WEEKLY PIB COMPILATION

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SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

27 key articles · 13 categories · 7 days

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Awards & Honours

1 article

Anant Nag to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024 at 72nd National Film Awards

16 Sep

- Veteran actor Anant Nag has been named for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2024, on the recommendation of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award Selection Committee.
- It will be presented at the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony on 22 September 2026 at Kevadia, Gujarat.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated him for a mark left on Indian cinema and particularly on Kannada cinema over several decades.

2. Important Days

1 article

World Patient Safety Day 2026 observed on safe care for noncommunicable diseases

17 Sep

- World Patient Safety Day 2026 was observed on 17 September with the WHO theme 'Safe care for noncommunicable diseases' and the slogan 'Safe care for life!'.
- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda addressed the national event at ABVIMS & Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, where the hospital's Quality & Safety Handbook was released.
- He put Ayushman Bharat coverage at about 11.5 crore beneficiaries treated for around Rs 1.6 lakh crore, Jan Aushadhi savings at about Rs 45,000 crore, and NQAS-certified government facilities at 60,000 against a target of about 2 lakh.
- Out-of-pocket expenditure has fallen from about 62 per cent of total health expenditure in 2014 to roughly 43 per cent.

3. Ranks & Reports

1 article

NITI Aayog releases second India Electric Mobility Index; top State score rises to 84

16 Sep

- NITI Aayog launched the second edition of the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) at its Workshop on State EV Policies, scoring every State and UT on EV adoption, charging infrastructure and EV research.
- The highest State score rose from 77 to 84 over the year and the median from 36 to 40; 29 of 36 States and UTs have now notified EV policies.
- NITI Aayog Member Rajiv Gauba put existing central support for electric mobility at over Rs 92,000 crore across FAME, PM E-DRIVE, PM e-Bus Sewa and two production-linked incentive schemes.
- He linked the transition to strategic dependence, noting India imports nearly 89 per cent of its crude oil requirement while the automotive sector carries about 7.1 per cent of GDP and 1.9 crore jobs.

4. Summits & Conferences

3 articles

25th SCO trade ministers' meeting in Dushanbe agrees Action Plan 2026-2030

18 Sep

- The 25th meeting of SCO ministers responsible for foreign economic and trade activities was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 17 September 2026.
- Ministers agreed an Action Plan for 2026-2030 on multilateral trade and economic cooperation, which now goes to the SCO Council of Heads of Government for approval.
- India set out three pillars for trade — Security, Connectivity and Opportunity — and backed a WTO-centred, rules-based trading system.

India at G20 Energy Ministerial in Houston: Clean Cooking, Permitting, Critical Minerals

17 Sep

- Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Manohar Lal led the Indian delegation to the G20 Energy Abundance Ministerial Meeting at Houston, USA from 14 to 16 September 2026, under the U.S. G20 Presidency.
- The meeting worked across three pillars: Energy Security and Affordable Baseload; Permitting and Regulatory Efficiency; and Critical Minerals and Resilient Supply Chains.
- Outcomes included the G20 Statement on Advancing Clean Cooking Access, a Permitting and Regulatory Efficiency Symposium, the G20 Water Reuse Initiative and the G20 Critical Minerals Meeting Communique.
- India reported installed generation capacity of 552 GW, more than half of it non-fossil, and reiterated its Net Zero by 2070 goal.

Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine, Genetic Resources and IPR Opens in Goa

16 Sep

- The Third BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property Rights opened in Goa on 16 September 2026 and concludes on 17 September 2026.
- It is organised by the Ministry of Ayush with the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa as nodal institute, alongside the Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Nodal Group on the same subject.
- Delegates from all seven BIMSTEC members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand - shared national policies and legal frameworks.
- Sessions covered documentation of traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, genetic resources, access and benefit-sharing, prior informed consent and community rights, with reference to WIPO and WHO initiatives.
- The Ministry highlighted the BIMSTEC Task Force for Traditional Medicine and the proposed BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Traditional Medicine announced by the Prime Minister at the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok in April 2025.

5. Schemes & Committees

6 articles

Biovigilance Programme of India approved; 7th National Formulary of India released

21 Sep

- The Government approved the Biovigilance Programme of India; the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ghaziabad, will lead monitoring of adverse events from medicines and biologicals used in organ and tissue transplantation.
- The 7th edition of the National Formulary of India (NFI 2026) was released: 34 chapters, 20 appendices, 653 drugs including 42 fixed-dose combinations and 30 immunologicals.
- India has risen from 123rd (2009-2014) to 8th globally in contributions to the WHO patient-safety database.
- About 1,150 ADR reporting centres operate nationwide and will be extended to primary healthcare.

Biometric Aadhaar Authentication Mandatory for Subsidised LPG Refills from 1 October 2026

19 Sep

- From 1 October 2026, a domestic LPG consumer must have completed Biometric Aadhaar Authentication to book a refill at the regulated Retail Selling Price with subsidy.
- As on 19 September 2026, 27.43 crore active domestic consumers — 89.9 per cent — had completed authentication and need do nothing further.
- Consumers who choose not to authenticate will be supplied LPG at market price without subsidy, in 5 kg or 10 kg cylinders, subject to local availability.
- The implicit subsidy was about Rs 210 per 14.2 kg cylinder in September 2026, having reached Rs 721 in June 2026.
- Accumulated under-recoveries of public sector oil marketing companies on domestic LPG exceeded Rs 62,000 crore as on 31 August 2026.

DDU-GKY 2.0 Training Begins in 14 States from October 2026 with 34,920 Youth

19 Sep

- The Ministry of Rural Development will start DDU-GKY 2.0 training batches across most States and Union Territories from October 2026.
- 1,164 batches covering 34,920 rural youth begin in October in 14 first-phase States/UTs, against a sanctioned target of 3,57,112 trainees there by 31 December 2027.
- Targets for the two-year period 2026-28 have been allocated to all 31 participating States/UTs; over 5 lakh have already reached Project Implementing Agencies.
- States were asked to finish allocating targets to PIAs by 31 October 2026 and to integrate State Treasury Portals with the DDU-GKY 2.0 portal by 30 September 2026.

100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan opens with nationwide Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh

17 Sep

- The Department of Youth Affairs will open the 100 Weeks Nasha Mukt Yuva Abhiyan on 18 September 2026 with the Rashtriya Sankalp Samaroh, a nationwide youth pledge and signature campaign.
- It is delivered through Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) and the National Service Scheme: 300 NSS institutions from 18 September, and 485 MY Bharat units on 20 September.
- The parent Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan, launched on 2 August 2026, is built on four pillars - Prevent, Protect, Recover and Lead.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 launched by MoHUA and Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

17 Sep

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation jointly launched Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 with a plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' at Children's Park, India Gate, New Delhi.
- The campaign carries the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat' and runs to 2 October, on five pillars from Cleanliness Target Units to Swachhata se Samriddhi.
- On 2 October, Special Gram Sabhas in rural areas and Special Council Meetings in urban areas will review the campaign's outcomes and assess villages' ODF Plus (Model) status.

Special Campaign 6.0 portal launched as Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 theme announced

16 Sep

- Dr Jitendra Singh launched the web portal for Special Campaign 6.0, run by DARPG from 2 to 31 October, with e-waste disposal as its new focus.
- Over five years the Special Campaign has earned Rs 5,000 crore from scrap, freed 1,000 lakh sq ft of office space and weeded out around 2 crore files.
- Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 begins on 17 September with the theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.

6. Agreements & MoUs

1 article

India-New Zealand FTA to enter into force on 20 October 2026

21 Sep

- The India-New Zealand FTA enters into force on 20 October 2026 (Vijaya Dashami); from that day 100% of India's exports to New Zealand become duty-free.
- The FTA was signed on 27 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, by Piyush Goyal and NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay; New Zealand's Parliament passed the enabling law on 16 September 2026.
- India kept dairy, sugar, edible oils and most meats out of tariff concessions; NZ apples, kiwifruit and Manuka honey get only Tariff Rate Quotas with a Minimum Import Price.
- New Zealand commits to facilitate USD 20 billion of investment into India, plus 5,000 skilled-worker and 1,000 Working Holiday visas a year.

7. Defence

4 articles

18th India-Mongolia Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT begins at Pithoragarh

21 Sep

- The 18th India-Mongolia exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT runs from 21 September to 3 October 2026 at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- This annual platoon-level exercise alternates between India and Mongolia; each side fields 45 personnel.
- Its focus is counter-insurgency in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN mandate.

SLINEX-26: India and Sri Lanka Hold 13th Maritime Exercise at Visakhapatnam

20 Sep

- The 13th edition of SLINEX, the annual India-Sri Lanka bilateral maritime exercise, is being held at Visakhapatnam from 17 to 21 September 2026.
- The Indian Navy is fielding INS Kavaratti, an indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvette, and INS Jyoti, a fleet tanker; the Sri Lanka Navy is represented by SLNS Sindurala.
- The exercise opened with a Harbour Phase under the Eastern Naval Command, covering professional interactions, cross-deck visits and sharing of best practices, to be followed by a Sea Phase focused on operational synergy.
- SLINEX was conceptualised in 2005 and has become the principal navy-to-navy forum between the two countries.
- The Ministry of Defence positions the exercise within India's MAHASAGAR vision for a secure, stable and inclusive maritime environment.

HAL delivers Tejas FOC trainers, first HTT-40s to IAF and Dhruv NG to Pawan Hans

18 Sep

- In Bengaluru on 18 September 2026, HAL handed over two LCA Tejas FOC twin-seat trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainers to the IAF, and four Dhruv NG civil helicopters to Pawan Hans Limited.
- The two Tejas trainers are the last aircraft due under the FOC contract.
- The HTT-40 replaces imported basic trainers; 70 were ordered in March 2023, but deliveries slipped because of delays in Honeywell engine supply.
- Dhruv NG, the DGCA-certified civil version of the Dhruv helicopter, is HAL's entry into commercial helicopters.

India-US Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2026 Begins at Auli and Mahajan Ranges

15 Sep

- The opening ceremony of the 22nd edition of the India-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas was held at the Auli Foreign Training Node in Uttarakhand.
- Contingents of 600 personnel from each side are taking part, with the exercise running simultaneously at Auli and the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- The stated aim is to enhance joint capability for employing Integrated Battle Groups in mountainous and semi-mountainous terrain, with emphasis on infantry-dominated operations.
- Technology infusion is a key focus: drones and autonomous systems for surveillance and reconnaissance, and demonstrations of contemporary weapon systems at Mahajan.
- The Indian side was addressed by Major General Amaresh Gunjan, General Officer Commanding, 14 Infantry Division, and the US side by Colonel Benjamin Jackman of the 11th Airborne Division.

8. Science & Tech

3 articles

SEMICON India 2026 Closes with 56 MoUs and RISC-V Grand Challenge Awards

19 Sep

- SEMICON India 2026, the fifth edition of India's flagship semiconductor conference, ran from 17 to 19 September 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, on the theme 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem'.
- The three days produced 56 MoUs, announcements and strategic initiatives — 41 in the first two days and 15 at the concluding session.
- Winners of the Digital India RISC-V Grand Challenge, run under the Chips to Startup Programme, were announced; three teams shared Rs 60 lakh for solutions built on the indigenous SHAKTI and VEGA processors.
- The Prime Minister virtually inaugurated commercial production lines at CDIL Semiconductor, Mohali, and Suchi Semicon, Surat, taking operational commercial units to five of the twelve projects approved under Semicon 1.0.
- Semicon 2.0 was outlined, with an outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore across six pillars.

TRAI's third TCCCPR amendment: AI-flagged spam, A2P call rules and consumer appeals

18 Sep

- TRAI notified the Telecom Commercial Communication Customer Preference (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026 on 18 September 2026, amending TCCCPR 2018 to tighten action against spam.
- Operators must now use AI/ML to flag suspected spam numbers and share them; five or more flagged numbers of one sender within ten days trigger graded action up to disconnection.
- Application-to-Person (A2P) robo-calls must be pre-declared, and carry a termination charge of up to Rs 0.05 per minute.
- Consumers get an appeal against UCC complaint decisions within 15 days, and action now starts at 3 complaints in 10 days if the AI system has also flagged the sender.

Semicon 2.0 Unveiled at SEMICON India 2026: Six Pillars, Rs 1,27,500 Crore

17 Sep

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the fifth edition of SEMICON India at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi on 17 September 2026, themed 'Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem' and running to 19 September.
- Semicon 2.0, approved by the Union Cabinet on 15 July 2026 with an outlay of Rs 1,27,500 crore, widens the mission from fabs and packaging to six pillars covering design, equipment and materials, advanced packaging, applied R&D and talent.
- Investment commitments of about Rs 1 lakh crore have been received and close to 1 lakh jobs are expected across the ecosystem over the next two to three years.
- Commercial lines were launched at CDIL Semiconductor, Mohali and Suchi Semicon, Surat, taking operational commercial ATMP units to five of the twelve approved under Semicon 1.0.

9. Environment

2 articles

PM Opens NGT's International Conference on Environment and Climate, Launches NGT Mobile App

19 Sep

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the National Green Tribunal's two-day International Conference on 'The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics' in New Delhi and launched the NGT Mobile Application.
- Participants came from 17 countries, along with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Asian Development Bank; the conference runs four technical sessions.
- The Environment Minister stated that non-fossil sources now account for 54.18 per cent of India's installed electricity capacity, passing the 2030 target of 50 per cent nine years early.
- India's forest and tree cover was stated at 8.27 lakh square kilometres, with India retaining third position in annual net forest-area gain in the UN FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025.

India Launches Net Zero Portal and NAPCC Dashboard on 32nd World Ozone Day

16 Sep

- Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh launched India's Net Zero Portal and the NAPCC Dashboard at Mumbai on 16 September 2026, at the national celebration of the 32nd World Ozone Day.
- The Net Zero Portal lets Indian entities voluntarily register net-zero targets and disclose greenhouse gas emissions; Scope 1 and Scope 2 reporting is encouraged and Scope 3 reporting is voluntary.
- The NAPCC Dashboard consolidates implementation and indicator data for the National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change for inter-ministerial monitoring.
- The event also saw 248 Industrial Training Institutes adopted by 12 refrigeration and air-conditioning manufacturers through a four-party Memorandum of Agreement to train technicians in low-GWP refrigerants.
- India, a Party to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol since 1992, has met its 2015, 2020 and 2025 HCFC phase-out targets and ratified the Kigali Amendment in September 2021.

10. Banking & Finance

1 article

New UPI Framework: MDR of 0.4% Only on Merchant Payments Above Rs 2,000

15 Sep

- A new UPI framework applies a Merchant Discount Rate only to specified person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000; all person-to-person UPI transactions stay free irrespective of amount.
- The Ministry of Finance says about 96% of merchant transactions remain unaffected, because they are either below Rs 2,000 or covered by the zero-MDR framework for small merchants.
- The headline rate is 0.4% on P2M transactions above Rs 2,000, capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above; essential thin-margin sectors pay a flat Rs 5 and capital market payments 0.02%.
- MDR is neither a tax nor a charge collected by the Government or NPCI — it is shared among banks, payment service providers and UPI app providers.
- The framework was introduced under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 after deliberations by the UPI Steering Committee, and 5% of MDR collections will fund UPI adoption among small merchants.

11. Economy

2 articles

NHAI Puts 'OneTag' FASTag Portability on the Rajmargyatra App

17 Sep

- 'OneTag', a FASTag portability service, is now available on NHAI's Rajmargyatra app, letting users change their FASTag issuer bank without replacing the physical tag on the vehicle.
- The FASTag ID linked to the vehicle registration number stays unchanged after porting; the old issuer closes the wallet and refunds the balance after applicable adjustments.
- An interoperable FASTag carries a six-month cooling period before it can be ported again.

Cabinet Enhances EPFO Wage Ceiling to Rs 25,000, Widening Mandatory Social Security Cover

16 Sep

- The Union Cabinet approved raising the wage ceiling for mandatory EPFO coverage from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 a month, on a proposal of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- More than 51 lakh additional employees are expected to come within mandatory provident fund, pension and insurance cover.
- The revision takes effect on 17 September 2026; the ceiling had last been raised in September 2014 and stayed unchanged through 2004-2014.
- Annual government outgo is estimated at about Rs 11,339 crore against existing budgetary support of about Rs 10,250 crore, or roughly Rs 56,696 crore over five years.

12. National

1 article

MHA Declares Shahzad Bhatti Network a Terrorist Organisation Under UAPA

16 Sep

- The Ministry of Home Affairs declared the Shahzad Bhatti Network a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, announced by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on 16 September 2026.
- The Home Minister said the group smuggles arms, explosives and narcotics across borders and draws youths and petty criminals into terrorism.
- The syndicate was also accused of publishing hateful digital content aimed at India's democratic structure and communal harmony.
- The network was inserted at serial number 46 of the First Schedule of the UAPA, which carries the list of designated terrorist organisations.
- Designation is made by the Central Government under Section 35 of the UAPA by notification in the Official Gazette, without any prior charge, trial or conviction.

13. Polity & Governance

1 article

Six States Sign Kishau Multipurpose Project Agreement on Tons River

15 Sep

- The Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana signed the Kishau Multipurpose Project agreement, in the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil.
- A 232.6-metre-high concrete gravity dam will be built on the Tons River, which flows along the Uttarakhand-Himachal Pradesh border, with a storage capacity of 1,562 million cubic metres.
- The project has been declared a National Project: the Government of India will bear about 90% of the financial burden and the partner states the remaining 10%, in line with the 1994 basin agreement.
- It will irrigate 97,000 hectares and generate 1,476 million units of clean hydropower, with Delhi named the biggest beneficiary.
- The Government described it as the tenth inter-state water dispute settled since 2018, and said the agreement frees water for the Yamuna's environmental flow.