WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

08 Aug – 14 Aug 2026

UPSC EDITION

43 key articles · 9 categories · 7 days

Compiled from Press Information Bureau releases, Government of India

IN THIS ISSUE

National	1
Economy	8
Banking & Finance	3
Polity & Governance	5
Defence	1
Science & Tech	9
Environment	6
Schemes & Committees	9
History & Culture	1

HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL — 10 Aug | p. 3
80th Independence Day to mark 150 years of Vande Mataram, sung from Red Fort for first time

ECONOMY — 13 Aug | p. 4
India's Power Capacity Touches 552 GW; Non-Fossil Share Crosses 54 Percent

ECONOMY — 11 Aug | p. 6
India Becomes the World's Leading Ship Recycling Nation with 35.4% Global Share

BANKING & FINANCE — 14 Aug | p. 9
CBDC-based food subsidy transfer launched under PMGKAY in Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

DEFENCE — 14 Aug | p. 15
Defence production hits Rs 1.78 lakh crore, exports Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26

SCIENCE & TECH — 13 Aug | p. 16
Semicon 2.0 and IndiaAI Mission Drive India's Chip-to-AI Build-Out

SCIENCE & TECH — 13 Aug | p. 18
GERD Rises to 0.84% of GDP as ANRF and Rs 1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund Anchor Research Push

ENVIRONMENT — 12 Aug | p. 22
World Elephant Day 2026: India Counts 22,446 Wild Elephants Across 33 Reserves and 150 Corridors

Contents

#	Category	Articles	Page
1	National	1 article	3
2	Economy	8 articles	4
3	Banking & Finance	3 articles	9
4	Polity & Governance	5 articles	11
5	Defence	1 article	15
6	Science & Tech	9 articles	16
7	Environment	6 articles	22
8	Schemes & Committees	9 articles	26
9	History & Culture	1 article	32

Tap a category to jump to it.

1. National

1 article

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.

QUICK FACTS

80th Independence Day	15 August 2026, at the Red Fort, Delhi
Themes	'150 Years of Vande Mataram' and 'Yuva Shakti for Viksit Bharat@2047'

- 2026 marks 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'; it will be sung from the Red Fort ramparts for the first time
- 2,500 NCC boy and girl cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will form on Gyanpath opposite the rampart
- An Indian Air Force Mi-17 helicopter will carry a 150-years commemorative banner and shower flower petals
- Band performances at 343 locations pan-India from 8 to 15 August 2026, open to the public
- Approximately 5,000 Special Guests invited, plus over 1,500 Delhi-based people from various States/UTs in traditional attire
- 19 medallists of the International Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematical Olympiads 2026 will be seated on the rampart
- Around 600 winners of MyGov quizzes and competitions will attend
- Seating enclosures named after major lakes of India; Republic Day 2026 had named them after rivers
- Invitation cards showcase 'Seva Teerth', with the Dharm Chakra symbolising righteous duty and selfless action

2. Economy

8 articles

Manufacturing at 16-17% of GDP; Semicon 2.0 gets Rs 1,27,500 crore outlay

14 Aug

- A PIB Backgrounder issued for the 80th Independence Day puts manufacturing at about 16-17% of GDP with over 27 million workers, and manufacturing GVA growing at a CAGR of 10.88% between 2022-23 and 2025-26 at constant prices on the revised 2022-23 base.
- Semicon India Programme 2.0 was approved in July 2026 with an outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore, building on Semicon 1.0's Rs 76,000 crore approved in December 2021; twelve units with investments above Rs 1.64 lakh crore have been approved and Micron, Kaynes and CG Semi are already in commercial production.
- Electronics production rose 15.8% to Rs 13.11 lakh crore in FY 2025-26, 99.2% of mobile phones used in India are made domestically, and smartphones became India's top individual exported commodity in FY 2025-26, surpassing petroleum and gems and jewellery.
- A Rs 62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme was approved on 15 July 2026 for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, with incentives of 2.25% to 5%.
- Sectoral packages span shipbuilding (Rs 69,725 crore announced in September 2025), containers (Rs 10,000 crore CMAS in Budget 2026-27), pharmaceuticals (three PLI schemes worth Rs 25,360 crore) and solar PV (Rs 24,000 crore across two PLI tranches).

QUICK FACTS

Manufacturing share of GDP	about 16-17%; employment over 27 million workers
Merchandise exports, July 2026	USD 44.24 billion, against USD 36.98 billion a year earlier
Manufacturing output growth, June 2026	7.8%
Electronics production	Rs 11.32 lakh crore (FY 2024-25) -> Rs 13.11 lakh crore (FY 2025-26), up 15.8%
Semicon India Programme	1.0 approved December 2021 with Rs 76,000 crore; 2.0 approved July 2026 with Rs 1,27,500 crore
Mobile phones	99.2% of those used in India are made domestically; India is the world's second-largest manufacturer by volume and a net exporter since 2014
Pharmaceuticals	India ranks 3rd in volume and 11th in value globally and supplies 20% of the world's generic medicines; sector turnover Rs 4.72 lakh crore in 2024-25
Textiles and apparel	second-largest employer after agriculture with over 45 million livelihoods; ~2% of GDP, 11% of manufacturing GVA and 9% of merchandise exports; sixth-largest exporter with 4.1% of global trade
Automobiles	world's largest market for two- and three-wheelers and third-largest for passenger and commercial vehicles; production up from 22.65 million units in FY21 to 31.03 million in FY25
Solar	ALMM-listed module capacity reached 100 GW in August 2025 (from about 2.3 GW in 2014); cell capacity 25 GW in March 2025 (from under 1.2 GW in 2014)

- Manufacturing GVA CAGR at constant prices (2022-23 base), 2022-23 to 2025-26: 10.88%
- Twelve semiconductor units approved with investments exceeding Rs 1.64 lakh crore — one silicon fab, one silicon carbide fab, one integrated Gallium Nitride Micro LED display fab and nine packaging units

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.

QUICK FACTS

Total installed power capacity	about 552 GW (July 2026), against 249 GW in 2014
Non-fossil capacity	300.50 GW as on 31 July 2026 — over 54% of the total
Solar	164.59 GW (31 July 2026), up from 2.8 GW in 2014; India was the world's second-largest solar growth market in 2025, adding over 37 GW against the United States' 34 GW
Wind	58.14 GW; 6.05 GW added in FY2025-26, the highest-ever annual addition and 46% above FY2024-25
Hydro	57.24 GW cumulative (large and small); bio-power: 11.75 GW
Nuclear	8.78 GW, projected to reach 22.38 GW by 2031-32 and targeted at 100 GW by 2047
Coal reserves	about 4,00,715 million tonnes; India is the world's second-largest coal producer and consumer
CBG ecosystem	1,929 CBG/Bio-CNG plants registered as on 13 August 2026, of which 217 commissioned and 357 under construction

- India ranks third globally in renewable energy installed capacity and fourth in installed wind capacity
- India is the world's fourth-largest crude refiner, with 258.1 MTPA capacity across 22 operational refineries
- LPG coverage rose from 55.9% in 2014 to 107.2% in 2026; consumers rose from 14.51 crore to 33.18 crore

Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme: Rs 10,000 Crore to End India's Dependence on Imported Containers

11 Aug

- The Government has announced a Rs 10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS), proposed in the Union Budget 2026-27, to build a domestic shipping container industry.
- India currently imports nearly 2 million empty containers every year, leaving container availability exposed to global freight volatility.
- CMAS targets annual domestic capacity of up to 7.5 lakh TEUs — around ten times existing capacity — over five years.
- It is expected to create about 3,000 direct and more than 50,000 indirect jobs.
- It sits alongside the Bharat Container Shipping Line, a Rs 99,149 crore initiative for 51 container vessels and domestic container procurement.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS), announced in the Union Budget 2026-27
Nodal ministry	Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Outlay	Rs 10,000 crore over five years
Target	annual domestic capacity of up to 7.5 lakh Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) — about ten times existing capacity
Problem addressed	India imports nearly 2 million empty containers a year for domestic demand and repositioning
Employment expected	about 3,000 direct jobs and more than 50,000 indirect jobs
Ancillary industries catalysed	corner castings, wooden frames and corten steel

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.

QUICK FACTS

Global market share	30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025
Volume	1.86 million gross tonnes (2024) to 2.99 million gross tonnes (2025) — nearly 60% growth
Other Indian yards	Amar Iron Udyog, Kolkata; Steel Industrials Kerala Limited (SILK), Kerala

- India ranked first globally in ship recycling in 2025, per the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Maritime India Vision 2030 target met five years early
- Alang-Sosiya, Gujarat — the world's largest ship recycling hub, about 98% of India's activity
- Directorate General of Shipping is the National Authority for ship recycling

MSMED (Amendment) Bill, 2026: Turnover Added to Classification, TReDS Made Mandatory for CPSEs

11 Aug

- Parliament passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in August 2026, amending the MSMED Act, 2006.
- MSME classification will now rest on both investment in plant, machinery or equipment and on turnover.
- All Central Public Sector Enterprises must settle MSME invoices through the TReDS platform.
- Fixed timelines are introduced — mediation within 90 days and an arbitral award within 90 days of completion of pleadings.
- A mediated settlement or arbitral award can now be recovered as arrears of land revenue through the District Collector.

QUICK FACTS

Bill	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed by Parliament in August 2026
Amends	the MSMED Act, 2006, notified in 2006
Nodal ministry	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Economic Survey 2025-26	MSMEs contribute 31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output and 48.58% of exports
Online Dispute Resolution portal launched	June 2025

- MSMEs on the Udyam platform as of August 2026: 9.16 crore, employing more than 40 crore people
- MSEFCs established across States and Union Territories: 161

National Waterways Carry 218 Million Tonnes; Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme Targets 12% Modal Share by 2047

11 Aug

- Cargo movement on National Waterways reached 218 million metric tonnes in FY 2025-26.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 announced a Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme to raise the combined modal share of coastal shipping and inland waterways from 6% to 12% by 2047.

- The Jalvahak scheme gives a 35% incentive to cargo owners and introduces scheduled services on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-16.
- Average turnaround time at Major Ports improved to 48.84 hours in 2025-26 from 52.87 hours in 2021-22.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port ranked 22nd in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index 2025.

QUICK FACTS

Cargo on National Waterways, FY 2025-26	218 million metric tonnes
Major Ports average turnaround time	48.84 hours in 2025-26, from 52.87 hours in 2021-22
Container Port Performance Index 2025	Jawaharlal Nehru Port 22nd, against Singapore 21st, Shanghai 23rd and Hong Kong 9th
Jalvahak scheme	35% incentive to cargo owners, with scheduled services on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-16

- Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme announced in Union Budget 2026-27 — target modal share 6% to 12% by 2047
- Sagarmala impact evaluation carried out by the National Productivity Council
- Sagarmala Startup and Innovation Initiative (S2I2) launched on 19 March 2025

PLFS April-June 2026: overall LFPR 54.6%, urban unemployment 6.7%, 56.6 crore workers

10 Aug

- The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation released the Periodic Labour Force Survey Quarterly Bulletin for April-June 2026 — the fifth bulletin in the series to cover both rural and urban areas.
- For persons aged 15 years and above under the Current Weekly Status, the overall Labour Force Participation Rate was 54.6% (down from 55.5% in the previous quarter), while the urban LFPR was unchanged at 50.2% and the urban male LFPR rose to 75.3% from 75.0%.
- The urban Worker Population Ratio was stable at 46.8% and the urban Unemployment Rate was broadly stable at 6.7%; the rural unemployment rate edged up to 4.8% from 4.3%.
- The share of regular wage/salaried employees rose in both rural (15.5% to 16.1%) and urban (48.9% to 49.3%) areas, and secondary sector employment increased in both.
- An estimated 56.6 crore persons aged 15 and above were employed on average during the quarter — 40.2 crore male and 16.4 crore female — based on responses from 5,59,673 persons surveyed.

QUICK FACTS

Survey	Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI
Bulletin	Quarterly Bulletin for April-June 2026, the fifth in the series covering both rural and urban areas
Overall LFPR (15+)	54.6% (previous quarter 55.5%); rural 56.9%, urban unchanged at 50.2%
Overall female LFPR	33.2%, down from 34.7% in the previous quarter
Overall WPR (15+)	51.7% (previous quarter 52.8%); urban WPR stable at 46.8%
Urban UR (15+)	6.7% (previous quarter 6.6%); rural UR 4.8% (previous quarter 4.3%); urban female UR fell to 8.7% from 9.1%
Estimated employed persons aged 15+	56.6 crore on average during the quarter (40.2 crore male, 16.4 crore female)
Sample	5,59,673 persons — 3,18,792 in rural areas and 2,40,881 in urban areas

- Reference framework for quarterly and monthly estimates: Current Weekly Status (CWS)

Power sector framework: RDSS outlay Rs 3.03 lakh crore; rural supply up to 22.6 hours

10 Aug

- The Ministry of Power told the Rajya Sabha that electricity tariffs are determined by the Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commissions under the Electricity Act, 2003, guided by the National Tariff Policy, with State Governments free to subsidise any class of consumers.
- The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, launched in July 2021, has an outlay of Rs 3,03,758 crore with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs 97,631 crore; projects worth Rs 1.53 lakh crore for loss-reduction infrastructure and Rs 1.31 lakh crore for smart metering have been sanctioned.
- RDSS smart metering works cover 19.79 crore consumers, 2.05 lakh feeders and 52.53 lakh distribution transformers across 28 States and 45 distribution utilities; Rs 47,124 crore has been released under RDSS since FY2023.
- Average hours of supply in rural areas rose from 12.5 hours in FY14 to 22.6 hours in FY26, and in urban areas from 22.1 hours to 23.4 hours over the same period.
- The Draft National Electricity Policy, 2026 proposes Resource Adequacy Plans, progressive recovery of fixed costs through demand charges, automatic monthly Fuel and Power Purchase Cost Adjustment, a stabilisation fund, single-digit AT&C losses and the establishment of Distribution System Operators.

QUICK FACTS

Governing law	the Electricity Act, 2003; the framework also comprises the National Electricity Policy, the Tariff Policy and subordinate legislation of the Appropriate Government, the Central Electricity Authority and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions
RDSS sanctions	Rs 1.53 lakh crore for loss-reduction infrastructure, Rs 1.31 lakh crore for smart metering
Smart metering coverage sanctioned	19.79 crore consumers, 2.05 lakh feeders, 52.53 lakh distribution transformers
Average supply hours	rural 12.5 (FY14) -> 22.6 (FY26); urban 22.1 (FY14) -> 23.4 (FY26)
Earlier schemes	DDUGJY, IPDS (December 2014), SAUBHAGYA, and the National Smart Grid Mission (2015, closed March 2024); IPDS closed March 2022

- Retail tariffs are set by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions considering power procurement, transmission, wheeling and supply costs
- State Governments may provide subsidy to any class of consumers within the tariff determined by the State Commission
- RDSS launched July 2021; outlay Rs 3,03,758 crore with Gross Budgetary Support of Rs 97,631 crore
- SCADA/DMS works sanctioned for 394 towns worth Rs 2,627 crore; IT/OT works worth Rs 3,999 crore; smart distribution works worth Rs 8,608 crore for seven cities
- Rs 47,124 crore released under RDSS since FY2023, including Rs 2,733 crore for smart metering
- Reply given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Power, Shri Shripad Naik

3. 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.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), providing free ration to more than 80 crore beneficiaries
Mechanism	food subsidy credited as programmable CBDC (Digital Rupee) tokens into the beneficiary's CBDC wallet instead of a bank account
Access	QR code payment for smartphone users; OTP-based mechanism for feature-phone users
Earlier pilots	Gujarat from 15 February 2026 and Puducherry from 26 February 2026
Stated benefits	instant transfer, purpose-bound use, digital transaction records, less cash handling, better monitoring, easier merchant payments
DBT savings cited	over Rs 4 lakh crore through reduced leakages
Jan Dhan	more than 59 crore accounts with deposits exceeding Rs 3.10 lakh crore
UPI, July 2026	over 2,400 crore transactions worth more than Rs 30 lakh crore, nearly 49% of all real-time digital payment transactions globally

- Launched in the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, at Tagore Theatre, Chandigarh
- Spending is purpose-bound — usable only at empanelled merchants for foodgrains and other permitted essential food items
- First State/UT to operationalise CBDC food subsidy transfers for all eligible PMGKAY beneficiaries
- ASHA, an AI solution, makes 20 lakh calls to beneficiaries for feedback on foodgrain quality and receipt of entitlements, with complaints routed to States and UTs

Amit Shah Launches Cyber Security Centre and 'Bank in a Box' for Urban Cooperative Banks

08 Aug

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated NUCFDC's new premises in Mumbai and addressed the 'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' programme at the BSE International Convention Centre.
- He launched a Security Operations Centre for cyber surveillance of Urban Cooperative Banks, along with 'Bank in a Box' providing core banking, digital payments, cloud and compliance services at affordable rates.
- An MoU was exchanged between the National Forensic Sciences University and NUCFDC to extend forensic science support to the online banking operations of even the smallest UCBs.
- NUCFDC will supply UCBs with technical support, systems aligned with RBI guidelines, employee training and software such as MuleHunter.

- Capital of Rs 300 crore has been mobilised for the umbrella organisation, which aims to connect nearly 1,400 Urban Cooperative Banks.

QUICK FACTS

Event	'Sahkar Nav-Kranti' programme, held at the BSE International Convention Centre, Mumbai
Chief Guest	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah
Inaugurated	NUCFDC's new premises in Mumbai
Launched	Security Operations Centre (SOC) for Urban Cooperative Banks
Launched	'Bank in a Box' — core banking, digital payments, cloud and compliance services in one package
MoU	between the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and NUCFDC
Target coverage	nearly 1,400 Urban Cooperative Banks
Stated objective	NUCFDC is not to earn profit but to streamline UCBs and enable them to compete nationally and globally

- Capital mobilised for the umbrella organisation: Rs 300 crore

Finance Ministry Rules Out UPI Charges for Users; MDR Only Above a Threshold

08 Aug

- The Government stated categorically that consumers making UPI payments will face no transaction charges and that all Person-to-Person transactions will remain free.
- Any Merchant Discount Rate, when introduced, will apply only to a limited set of merchant transactions above a threshold, at a nominal rate far lower than debit or credit card MDRs.
- The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposes to amend Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 as an enabling provision.
- Once Parliament passes the Bill, the 'UPI and Services Steering Committee' headed by NPCI will decide on the MDR, if any.
- UPI processed 2,366 crore transactions worth Rs 29.9 lakh crore in July 2026 alone and is live in 11 foreign countries.

QUICK FACTS

No charges for users	consumers making payments will not face any transaction charges
Enabling law	the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amending Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
Deciding body once the Bill is passed	the 'UPI and Services Steering Committee' headed by NPCI

- All Person-to-Person (P2P) transactions continue to be free of charge
- MDR, if and when introduced, will be threshold-based and not levied blanketly on all merchants
- Any MDR will be at a nominal rate, far lower than debit or credit card MDRs
- UPI has been free of charge for both merchants and citizens since January 2020
- UPI was introduced in 2016

4. Polity & Governance

5 articles

Monsoon Session Ends With 12 Bills Passed and 19% Lok Sabha Productivity

13 Aug

- The Monsoon Session 2026, which began on 20 July 2026, was adjourned sine die on 13 August 2026 after 19 sittings spread over 25 days — the 8th Session of the 18th Lok Sabha and the 271st Session of the Rajya Sabha.
- Eleven Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha and two in the Rajya Sabha; 12 were passed by each House, and 12 were passed by both Houses in all.
- Two Bills replaced Ordinances promulgated before the Session — the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026 and the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.
- Productivity was about 19% in the Lok Sabha and about 39% in the Rajya Sabha, which sat for only 37 hours and 49 minutes and took up 16 of 285 Starred Questions.
- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses; major Bills passed included the Tribunals Reforms Bill, the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill and the MMDR Amendment Bill.

QUICK FACTS

Session dates	commenced 20 July 2026, adjourned sine die 13 August 2026; 19 sittings over 25 days
Bills introduced	11 in Lok Sabha, 2 in Rajya Sabha; 12 passed by each House; 12 passed by both Houses
Two Ordinance-replacing Bills	Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment and Income-Tax (Amendment)
Productivity	about 19% in the Lok Sabha, about 39% in the Rajya Sabha

- 8th Session of the 18th Lok Sabha; 271st Session of the Rajya Sabha
- Demands for Excess Grants for 2022-23 taken up; the Appropriation Bill passed by Lok Sabha on 4 August 2026 and returned by Rajya Sabha on 6 August 2026
- Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses
- Rajya Sabha sat for 37 hours and 49 minutes; 16 of 285 Starred Questions, 52 of 380 Zero Hour Submissions and 93 of 380 Special Mentions were taken up
- An orientation programme for newly elected and nominated Rajya Sabha Members was held over two days, attended by 35 Members
- 'Vani Setu' introduced AI-based language translation letting Members hear proceedings in a language of their choice; 'Sadasya Setu' is the app for attendance and parliamentary transactions

e-Courts Phase III Digitises 753 Crore Pages as India Code Portal Gets AI Search

13 Aug

- Under e-Courts Phase III (2023-27), 753.60 crore pages of court records have been digitised, 1,806 eSewa Kendras established and e-filing implemented in 4,519 courts.
- Video conferencing facilities exist in 7,553 establishments including courts, jails and hospitals; 11 High Courts have live audio-visual streaming and all High Courts have implemented the Interoperable Criminal Justice System.
- As of March 2026, 452 ADR Centres and 1,394 Mediation Centres function across the country, with 4,681 judicial officers, 10,124 lawyers and 753 other mediators trained and deployed.
- Section 12A of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015 makes pre-institution mediation mandatory in commercial disputes of specified value except where urgent relief is sought, and the Mediation Act, 2023 provides for a Mediation Council of India under Section 31 and community mediation under Section 43.
- The revamped India Code Portal was launched on 13 August 2026 at Kartavya Bhavan 2, New Delhi, adding AI-assisted and semantic search, speech-based access, e-Gazette integration and multilingual access in all 22 Eighth Schedule languages.

QUICK FACTS

ADR infrastructure as of March 2026	452 ADR Centres, 1,394 Mediation Centres; 4,681 judicial officers, 10,124 lawyers and 753 other mediators trained

- e-Courts Phase III runs from 2023 to 2027 and targets digital, paperless and 'intelligent' courts using AI
- 753.60 crore pages of court records digitised; 1,806 eSewa Kendras established; 474 courts equipped for paperless working
- 538 courts equipped as Virtual Courts; e-filing in 4,519 courts; 6,895 courts have the NSTEP facility for electronic service of process
- 7,553 establishments have video conferencing, including courts, jails and hospitals; 11 High Courts have live audio-visual streaming
- 1,626 court complexes have solar facilities; 734 court websites migrated to the S3WAAS platform; 174 sites connected via SDWAN
- 18,380 courts received additional hardware in Phase II; 2,372 trainings held; all High Courts have implemented ICJS
- Case management runs on the Case Information System (CIS) 4.0 and the JustIS application
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for district and subordinate court infrastructure has run since 1993-94, covering court halls, residential units for judicial officers, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital computer rooms
- The revamped India Code Portal was launched on 13 August 2026 by the Legislative Department with the National Informatics Centre

Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 Creates Judiciary-Led National Tribunals Commission for 16 Tribunals

12 Aug

- Parliament passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 in August 2026, repealing the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021.
- The Bill sets up a National Tribunals Commission (NTC) with a judicial majority to select members and oversee the working of 16 tribunals.
- It follows the Supreme Court's Madras Bar Association ruling, which struck down provisions of the 2021 Act and directed the creation of an independent commission.
- Tribunal members will serve five-year terms up to age 67; NTC members serve five years up to age 70.
- The Comptroller and Auditor-General will audit the Commission, and its audit report will be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

QUICK FACTS

Legislation	The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026, passed by Parliament in August 2026 (Rajya Sabha cleared it on 11 August 2026 after the Lok Sabha)
New body created	National Tribunals Commission (NTC), to be headquartered in New Delhi
Coverage	16 tribunals, appellate tribunals and authorities listed in the Bill, each with its parent enactment
Composition of the NTC	a Chairperson plus four Members — two Judicial and two Technical
Trigger	Madras Bar Association v. Union of India [(2026) 2 SCC 1], decided 19 November 2025, which struck down provisions of the 2021 Act and directed an independent commission
Tenure	NTC Chairperson/Member — 5 years or age 70, whichever is earlier; Tribunal Member — 5 years or age 67
Audit	the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India audits the Commission's accounts; the report is laid before both Houses

- It repeals the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021

NEP 2020 rollout: NCrF adopted by 700+ universities, GER at 30, NCERT made deemed university

10 Aug

- In written replies in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Education set out the state of National Education Policy 2020 implementation across school and higher education.

- As reported in AISHE 2023-24, more than 700 universities and over 7,500 affiliated colleges have adopted the National Credit Framework, which permits up to 50% of a programme's total credits to be earned through skill-based courses.
- India's Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education rose from 23.7 in 2014-15 to 30 in 2023-24, with female GER rising from 22.9 to 31.2 and total enrolment from 3.42 crore to 4.50 crore.
- NCERT, New Delhi was declared an Institution Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 by a Ministry of Education notification dated 30 March 2026, subject to its commencing research, doctoral and innovative academic programmes.
- NCERT released the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage on 20 October 2022 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education on 23 August 2023, after consultations engaging over 13 lakh citizens nationally and more than 1,550 district-level consultations across 32 States and UTs.

QUICK FACTS

NCrF adoption as reported in AISHE 2023-24	more than 700 universities and over 7,500 affiliated colleges
Higher education GER	23.7 (2014-15) -> 30 (2023-24); female GER 22.9 -> 31.2; enrolment 3.42 crore -> 4.50 crore, an addition of over 1.08 crore students
SWAYAM Plus	more than 500 courses curated from 89 industry partners across 17 sectors, with over 6,00,000 student registrations
Online and distance learning	126 HEIs offering about 802 online programmes; 121 HEIs offering around 1,699 ODL programmes

- NEP 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020, replacing the National Policy on Education, 1986; the drafting committee was chaired by Dr K. Kasturirangan, former ISRO Chairman
- Education is in the Concurrent List, so the Centre and States implement NEP jointly
- NCF for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) released 20 October 2022; NCF for School Education (NCF-SE) released 23 August 2023
- National Credit Framework covers elementary, school, higher and skill education; UGC's SOP allows up to 50% of programme credits from skill-based courses
- NCERT declared an Institution Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 by notification dated 30 March 2026
- PM-USHA launched June 2023 as the third phase of RUSA, outlay Rs 12,926.10 crore including committed liabilities of earlier RUSA phases

CPGRAMS Cuts Grievance Disposal Time from 157 Days in 2014 to 14 Days in 2026

09 Aug

- CPGRAMS is the Government's flagship 24x7 digital grievance redressal platform, connecting all Central Ministries, Departments, States and Union Territories through a single portal.
- Grievances handled annually rose nearly nine-fold from about 3.01 lakh in 2014 to around 27 lakh in 2024, while Grievance Redressal Officers grew from 10,232 to more than 1.11 lakh by 2025.
- Average disposal time in Central Ministries and Departments fell from 157 days in 2014 to 15 days in 2025, and stood at 14 days in 2026.
- Guidelines issued in August 2024 rationalised the redressal timeline from 30 days to 21 days and mandated dedicated grievance cells and root cause analysis.
- An AI-enabled voice chatbot, 'Samadhan Didi', was launched on 30 May 2026, letting citizens register grievances by speaking in their preferred language.

QUICK FACTS

Full form	Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System
Nature	the Government's flagship digital grievance redressal platform, available 24x7
Coverage	a single portal connected to all Central Ministries, Departments, State Governments and Union Territories
Portal	https://pgportal.gov.in/, with a mobile app also integrated with UMANG
Offline access	through more than 5 lakh Common Service Centres associated with 2.5 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs; postal grievances are digitised and uploaded
Redressal timeline	21 days, rationalised from 30 days by guidelines issued in August 2024
Appeal	to a Nodal Appellate Authority, which must resolve the appeal within 30 days
Administered by	the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)

5. 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.

QUICK FACTS

Defence production FY 2025-26	Rs 1.78 lakh crore (record) — public sector ~76%, private sector 24%
Defence exports FY 2025-26	Rs 38,424 crore, up from Rs 686 crore in FY 2013-14 (56-fold); exports reach 80+ countries
Export split FY 2025-26	DPSUs Rs 21,071 crore (54.84%); private sector Rs 17,353 crore (45.16%)
Targets for 2029	Rs 3 lakh crore annual production, Rs 50,000 crore annual exports
Defence budget	Rs 2.53 lakh crore (2013-14) -> Rs 7.85 lakh crore (2026-27), a 3.1-fold rise
Capital expenditure	Rs 94,587.95 crore (2014-15) -> Rs 2.19 lakh crore (2026-27), a 2.3-fold rise
Defence R&D allocation	Rs 13,716.14 crore (2014-15) -> Rs 29,100.25 crore (2026-27), an increase of over 112%; since 2022-23, 25% of the defence R&D budget is opened to industry, start-ups and academia
Positive Indigenisation Lists till May 2026	10 lists, five each of DMA and DDP, covering 5,521 items
FDI in defence	74% under the automatic route and up to 100% through the government route; inflows of Rs 6,670.59 crore by March 2026
Indian Army indigenisation	159 of 175 ammunition variants indigenised — roughly 91% self-sufficiency

– SRIJAN (Defence Equipment Empowerment Platform): 41,000+ vendors and 2.7 lakh products listed as of May 2026

6. Science & Tech

9 articles

PIB Backgrounder on Space: 440 Start-ups, $9 Billion Space Economy, Gaganyaan Crewed Flight by 2027

14 Aug

- A PIB Backgrounder issued for the 80th Independence Day sets out India's space-sector reforms, mission record and forward programme in one document.
- Registered space start-ups have risen from 1 in 2014 to around 440 by August 2026, and the space economy is valued at USD 9 billion with a projection of USD 40-45 billion over the next decade.
- Private investment rose from USD 100.5 million in 2021-22 to USD 618.5 million by 31 March 2026; IN-SPACe had granted 113 authorisations to 52 non-government entities by mid-2026.
- The Gaganyaan programme, approved in January 2019 and expanded in September 2024 to a Rs 20,193 crore outlay covering eight missions, targets an uncrewed test flight in Q4 of 2026 and a crewed mission by 2027.
- The five-module Bharatiya Antariksh Station is targeted for operationalisation by 2035, with the first module BAS-01 planned for launch by 2028.

QUICK FACTS

Document type	PIB Backgrounder released 14 August 2026 for the 80th Independence Day.
Space start-ups	1 in 2014 to about 440 by August 2026. Space economy: USD 9 billion (August 2026), projected USD 40-45 billion in a decade.
Private investment	USD 100.5 million in 2021-22 to USD 618.5 million by 31 March 2026, including USD 187 million during 2026.
IN-SPACe authorisations	113 granted to 52 non-government entities by mid-2026, of which 18 are start-ups.
Foreign satellite launches by India	35 before 2014, 399 as of January 2026. Space cooperation: over 300 agreements across 61 countries and 5 multilateral organisations.
FDI, liberalised February 2024	up to 74 per cent automatic for satellite manufacturing and operations, 49 per cent for launch vehicles and spaceports, 100 per cent for satellite and ground-segment components.
Four operational indigenous launch vehicles	PSLV, GSLV, GSLV Mk III and SSLV. 12 launch vehicle missions between July 2023 and June 2026, carrying 11 national and 9 international satellites.
Gaganyaan	approved January 2019, revised September 2024 to Rs 20,193 crore and 8 missions; 3 astronauts to a 400 km orbit for three days; uncrewed test with the Vyommitra half-humanoid targeted in Q4 2026, crewed mission by 2027.
Bharatiya Antariksh Station	five modules, BAS-01 launch planned by 2028, full operationalisation targeted by 2035. Venus Orbiter Mission targeted for March 2028.

- NSIL revenue rose from Rs 321.77 crore in FY 2021-22 to over Rs 3,000 crore in FY 2024-25; it has signed 118 Technology Transfer Agreements covering 83 ISRO technologies.

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.

QUICK FACTS

Semicon 1.0 outlay	Rs 76,000 crore; Semicon 2.0 outlay: Rs 1,27,500 crore, approved July 2026
Chips to Startup (C2S)	EDA tools deployed in 320 academic institutions, over 68,000 students trained
Design Linked Incentive	24 semiconductor design projects and 105 startups/MSMEs supported with EDA tools
India AI Impact Summit 2026 (February 2026)	delegations from over 100 countries, declaration adopted by 92 countries and organisations

- 12 semiconductor projects approved across 6 states; commitments over Rs 1.64 lakh crore; 3 units in commercial production
- 211 chips taped out by 75 institutions by April 2026; 7 fabricated, including at the 12 nm node
- IndiaAI Mission outlay about Rs 10,372 crore; 45,000+ GPUs of shared compute as of June 2026
- 58 AI Centres of Excellence approved as of August 2026; 22 already initiated across 13 States/UTs
- 62 AI prototypes developed and 20 AI solutions deployed in public-sector institutions as of August 2026
- 13 Responsible AI projects approved under the Safe & Trusted AI pillar as of July 2026
- Data centre installed capacity grew from 375 MW in 2020 to about 1,575 MW

Parliament Told 8,000 MW of Nuclear Capacity Is Under Construction

13 Aug

- A written reply in the Rajya Sabha listed every nuclear project under construction with its location, capacity, original and revised commissioning dates and sanctioned and revised cost.
- RAPP-7 at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan (700 MW) commenced commercial operation on 15 April 2026 against an original commissioning date of June 2016; its twin RAPP-8 is in an advanced stage of commissioning.
- Kaiga-5 and Kaiga-6 in Karnataka have slipped from June 2026 and June 2027 to June 2031 and June 2032; the Kudankulam units 3 to 6 have moved to between June 2027 and March 2030.
- Cost revisions are steep: the RAPP-7 and 8 twin unit from Rs 12,320 crore to Rs 22,924 crore, KKNPP-3 and 4 from Rs 39,849 crore to Rs 68,893 crore, and KKNPP-5 and 6 from Rs 49,621 crore to Rs 69,437 crore.
- On progressive commissioning of the projects now under construction, a cumulative 8,000 MW will be added to the national grid.

QUICK FACTS

Light Water Reactors with foreign cooperation	KKNPP-3 to KKNPP-6 at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu — 1,000 MW each
GHAVP-1 and 2	sanctioned cost Rs 20,594 crore, under revision; Kaiga-5 and 6: Rs 21,000 crore, under revision; PFBR: Rs 3,492 crore, under revision
Reasons cited for delay	post-Fukushima design changes, delayed supply of critical equipment, Covid-19, delayed Russian supplies for Kudankulam, contractor cash-flow problems, difficult site soil conditions at GHAVP, shortage of skilled contractor manpower, and the Russia-Ukraine and USA/Israel-Iran conflicts

- Capacity to be added on completion of projects under construction: 8,000 MW
- Indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors under construction: RAPP-7 and 8 (Rawatbhata, Rajasthan), GHAVP-1 and 2 (Gorakhpur, Haryana), Kaiga-5 and 6 (Karnataka) — 700 MW each
- Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu: 500 MW, original commissioning September 2010, revised to March 2027
- RAPP-7 commenced commercial operation on 15 April 2026; cost on a twin-unit basis rose from Rs 12,320 crore sanctioned to Rs 22,924 crore
- Equity released and utilised across projects rose from Rs 540 crore in 2021-22 to Rs 3,042 crore in 2025-26
- The reply was given by Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), in the Rajya Sabha

440 Space Startups, 113 IN-SPACe Authorisations and a Debris-Free Space Mission

13 Aug

- Around 440 space technology startups are registered on the DPIIT Start-up India portal, and IN-SPACe has granted 113 authorisations to 52 Non-Government Entities, of which 18 are startups.

- Indian private companies are expected to undertake two commercial rocket launches in FY 2026-27, with more than six anticipated in FY 2027-28 once the launch manifest is approved by IN-SPACe.
- The missions of the last three years listed in the reply are Chandrayaan-3, Aditya-L1, XPoSat, SPADEX, NISAR and GSAT-7R (CMS-03); upcoming missions are Gaganyaan, the Venus Orbiter Mission, Chandrayaan-4 and LUPEX/Chandrayaan-5 with JAXA.
- ISRO's Debris Free Space Mission is being pursued through Active Debris Removal and end-of-life disposal, as Low Earth Orbit satellite internet constellations raise collision risk.
- ISRO has been a member of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee — formed in 1993 — since 1996, and India also participates in UN-COPUOS working groups on long-term sustainability and space situational awareness.

QUICK FACTS

IN-SPACe authorisations 113 granted to 52 Non-Government Entities, of which 18 are startups

- About 440 space technology startups registered on the DPIIT Start-up India portal
- Commercial launches by Indian private companies: 2 planned in FY 2026-27; more than 6 expected in FY 2027-28
- Chandrayaan-3 launched 14 July 2023; soft landing near the Moon's south polar region on 23 August 2023, with sulphur detection and lunar soil temperature measurement
- Aditya-L1 launched 2 September 2023; placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point in January 2024
- XPoSat launched 1 January 2024 — India's first dedicated X-ray polarimetry mission
- SPADEX launched 30 December 2024 — made India the fourth country to demonstrate space docking technology
- NISAR launched 30 July 2025 — the first dual-frequency (L and S band) radar Earth observation satellite, jointly developed by NASA and ISRO
- GSAT-7R (CMS-03) — India's most advanced indigenously developed military communications satellite, for the Indian Navy
- About 6.93 crore MGNREGA works and 6.89 lakh watershed activities geotagged using geospatial platforms
- Over 890 flood products issued and alerts for more than 11 major landslide events disseminated
- The Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee was formed in 1993; ISRO has been a member since 1996

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.

QUICK FACTS

GERD	Rs 1,32,567.01 crore (0.66% of GDP) in 2019-20 -> Rs 2,44,767.81 crore (0.84% of GDP) in 2023-24
RDI Fund corpus	Rs 1 lakh crore over six years for sunrise and strategic sectors
DPIIT-recognised startups	more than 2.40 lakh, over half from Tier-II and Tier-III cities
Global Innovation Index	81st in 2015 -> 38th in 2025
ANRF programmes	MAHA (Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas) and PAIR (Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research)
INSPIRE-SHE	12,000 scholarships a year, each Rs 80,000 per year, for students aged 17-22 in natural and basic sciences
INSPIRE Fellowship	Rs 37,000 per month as JRF, Rs 42,000 as SRF, HRA and Rs 20,000 annual contingency, for up to five years
INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship	Rs 1,25,000 per month with a Rs 2,000 annual increment and Rs 35 lakh research grant over five years

- India ranks third globally in scientific publications and sixth in patent filings
- National Quantum Mission has four Thematic Hubs — quantum computing, communication, sensing, and materials and devices
- Vigyan TECH held on National Technology Day, 11 May 2026, at BRIC-National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi — 14 ministries, 100+ technologies showcased, 'TECH-' compendium of nearly 300 technologies released
- CSIR has set up an Innovation Complex (CSIR-IC) at Mumbai to bridge translational gaps

Nuclear Roadmap: 100 GWe by 2047, Five Indigenous SMRs by 2033 and the SHANTI Act Framework

12 Aug

- The Department of Atomic Energy told the Lok Sabha that India is targeting 100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047 under the Nuclear Energy Mission announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- At least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors are to be developed and operationalised by 2033, including the 220 MWe BSMR-200 and the 55 MWe SMR-55.
- The SHANTI Act, 2025 opens the nuclear sector to wider public and private participation and gives statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
- BARC's Dhruva reactor supplies Mo-99, I-131 and Lu-177, which account for nearly 90% of nuclear medicine applications; a dedicated Isotope Production Reactor is expected to begin production around 2035 with 0.5 million curie capacity.
- The Atomic Minerals Directorate has established the Pudupuram-Cuddalore beach sand mineral deposit in Tamil Nadu with 1.912 million tonnes of total heavy minerals.

QUICK FACTS

Announced in	a written reply by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and the Prime Minister's Office, in the Lok Sabha
Target	100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047 under the Nuclear Energy Mission announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, which carries a Rs 20,000 crore outlay
SMR goal	at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors developed and operationalised by 2033
Indigenous SMR designs at BARC	220 MWe Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200), 55 MWe SMR-55, and a High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactor of up to 5 MWth for hydrogen production
Enabling law	the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025
Second-stage work	sodium cooled Fast Breeder Reactors and closed fuel-cycle facilities at IGCAR, Kalpakkam
Medical isotopes	Mo-99, I-131 and Lu-177 account for nearly 90% of all nuclear medicine applications and are produced in the Dhruva reactor at BARC

- The SHANTI Act gives statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which was constituted on 15 November 1983 and is headquartered in Mumbai

Space Vision 2047: First Private Earth Observation Constellation Cleared, 440 Space Startups Registered

12 Aug

- The Department of Space set out the Space Vision 2047 roadmap in the Lok Sabha, covering Earth observation, satellite communication and NavIC navigation.
- IN-SPACe has signed India's first fully commercial Earth Observation constellation agreement under a PPP model with the Allied Orbits Private Limited consortium, led by PixxelSpace India.
- The 12-satellite constellation, with more than Rs 1,200 crore of consortium investment, is to be operational by 2029, built and launched entirely in India.
- Around 440 space technology startups are registered on the DPIIT Start-up India Portal, and IN-SPACe has granted 113 authorisations to 52 non-government entities.
- Cumulative investment in Indian space startups reached about USD 618.5 million as on 31 March 2026.

QUICK FACTS

Answered by	Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Space, in the Lok Sabha
First commercial EO constellation under PPP	awarded to Allied Orbits Private Limited, a consortium led by PixxelSpace India with Dhruva Space, PierSight Space and Satsure Analytics India
Constellation size	12 satellites with panchromatic, multispectral, hyperspectral and Synthetic Aperture Radar capability, operational by 2029
Consortium investment	more than Rs 1,200 crore; all satellites manufactured in India and launched on Indian launch vehicles, with mission control in India
Space startups	about 440 registered on the DPIIT Start-up India Portal; IN-SPACe has granted 113 authorisations to 52 non-government entities, of which 18 are startups
Technology transfer	NSIL has signed 118 Technology Transfer Agreements covering 83 ISRO/Department of Space technologies
Free data rule	Indian Earth Observation data coarser than 5 m Ground Sampling Distance is open and free to all users under the Indian Space Policy-2023

– Cumulative investment in Indian space startups: about USD 618.5 million as on 31 March 2026

Mission Mausam: 50 Doppler Radars, AI Forecasting and a 2026 Monsoon Running 12% Below Normal

12 Aug

- Under Mission Mausam, IMD's observational network now has 50 Doppler Weather Radars, 1,008 Automatic Weather Stations and 6,885 rain gauge stations.
- IMD forecast the 2026 southwest monsoon at 92% of the Long Period Average in April and revised it to 90%; cumulative rainfall was 12% below normal as on 2 August 2026.
- Weak El Nino conditions formed over the equatorial Pacific in June 2026 and strengthened to moderate, suppressing monsoon circulation.
- The National Seismological Network has grown from 86 observatories in 2014 to 174, of which 89 are in high-risk Seismic Zones IV and V.
- AI/ML systems including meteoGAN, MausamVani and a CNN-based bias correction model for the Bharat Forecast System are being folded into operational forecasting.

QUICK FACTS

Answered by	Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, in the Lok Sabha
Flood support	25 Flood Meteorological Offices issue daily 7-day Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts across 220 sub-basins for the Central Water Commission; integrated flood warning systems operate in Chennai and Mumbai
2026 monsoon	First Stage Long Range Forecast issued 13 April 2026 at 92% of LPA, revised to 90% in the Second Stage; cumulative rainfall 12% below LPA as on 2 August 2026
El Nino	weak conditions formed in June 2026 and intensified to moderate; the Indian Ocean Dipole remains neutral

- IMD observational network under Mission Mausam: 50 Doppler Weather Radars, 1,008 Automatic Weather Stations, 6,885 rain gauge stations
- Severe weather forecast accuracy has improved 40-50% over the past decade
- INCOIS is the designated Tsunami Service Provider for 28 Indian Ocean Rim nations; 26 coastal villages in Odisha are recognised under the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme
- The new Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) runs at 6 km resolution to serve block and panchayat level forecasting

India's Deep-Tech Mission Map: Rs 1 Lakh Crore RDI Fund, Quantum Mission Hubs and 25 Innovation Hubs

12 Aug

- The Ministry of Science and Technology tabled the outlays of India's six major emerging-technology missions in the Lok Sabha, led by the Rs 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund.
- The National Quantum Mission has four Thematic Hubs operational with 14 Technical Groups, 17 Project Teams and support to 17 quantum startups.
- NM-ICPS has established 25 Technology Innovation Hubs, four of which were upgraded to Technology Translation Research Parks in 2025-26.
- TIHs have produced more than 1,100 technologies and 1,300 technology products and incubated over 1,130 startups.
- India's Gross Expenditure on R&D rose from 0.64% of GDP in 2020-21 to 0.84% in 2023-24, reaching Rs 2,44,767.81 crore.

QUICK FACTS

Answered by	Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology, in the Lok Sabha
Six flagship missions listed with outlays	RDI Fund Rs 1 lakh crore, India Semiconductor Mission Rs 76,000 crore, IndiaAI Mission Rs 10,371.92 crore, Bio-RIDE Rs 9,197 crore, National Quantum Mission Rs 6,003.65 crore, NM-ICPS Rs 3,660 crore
NM-ICPS	launched in 2018 by the Department of Science and Technology, Rs 3,660 crore over nine years, with 25 Technology Innovation Hubs
National Quantum Mission	approved by the Union Cabinet on 19 April 2023 at Rs 6,003.65 crore for eight years, with four Thematic Hubs
Quantum Thematic Hubs	Quantum Computing at IISc Bengaluru (with C-DAC), Quantum Communication at IIT Madras (with C-DOT), Quantum Sensing and Metrology at IIT Bombay, Quantum Materials and Devices at IIT Delhi
Gross Expenditure on R&D	0.84% of GDP in 2023-24, up from 0.64% in 2020-21; Rs 2,44,767.81 crore, more than triple the Rs 79,355.89 crore of 2013-14

- Four TIHs upgraded to Technology Translation Research Parks in 2025-26: IIT Kanpur (cybersecurity), IISc Bengaluru (robotics and AI systems), IIT (ISM) Dhanbad (mining) and IIT Indore (digital healthcare)
- 23 Quantum Teaching Laboratories are being set up nationwide, alongside AICTE-linked undergraduate minor and M.Tech programmes in quantum technologies

7. Environment

6 articles

Mission Mausam Targets 5 km Forecasts and Household-Level Warnings by 2030

13 Aug

- Mission Mausam is a Central Sector umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences aimed at making India a 'Weather-ready and Climate-smart Nation'; it was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2024 with a Rs 2,000 crore outlay for 2024-25 and 2025-26 and launched by the Prime Minister on 14 January 2025.
- Its measurable outcomes are a 10-15% improvement in forecast accuracy by 2030, severe weather forecasting at 5 km x 5 km resolution, and last-mile dissemination of early warnings to every household by 2030.
- IMD's adoption of Multi-Model Ensemble forecasting has cut the average absolute error of the seasonal monsoon forecast from 7.8% of the Long Period Average in 2016-2020 to 3.1% for the first-stage and 2.2% for the second-stage forecast in 2021-2025.
- The observation network now comprises 50 Doppler Weather Radars, 1,008 Automatic Weather Stations and 6,885 rain gauge stations, and the National Seismological Network runs 174 observatories with an earthquake early warning system in the pilot phase.
- For 2026-31 the Mission is proposed to run through six verticals — OBSERVE_ALL, DEVELOP, Weather_MOD, ATCOMP, FRONTIER and NEAT — with a Budget Estimate of Rs 1,342.29 crore for 2026-27.

QUICK FACTS

Mission Mausam	Central Sector umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Cabinet approval 2024, Rs 2,000 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26; launched by the Prime Minister on 14 January 2025
Budget Estimate 2026-27	Rs 1,342.29 crore — Rs 855.29 crore revenue and Rs 487.00 crore capital
Six verticals proposed for 2026-31	OBSERVE_ALL, DEVELOP, Weather_MOD, ATCOMP, FRONTIER and NEAT
Targets by 2030	10-15% improvement in forecast accuracy; 5 km x 5 km resolution for severe weather hazards; early warnings to every household
Seasonal forecast error	7.8% of Long Period Average (2016-2020) -> 3.1% first stage and 2.2% second stage (2021-2025)
Observation network	50 Doppler Weather Radars (including those operated by ISRO and IITM), 1,008 Automatic Weather Stations, 6,885 rain gauge stations
National Seismological Network	174 seismological observatories under the National Centre for Seismology
Dissemination apps	MAUSAM, Meghdoot, DAMINI, UMANG and SAMUDRA, plus the SACHET platform based on the Common Alerting Protocol
Agromet outreach	over 7,300 Farmers' Awareness Programmes across 373 districts, plus Krishi Sakhis and Pashu Sakhis

- INCOIS Coastal Vulnerability Index prepared at 1:100,000 for the entire coastline; Coastal Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Mapping at 1:25,000
- MoES has operationalised three AI-based global weather models; IMD runs the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System, a Web-GIS platform

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.

QUICK FACTS

Observance	World Elephant Day, 12 August every year
Population estimate	22,446, from the Synchronous All India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE) 2021-25 — India's first DNA-based synchronised elephant census
Protected network	33 Elephant Reserves across 14 elephant-range States, covering 80,777 sq km, and 150 identified corridors
Project Elephant	launched in February 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Legal status of the Asian elephant	Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Endangered on the IUCN Red List; Appendix I of CITES

- India's share of the world's wild Asian elephants: nearly 60%
- The elephant was declared India's National Heritage Animal in 2010
- Elephant home ranges span 100-3,000 sq km, making corridors essential

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.

QUICK FACTS

Asiatic Lion population	523 in 2015 -> 891 in 2025
Lion range	about 30,000 sq km in 2020 -> nearly 35,000 sq km currently
Scientific name	Panthera leo — the Asiatic population was formerly assessed as the subspecies Panthera leo persica
Protection	Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix I of CITES

- Project Lion announced by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2020 (Independence Day address)
- World Lion Day is observed on 10 August every year
- The only wild population of the Asiatic lion in the world is in Gujarat, India
- The 16th Lion Population Estimation exercise was conducted in May 2025 across roughly 35,000 sq km, covering 58 talukas in 11 districts of Gujarat

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.

QUICK FACTS

Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource	408 BCM
Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses	247 BCM
States/UTs above the national average	Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh and Karnataka — nine in all
Districts above the national average	281
Per capita water availability for 2021	1,573.19 cubic metres, per the Central Water Commission's Assessment of Water Resources of India, 2024

- The Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment is carried out by the Central Ground Water Board jointly with State Governments and UT Administrations
- Annual Ground Water Recharge (2025 assessment): 449 BCM
- Stage of Ground Water Extraction for the country: 60.63%
- The Assessment does not compute groundwater consumption on a per-capita basis — it measures the Stage of Extraction instead
- Reply given by the Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C R Patil, in the Rajya Sabha

River interlinking: Ken-Betwa the only priority link under implementation among 30 projects

10 Aug

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti told the Rajya Sabha that 30 Interlinking of Rivers projects were identified under the National Perspective Plan for Inter-Basin Water Transfer — 16 under the Peninsular component and 14 under the Himalayan component — with the National Water Development Agency entrusted with the work.
- The Ken-Betwa Link Project is the only priority link project under the NPP to have entered the implementation stage, at an estimated cost of Rs 44,605 crore.
- KBLP is to provide irrigation to about 11.88 lakh hectares, drinking water to about 62 lakh people, 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar power.
- The Polavaram Irrigation Project, which incorporates the Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link, is classified as a National Project, executed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Polavaram Project Authority, and has received cumulative Central Assistance of Rs 20,658 crore.
- Several links have been dropped or shelved — Kosi-Mechi due to international dimensions, Jogighopa-Tista-Farakka, and the Netravati-Hemavati link after Karnataka's Yettinahole project left no surplus water; Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada were dropped from priority status.

QUICK FACTS

30 ILR projects identified	16 under the Peninsular component and 14 under the Himalayan component
Implementing agency	National Water Development Agency (NWDA), set up in July 1982 as an autonomous society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
Ken-Betwa Link Project	the only priority NPP link in the implementation stage; estimated cost Rs 44,605 crore
KBLP benefits	irrigation to about 11.88 lakh hectares, drinking water to about 62 lakh people, 103 MW hydropower and 27 MW solar power
KBLP States	Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; the project centres on the Daudhan Dam on the Ken river inside the Panna Tiger Reserve
Polavaram Irrigation Project	a National Project executed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Polavaram Project Authority; cumulative Central Assistance Rs 20,658 crore
Polavaram benefits	irrigation to about 7.2 lakh acres, stabilisation of 23.5 lakh acres, diversion of 80 TMC of Godavari water to the Krishna basin, water supply to about 28.5 lakh people in 611 villages including Visakhapatnam, and 960 MW hydropower

- The National Perspective Plan for Inter-Basin Water Transfer was prepared in August 1980 by the then Ministry of Irrigation, now the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- An Environmental Impact Assessment is part of the Feasibility Report and DPR preparation for every ILR project; KBLP also has an Integrated Landscape Management Plan
- Reply given by the Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, in the Rajya Sabha

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.

QUICK FACTS

Milestone	300 GW of non-fossil fuel based installed electricity generation capacity
As on	31 July 2026
Total non-fossil capacity	300.50 GW
Total installed electricity capacity in India	around 552 GW at present
Non-fossil share of total capacity	over 54%
Nodal ministry	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

- Share of the 500 GW target for 2030: over 60%

8. Schemes & Committees

9 articles

PIB Backgrounder on Women's Schemes: PMMVY Pays Rs 20,571 Crore, KGBV Enrolment at 7.58 Lakh

14 Aug

- A PIB Backgrounder titled 'Sashakt Nari, Sashakt Bharat', issued for the 80th Independence Day, consolidates the coverage figures of every major women-focused scheme across health, education, skills, finance and safety.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana reports 5.13 crore beneficiaries enrolled and Rs 20,571 crore paid as on 31 July 2026; Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has examined over 7.50 crore pregnant women.
- National Family Health Survey comparisons show institutional births rising from 78.9 per cent in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 90.6 per cent in NFHS-6 (2023-24).
- On the economic side, women hold 32.68 crore of the 58.90 crore Jan Dhan accounts, and two-thirds of the 57.79 crore Mudra loans have gone to women entrepreneurs.
- The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 - the 106th Constitutional Amendment - reserves 33 per cent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and the Delhi Assembly, to take effect after post-census delimitation.

QUICK FACTS

Document type	PIB Backgrounder 'Sashakt Nari, Sashakt Bharat', released 14 August 2026 for the 80th Independence Day.
PMMVY	Rs 5,000 in two instalments for the first living child and Rs 6,000 for a second child if a girl; 5.13 crore enrolled, 4.37 crore paid, Rs 20,571 crore disbursed as on 31 July 2026.
PMSMA	free antenatal check-ups on the 9th of every month; over 7.50 crore pregnant women examined, 22,000+ facilities, 1.03 crore high-risk pregnancies identified (13 August 2026).
JSSK	over 1.99 crore pregnant women and 16.85 lakh sick infants assisted in FY 2024-25; more than 18.05 crore beneficiaries since 2014-15.
NFHS-6 (2023-24) outcomes	institutional births 90.6 per cent (78.9 per cent in NFHS-4), first-trimester antenatal visits 76.2 per cent (58.6 per cent), four-plus antenatal visits 65.2 per cent (51.2 per cent).
School education 2025-26	14.67 lakh schools, 1.02 crore teachers, 24.72 crore students, 11.96 crore female enrolment. KGBV enrolment up from 6.07 lakh (2020-21) to 7.58 lakh (2025-26).
Higher education	female enrolment 2.18 crore in 2022-23, up about 60.32 lakh from 1.57 crore in 2014-15; women were over 53 per cent of UGC NET-JRF scholars in STEM in 2024-25.
Financial inclusion	58.90 crore Jan Dhan accounts (12 August 2026), of which 32.68 crore belong to women (1 July 2026); Sukanya Samriddhi deposits exceed Rs 3.33 lakh crore (December 2025) at 8.2 per cent tax-free interest.
Mudra	57.79 crore loans worth Rs 40.07 lakh crore disbursed as on 8 April 2026, two-thirds sanctioned to women.
Governance	47.15 crore of the 96.88 crore electors on the final roll (8 February 2026) are women; 14.5 lakh women are elected Panchayati Raj representatives, nearly 46 per cent of the total.

PM-JANMAN Reports 4.82 Lakh PVTG Houses Sanctioned and 831 Mobile Medical Units

13 Aug

- As on 30 June 2026, PM-JANMAN had sanctioned 4,82,554 houses for PVTG households under PMAY-G, of which 3,05,860 were complete, and 7,991.93 km of PMGSY roads, of which 2,948 km were complete.
- Under the Jal Jeevan Mission component, 18,756 PVTG villages were sanctioned and 8,799 saturated; 831 Mobile Medical Units have been operationalised through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, 474 Mobile Medical Units had been operationalised as of July 2026 and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved 15 Centres of Competence dedicated to Sickle Cell Disease treatment.
- PM-JANMAN covers 75 PVTG communities in 18 states and one union territory, delivering 11 interventions through nine line ministries.

- Phase-I of the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan mobilised about 15 lakh Adi Karmayogis, developed over 210 State, 2,200 District and 11,000 Block Master Trainers, and saw 62,187 Tribal Village Vision 2030 plans approved through Gram Sabhas.

QUICK FACTS

Housing (PMAY-G)	4,82,554 houses sanctioned, 3,05,860 completed as on 30 June 2026
Roads (PMGSY)	7,991.93 km sanctioned, 2,948 km completed
Water (Jal Jeevan Mission)	18,756 villages sanctioned, 8,799 saturated
Health	831 Mobile Medical Units operationalised under PM-JANMAN; 474 more under DAJGUA as of July 2026
Chhattisgarh	191 Anganwadi Centres sanctioned under PM-JANMAN and all 191 operationalised
Maharashtra	17 districts have PVTG population as per the habitation-level mobile survey; Akola district has none
Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan Phase-I	about 15 lakh Adi Karmayogis mobilised across roughly one lakh tribal villages in 30 States/UTs

- PM-JANMAN covers 75 PVTG communities across 18 states and one union territory through 11 interventions implemented by 9 line ministries
- 15 Centres of Competence approved under DAJGUA for Sickle Cell Disease treatment
- 6,79,309 Adi Saathis and 4,03,306 Adi Sahyogis mobilised; 62,187 Tribal Village Vision 2030 plans approved by Gram Sabhas
- 54,324 Village Workbooks and 56,422 Adi Sewa Kendras recorded

728 Eklavya Schools Sanctioned, 508 Functional With 1.57 Lakh Students Enrolled

13 Aug

- 728 Eklavya Model Residential Schools have been approved, of which 508 are functional, with 1,56,593 students enrolled in the 2025-26 academic session.
- EMRSs are established in tribal-dominated blocks having more than 50% Scheduled Tribe population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, as per Census 2011.
- Each EMRS with classes up to Class XII and a full strength of 480 students has 31 sanctioned teaching posts and 21 non-teaching posts, of which 13 non-teaching posts are earmarked for outsourcing to promote local employment.
- Centralised recruitment through the EMRS Staff Selection Examination has recruited 9,111 teaching and non-teaching staff, with an examination held for a further batch of 7,267.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs runs five scholarship schemes for ST students — two Centrally Sponsored (Pre-Matric and Post Matric) and three Central Sector (Top Class, National Fellowship and National Overseas Scholarship), with income ceilings of Rs 2.50 lakh, Rs 6 lakh or none depending on the scheme.

QUICK FACTS

EMRS	728 approved, 508 functional, 1,56,593 students enrolled in academic session 2025-26
Eligibility for a new EMRS	block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons as per Census 2011
Telangana	23 EMRSs sanctioned, all functional, with 10,199 students enrolled in 2025-26
West Bengal	9 EMRSs approved and all functional; Odisha: 114 sanctioned, 47 functional
Staffing per school	31 teaching and 21 non-teaching posts for schools up to Class XII with 480 students; 13 of the 21 non-teaching posts earmarked for outsourcing
EMRS Staff Selection Examination (ESSE)	9,111 staff already recruited; examination conducted for another 7,267
Five ST scholarship schemes	Pre-Matric (Class IX-X), Post Matric (Class XI and above), National Scholarship for Higher Education (Top Class), National Fellowship (NFST) and National Overseas Scholarship (NOS)
Income ceilings	Rs 2.50 lakh for Pre-Matric and Post Matric; Rs 6.00 lakh for Top Class and NOS; no income limit for NFST
NFST	3,750 fellowships awarded over the last five years; merit list of 750 selected candidates each year; portal opens 1 July and closes 30 September

- NSTFDC extends concessional loans to ST persons with annual family income up to Rs 3 lakh in both rural and urban areas

Cooperative Sector Goes Digital: 63,686 PACS on ERP, NCD Portal 3.0 and Bharat Taxi's 8.48 Lakh Drivers

12 Aug

- The Ministry of Cooperation told the Rajya Sabha that 63,686 PACS are onboarded on the ERP-based national software and 54,707 have been declared e-PACS.
- The PACS computerisation outlay has been raised from Rs 2,516 crore to Rs 2,925.39 crore.
- The National Cooperative Database now covers about 8.6 lakh cooperatives from 30 sectors with roughly 32 crore members; NCD Portal 3.0 was launched on 6 July 2026.
- Bharat Taxi, run by Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited on a zero-commission model, has 8.48 lakh registered drivers and 44.27 lakh customers.
- BBSSL has introduced 124 varieties across 18 crops under the 'Bharat Beej' brand and produced 75,535 tonnes of seed in 2025-26.

QUICK FACTS

Answered by	Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha
Guiding vision	'Sahkar Se Samriddhi' — prosperity through cooperation
National Cooperative Database	launched 8 March 2024; covers about 8.6 lakh cooperatives across 30 sectors with roughly 32 crore members. NCD Portal 3.0 and the NCD GeoTag mobile app were launched on 6 July 2026
Cooperative Ranking Framework	launched 24 January 2025, covering 12 sectors, scored out of 100 marks on five parameters

- PACS computerisation outlay raised from Rs 2,516 crore to Rs 2,925.39 crore
- 63,686 PACS onboarded on the ERP-based National Software; 54,707 declared e-PACS; over 51.58 crore digital transactions as on 15 July 2026
- The ePACS software has 22 ERP modules and is available in 20 languages
- National Cooperation Policy, 2025 has been formulated

Tribal Development Update: PM-JUGA Covers 63,843 Villages, 54 Lakh Forest Rights Claims Filed

12 Aug

- PM-JUGA, also called Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, was launched on 2 October 2024 and covers 63,843 villages in 549 districts across 30 States and UTs.
- It runs 25 interventions through 17 line ministries and targets more than 5 crore tribal beneficiaries over five years.
- PM JANMAN targets 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group communities in 18 States and one UT through 11 interventions by nine ministries.
- Under the Forest Rights Act, 54.02 lakh claims have been received and 25.42 lakh titles distributed as on 30 June 2026; 18.13 lakh claims were rejected and 10.46 lakh remain pending.
- The Ministry funds 29 Tribal Research Institutes and has built the TribeX digital platform and the AI translation tool Adi Vaani.

QUICK FACTS

Answered by	Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uikey, in written replies in the Rajya Sabha
PM JANMAN	Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan, launched 15 November 2023 with an outlay of Rs 24,104 crore; 11 interventions by 9 line ministries for 75 PVTG communities in 18 States and 1 UT
FRA status as on 30 June 2026	54,01,561 claims received, 25,42,359 titles distributed, 18,13,232 rejected, 10,45,970 pending

- PM-JUGA / Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan: launched 2 October 2024; 25 interventions, 17 line ministries, 63,843 villages, 549 districts, 2,911 blocks, 30 States/UTs, over 5 crore tribal beneficiaries, five-year horizon
- Forest Rights Act is implemented in 20 States and 1 Union Territory

- 29 Tribal Research Institutes receive financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Support to Tribal Research Institutes'
- Adi Vaani is the Ministry's AI-based translation tool for tribal languages including Santhali and Mundari
- PVTG population and infrastructure gaps were mapped through habitation-level data collection using the PM Gati Shakti mobile application

EEZ Access Pass: 9,650 Issued as India Opens Deep-Sea Fishing to Traditional Fishers

12 Aug

- The Access Pass is a free digital pass issued through the ReALCRaft portal allowing fishing in India's Exclusive Economic Zone beyond 12 nautical miles.
- It is issued under the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone Rules, 2025, notified on 4 November 2025.
- A total of 9,650 Access Passes have been issued as on 5 August 2026, led by Karnataka with 2,563 and Gujarat with 2,524.
- Traditional non-motorised and small artisanal craft are fully exempted; the pass is required for mechanised vessels and large motorised boats over 24 metres.
- Fish caught by Indian vessels in the EEZ or High Seas has been made duty-free through amendments to the Customs Act, 1962, following the Union Budget 2026-27 announcement.

QUICK FACTS

Answered by	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in the Rajya Sabha
Access Pass	a free digital pass issued via the ReALCRaft portal for fishing in the EEZ, the zone from 12 to 200 nautical miles
Legal basis	the Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Rules, 2025, notified on 4 November 2025
Who needs it	mechanised fishing vessels and large motorised boats over 24 metres in length; traditional non-motorised and small artisanal craft are fully exempted
Passes issued	9,650 as on 5 August 2026
PMMSY total outlay	Rs 20,750 crore from 2020-21 to September 2026; PM-MKSSY outlay Rs 6,000 crore from 2023-24 to 2026-27

- Uniform annual fishing ban in the EEZ during the peak breeding season: 61 days
- The fisheries sector contributed about 7.43% of Agricultural Gross Value Added and about 1.09% of total GVA in 2023-24

20,149 Jan Aushadhi Kendras and Rs 37,200 Crore in Citizen Savings; Out-of-Pocket Health Spend Falls to 43.4%

11 Aug

- A total of 20,149 Jan Aushadhi Kendras had been opened across the country as on 30 June 2026 under the PMBJP.
- Sales of Rs 7,873.85 crore between 2021-22 and 2025-26 produced savings of about Rs 37,200 crore for citizens.
- The product basket covers 2,110 medicines and 315 surgicals, consumables and devices.
- Generic medicines at these kendras are typically 50% to 80% cheaper than branded equivalents.
- Out-of-pocket expenditure as a share of total health expenditure fell from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 43.4% in 2022-23.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Implementing agency	Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)
Kendras opened as on 30 June 2026	20,149 nationally; 1,833 in Kerala and 1,014 in West Bengal
Product basket	2,110 medicines and 315 surgicals, consumables and devices
Sales 2021-22 to 2025-26	Rs 7,873.85 crore; citizen savings about Rs 37,200 crore
Delivery model	franchise-like — individuals, NGOs, societies, trusts, firms and companies may apply through janaushadhi.gov.in
Supply chain	five warehouses and 42 distributors, with 400 fast-moving products monitored continuously

PMKVY 4.0 evaluation: employment share up 18.8 points; 5.44 lakh trained in new-age roles

10 Aug

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship set out the results of third-party evaluations of its schemes under the Skill India Mission, all conducted by the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management, an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Finance.
- For PMKVY 4.0, the combined share of employed and self-employed Short-Term Training respondents rose from 26.6% before training to 45.4% after — an increase of 18.8 percentage points; 41.4% of STT candidates and 48.9% of Recognition of Prior Learning candidates reported higher income.
- The Jan Shikshan Sansthan evaluation of 2025 found 33.94 lakh enrolled, 32 lakh trained and 31.52 lakh certified — a 99% success rate — with women at 82% of participants, 73% from marginalised sections, and average monthly income of beneficiaries rising four-fold.
- Under PMNAPS-2, 34.69 lakh apprentices were engaged against a cumulative target of 46 lakh from 2022-23 to November 2025, an achievement of about 75%.
- PMKVY 4.0 has introduced over 600 new-age and futuristic courses, with about 5.44 lakh candidates trained in such job roles as on 30 June 2026; the NAVYA programme for adolescent girls has trained 1,060 girls across 15 States/UTs and is being expanded to 100 aspirational districts with effect from 27 May 2026.

QUICK FACTS

AI-related training under PMKVY 4.0	53,449 candidates trained/oriented and 25,466 certified as on 30 June 2026
SOAR (Skilling for AI Readiness)	4,96,426 learners enrolled and 98,576 certified as on 22 July 2026 on the Skill India Digital Hub
NAVYA	1,060 girls trained across 15 States/UTs; expansion to 100 aspirational districts with effect from 27 May 2026

- Skill India Mission delivers training through PMKVY, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme and the Craftsman Training Scheme through ITIs
- PMKVY has been running since 2015; PMKVY 4.0 has been under implementation since FY 2022-23
- Placements were tracked only in PMKVY 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 (2015-16 to 2021-22): of 56.89 lakh certified in Short-Term Training, 24.37 lakh were placed — an overall placement rate of 42.8%
- Under PMKVY 4.0 the focus shifted from placement tracking to On-the-Job Training embedded in industry-relevant courses
- 600+ new-age and futuristic courses introduced; about 5.44 lakh candidates trained in such roles as on 30 June 2026
- NCVET ecosystem has 116 NSQF-aligned, NSQC-approved qualifications, National Occupational Standards and micro-credentials in AI and Machine Learning
- PMKVY 4.0 funds released over FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27 (to 30 June 2026): Rs 2,392.37 crore against Budget Estimates of Rs 6,811.30 crore

PMAY-Urban Crosses 1.25 Crore Houses Sanctioned and 1 Crore Delivered

09 Aug

- Over 1.25 crore houses have been sanctioned under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0 together, of which more than 1 crore have been completed and delivered.
- One crore houses have been allotted to women, in the name of the female head of household or in joint ownership.
- The 8th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee under PMAY-U 2.0 sanctioned over 2.09 lakh houses for EWS families across 16 States and UTs.
- Total sanctions under PMAY-U 2.0 have crossed 18.38 lakh houses across its four verticals.
- PMAY-U was launched in June 2015 with the vision of Housing for All; PMAY-U 2.0 targets an additional 1 crore EWS, LIG and MIG families.

QUICK FACTS

Scheme	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) and its successor PMAY-U 2.0
Launched	June 2015, with the vision of Housing for All
Nodal ministry	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Houses completed and delivered	more than 1 crore
Houses allotted to women	1 crore, as female head of household or in joint ownership
8th CSMC meeting	held on 6 August 2026 at Sankalp Bhawan, New Delhi
Chaired by	Shri Satendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Urban Development, MoHUA
PMAY-U 2.0 coverage	an additional 1 crore eligible EWS, LIG and MIG families with annual income of up to Rs 9 lakh

– Houses sanctioned under PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0 together: over 1.25 crore

9. History & Culture

1 article

PIB Backgrounder Maps India's Heritage Push: 3,686 ASI Monuments, 45 UNESCO Sites

14 Aug

- A PIB Backgrounder issued for the 80th Independence Day consolidates the Government's heritage conservation record across archaeology, tourism circuits, museums, manuscripts and film preservation.
- The Archaeological Survey of India safeguards 3,686 centrally protected monuments through about 38 Circles, with Rs 374 crore allocated for conservation and maintenance in FY 2024-25.
- Tourism-side schemes report cumulative numbers: Swadesh Darshan 76 projects worth Rs 5,290.33 crore, Swadesh Darshan 2.0 53 projects worth Rs 2,208.31 crore, and PRASHAD 54 projects worth Rs 1,726.74 crore.
- 615 antiquities were retrieved from abroad in the last five years (up to 30 June 2026), and the Piprahwa relics of the Buddha returned in 2025 after 127 years.
- India now has 45 UNESCO World Heritage Sites; the Gyan Bharatam Mission for manuscripts carries an outlay of Rs 482.85 crore for 2024-31.

QUICK FACTS

Document type	PIB Backgrounder released on 14 August 2026, ahead of the 80th Independence Day.
Archaeological Survey of India	3,686 centrally protected monuments, about 38 Circles, Rs 374 crore conservation allocation in FY 2024-25, 121 archaeological project permissions issued in the last five years.
Adopt a Heritage 2.0	launched September 2023; 30 MoUs signed as of March 2026; 13.59 million visitor footfall at adopted monuments in FY 2024-25.
PRASHAD	54 projects sanctioned across 28 States and UTs (February 2026), 32 completed (December 2025), total cost Rs 1,726.74 crore.
Swadesh Darshan	15 thematic circuits, 76 projects sanctioned worth Rs 5,290.33 crore, 75 completed (March 2026).
Swadesh Darshan 2.0	destination-centric approach; 53 projects worth Rs 2,208.31 crore. Challenge Based Destination Development (introduced March 2024): 38 projects worth Rs 697.94 crore.
National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities	1.84 lakh monuments and 17.20 lakh antiquities documented as of March 2026.
Repatriation	615 antiquities retrieved in the last five years up to 30 June 2026; Piprahwa relics returned in 2025 after 127 years; Annapurna idol returned from Canada in 2021 after 108 years.
Gyan Bharatam Mission	launched 2025, outlay Rs 482.85 crore for 2024-31; National Manuscript Survey launched March 2026 has reported more than 1.19 crore manuscripts.

– India has 45 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and hosted the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee in New Delhi in 2024.