.6 GW of solar and 6 GW of wind.
- Enlisted capacity under the ALMM for solar PV modules has crossed 200 GW, up from just 2.3 GW in 2014.

6. Banking & Finance

3 articles

CBDC-based food subsidy transfer launched under PMGKAY in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

14 Aug

- The Government launched Central Bank Digital Currency-based Direct Benefit Transfer under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli on 14 August 2026.
- Food subsidy is credited as programmable Digital Rupee tokens into a beneficiary's CBDC wallet instead of a conventional bank account, and can then be spent only at empanelled merchants on foodgrains — smartphone users paying by QR code and feature-phone users through an OTP-based mechanism.
- The two UTs become the first in the country to operationalise food subsidy transfers to all eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries in CBDC form; earlier pilots ran in Gujarat from 15 February 2026 and Puducherry from 26 February 2026.
- The launch was led by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi with Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan; the government describes it as the first large-scale application of CBDC in a Central Government welfare programme.
- Supporting figures cited: DBT has saved over Rs 4 lakh crore by reducing leakages; more than 59 crore Jan Dhan accounts hold deposits exceeding Rs 3.10 lakh crore; and UPI processed over 2,400 crore transactions worth more than Rs 30 lakh crore in July 2026, accounting for nearly 49% of global real-time digital payment transactions.

CBDC-Based Food Subsidy: Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli to Get Programmable Digital Rupee Transfers

12 Aug

- CBDC-based Direct Benefit Transfer under PMGKAY will be launched in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli on 14 August 2026.
- They become the first Union Territories to deliver food subsidy to all eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries as programmable Digital Rupee tokens in CBDC wallets.
- The rollout builds on earlier pilot implementations in Puducherry and Gujarat and marks complete saturation of eligible beneficiaries in the two UTs.
- Beneficiaries will use the tokens to buy foodgrains from empanelled merchants through a traceable real-time digital payment mechanism.
- The model is presented as a proof of concept and a scalable template for other States and Union Territories.

Financial Inclusion Snapshot: FI Index at 70, 58.66 Crore PMSBY Enrolments, UPI at 2,365 Crore Monthly Transactions

12 Aug

- The RBI's Financial Inclusion Index rose from 43.4 in March 2017 to 70.0 in March 2026.
- India has over 1.81 lakh bank branches and 17.36 lakh Business Correspondents, with 99.92% of villages having a banking outlet within 5 km.
- Cumulative Direct Benefit Transfer stands at Rs 52,89,019 crore across 320 schemes and 56 ministries as on 10 August 2026.
- PMSBY has 58.66 crore gross enrolments and PMJJBY 27.78 crore as on 30 June 2026.
- UPI processed 2,365.8 crore transactions worth Rs 29,87,880.49 crore in July 2026, across 741 live banks.

7. Economy

4 articles

India's Power Capacity Touches 552 GW; Non-Fossil Share Crosses 54 Percent

13 Aug

- India's total installed power capacity stood at around 552 GW in July 2026, up from 249 GW in 2014, with non-fossil capacity at 300.50 GW as on 31 July 2026 — over 54% of the total.
- Solar leads the renewable mix at 164.59 GW (31 July 2026), followed by wind at 58.14 GW, hydro at 57.24 GW, bio-power at 11.75 GW and nuclear at 8.78 GW.
- Four large approvals in 2026 reshape the pipeline: a Rs 37,500 crore surface coal/lignite gasification scheme (May 2026), the Rs 5,070 crore Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana and the Rs 84,084 crore 'Samudra Manthan' offshore exploration scheme (both 31 July 2026), and the Rs 23,731 crore GOBARdhan circular bioenergy scheme (6 August 2026).
- The 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam achieved first criticality on 6 April 2026, and India targets 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047 with Rs 20,000 crore earmarked for Small Modular Reactors.
- Coal still meets nearly 55% of primary energy needs and over 70% of electricity generation; production was 1,040.08 MT in FY2025-26 against 609.18 MT in FY2014-15, while thermal plants' coal imports fell about 27.4% to 45.4 MT.

NITI Aayog Report Picks Chemicals, Textiles, Telecom Gear and Solar PV for Manufacturing Push

13 Aug

- NITI Aayog has released 'Key Sectors to Position India as a Global Manufacturing Hub', analysing four sectors — chemicals, textiles, telecom and networking equipment, and solar photovoltaic manufacturing — with reports on eight more sectors to follow.
- The study runs in four phases: shortlisting sectors by relative attractiveness, a three-pronged assessment of market potential, competitiveness and strategic relevance, international benchmarking, and actionable recommendations.
- Textiles contribute about 2% of national GDP, 11% of manufacturing gross value added and 9% of merchandise exports, employ more than 45 million people and made India the sixth-largest textile exporter with US$ 37.7 billion of exports in fiscal 2025.
- India is the world's second-largest telecom market with over 1.2 billion subscribers, about 85% telecom penetration and nearly 75% internet usage; the National Telecom Policy 2025 targets doubling the sector's GDP contribution and exports and creating one million jobs by 2030.
- India had 106 GW of installed solar capacity by March 2025 and needs about 174 GW more to reach the 2030 target of 280 GW; the domestic PV market of Rs 32,400 crore is projected to grow at 17-20% CAGR to fiscal 2030.

India Becomes the World's Leading Ship Recycling Nation with 35.4% Global Share

11 Aug

- India became the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, according to UNCTAD.
- India's global market share rose from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025.
- Recycling volume grew from 1.86 million gross tonnes to 2.99 million gross tonnes, close to 60% growth.
- The Maritime India Vision 2030 target of becoming the world's leading ship recycling nation was achieved five years ahead of schedule.
- The Alang-Sosiya cluster in Gujarat accounts for about 98% of India's ship recycling activity.

E-Samudra Launched as Single Digital Window for India's Maritime Services

08 Aug

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched E-Samudra in Mumbai, a comprehensive digital platform integrating services for seafarers, shipping companies, ports and other maritime stakeholders.
- The platform was inaugurated at a national stakeholder interaction organised by the Directorate General of Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- E-Samudra brings maritime services into a single digital window with end-to-end workflows, online payments, real-time tracking and digitally issued certificates.
- India's active seafarer workforce grew from about 1.03 lakh in 2013 to more than 3.23 lakh in 2025.
- India is the second-largest supplier of seafarers globally and the world's leading ship recycling destination.

8. National

3 articles

80th Independence Day at Red Fort to Mark 150 Years of Vande Mataram

13 Aug

- The 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort on 15 August 2026 commemorate 150 years of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' and the theme 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047'.
- 'Vande Mataram' will be rendered at the Red Fort celebrations for the first time — sung by all present after the Rashtriya Salute, and again by NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers at the close of the Prime Minister's address.
- The Indian Army is the coordinating service this year; the Guard of Honour comprises one officer and 24 personnel each from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police.
- Flag hoisting will be synchronised with a 21-Gun Salute by the 1721 Field Battery (Ceremonial) using indigenous 105 mm Light Field Guns, with two IAF Mi-17 helicopters showering flower petals.
- About 2,500 NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will form the words on Gyanpath, and around 5,000 special guests drawn from scheme beneficiaries and workers have been invited.

India notifies 11 more international ports for e-Visa entry, taking the total to 88

10 Aug

- The Government of India has notified 11 more International Ports enabling e-Visa holder foreigners to enter India — nine land ports and two airports.
- With this addition, the total number of International Ports allowing entry of e-Visa holders rises to 88, comprising 37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land ports.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs noted that India processes approximately 95% of e-Visa applications in less than 72 hours.
- The Ministry framed the step as part of a series of measures to liberalise, streamline and simplify the visa regime while strengthening technological infrastructure for internal security.

80th Independence Day to mark 150 years of Vande Mataram, sung from Red Fort for first time

10 Aug

- India will mark its 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026, with the Prime Minister leading celebrations from the Red Fort, Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh announced at a press conference on 10 August 2026.
- As 2026 marks 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', the National Song will be sung from the ramparts of the Red Fort for the first time, on the Prime Minister's arrival, before he unfurls the National Flag and addresses the nation.

- The celebrations carry two themes — '150 Years of Vande Mataram' and 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047'; 2,500 NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will form on Gyanpath opposite the rampart, and an Indian Air Force Mi-17 will carry a commemorative banner and shower flower petals.
- Approximately 5,000 Special Guests have been invited across categories ranging from PM Internship Scheme interns and Startup India Seed Fund startups to PM SVANidhi street vendors, PM Vishwakarma artisans and urban sanitation workers, along with over 1,500 Delhi-based people in traditional attire from various States and UTs.
- Band performances by the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, NCC and central armed police forces are being held at 343 locations pan-India from 8 to 15 August 2026, and the seating enclosures have been named after major lakes of India — after Republic Day 2026 named them after rivers.

9. Polity & Governance

2 articles

Government removes the 12-minute-per-hour television advertisement cap in force since 2006

14 Aug

- The Government has decided to remove the 12-minute-per-hour advertisement duration cap for television channels, introduced in 2006 under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting cites structural change in the sector: there were 62 television channels in 2006 against more than 900 now, and cable television has moved from analog with limited carriage capacity to fully digital platforms — cable, DTH, HITS and IPTV — carrying 300 to 500 channels or more.
- The stated reasons are adequate competition within the television industry and between television and digital media, where no advertisement cap applies, creating what the Ministry calls a non-level playing field.
- The decision takes effect from the date the amendment to the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 is notified in the Gazette.

PRAHAAR: India's First National Counter Terrorism Policy Rests on Seven Pillars

12 Aug

- The Ministry of Home Affairs unveiled PRAHAAR as India's first comprehensive National Counter Terrorism Policy and Strategy on 23 February 2026.
- It is built on seven pillars covering prevention, response, internal capacity, rule of law, conditions conducive to terrorism, international alignment, and recovery and resilience.
- The framework formalises real-time intelligence sharing through the Multi Agency Centre and a coordinated chain of command with forces such as the National Security Guard.
- It targets terror financing by tracing crypto wallets, choking dark web crowdsourcing and seizing assets, in line with Financial Action Task Force standards.
- An Annual Anti-Terror Conference organised by the NIA under the Ministry of Home Affairs is one of the layered oversight mechanisms.