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22 Sep – 30 Sep 2026

SSC · BANKING · RAILWAY EDITION

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Tap a category to jump to it.

1. Sports

4 articles

46th Chess Olympiad: India Wins Open Silver, Women's Bronze and Gaprindashvili Trophy

28 Sep

- At the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (15-27 September 2026), India won silver in the Open section and bronze in the Women's section; the Prime Minister congratulated the players on 28 September.
- India also won the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy for the best combined Open and Women's result, its third in a row after Chennai 2022 and Budapest 2024.
- Uzbekistan won the Open (Hamilton-Russell Cup) and China the Women's section (Vera Menchik Cup).
- At the FIDE General Assembly held alongside, Kazakhstan's Timur Turlov was elected FIDE President with Viswanathan Anand as Deputy President.

NIMAS Team Makes First Recorded Ascents of 20 Unclimbed 6,000 m Peaks in Ladakh

25 Sep

- A 20-member NIMAS team made the first recorded ascents of 20 unclimbed peaks above 6,000 m in Ladakh, all in 23 days.
- The peaks lie in the Chamser-Lungser, Gyama Nala and Chokula areas. Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal led the team.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh flagged in the First Ascent Mountaineering Expedition in New Delhi on 25 September 2026.

65th Subroto Cup 2026: Minerva Public School, Mohali Win Junior Boys Title

24 Sep

- Minerva Public School (CISCE), Mohali won the Junior Boys (U-17) title at the 65th Subroto Cup International Football Tournament 2026. It beat MIC EMHSS, Kerala 3-2 in the final at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi.
- St Patrick's High School, Gumla (Jharkhand) won Junior Girls (U-17). Manik Para Vivekanand Vidyapeeth, Jhargram (West Bengal) won Sub-Junior Boys (U-15), with that final played in Bengaluru.
- Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff and Chairman of the Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society, presented the trophy. The winners received Rs 5 lakh and the runners-up Rs 3 lakh.

65TH SUBROTO CUP (2026): ALL CATEGORY RESULTS

Category	Champion	Runner-up	Final
Junior Boys (U-17)	Minerva Public School (CISCE), Mohali, Punjab	MIC EMHSS (Maqdoomiya Islamic Cultural English Medium HSS), Kerala	3-2, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi, 24 Sept 2026
Junior Girls (U-17)	St Patrick's High School, Gumla, Jharkhand	Springfield Higher Secondary School (NCC), Aizawl, Mizoram	Score not stated in the release
Sub-Junior Boys (U-15)	Manik Para Vivekanand Vidyapeeth, Jhargram, West Bengal	Kamrup Metropolitan Senior Secondary School, Assam	1-0, Subroto Football Ground, AFS Jalahalli, Bengaluru, 9 Sept 2026

Source: PIB release PRID 2314658. The Sub-Junior Boys score, venue and date are from contemporaneous reports; the release names Bengaluru only.

RECENT JUNIOR BOYS (U-17) CHAMPIONS

Edition (Year)	Champion
63rd (2024)	T.G. English School, Manipur
64th (2025)	Farook Higher Secondary School, Kerala (2-0 vs Amenity Public School)
65th (2026)	Minerva Public School, Mohali, Punjab (3-2 vs MIC EMHSS, Kerala)

Earlier editions from news reports; 2026 from the PIB release.

Asian Games 2026: Women's Cricket Wins India's First Gold; Suchika Tariyal Wins First MMA Medal

22 Sep

- India's women's cricket team won gold at the 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya 2026), beating Sri Lanka by 147 runs on 22 September. It was India's first gold of the edition.
- Suchika Tariyal won bronze in the women's traditional 60 kg event, India's first-ever Asian Games medal in mixed martial arts, which made its debut in 2026.
- It was India's second straight women's cricket gold after Hangzhou 2022; Sri Lanka took silver again and Pakistan won bronze.

CRICKET AT THE ASIAN GAMES: WOMEN'S GOLD

Edition	Host	Gold
2010	Guangzhou, China	Pakistan
2014	Incheon, South Korea	Pakistan
2022 (held 2023)	Hangzhou, China	India
2026	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan	India

Cricket was not held at the 2018 Jakarta-Palembang Games.

2. Awards & Honours

3 articles

Lalit Kala Akademi Names 20 Award Winners at 65th National Exhibition of Art

27 Sep

- The Lalit Kala Akademi named 20 artists for the Lalit Kala Akademi Awards at its 65th National Exhibition of Art (NEA).
- The exhibition drew 6,175 artworks from 2,495 artists in 27 States and UTs. A First-Tier Jury chose 270 works for display and a Second-Tier Jury picked the 20 award winners.
- The awards span painting (11), sculpture (6), drawing (1), printmaking (1) and another medium (1).
- The Lalit Kala Akademi, India's National Academy of Art, was inaugurated on 5 August 1954 and works under the Ministry of Culture.

ALL 20 LALIT KALA AKADEMI AWARD WINNERS, 65TH NEA

Artist	Awarded artwork	Medium	Category
Chandra Shekhar Sain	My Entire World - I	Terracotta	Sculpture
Gopal Chandra Naskar	The Tune of The Srimad Bhagavad Gita	Acrylic on canvas	Painting
Kishor Kumar Narkhadiwala	Paryavaran	Oil on canvas	Painting
Mrinal Dey	Hopeless Settlement	Acrylic on canvas	Painting
Nidhi Chopra	Tangible Dreams	Ceramic	Sculpture
Nimai Singh Sarungbam	Mudra - I	Teak wood	Sculpture
Pankaj Kumar Sharma	Haloed Traveler - II	Panel works	Drawing
Pooja Rajpoot	Prakriti Shoshan	White marble	Sculpture
Praveen Kumar	Where The Walls Remember	Mixed medium	Painting
Pritam Madhukar Deuskar	Of Time and The City	Etching	Printmaking
Rajendra Prasad	Sujata With Buddha	Watercolour (wash)	Painting
Ramesh Vithal Thorat	Untitled - II	Oil on canvas	Painting
Raviram Ramakrishnan	Fisherwoman	Copper, oxidised, welded	Sculpture

Artist	Awarded artwork	Medium	Category
Sanjay Kumar	When Memories Come Back - 7	Mixed media	Painting
Sanjay Kumar Sahani	Youth	Oil on canvas	Painting
Sanjib Kumar Gogoi	Aakar Nirankar - II	Acrylic and oil on canvas	Painting
Santa Deb	Attraction of Simplicity	Ceramic	Sculpture
Siddharth Shahjirao Shingade	Trees	Mixed media	Painting
Usharanjan Mandal	Wheel of A Crowded City	Mixed media	Any other medium
Vijendra Sharma	Life 2025	Oil on canvas	Painting

Source: Ministry of Culture release, 27 September 2026 (PRID 2315617). Complete list, in the release's alphabetical order.

India Ranks 10th at 48th WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 with 6 Silver, 20 Medals for Excellence

27 Sep

- India finished 10th at the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai (22-27 September 2026), winning 6 Silver Medals and 20 Medals for Excellence.
- This improves on 13th place at WorldSkills Lyon 2024, where India won 4 Bronze Medals and 12 Medals for Excellence.
- India sent its largest-ever contingent of 70 competitors across 63 skills and debuted in 11 new skill categories.
- Smriti Nambiar (Silver, Bakery) was named India's Best of Nation. NSDC coordinated the team under MSDE.

TEAM INDIA'S MEDAL WINNERS, SHANGHAI 2026

Skill	Competitor(s)
Silver Medal (6)	
Bakery	Smriti Nambiar (Best of Nation)
Dental Prosthetics	Mohammed Salam
Digital Interactive Media Design	Kovid Ajay Gangrade
Industrial Design Technology	Parth Vohra
Logistics and Freight Forwarding	Mehrunissa Begum
Retail Sales	Saniya Joshi
Medal for Excellence (20)	
Intelligent Security Technology	Ragul Kanthamma Balraj
Mechatronics	Deepu Mudigerepalya Srinivasa; Jayanth Kariyappa
Mobile Applications Development	Arjun Sumathi Vijayabashkar
Electrical Installations	Dhanush Madhugiri Govindaraju
Plastering and Drywall Systems	Surenthiran Mani
Painting and Decorating	Muskan
Autonomous Mobile Robotics	Aditya Prakash; Debasish Panda
Cabinetmaking	Yashwanth Chary Keshoju
Jewellery	Joy Das
Beauty Therapy	Tahesin Sabir Sutar
Fashion Technology	Vidhi Niravkumar Suthar
Automobile Technology	Md Seraj
Car Painting	Kaif Khan
IT Network Systems Administration	Khushraj Nimesh Rathod
Graphic Design Technology	Rajeeb Lochan Chand
Health and Social Care	Vishnupriya Sunil

Skill	Competitor(s)
Industry 4.0	Mallinath; Suhan Mascarenhas
Chemical Laboratory Technology	Sampada Desai
Additive Manufacturing	Pavan Bhadravati Suresha
Robot Systems Integration	Abhishek Somanna Shignalli; Vinay Muttayya Hiremath

Source: PIB release, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 27 September 2026. Team skills list two competitors.

President Confers 72nd National Film Awards at Ekta Nagar; Anant Nag Gets Dadasaheb Phalke Award

22 Sep

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 72nd National Film Awards and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2024 (on actor Anant Nag) at Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat on 22 September 2026.
- It was the first time the ceremony was held outside Delhi; 'Article 370' won Best Feature Film, and Mammootty and Kartik Aaryan shared Best Actor.
- Entries: 400 feature films in 34 languages and 161 non-feature films in 24 languages; 22 feature and 23 non-feature awards conferred.
- The I&B Ministry invited States to bid tourist destinations as future venues, and fixed the next WAVES summit for October 2027.

72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS: WINNERS NAMED IN THE RELEASE

Award	Winner	Film
Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2024)	Anant Nag	Lifetime contribution
Best Feature Film	—	Article 370
Best Actor in a Leading Role (shared)	Mammootty	Bramayugam
Best Actor in a Leading Role (shared)	Kartik Aaryan	Chandu Champion
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Yami Gautam	Article 370
Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Sanjay Mishra	Bhakshak
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (shared)	Sachana Namidass	Maharaja
Best Actress in a Supporting Role (shared)	Ropashree Varkady	Mithya
Best Direction	Rajkumar Periasamy	Amaran
Best Debut Film of a Director	Ravi Raj Murmu	Angen (Santhali)
Directorial debut recognised	Randeep Hooda	Swatantrya Veer Savarkar
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	—	Kalki 2898 AD
Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values	—	Captain Miller
Best Garhwali Film	Dinesh P. Bhonsle (director)	Dholi
Best Tulu Film	Shivadhwaj Shetty (director)	IMBU

Source: PIB releases of 22 September 2026. The release names only these awards and links out to the complete list of all 45 feature and non-feature awards; the full roster is not carried here.

THE LAST TWO EDITIONS

Edition	Ceremony	Venue	Dadasaheb Phalke Award
71st	23 September 2025	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi	Mohanlal (award for 2023)
72nd	22 September 2026	Ekta Nagar, Kevadia, Gujarat	Anant Nag (award for 2024)

Source: PIB; President's Secretariat.

3. Important Days

1 article

11th Ayurveda Day: First Ayush Services Sector Report and Ayush Vision 2030 Released at Nagpur

23 Sep

- The 11th Ayurveda Day was observed on 23 September 2026, with the national event at Nagpur, Maharashtra, on the theme 'Ayurveda for a Healthier Tomorrow'.
- The Ministry of Ayush released the first-ever report on the Ayush Services Sector, prepared by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), and 'Ayush Vision 2030'.
- Also launched: the CCRAS-AGNI Assessment Scale web portal, safety dossiers on Gokshura and Chandrasura, Standard Treatment Guidelines on skin disorders and a status report on Ayush-related inventions.
- Ayurveda Day has been fixed on 23 September since 2025; it was earlier observed on Dhanteras, a date that shifts every year.

4. Ranks & Reports

1 article

NSO Domestic Tourism Survey 2025-26: Pilgrimage Leads Overnight Trips, UP Top Destination

23 Sep

- The NSO's Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey (NSS 80th round, July 2025-June 2026) found that 48 of every 100 overnight trips in the past year were for pilgrimage and religious purposes. Uttar Pradesh took the largest share of visitor-trips (15.7%).
- Of overnight trips in the past 30 days, 89% were for social reasons, while business trips cost the most at Rs 5,949 per trip on average.
- Health and medical trips were the costliest of the 365-day trips: Rs 29,454 (rural) and Rs 41,649 (urban).
- Same-day trips rose from the 2014-15 survey: 65.1% of rural and 46.2% of urban households made at least one in the past 30 days.
- The findings are published as NSS Report No. 597, 'Domestic Tourism in India'. It is the third such NSS survey, after the 65th (2008-09) and 72nd (2014-15) rounds.

TOP DESTINATION STATES (SHARE OF VISITOR-TRIPS)

Rank	365-day overnight trips	30-day overnight trips
1	Uttar Pradesh 15.7%	Uttar Pradesh 15.5%
2	Tamil Nadu 13.4%	Bihar 10.5%
3	Rajasthan 8.0%	Tamil Nadu 9.6%

Source: MoSPI press note, DTES July 2025-June 2026. Only the top three are listed in the release.

5. Summits & Conferences

1 article

9th India International Water Week Opens on 'Climate Resilient Water Management'

22 Sep

- Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan opened the 9th India International Water Week (22-26 September 2026) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on the theme 'Climate Resilient Water Management'.
- He released the Sustainable Urban River Management (SURM) Framework and an AI/ML-driven Integrated Reservoir Sediment Management publication; five Urban River Management Plans were also launched.
- The Netherlands and Germany are partner countries, and the 2nd International WASH Conference is being held alongside.

6. Schemes & Committees

10 articles

PM-RKVY Sanctions of Rs 1,200 Crore to 10 States; Khet Bachao Abhiyan from 22 October

29 Sep

- A nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan will run from 22 October to 30 November 2026 to promote balanced, Soil Health Card-based fertiliser use; it was announced at the National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Campaign 2026.
- Sanction letters worth over Rs 1,200 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) went to 10 states, led by West Bengal (Rs 290 crore), Haryana (Rs 198 crore) and Chhattisgarh (Rs 181 crore).
- The Centre will procure 100% of the tur, urad and masoor offered at MSP, with payment within 48 hours.
- Monthly virtual Centre-state reviews and a fixed annual calendar of pre-season meetings (kharif: 10 and 17 May; rabi: 10 and 17 September) were announced.

PM-RKVY SANCTIONS BY STATE

State	Amount (Rs crore)
West Bengal	290
Haryana	198
Chhattisgarh	181
Arunachal Pradesh	154
Bihar	114
Karnataka	104
Mizoram	75
Himachal Pradesh	64
Jharkhand	58
Punjab	43

Source: PIB release, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. The release gives the total as 'more than Rs 1,200 crore'; the ten listed amounts add up to Rs 1,281 crore.

PRAGATI-50: MoHUA Names 50 Model Swachh Cities in 24 States Under SBM-U 2.0

29 Sep

- MoHUA launched PRAGATI-50, naming 50 model cities in 24 states to set a higher cleanliness benchmark under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, following the Prime Minister's directions at the 51st PRAGATI meeting.
- Progress will be tracked through a PRAGATI-like digital review mechanism on the Swachhatam Portal; Union Minister Manohar Lal will chair reviews every other month.
- MoHUA and CSIR-CMERI launched the Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre at Durgapur. A third startup cohort of 13 startups with SIIC, IIT Kanpur met the Mission's target of 75 startups.
- Guidelines for source segregation of municipal solid waste under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and an SOP for C&D waste secondary collection centres were released.

Literacy for All: PLFS 2025 Puts Literacy at 81.1%; 10 States/UTs Declared Fully Literate

29 Sep

- India's overall literacy rate is 81.1% as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025: urban 89% and rural 77.4% (age 7+).
- Ten States/UTs declared themselves fully literate in 2024-26 under ULLAS, against a new Ministry of Education definition that treats 95% literacy as full literacy.
- ULLAS has 4.03 crore registered learners and 52.20 lakh+ volunteers, against a target of 5 crore learners in 2022-27 (outlay Rs 1,037.90 crore).
- UDISE+ 2025-26: 24.72 crore+ students enrolled; secondary GER 71.7%, secondary dropout 7.0% and secondary retention 51.9%.
- Higher-education GER rose from 23.7% (2014-15) to 30% (2023-24), against NEP 2020's target of 50% by 2035.

DAHD Launches Livestock Insurance Portal Under the National Livestock Mission

28 Sep

- The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying launched the Livestock Insurance Portal (rashtriyapashubima.dahd.gov.in) on 28 September 2026 for the Livestock Insurance activity of the National Livestock Mission.
- The portal handles policy issuance, premium management, claims, beneficiary verification and real-time monitoring on one platform for farmers, states and insurers.
- More than 30 lakh animals have been insured under the scheme so far this year.

National Digital Tourism Stack and Dekho Apna Desh 2.0 Launched on World Tourism Day 2026

27 Sep

- On World Tourism Day (27 September 2026), the Ministry of Tourism launched the National Digital Tourism Stack. It is being built with ONDC and supported by ICDIA, and a pilot is planned for January 2027.
- It also launched the National Mission for Alternative Destinations, run as Dekho Apna Desh Campaign 2.0, to spread tourist demand from crowded destinations to tourism-ready, lesser-known ones.
- India Tourism Statistics 2026 was released, and five non-binding, non-financial MoUs were exchanged with Airbnb, FlixBus, Glance (InMobi Group), Eicher Group Foundation and MakeMyTrip.
- Visitor data from the Mission will be used to monitor footfall against each destination's assessed carrying capacity.

SHE-Mart Launched from Kollam: 300+ Women-SHG Cooperative Stores Planned in Three Southern States

26 Sep

- SHE-Mart, the women-SHG retail outlet initiative announced in Union Budget 2026-27, was launched from Kollam, Keralam, on 26 September 2026 with the 'Vanitham She-Mart Shops'.
- More than 300 She-Marts are planned across Keralam, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. They will sell local SHG products alongside Bharat Brand atta and rice.
- NCCF launched its 'Janah' brand at the same event. The Lakhpati Didi target is 6 crore women by 2029.

Arogya Manthan 2026: NHA Launches Secure Data Environment, Claims Auto-Adjudication as PM-JAY Turns 8

25 Sep

- At Arogya Manthan 2026 (Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, 25 September 2026), the National Health Authority launched the National Healthcare Providers Registry (NHPR) mobile app, a Secure Data Environment (SDE) and an Auto-Adjudication Framework for AB PM-JAY claims.
- The event marked eight years of AB PM-JAY (launched 23 September 2018) and five years of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (launched 27 September 2021).
- PM-JAY status: over 60 crore beneficiaries covered, over 13 crore hospital admissions, treatment worth more than Rs 2 lakh crore, and over 49 crore Ayushman Cards.
- ABDM status: more than 97.8 crore ABHAs, over 121 crore health records linked, 5.6 lakh+ health facilities and about 11 lakh healthcare professionals registered.
- The SDE, built with IISc Bengaluru, lets approved entities analyse de-identified PM-JAY and ABDM data inside an isolated NHA environment.

STATES AND UTS RECOGNISED AT AROGYA MANTHAN 2026

Programme	Category	Recognised
AB PM-JAY	Highest card saturation among ASHA, AWW and AWH beneficiaries (large State / small State / UT)	Andhra Pradesh / Sikkim / Jammu & Kashmir
AB PM-JAY	Top claim settlement for inter-State portability	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat
ABDM	Top-performing model districts, by district-population category	Bihar, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli
ABDM	Most sub-centres using ABDM-enabled HMIS (small State/UT / medium / large State)	Chandigarh / Assam / Uttar Pradesh

Source: PIB release, 25 September 2026.

DDU-GKY at 12: 18.47 Lakh Rural Youth Trained, 12.43 Lakh Placed; 2.0 Framework Explained

24 Sep

- DDU-GKY, the Ministry of Rural Development's placement-linked skilling scheme for rural youth aged 15-35, was launched on 25 September 2014 under DAY-NRLM and marks its 12th anniversary.
- Since 2014-15 it has trained over 18.47 lakh candidates in 800+ job roles and placed over 12.43 lakh. Over 9.71 lakh of those trained were women.
- DDU-GKY 2.0 (guidelines notified in May 2025) runs in 31 States/UTs through 749 projects and 760 training centres. Minimum placement is now six months, with 12 months of post-placement tracking.
- 647 RSETIs in 634 districts have trained 63.47 lakh people since 2009 and settled 45.60 lakh of them.

Cooperative Ride-Hailing Service Bharat Taxi Launched in Five Uttar Pradesh Cities

23 Sep

- Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing service, was launched in Uttar Pradesh on 23 September 2026 in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur and Prayagraj.
- In the six months since its February 2026 launch it has enrolled over 10 lakh drivers ('Saarthis'), handles about 20,000 rides a day and has credited more than Rs 100 crore to drivers.
- It runs on a 'Driver is the Owner' cooperative model with no commission taken from drivers' earnings.

Next Phase of UDAN: 21 State/UT MoUs Signed, Challenge Mode for Aerodromes Launched

22 Sep

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation signed 21 MoUs with States/UTs and the Airports Authority of India on 22 September 2026 to implement the next phase of UDAN (Modified UDAN).
- A Challenge Mode Portal now lets States/UTs nominate airstrips and helipads for development; a Scheme Document for the next round of UDAN route bidding was also released.
- Modified UDAN targets 120 new destinations and 4 crore more passengers over ten years; the Cabinet approved it on 25 March 2026 with Rs 28,840 crore for 2026-27 to 2035-36.
- Since 2016 UDAN has operationalised 687 routes and 95 aerodromes, with over 3.66 lakh flights carrying about 1.71 crore passengers.

7. Defence

6 articles

Second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise AIME-2026 Begins at Subic Bay, Philippines

30 Sep

- The second edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2026) began at Subic Bay, the Philippines, on 28 September 2026, with INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish representing India.
- The theme is 'Anchored in Trust, United at Sea'; a Harbour Phase of professional exchanges is followed by a Sea Phase of coordinated exercises.
- The first edition, AIME-2023, was co-hosted with Singapore in May 2023.
- The exercise is framed under India's Act East Policy and the MAHASAGAR vision.

India-Kazakhstan Exercise KAZIND-2026, 9th Edition, Begins at Oskemen

28 Sep

- The 9th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND is being held at Oskemen, Kazakhstan, from 28 September to 11 October 2026.
- India's 60-member contingent comes mainly from a Garhwal Rifles battalion, with Indian Air Force personnel.
- The focus is joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a UN mandate, including drones and counter-drone systems.

Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026: IAF Hosts Seven Air Forces at Jodhpur, 26 Sep-12 Oct

27 Sep

- Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026, the IAF's multilateral air exercise, runs at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 26 September to 12 October 2026 under the theme "Power in Partnership".
- Seven countries are participating: Australia, the USA, the UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Several others are observers.
- Foreign aircraft include the F-35 Lightning II, Rafale, F-16, A400M, MRTT, C-130, C-130J and KC-30A.
- This is the second edition. The first, in 2024, was India's first multinational air exercise and was held in two phases at Sulur and Jodhpur.

ICG Ship Shaunak Sails Chennai to Perth Under QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission

25 Sep

- Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaunak sailed from Chennai to Perth, Australia, on 25 September 2026 under the QUAD-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission.
- Six Sea Riders are aboard: two officers each from India and Japan, and one each from Australia and the United States.
- The deployment follows the Quad Foreign Ministers' Joint Statement of 26 May 2026. India links it to its MAHASAGAR maritime vision.

INS Trishul Reaches Toulon for 24th Edition of India-France Naval Exercise VARUNA

24 Sep

- The 24th edition of VARUNA, the bilateral naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy, is being held at Toulon, France. INS Trishul arrived on 22 September 2026.
- It includes harbour and sea phases: cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting events, aimed at interoperability.
- VARUNA began in 1993 and has carried its name since 2001. It is a pillar of the India-France Strategic Partnership of 1998.

IAF-Japan Air Exercise Veer Guardian 2026 Concludes at Jodhpur

22 Sep

- Veer Guardian 2026, the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), concluded at Air Force Station Jodhpur on 22 September 2026 after 14 days.
- The IAF fielded Su-30 MKI, Rafale and LCA Tejas; the JASDF flew the F-2A.
- JASDF Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita flew the Tejas on Distinguished Visitor's Day.

8. Science & Tech

2 articles

TRAI Launches Digital Connectivity Rating Platform to Rate Buildings' Connectivity

25 Sep

- TRAI launched the Digital Connectivity Rating (DCR) Platform (dcrp.trai.gov.in) and a field-testing mobile app for DCR agencies. The platform puts the rating of buildings for digital connectivity online, end to end.
- It puts into effect the TRAI (Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity) Regulations, 2024, as amended in 2026, and the Rating Manual 2026 issued on 9 June 2026.
- Consumers can search rated properties and verify each rating certificate through its QR code before buying or leasing.

TRAI Mandates Shorter-Validity Voice-and-SMS-Only Vouchers Under 13th TCPR Amendment

22 Sep

- TRAI notified the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulation, 2026, which requires operators to offer voice-and-SMS-only Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) at a reduced tariff across more validity periods.
- Voice-and-SMS STVs must now mirror every data-bundle validity of 30 days or less, include one renewable on the same date every month, and include at least one longer validity.
- It fixes a gap left by the 2024 Twelfth Amendment, after which operators offered only a few long-validity voice-SMS packs.

9. Environment

8 articles

Cabinet Approves Green Energy Corridor Phase-III: 135 GW Evacuation, 50 GWh Battery Storage

30 Sep

- The Union Cabinet approved Green Energy Corridor Phase-III (GEC-III) on 30 September 2026 to strengthen intra-state transmission for evacuating up to 135 GW of renewable energy.
- GEC-III also funds 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems; total outlay is Rs 1,86,405 crore with Central Financial Support of Rs 54,082 crore, to be set up by FY 2032-33.
- Greenfield lines will be bid out under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (BOOM model); State Transmission Utilities are the implementing agencies.
- The scheme is linked to India's target of 900 GW installed non-fossil capacity by 2035.

National Coastal Mission 2.0 Guidelines Launched: Rs 767 Crore Scheme Till 2030-31

30 Sep

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the implementation Guidelines for National Coastal Mission 2.0 (NCM 2.0) in New Delhi on 30 September 2026.
- NCM 2.0 is a Central Sector Scheme with an approved outlay of Rs 767 crore, running to 2030-31 across nine coastal States and four Union Territories.
- It subsumes the earlier National Coastal Mission (2021-22 to 2025-26) with effect from 16 May 2025.

- Largest component: Rs 250 crore for green coastal infrastructure on eroding coasts and for coastal zone and marine spatial plans covering about 1,000 km.
- A Project Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary, MoEFCC is the apex body; the Central Pollution Control Board is the Central Nodal Agency for funds.

NCM 2.0: WHERE THE RS 767 CRORE GOES

Component	Outlay (Rs crore)	Indicative implementing agency
1. Climate Resilient Blue Economy Growth (Rs 320 crore)		
Climate-resilient, environment-friendly coastal tourism infrastructure	100	NCSCM / State-UT governments
Pollution abatement, monitoring and control (deep sea discharge studies)	70	CPCB
Coral reef development and management	50	Zoological Survey of India with NCSCM
Marine Research, Conservation & Information Centre cum Oceanarium, Somnath (gap funding)	100	MoEFCC / Government of Gujarat / GEER Foundation
2. Coastal Vulnerability and Risk Reduction (Rs 250 crore)		
Green Coastal Infrastructure for highly eroding coastlines: criteria, guidelines, demonstration projects	250 (with the row below)	NCSCM
ICZMP and CMSP for about 1,000 km of coastline	Included above	NCSCM
3. Climate Change Adaptation with Mitigation Co-benefits (Rs 82 crore)		
Andaman & Nicobar Islands: biosphere management and climate action	62	A&N Forest and Environment Department
Conservation of coastal (sea water) dolphins	20	MoEFCC Wildlife Division / Wildlife Institute of India
4. Capacity Building and Outreach (Rs 15 crore)		
Environmental education, capacity building and awareness	15	MoEFCC
5. Project Management and Preparatory Expenses (Rs 100 crore)		
Committed liability from ENCORE (Enhancing Coastal and Ocean Resource Efficiency)	70	NCSCM / MoEFCC
Administrative and operational expenses including MIS	30	MoEFCC / NCSCM or other agency

Source: NCM 2.0 Implementation Guidelines, MoEFCC, September 2026. Figures are indicative; the Project Steering Committee may reapportion within Rs 767 crore with the Minister's approval.

New CAFE Norms Notified for 2027-32: Fuel Benchmark to Tighten 16.7% in Five Years

30 Sep

- The Ministry of Power notified new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) norms for passenger vehicles on 30 September 2026, in force from 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2032.
- The fuel-consumption benchmark tightens every year, from 3.996 litres/100 km in 2027-28 to 3.3273 litres/100 km in 2031-32 — about 16.7%.
- The reference weight rises from 1,082 kg to 1,229 kg and the target line is flattened: softer for lighter cars, stricter for heavier ones.
- A new Carbon Neutrality Factor credits ethanol blends, biofuels and CBG; recognised fuel-saving technologies go from four to twelve; EVs, hybrids and flex-fuel vehicles earn super credits.
- Manufacturers selling fewer than 1,000 units a year stay exempt; credits can be carried forward, traded, or bought from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

India's First PRAMAAN Certificates Issued Under Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme

29 Sep

- The first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) went to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) for 33,000 hectares of plantations and to Govind Mohapatra, a farmer linked to the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency; Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav presented them in New Delhi.
- PRAMAAN stands for Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of sustainable Management practices for Agroforestry And Natural forestry resources. It is the brand of the IFWCS, which MoEFCC launched in December 2023 and which IIFM Bhopal operates.
- Certification rests on independent audit by bodies accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) of the Quality Council of India; forest management certification is assessed against the Indian Forest Management Standard in the National Working Plan Code 2023.
- The scheme is pitched as India's answer to deforestation-free sourcing rules in export markets, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation.

At FAO's COFO 28 in Rome, India Reports 21.76 Million Hectares Under Bonn Challenge Restoration

28 Sep

- At COFO 28 (FAO Committee on Forestry, Rome, 28 September-2 October 2026), India reported 21.76 million ha brought under restoration against its Bonn Challenge target of 26 million ha by 2030.
- India cited forest and tree cover of 82.74 million ha (25.17% of its area) and FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 ranks: 9th in forest area, 3rd in net annual forest gain.
- It showcased the Aravalli Green Wall (about 6.45 million ha of degraded land identified), MISHTI mangroves, 101 Ramsar sites and 3.5 billion+ saplings under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.

6th Cycle of Tiger Reserve Management Evaluation Covers All 58 Reserves, Adds Solid Waste Criterion

25 Sep

- The 6th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation of Tiger Reserves (MEE-TR 2026) began on 25 September 2026. For the first time it covers all 58 Tiger Reserves.
- MEE-TR 2026 adds 'Solid Waste Management' as a separate criterion. It covers waste from forest chowkis, from tourism and biomedical waste from wildlife rescue centres.
- The NTCA runs the exercise with the Wildlife Institute of India, using a framework adapted from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. The Technical Manual for MEE 2026 was released at the inception workshop.
- Earlier cycles, held every four years from 2006 to 2022, assessed 28, 39, 43, 50 and 51 reserves. In 2022 Periyar (Kerala) scored highest, at 94.38%.

MEE CYCLES SO FAR

Cycle	Year	Tiger Reserves evaluated
1st	2006	28
2nd	2010	39
3rd	2014	43
4th	2018	50
5th	2022	51
6th	2026 (launched 25 Sep)	58, all reserves

Source: PIB release, 25 September 2026.

9th India International Water Week Ends; Groundwater Recharge Up From 432 to 448.52 BCM

25 Sep

- The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW) 2026, themed 'Climate Resilient Water Management', concluded on 25 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (22-25 September). The Ministry of Jal Shakti organises it.
- It drew 7,224 delegates, 227 exhibitors and 119 paper presentations, with two partner countries and 14 partner States/UTs. Recommendations across seven thematic areas were adopted.
- Total annual groundwater recharge rose from 432 BCM (2017) to 448.52 BCM (2025), per the PIB backgrounder.
- Released at the close: the 1st Census of Springs, 2nd Census of Water Bodies, 7th Minor Irrigation Census, 1st Census of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects, and CWC's Irrigation Atlas.

Project Rhino Launched on World Rhino Day to Support Rhino Range States

22 Sep

- On World Rhino Day (22 September 2026), the Prime Minister announced Project Rhino, which gives range states financial and technical support for rhino protection, habitat management, genetic improvement and population studies.
- Assam holds nearly 80% of the world's greater one-horned rhinos, and Kaziranga's anti-poaching work was singled out.
- Rhinos are back or well protected in parts of Bihar and West Bengal, and the reintroduction at Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh) was called a success.

10. Banking & Finance

1 article

CGTMSE Credit Guarantee Goes Live on TReDS: 75% Cover on MSE Invoice Discounting

25 Sep

- CGTMSE credit guarantee cover is now available on three TReDS platforms, M1xchange, RXIL and DTX (KredX), under a Special Provision announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
- Both buyer and seller must be Micro or Small Enterprises. The guarantee covers 75% of the amount in default.
- Maximum exposure is Rs 10 crore for an MSE buyer and Rs 2 crore for an MSE seller, on a revolving basis.
- Invoice discounting on TReDS grew from Rs 40,000 crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs 3.5 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

11. Economy

5 articles

Rabi MSP for 2027-28: Safflower Gets Highest Rise of Rs 675, Wheat Rs 2,610

30 Sep

- The CCEA on 30 September 2026 fixed MSPs for all six mandated Rabi crops for Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28; wheat MSP is Rs 2,610 per quintal (up Rs 25).
- Safflower got the highest absolute increase (Rs 675 to Rs 7,215), followed by rapeseed & mustard (Rs 413) and lentil (Rs 390).

- Margin over cost is highest for wheat (106%) and lowest for safflower (50%), meeting the 2018-19 Budget norm of at least 1.5 times cost.
- Wheat procurement in 2014-15 to 2025-26 totalled 3,715 LMT against 2,254 LMT in 2004-05 to 2013-14.

MSP FOR RABI CROPS, RMS 2027-28 (RS PER QUINTAL)

Crop	MSP 2027-28	Cost of production 2027-28	Margin over cost (%)	MSP 2026-27	Increase
Wheat	2,610	1,264	106	2,585	25
Barley	2,286	1,447	58	2,150	136
Gram	5,958	3,751	59	5,875	83
Lentil (Masur)	7,390	3,854	92	7,000	390
Rapeseed & Mustard	6,613	3,367	96	6,200	413
Safflower	7,215	4,810	50	6,540	675

Source: CCEA release, 30 September 2026. Cost includes all paid-out costs plus imputed value of family labour (A2+FL).

ASI 2024-25: Factory GVA Up 9.59%, Jobs Cross 2 Crore; Tamil Nadu Has Most Factories

30 Sep

- The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2024-25, released by MoSPI on 30 September 2026, shows Tamil Nadu with the most factories (41,221) and the largest share of factory employment (14.99%), while Maharashtra leads in Gross Value Added (15.92%).
- GVA of the registered manufacturing sector rose 9.59% to Rs 26.94 lakh crore; industrial output rose 7.81%.
- Total persons engaged grew 7.19%, from 1.96 crore to 2.10 crore — more than 14 lakh added — and emoluments grew 12.08%.
- Establishments rose 2.64% to 2.67 lakh; fixed capital grew 10.54% and invested capital 11.10%.
- Basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and food products together gave more than 45% of manufacturing GVA.

TOP FIVE STATES

State	ASI 2023-24	ASI 2024-25
Share of GVA		
Maharashtra	15.95	15.92
Gujarat	14.20	14.10
Tamil Nadu	10.26	10.90
Karnataka	7.47	7.31
Uttar Pradesh	6.80	6.64
Share of total persons engaged		
Tamil Nadu	15.24	14.99
Maharashtra	12.95	13.08
Gujarat	13.07	12.99
Uttar Pradesh	8.30	8.72
Haryana	6.08	6.44

Source: MoSPI press note on ASI 2024-25, Tables 1 and 2.

FIVE-YEAR TREND

Indicator	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Factories (number)	2,50,454	2,49,987	2,53,334	2,60,061	2,66,931
Total persons engaged (crore)	1.61	1.72	1.85	1.96	2.10
GVA (Rs lakh crore)	16.17	20.48	21.97	24.58	26.94

Indicator	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Output (Rs lakh crore)	88.09	119.27	144.87	153.27	165.24
Fixed capital (Rs lakh crore)	36.94	37.26	41.22	46.24	51.12
Net profit (Rs lakh crore)	6.14	9.51	9.76	10.73	11.56

Source: MoSPI press note on ASI 2024-25, Table 3. Value figures converted from Rs lakh and rounded to two decimals.

World Tourism Day 2026: Tourism Is 5.22% of India's GDP, 428.55 Crore Domestic Visits in 2025

26 Sep

- World Tourism Day is observed on 27 September; the 2026 theme is "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism", with El Salvador hosting the official celebrations.
- A PIB backgrounder put tourism's share of India's GDP at 5.22% and its employment at 8.46 crore jobs in 2023-24, up from 6.94 crore in 2019-20.
- Domestic Tourist Visits reached 428.55 crore and Foreign Tourist Visits 2.53 crore in 2025; foreign exchange earnings from tourism rose to Rs 2,76,831 crore.
- India's own celebration at Bharat Mandapam is to launch a National Digital Tourism Stack and Dekho Apna Desh 2.0.

Customs Duty on Crude Edible Oils Cut: Sunflower to Nil, Soybean and Palm to 5%

24 Sep

- The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude sunflower oil was cut from 10% to nil, and on crude soybean oil and crude palm oil from 10% to 5%, announced on 24 September 2026.
- BCD on the corresponding refined oils was also lowered, but the 19.25% import-duty gap between crude and refined edible oils was kept to protect domestic refiners.
- The aim is to lower landed costs after a sharp rise in international edible oil prices and to contain food inflation.
- Industry was advised to cut its Price to Distributors (PTD) and Maximum Retail Price (MRP) at once so that consumers get the benefit.

Make in India at 12: Official Figures on Electronics, Defence, PLI and New Manufacturing Schemes

24 Sep

- Make in India, launched on 25 September 2014, completes 12 years. It now covers 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0: 15 in manufacturing and 12 in services.
- Electronics production grew nearly sevenfold, from about Rs 1.9 lakh crore (2014-15) to Rs 13.11 lakh crore (2025-26). Mobile-phone output grew about 32-fold.
- Indigenous defence production reached a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26, up from Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15.
- PLI schemes in 14 sectors had drawn Rs 2.6 lakh crore of investment and created 14.6 lakh jobs as of June 2026. Cumulative FDI for 2014-15 to 2025-26 was USD 843 billion.
- New schemes: Semicon 2.0 (Rs 1,27,500 crore), Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (Rs 62,500 crore), BHAVYA (Rs 33,660 crore, 100 industrial parks) and the rare-earth magnet scheme (Rs 7,280 crore).

12. National

3 articles

Amit Shah launches Extradition Portal at PRAHAAR counter-terrorism strategy conference

28 Sep

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a new Extradition Portal on 28 September 2026 to speed up bringing back fugitives from abroad.
- He launched it at the 'PRAHAAR – CT Policy and Strategy' conference in New Delhi, which reviewed the seven pillars of India's national counter-terrorism policy.
- 288 fugitives were brought back to India from 36 countries between 2019 and 2026.
- Action against the Shahzad Bhatti Network: over 40 modules busted, over 100 FIRs and 350 arrests across 15 states. MHA has declared the network a terrorist organisation under UAPA.
- Next steps: a PRAHAAR mechanism for the next 10 years, reaching down to police-station level, and dedicated state police teams to track fugitives.

India's First LNG-Powered Train Flagged Off from Sabarmati; WAG-12 Shed and Kavach Section Opened

27 Sep

- India's first LNG-powered train was flagged off from Sabarmati Railway Station, Ahmedabad, on 27 September 2026, alongside railway projects worth Rs 1,472 crore.
- A WAG-12 locomotive maintenance shed built for Rs 700 crore was opened, and Kavach went live on the Sabarmati-Kalol-Sabarmati section (Rs 48 crore); Kavach work began on Ahmedabad-Palanpur and Ahmedabad-Samakhiali.
- Railway electrification now stands at 99.6% of the network, and diesel use fell from 293 crore litres (2015-16) to 108 crore litres (2024-25).
- A trial of the first long-haul double-stack container train from JNPT (Mumbai) to Vadodara was reported completed.

PBSHABD: Prasar Bharati's Free News Feed Reaches 3,600 Media Organisations

24 Sep

- PBSHABD (Prasar Bharati - Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination) is Prasar Bharati's free news feed. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting launched it on 13 March 2024.
- It serves 3,600 registered media organisations with text, video, audio, photos and infographics in 15 Indian languages. Access is free up to March 2027.
- It grew out of the Prasar Bharati News Service (PBNS), which until 2024 was an internal wire for Akashvani and Doordarshan.

13. International

3 articles

Second UN High-Level Meeting on Pandemics: India Presses for Fair Pathogen Benefit-Sharing

26 Sep

- The second UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response met in New York on 25 September 2026 and adopted a political declaration. The first was held in 2023.
- India, represented by Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, said the declaration must not prejudge the ongoing negotiations on the PABS annex of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. It should be implemented according to national circumstances.
- India asked for digital public infrastructure to be treated as a global public good. It cited its COVID-19 record: 300 million vaccine doses to about 100 countries and two UN entities, and medical help to more than 150 countries.

India Co-Hosts OneSCD Sickle Cell Partnership Launch at UNGA81; Showcases UHC, Hepatitis Progress

24 Sep

- India co-hosted the launch of OneSCD, a global partnership to advance equity and transform Sickle Cell Disease care, on the sidelines of UNGA81 in New York. Partners include Nigeria, WHO, UNICEF, Africa CDC, the World Coalition on SCD and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- Under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (2023, goal: elimination by 2047), 7.29 crore people have been screened, over 20 lakh carriers and 2.5 lakh patients identified, and 4.93 crore Sickle Cell Cards distributed.
- Since the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme began in 2018, about 225 million people have been screened, with 1,039 treatment centres. The target is to eliminate Hepatitis B and C as public health threats by 2030.
- At the 7th ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends of UHC & Global Health, Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava cited 1.8 lakh+ Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, 900 million+ health IDs and 497 million+ e-Sanjeevani teleconsultations.

23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation in Manila Reviews AITIGA; Trade at USD 128.38 Billion

24 Sep

- India took part in the 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation and the 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS-EMM) in Manila, Philippines, where the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) review was the main agenda item.
- Official figure: India-ASEAN bilateral trade reached USD 128.38 billion in 2025-26, and ASEAN accounted for 10.55% of India's total global trade.
- India wants the AITIGA review to leave the agreement balanced, more effective, user-friendly and trade facilitative, and to address existing trade asymmetries.
- All 11 ASEAN members took part, including Timor-Leste, which was admitted as ASEAN's 11th member in October 2025. The EAS partners attended as well.

14. Polity & Governance

2 articles

UPSC Turns 100: From the 1926 Public Service Commission to Articles 315-323

30 Sep

- The Union Public Service Commission completes 100 years on 1 October 2026; India's first Public Service Commission was constituted on 1 October 1926 with Sir Ross Barker as Chairman. Its two-day centenary celebration, 'Manthan', opened at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 30 September 2026.
- Lineage: Government of India Act, 1919, then the Lee Commission (1924), the Public Service Commission (1926), the Federal Public Service Commission (1 April 1937) and the UPSC (26 January 1950).
- Part XIV, Articles 315-323 of the Constitution governs the Commission; Members are appointed by the President and can be removed for misbehaviour only after a Supreme Court inquiry.
- Chairman Dr Ajay Kumar set out three guiding principles (Trust, Transparency and Technology) and proposed a Centre of Excellence to work with State Public Service Commissions.
- Applications rose from 42,727 in 1950-51 to a peak of 45,10,044 in 2022-23; women were 299 of the 958 candidates recommended in the Civil Services Examination 2025 (31.2%).

THEN AND NOW

Indicator	Then	Now
Applications, all examinations and selections	42,727 (1950-51)	45,10,044 (2022-23, the peak)
Indians in the ICS	78 of 1,255 officers (1919)	625 Indians to 575 Europeans (1940), the first majority
Examination centres	8 (1950)	86 (2026)
Women recommended, Civil Services Examination	3 of 83 (1952)	299 of 958 (2025); 11 of the top 25 ranks
SC candidates recommended, CSE	9 (1955)	158 (2025)
ST candidates recommended, CSE	2 (1956-57)	73 (2025)
PwBD candidates recommended, CSE	3 (2002)	42 (2025)
Disciplinary cases advised on	53 (1950-51)	446 (2023-24)

Source: PIB Backgrounder, 30 September 2026 (PRID 2316840).

UIDAI Launches Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0 on 17th Aadhaar Day

29 Sep

- On the 17th Aadhaar Day (29 September 2026), UIDAI launched Face Authentication for ePDS, SWIK Portal 2.0, a Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) framework, a Token Management System and a revamped website at 'Aadhaar Samvaad' in Kolkata.
- Face Authentication for ePDS, built with the Department of Food and Public Distribution and NIC, gives ration beneficiaries a consent-based, contactless alternative where fingerprints fail.
- SWIK Portal 2.0 lets eligible non-government entities send proposals for Aadhaar authentication under the Good Governance framework directly to the concerned ministry.
- The LITE framework lets low-volume users authenticate through an existing AUA/KUA without building their own infrastructure.