WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

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SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

26 key articles · 14 categories · 7 days

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

1 article

Amit Shah Opens India's First World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad

04 Sep

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the Archery Association of India's World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad through video conferencing.
- The competition runs from 5 to 9 September 2026 with 108 athletes from 19 countries, including Bhutan, the United Kingdom, China, Bangladesh, France, Germany, Indonesia and the United States.
- Ahmedabad will host the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and is India's proposed host city for the 2036 Olympic Games.

2. Awards & Honours

3 articles

President Confers National Awards to Teachers on 82 Educators Across Three Streams

05 Sep

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Awards to Teachers in New Delhi on 5 September 2026, Teachers' Day.
- Eighty-two teachers and educators were selected this year across three streams — 48 from the Department of School Education and Literacy, 21 from higher educational institutions and polytechnics, and 13 skill trainers from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- The President said education is the most effective means of realising the constitutional ideal of equality of opportunity and credited teachers with India's negligible primary school dropout rate.
- The Prime Minister had interacted with the awardees at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg the previous day, raising drug awareness, excessive screen time and the National Education Policy's push to connect classrooms with real-world skills.
- Teachers' Day is observed on 5 September, the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

India Wins Best-Ever 9 Medals at the 19th Earth Science Olympiad in Turin

04 Sep

- India recorded its best-ever performance at the 19th International Earth Science Olympiad, held in Turin, Italy, from 20 to 27 August 2026, winning 4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- Students from 39 countries competed; Soumik Mandal of DAV Model School, Durgapur finished third in the overall global ranking with 2 gold and 1 silver.
- Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh felicitated the team at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards 2024 announced; four awardees named

02 Sep

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards (TNNAA) for 2024 in four categories — Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure and Lifetime Achievement.

- Four awardees were approved: Baljeet Kaur and Skalzang Rigzin (Land Adventure), Rimo Saha (Water Adventure) and Shiv Prasad Chamoli (Lifetime Achievement); the selections followed the recommendations of the National Selection Committee.
- The awards will be conferred by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan along with the National Sports Awards 2025, on a date to be announced separately; each awardee receives a statuette, a certificate and award money of Rs 15 lakh.

3. Appointments

4 articles

Indian Postal Service Officer Re-elected APPU Secretary-General for Second Term

06 Sep

- Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, a 1988-batch Indian Postal Service officer, was re-elected unopposed by acclamation as Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union at the 14th APPU Congress in Bangkok on 4 September 2026.
- His second four-year term runs from January 2027 to December 2030; he first took charge in January 2023 after being elected at the 13th APPU Congress in 2022.
- The APPU is a 32-member intergovernmental body headquartered in Bangkok and is a restricted (regional) union of the Universal Postal Union, the UN specialised agency for the postal sector.

New Chairperson and members appointed to National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

06 Sep

- The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment appointed Bhagwat Prasad Makwana as Chairperson and Kaishab Bihari as Vice-Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.
- Manoj Kumar Balmiki, Sushma Gaudiyal and Ravi Ramu Kalose were appointed Members; Sushma Gaudiyal is a returning Member.
- All appointments run up to 31 March 2028, matching the remaining tenure of the present Commission.

President appoints Dinesh Sharma Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

05 Sep

- The President of India has appointed Dr Dinesh Sharma as Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with effect from the date he assumes charge of the office.
- The announcement was issued as a Press Communique by the President's Secretariat on 5 September 2026.
- He succeeds Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi, who had held the post since 8 October 2017.
- The Lieutenant Governor is the Administrator of the Union Territory, appointed by the President under Article 239 of the Constitution.
- Andaman and Nicobar is a Union Territory without a legislature, whose capital Port Blair was renamed Sri Vijaya Puram in September 2024.

AVM Shakti Sharma Becomes First Non-Medical Woman Two-Star Officer in the Indian Defence Services

01 Sep

- Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer from outside the Medical Branch in the Indian defence services to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal or its equivalent.
- On 1 September 2026 she assumed the appointment of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters.
- Commissioned into the Education Branch of the Indian Air Force on 18 June 1994, she has served in training establishments, field stations, Command Headquarters and Air Headquarters, and set up the IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT Kanpur and Pune University.
- She had earlier become the first woman officer from the Tri-Services to command a Sainik School, as Principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala.

4. Important Days

2 articles

11th Ayurveda Day set for 23 September 2026 at Nagpur

07 Sep

- The Ministry of Ayush held the curtain-raiser for the 11th Ayurveda Day, whose main celebration is fixed for 23 September 2026 at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The theme is 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow', built on three campaign strands: integrative healthcare, evidence and research, and community wellbeing with sustainable living.
- Planned deliverables include the National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards 2026, safety dossiers on medicinal plants, Standard Treatment Guidelines for skin diseases, a report on the Ayush Services Sector and Ayush Vision 2030.

AIIA Launches 'AyurVarta' Digital Dialogue Series; Ayurveda Day Now Fixed on 23 September

01 Sep

- The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Ayush, launched 'AyurVarta', a digital dialogue series carrying expert conversations on Ayurveda to audiences in India and abroad.
- The inaugural episode, between AIIA Director Professor (Vaidya) P. K. Prajapati and Dean (Ph.D.) Professor (Dr.) Mahesh Vyas, was on the theme 'Why is Ayurveda Day celebrated on 23 September?'
- Ayurveda Day was earlier observed on Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras), a movable lunar date; the Government has designated 23 September as its fixed annual date, which falls around the autumnal equinox when day and night are approximately equal.
- Future episodes will cover the scientific foundations of Ayurveda, education, public health, integration with modern medicine, medicinal plants and global expansion, and will be carried on AIIA's YouTube, Facebook, X and Instagram platforms.

5. Summits & Conferences

2 articles

India joins G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting at Chapel Hill; ministers adopt Carolina Principles

07 Sep

- Minister of State for Electronics & IT and Commerce & Industry Jitin Prasada led the Indian delegation to the G20 Innovation Ministers' Meeting held on 1-2 September 2026 at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Ministers adopted a consensus Innovation Ministerial Statement built on six pillars, along with the Carolina Principles for Emerging Technologies, the AI Prosperity Objectives and the AI Prosperity Compact.
- India held bilaterals with the European Commission, France, Germany, the African Union and the US Commerce Secretary, and offered India Stack digital public infrastructure solutions to African countries.

BRICS IP Offices Adopt Updated Operational Guidelines at 18th Meeting in New Delhi

02 Sep

- The 18th Meeting of the Heads of Intellectual Property Offices of BRICS countries (IP BRICS) was held in New Delhi from 1 to 3 September 2026, hosted by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (O/o CGPDTM) under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The meeting adopted Updated Operational Guidelines for IP BRICS cooperation and noted progress under the Study on Reinforced Patent Examination Cooperation, meant to streamline examination, cut patent backlogs and improve the exchange of search results between member offices.
- About 35 delegates took part, with Russia, Iran and Ethiopia joining online; deliberations were aligned with the theme of India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

6. Schemes & Committees

1 article

EPFO opens VISHWAS, 2026 one-time settlement for PF damages at cut penalty rates

03 Sep

- EPFO has opened VISHWAS, 2026 — a one-time settlement scheme letting employers close long-pending EPF damages disputes at sharply reduced penalty rates.
- The window closes on 28 December 2026 and will not be extended.
- The Bombay, Madras and Kerala High Courts have directed establishments before them to settle under the scheme.

7. Defence

1 article

Raksha Mantri releases 'RAKSHA', a ten-year roadmap for India's defence diplomacy

03 Sep

- The Raksha Mantri released 'RAKSHA', a document setting out India's defence diplomacy roadmap for the next ten years.
- It rests on four pillars: strategic partnerships, capacity building, indigenous exports and maritime security.
- It positions India as a Net Security Provider and First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The release was attended by the service Vice Chiefs, the Defence Secretary and officials of the MEA and the National Security Council Secretariat.

8. Science & Tech

2 articles

GSLV-F17 Launches EOS-05, India's First Imaging Satellite in Geosynchronous Orbit

04 Sep

- ISRO's GSLV-F17 launched EOS-05, described by the Prime Minister as India's first-ever imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit.
- The mission lifted off on 4 September 2026 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota - the 19th flight of the GSLV programme.
- EOS-05, also designated GISAT-1A, was placed in a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit and raised towards the geostationary altitude of about 35,786 km by onboard apogee-motor firings.
- From that altitude it can revisit a chosen area in minutes rather than days, supporting cyclone and flood monitoring, agriculture and surveillance.
- The Prime Minister linked the achievement to the deepening ISRO-industry partnership across the space ecosystem.

Government launches BIO-NIVESH to draw private capital into biotechnology start-ups

03 Sep

- BIO-NIVESH was launched to strengthen engagement between biotechnology innovators and investors and channel private capital into scale-up and commercialisation.
- It was announced at a joint round table with start-ups and investors chaired by the Minister of State for Science and Technology.
- A 'Big Five in Five Years' approach was floated — concentrating resources to build a few large anchor companies around which smaller start-ups can grow.

9. Environment

4 articles

Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026: 108 of 130 NCAP Cities Cut PM10 Below 2017-18 Levels

07 Sep

- On the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, observed on 7 September, MoEFCC held Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026 and conferred the 5th Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan awards on the best-performing cities and, for the first time, wards.
- Under the National Clean Air Programme, 108 of 130 cities recorded lower annual PM10 in FY 2025-26 than in 2017-18: 72 cut it by more than 20%, 26 by more than 40%, and 14 met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Lucknow topped Category 1, Rourkela Category 2 and Kalinganagar Category 3; ward-level assessment covered over 7,400 wards, with Ward 70 of Lucknow first in Category 1.
- A Compendium of Best Management Practices under NCAP was released, and a first-of-its-kind dialogue brought mayors and local body representatives from 63 NCR cities to take a Clean Air Pledge.

NITI Aayog's e-FAST launches PACT and ZET Marketplace to aggregate demand for electric trucks

07 Sep

- NITI Aayog Member Rajiv Gauba launched the Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT) and the Zero Emission Truck (ZET) Marketplace at the 5th e-FAST India Summit 2026.
- PACT aggregates freight demand from shippers and logistics service providers and converts it into deployment opportunities on identified freight corridors.
- Electric freight vehicle deployments rose more than fourfold, from 201 in FY25 to 826 in FY26, with over 3,000 electric medium- and heavy-duty trucks now in operation.
- Heavy trucks are 3-4% of India's vehicle fleet but account for over a third of transport-sector carbon emissions, while about 70% of India's freight moves by road.
- e-FAST India was launched by NITI Aayog with WRI India on 8 September 2022 as the country's first national electric freight platform.

Vulture Awareness Day 2026: Panchkula Workshop Pushes Vulture Safe Zones and Wild Recovery

06 Sep

- International Vulture Awareness Day 2026 was marked at Panchkula, Haryana, where the Union Environment Minister inaugurated a national workshop themed 'From Crisis to Recovery — Conserving India's Vultures'.
- The workshop was organised by MoEFCC with the Central Zoo Authority, the Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department, the Bombay Natural History Society and the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore.
- During 2025-26 the Pinjore centre housed 356 vultures, bred 35 chicks, released or contributed 87 birds for reintroduction, transferred 90 to other breeding institutions and trained 1,222 participants from 22 institutions.
- The stated policy direction is continued creation of Vulture Safe Zones through vulture-safe veterinary practice, safe food availability and technical capacity for species recovery in the wild.

Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 5.0 Launched for 12-19 September; MoES Marks 20 Years With a National Quiz

01 Sep

- Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, launched the fifth edition of 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026: SSSS v.5.0' on 1 September 2026.

- The campaign will run as a week-long nationwide observance from 12 to 19 September 2026, with beach clean-up drives at over 100 locations, a human chain, cycling rallies, marathons, an ocean conservation pledge and the first-ever national Ocean Olympiad for students and youth.
- The Minister launched the SSSS v.5.0 website, the official ocean conservation pledge, an introductory video and an activities-schedule video, alongside the Sagar Prahari mobile app; India's coastline was cited as spanning over 11,000 km.
- Separately, the Ministry of Earth Sciences launched the 'MoES Foundation Day Quiz: Advancing Earth Sciences, Empowering the Nation' with MyGov to mark 20 years of the Ministry - 100 multiple-choice questions in 300 seconds, one attempt per participant, with cash prizes of Rs 10,000 each for three randomly selected all-correct entries.

10. Banking & Finance

1 article

India Post Payments Bank Turns Nine; Launches DakPay Sound Box and Digital Platforms

01 Sep

- India Post Payments Bank marked its 9th Foundation Day on 1 September 2026 and launched the DakPay Sound Box for merchants, a Digital Insurance Technology Platform and a Digital Mutual Fund Platform.
- As on 31 March 2026 the bank had 13.25 crore customers - 77% rural and 49% women - with deposits of Rs 29,104 crore.
- It recorded Rs 21.61 lakh crore of digital financial transactions, including Rs 7.41 lakh crore of UPI remittances, and served 6.5 crore DBT beneficiaries receiving about Rs 1.55 lakh crore.
- AePS transactions numbered 12.06 crore, disbursing Rs 36,140 crore; 29.43 lakh Digital Life Certificates were issued to pensioners.
- IPPB was launched on 1 September 2018 under the Department of Posts with 100% Government of India equity, operating through about 1,65,000 post offices, of which about 1,40,000 are rural.

11. Economy

2 articles

EPF Scheme 2026 opens six-month amnesty to regularise exempt status of provident fund trusts

02 Sep

- The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme 2026, notified on 29 June 2026, introduces Amnesty provisions as a transitional measure — a one-time opportunity for provident fund trusts to regularise their exemption status.
- The window targets PF trusts recognised under the Income Tax Act, 1961 that do not hold a formal exemption order under section 17 of the EPF & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 or section 143 of the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- The amnesty runs for six months from notification, up to 28 December 2026; operational guidelines were issued in an EPFO circular dated 11 July 2026.
- Besides retrospective regularisation of exempt status, applicants get a waiver of certain Code on Social Security requirements — minimum employee headcount, corpus size and the three-year compliance rule — and may afterwards choose to operate as either an exempt or an unexempt establishment.

- EPFO has approached the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to reach auditors who can identify eligible trusts, and has asked the Income Tax Department to cross-check EPF coverage and exemption status before granting or continuing recognition of PF trusts.

Japan Credit Rating Agency upgrades India to 'A-' with stable outlook; country ceiling raised to 'A'

02 Sep

- Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) has upgraded India's Long-Term Foreign Currency and Local Currency Issuer Ratings by one notch, from 'BBB+' to 'A-', while retaining a Stable Outlook.
- JCR has simultaneously raised India's country ceiling by one notch, to 'A'.
- The agency cited sustained high growth, the effectiveness of economic policies, better quality of fiscal spending with a capital expenditure tilt, a sounder financial system and a resilient external position.
- Fiscal and growth figures cited: real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in FY26 and 7.8 per cent in Q1 of FY27 per MoSPI, and the Centre's fiscal deficit falling from 4.7 per cent in FY25 to 4.4 per cent in FY26.
- This follows a run of upgrades over the past year: Morningstar DBRS in May 2025, S&P Global Ratings in August 2025 and Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I), Japan, in September 2025.

12. National

1 article

Goa Police receives President's Colour; AI call agent added to 1930 cyber helpline

07 Sep

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colour to the Goa Police at Panaji on 7 September 2026.
- Goa Police has introduced an AI-based call agent for the 1930 cyber-fraud helpline that accepts complaints in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- Its conviction rate rose from 23 per cent to 53 per cent in a year, and 112 response time fell from 18 minutes to 8 minutes.

13. International

1 article

26th SCO Summit at Bishkek Adopts Bishkek Declaration on Grouping's 25th Anniversary

01 Sep

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 26th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, held between 31 August and 1 September 2026 — the year the grouping completed 25 years.
- The summit adopted the Bishkek Declaration along with four MoUs and over twenty decisions and statements, covering climate, nuclear safety, energy conservation and combating drug addiction.
- Four India-led proposals found place in the Declaration: English as an official language in the SCO Charter, the Civilisation Dialogue Forum, a Young Scientists' Forum and a Young Authors' Conclave.

- India restated its three-pillar framing of the grouping — Security, Connectivity and Opportunity — pressed for no double standards on terrorism, and said connectivity efforts must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.
- India will host the first edition of the SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum later in 2026.

14. Polity & Governance

1 article

Drug-free India roadmap for July 2026-July 2029 built on four pillars

06 Sep

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah, at a narcotics press conference in Panaji, announced a three-year roadmap from July 2026 to July 2029 for a drug-free India, run in mission mode with fixed timelines and quarterly outcome reviews.
- The roadmap rests on four pillars — intelligence and operation-based enforcement, precursor and synthetic drugs control, demand and harm reduction, and capacity building and coordination — with 25 components and over 200 action points.
- Seizures were placed at over 1.19 crore kg worth about Rs 1.89 lakh crore in 2014-2026, against 26 lakh kg worth about Rs 40,000 crore in 2004-2014.
- De-addiction centres are to be tripled to 1,751, and every state is to get a fully equipped Anti-Narcotics Task Force by March 2027 with 7 per cent central assistance.
- Enforcement is being aimed at the trafficking routes the Minister called the Death Triangle and Death Crescent, with financial investigation and PIT-NDPS action as the sharp end.