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Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments



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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

(16th October, 2026 – 31st October, 2026)

Executive Summary

This document tracks the various key economic and policy decisions made by the Central Government between **16th October, 2026 and 31st October, 2026**. Some of the important announcements and policy updates are as follows:

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. **High-Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat Constituted:** The Ministry of Finance constituted a four-member High-Level Committee chaired by Suresh N. Patel to recommend comprehensive structural, regulatory, and legislative reforms for the banking sector. Over a six-month tenure, the panel will review commercial, regional rural, and cooperative banking frameworks, capital requirements, and priority-sector lending norms, alongside drafting a roadmap to safely integrate artificial intelligence and digital innovations.

B. **RBI Aligns Leverage Ratio Framework With Basel III:** The Reserve Bank of India issued the Eleventh Amendment Directions, 2026, effective 1st April 2027, setting a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4.0% for D-SIBs and 3.5% for other commercial banks. The framework overhauls exposure calculation across balance-sheet assets, SFTs, cash pooling and off-balance sheet items, incorporates SA-CCR for derivatives and mandates standardised Pillar 3 quarterly disclosures.

C. **PLI Scheme for Textiles Threshold Halved and Round 4 Portal Reopened:** The Ministry of Textiles modified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles and reopened applications for Round 4 from 1st November to 31st December 2026. The minimum turnover requirement under Part 2 was reduced from ₹200 crore to ₹100 crore to enable wider participation by MSMEs and mid-sized manufacturing units in Man-Made Fibre and Technical Textiles, alongside extending the scheme tenure up to FY 2033–34 for new applicants.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. **Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) worth ₹ 10,000 Crore Approved:** The Union Cabinet approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme with an outlay of nearly ₹ 10,000 crore to establish India as a global cargo container manufacturing hub. The scheme earmarks ₹ 8,891 crore in production-linked assistance, ₹ 859 crore for interest subvention on capital loans, and ₹ 150 crore for domestic testing and certification facilities, reducing reliance on foreign container imports and strengthening export logistics.

Executive Summary

B. **Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026 Notified:** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notified the statutory sandbox framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, enabling companies, startups, and research institutions to live-test emerging telecom technologies and business models. The framework allows operational trials for up to 24 months with targeted regulatory exemptions and user safeguards, through the Telecom eServices Portal.

C. **Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026 Notified to Modernise Civil Aviation Governance:** The Ministry of Civil Aviation notified comprehensive rules coming into force on 1st January 2027, incorporating Article 83 bis of the Chicago Convention on cross-border aircraft leasing and aligning deregistration with the Cape Town Convention, with IDERA applications to be acted on within five working days. The framework overhauls type certification, flight crew standards, air traffic controller licensing, and maintenance engineer qualifications across seven distinct licence categories.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. **National Social Security Boards Constituted for Informal and Gig Workers:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment formally notified the statutory National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers and the National Social Security Board for Gig and Platform Workers under the Code on Social Security, 2020. Chaired by the Union Labour Minister and including aggregators, trade unions, and civil society representatives, the boards establish a dedicated oversight mechanism to formulate and monitor welfare and social security delivery.

B. **Trade Margins Capped at 30% for 137 Anti-Cancer Formulations:** The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) imposed a 30% trade margin ceiling on 137 non-scheduled oncology drugs, spanning targeted therapies and immunotherapies, effective from 9th November 2026. The regulatory intervention eliminates excessive supply-chain markups to substantially lower out-of-pocket cancer treatment expenses while statutorily mandating manufacturers to maintain production volumes.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. **DAC Approves ₹ 2.12 Lakh Crore Capital Acquisition Proposals to Modernise Armed Forces:** The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement proposals aggregating ₹ 2.12 lakh crore across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Approximately 82% of the total acquisition value is earmarked for domestic industry under indigenous design and manufacturing categories, covering advanced artillery, air-defence systems, anti-drone technologies, UAVs, and naval decoys.

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B. **Domestic Counter-Terrorism Sanctions Aligned with Updated UNSC Framework:** The Ministry of External Affairs notified the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism (Implementation of Security Council Resolutions) Fifth Amendment Order, 2026, updating domestic sanctions designations to match revised United Nations Security Council lists for ISIL, Al-Qaida, and the Taliban. The update ensures accurate cross-border enforcement of asset freezes, travel restrictions, and arms embargos across financial and law enforcement agencies.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 7,395 Crore Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY):** The Union Cabinet approved PM VGSY for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 with a total outlay of ₹ 7,395.55 crore to transform over 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats into self-sustaining local governance hubs. The scheme integrates governance capacity-building with AI-enabled planning via the PANCHAM platform and digital financial oversight through AuditOnline.

B. **Comprehensive Opium Poppy Cultivation and Licensing Policy Notified for Crop Year 2026–27:** The Ministry of Finance issued statutory licensing conditions and demarcated cultivation tracts across Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand under the NDPS Rules, 1985. The policy establishes distinct minimum qualifying yield thresholds for gum extraction and un-lanced poppy straw, securing domestic active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for pain-management medicines while preventing illicit diversion.

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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. Government Constitutes High Level Committee On Banking For Viksit Bharat - Ministry of Finance

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source**: PIB

The Government has constituted the High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat, chaired by Suresh N. Patel, to recommend structural, regulatory, and legislative reforms for Viksit Bharat 2047, following the Union Budget 2026–27 announcement. The four-member committee includes Shirish Chandra Murmu, Padmaja Chunduru, and N. S. Vishwanathan. **Over a six-month tenure**, it will review banking practices, RRB/cooperative frameworks, capital requirements, PSL norms, and draft a roadmap for AI and digital innovation with cybersecurity safeguards to enhance credit availability, financial inclusion, and competitiveness.

2. Government Modifies PLI Scheme For Textiles To Reduce Minimum Turnover Threshold And Reopens Portal For Round 4 – Ministry of Textiles

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB

The Ministry has modified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles and reopened the application portal for Round 4, which will accept new applications from 1st November to 31st December 2026. The minimum turnover requirement under Part 2 of the scheme has been reduced from ₹200 crore to ₹100 crore. Additionally, the scheme's tenure has been extended to FY 2033–34 exclusively for Round 4 applicants, and existing participants from earlier rounds who have not yet claimed incentives are permitted to migrate to this new round. The reduced turnover threshold aims to **enable greater participation by MSMEs** and mid-sized manufacturing units in the Man-Made Fibre (MMF) and Technical Textiles segments, while the extended tenure provides a longer horizon for businesses to establish and scale up their manufacturing capacities.

3. Ministry Of Mines Notifies Mineral (Auction) Third Amendment Rules, 2026 To Rationalise Critical And Deep-Seated Mineral Auctions – Ministry of Mines

Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has amended the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, to streamline auctions for critical and strategic minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements. The revised rules allow auctions to proceed with at least two qualified bidders instead of three, or proceed if between two and five qualify, preventing repeated cancellations and delays. Additionally, lowering bidder thresholds speeds up exploration and production, securing **vital domestic supply chains** for batteries, electric vehicles, and clean energy while reducing reliance on imports.

4. **SEBI rationalises KYC review periodicity for Foreign Portfolio Investors - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI
   SEBI rationalised the periodicity of Know Your Customer (KYC) reviews for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), extending the existing review intervals from one year to two years and from three years to eight years, depending on the applicable category and criteria. The 10-year review cycle for SWAGAT-FI FPIs and existing relaxations for Government Securities FPIs (GS-FPIs) remain unchanged. The revised framework also discontinues the separate confirmation of changes to previously submitted information at the time of continuation of registration. The measures, effective from **1st December 2026**, seek to reduce repetitive compliance requirements and ease the regulatory burden on FPIs, thereby improving the ease of doing business and the investor experience.

5. **RBI Amends Capital Adequacy Norms To Align Basel III Leverage Ratio Framework For Commercial Banks – Reserve Bank of India**
   Status: Notified | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** RBI
   The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Eleventh Amendment Directions, 2026, effective 1st April 2027, aligning the domestic leverage ratio framework with Basel III 2017 standards to prevent excessive balance-sheet leverage and deleveraging risks. The framework sets a minimum Tier 1 leverage ratio of 4.0% for D-SIBs and 3.5% for other commercial banks, while imposing capital constraints and buffer requirements on Indian branches of G-SIBs. It overhauls exposure calculation methodologies across balance-sheet assets, SFTs, cash pooling, and off-balance sheet items, incorporates SA-CCR for derivatives, and mandates standardized Pillar 3 quarterly disclosures.

6. **SEBI relaxes call-record maintenance requirements for Research Analysts dealing with institutional investors - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI
   SEBI has relaxed call-recording requirements for registered Research Analysts (RAs) and Research Entities (REs) during interactions with institutional clients, updating Master Circular guidelines under the amended SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014 with effect from **8th November 2026**. Aimed at reducing compliance burdens for RAs and REs while maintaining client safeguards, the exemption applies strictly to institutional investors. Interaction records for all other clients including prospective ones must still be retained for at least five years using verifiable means like physical records, emails, or call recordings.

B. Announcements

1. **India And New Zealand Sign Memorandum Of Cooperation (MoC) On Electronic Origin Data Exchange Under Bilateral FTA – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: PIB
   The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the New Zealand Customs Service signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to electronically exchange trade-origin data under the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), effective 20th October, 2026. The system digitally verifies **Certificate of Origin details**, replacing paper documentation to prevent false origin claims and verify preferential tariff eligibility. This aims to reduce paperwork, speed up customs clearance, and lower cargo holding costs for businesses, while stronger digital checks prevent the misuse of preferential duties.

2. **Department Of Commerce Extends RELIEF Initiative Under Export Promotion Mission To Protect Exporters – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry extended Component II of the Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) initiative through 31st March 2027 to protect Indian exporters from rising freight and insurance risks in West Asia and the Gulf. It offers 95% risk coverage for non-energy shipments and caps insurance premiums at pre-disruption levels. This measure **helps exporters** of textiles, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods offset geopolitical shipping disruptions and maintain export orders.

3. **India and Mexico Sign Terms of Reference (ToR) To Launch Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) Negotiations – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: PIB
   India and Mexico have signed the Terms of Reference (ToR), formally setting the scope and process for negotiating a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The negotiations will cover tariffs, market access for goods, rules of origin, customs procedures, dispute settlement, food and plant safety standards, technical regulations and trade remedies. Both countries aim to expand trade and strengthen supply chains in sectors such as **automobiles, pharmaceuticals, electronics, chemicals, medical devices, energy and critical minerals**. The negotiations aim to improve market access for Indian car and auto-component exporters selling to Mexico, while lowering the cost of importing Mexican crude oil, electrical equipment and precious metals into India, benefiting Indian manufacturers and energy buyers.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. Cabinet Approves ₹ 10,000 Crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS) To Establish India As A Global Hub – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB

The Union Cabinet has approved the Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme (CMPS), with an outlay of nearly ₹ 10,000 crore, to expand domestic shipping container production and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. The scheme provides **₹ 859 crore for a 3% annual interest subsidy** on eligible manufacturing loans and ₹ 8,891 crore in production-linked assistance for containers manufactured to global standards and sold by eligible Indian manufacturers. Another ₹ 150 crore will support domestic testing and certification facilities, reducing the need to send prototypes abroad and ₹ 100 crore for administration and capacity building. The scheme intends to reduce reliance on imported shipping containers, including those sourced from major manufacturing hubs such as China, while creating demand for Indian steel, container components and marine-grade materials, increased domestic production aims to strengthen the availability of containers for Indian exporters and reduce supply-chain disruptions in shipping and logistics.

2. DoT Notifies Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026 To Foster Live Testing And Commercialisation – Ministry of Communications

Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notified the Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026, allowing companies, startups, and researchers to **test new telecom technologies and business models** in real-world settings. Testing can run for up to 24 months, with extensions of up to 12 months, supported by targeted regulatory exemptions in consultation with TRAI. Participants must obtain user consent and submit final reports. The framework provides telecom innovators with a time-bound regulatory environment to validate technologies and business models before commercial deployment, while allowing the Government to assess associated risks and outcomes. Based on the results, the Government may permit continuation under revised conditions, direct closure or allow steps towards commercial deployment in accordance with applicable laws.

3. DoT Notifies 'Telecom eServices Portal' For Digital Implementation Of Regulatory Sandbox Framework – Ministry of Communications

Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry designated the Telecom eServices Portal as the official platform for implementing the Telecommunications (Regulatory Sandbox) Rules, 2026. Applicants must use the portal to submit proposals, upload trial reports, pay the

non-refundable ₹ 10,000 fee, respond to queries, track compliance, and receive testing approvals. The platform will also publish general project details, approved applicants, and participant lists while **protecting** sensitive commercial data and intellectual property. This single-window portal **streamlines the sandbox framework**, reduces paperwork, and improves operational transparency for telecom entities testing new technologies.

4. **TRAI Mandates Short-Duration Voice And SMS Only Tariff Option For Telecom Consumers – Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) finalised the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, mandating telecom service providers to offer Voice-and-SMS-only Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs). The rules require providers to offer standalone voice and SMS vouchers matching all validity periods of 30 days or less, monthly-renewable options, and at least one longer-duration option. The measure expands affordable choices for low-income consumers and users who do not require data bundles.

5. **Government Notifies Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026 To Modernise Civil Aviation Governance And Align Global Aircraft Standards – Ministry of Civil Aviation**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026 coming into force on 1st January 2027. The comprehensive rules incorporate Article 83 bis of the Chicago Convention to regulate cross-border aircraft leasing, charter, and interchange agreements, and align domestic deregistration processes with the Cape Town Convention and Protocol, requiring the Central Government to act on Irrevocable De-registration and Export Request Authorisation (IDERA) applications within five working days. The framework overhauls type certification, flight crew standards, air traffic controller licensing, and aircraft maintenance engineer qualifications across seven distinct licence categories (A, B1, B2, B2L, B3, L, and C). The statutory modernisation reduces legal ambiguity, enhances aviation safety compliance, and improves commercial certainty for international aircraft lessors and Indian airline operators.

6. **MoRTH Amends Central Motor Vehicles Rules To Facilitate E85 And E100 Flex Fuel Vehicles – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to establish emission certification requirements for flex-fuel vehicles running on E85 (85% ethanol blended with petrol) and E100 (pure or predominantly ethanol). The changes allow manufacturers to certify vehicles specifically designed to use these

high-ethanol fuels, with compatible fuel systems and engine controls. Existing E10 and E20 compatible vehicles cannot automatically use E85 or E100, and owners are not required to modify their vehicles. Drivers must follow the fuel compatibility information in their vehicle manuals and labels. The new rules aim to **create demand** for domestically produced ethanol and encourage investment in flex-fuel vehicle manufacturing, while greater use of ethanol in compatible vehicles intends to reduce India's reliance on imported crude oil.

7. **MoRTH Strengthens Vehicle Safety Standards And Simplifies Driving Licence Services - Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH)**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   MoRTH updated vehicle safety standards and driving licence services to reduce crashes and streamline administration. Between 2027 and 2032, passenger and transport fleets must phase in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), crash-testing upgrades, Event Data Recorders, and pedestrian-impact testing. Additionally, SARATHI portal services were simplified, replacing chip-based cards with standardised PVC driving licences containing emergency medical QR codes. These reforms **improve road safety** through preventive technology while speeding up hospital treatment decisions and lowering processing costs.

8. **Ministry Of Power Notifies Key Transmission Schemes Under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) Mode - Ministry of Power**
   Status: Notified | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified new transmission projects under the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) framework, appointing REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL) as the bid-process coordinator. The projects include **increasing capacity** at the 765/400 kV Dharamjaigarh substation and installing synchronous condensers at the Bhadla-III and Ramgarh substations to **improve grid stability**. The guidelines mandate space-saving transmission structures in urban and semi-urban areas to address right-of-way constraints, with routes finalized via the PM Gati Shakti portal. These projects aims to boost transmission capacity, improve grid stability for growing power demand and renewable energy flows from Rajasthan, and reduce land and right-of-way challenges in densely developed regions.

9. **Government Notifies Overhauled Merchant Shipping (Wreck and Salvage) Rules 2026 - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has replaced the Merchant Shipping (Wreck and Salvage) Rules, 1974, with a revised framework for the management of maritime wrecks and salvage operations. The new rules establish shipowners' responsibilities for wreck removal,

require insurance or financial security to cover liabilities, and introduce formal arrangements for marine pollution response. The rules **strengthen accountability** for wreck removal and improve preparedness for marine pollution incidents. Salvage rewards will consider both the value recovered and efforts to prevent environmental damage. Salvors who prevent or reduce pollution but earn no reward may receive special compensation of up to 100% of their expenses, encouraging faster action to protect coastal ecosystems.

B. Announcements

1. **ISRO Successfully Launches GSLV-F18 Carrying NVS-03 to Strengthen India's NavIC Navigation System - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**
   Source: PIB
   ISRO has successfully launched GSLV-F18 carrying the NVS-03 satellite, marking a further step in strengthening **NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)**, the country's indigenous satellite navigation system. The mission is intended to enhance NavIC's capabilities and strengthen India's self-reliance in critical space and navigation technologies. The satellite is expected to support the continued development of navigation services for civilian applications and other users. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated ISRO's scientists and engineers on the successful launch. The mission advances India's indigenous satellite-navigation infrastructure and reduces dependence on foreign navigation systems. Enhanced NavIC capabilities can strengthen the reliability and availability of positioning and navigation services for users in India and the region.

2. **TDB-DST Inks ₹ 150 Crore RDI Support Agreement With QNu Labs To Develop Sovereign Quantum-Secure And Sensing Technology Stack – Ministry of Science & Technology**
   Source: PIB
   The Technology Development Board (TDB) DST signed an agreement to provide ₹ 150 crore to QNu Labs to develop and deploy sovereign quantum security and sensing technologies. The funding supports quantum-secure communications, encryption, and sensing for **defence, power grids, telecom, and financial systems**. Domestic development reduces reliance on foreign critical technology suppliers, strengthens cyber defenses against quantum threats, and accelerates deep-tech research into commercial deployment.

3. **TRAI Releases Draft Guidelines For Responsible Use of AI In Telecommunications - Ministry of Communications**
   Source: TRAI
   The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 30th October 2026, released draft Guidelines on Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Telecommunication Networks and Provision of Telecommunication Services for public consultation until 27 November 2026. The initiative aims to align sector practices with the February 2026 India AI Governance Guidelines, enhancing clarity, predictability, and accountability across critical telecom infrastructure. By establishing a formal AI governance framework, TRAI seeks to **guide service providers and developers**, strengthening regulatory oversight and public trust as AI adoption expands across essential connectivity services.

4. **C-DAC And Bank Of India Sign MoU To Advance Indigenous Quantum Technologies For Banking – Ministry of Electronics & IT**
   Source: PIB
   The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Bank of India (BOI) signed an MoU, to explore quantum technologies for banking. The partnership will test quantum-safe cybersecurity and quantum-inspired solutions through pilot projects, alongside applications of artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain in **document processing, credit assessment, fraud detection, digital identity verification and secure data sharing.** It will also support training in quantum computing, cybersecurity and responsible AI. The partnership will help banks prepare for future quantum-related cyber threats while improving fraud detection and credit assessment, and developing indigenous technologies will reduce reliance on foreign solutions for secure financial systems.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 1,856 Crore Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme To Build Globally Competitive Industrial Ecosystems – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Union Cabinet approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme (₹ 1,856.67 crore outlay, 2026 to 2033–34) to establish dedicated Sports Goods Manufacturing Zones integrating producers, MSMEs, design centres, and testing hubs. To reduce import dependence and expand domestic production, the scheme allocates ₹ 1,130 crore for investment and turnover-linked incentives, ₹ 105 crore for international certifications, and additional funds for R&D Centres of Excellence. Its cluster-based approach and assistance for existing manufacturing units aim to **strengthen MSME participation**, increase domestic value addition and reduce

reliance on imported sports equipment, while improving the capacity of Indian manufacturers to meet international quality standards and access export markets. MSMEs.

2. **The Ministry of Labour and Employment Constitutes National Social Security Board for Unorganised, Gig and Platform Workers - Ministry of Labour & Employment**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has notified the statutory **National Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers** and the **National Social Security Board for Gig and Platform Workers** under the Code on Social Security, 2020. Chaired by the Union Labour Minister, the Boards include representatives from government, aggregators, employers, unions, and worker associations. Meeting at least three times annually, they are tasked with advising, recommending, and monitoring targeted welfare schemes and fund expenditures. This institutional mechanism ensures structured oversight to effectively translate statutory social security protections into tangible benefits for informal and platform workers.

3. **MYAS Issues Revised Operational Guidelines For Scheme Of Assistance To National Sports Federations (NSFs) – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry revised the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (FY 2026–27 to 2030–31) with an outlay of ₹ 7,386.74 crore to **boost athlete preparation, infrastructure**, and governance ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games and India's proposed 2036 Olympic bid. Up to ₹ 50 crore is provided to host international tournaments, along with support for specialised Olympic Training Centres, traditional Indian sports, and expanded National Games funding. Linking grants to transparent governance and medical support enhances accountability, athlete readiness, venue usage, and local tourism.

4. **Government Amends Drugs Rules To Mandate Minimum Residual Shelf-Life Standards For Imported Pharmaceuticals And Biologics – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source**: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Drugs (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending Rule 31 of the Drugs Rules, 1945, with immediate effect. The revised second proviso prohibits licensing authorities from allowing the import of any drug with a residual shelf-life of less than one year as on the date of import. For biological drugs and radiopharmaceuticals, which inherently possess shorter stability windows, the amendment permits import provided at least 60% of the labelled shelf-life remains valid upon arrival. The statutory standard prevents the domestic dumping of

near-expiry pharmaceutical products while establishing a predictable, differentiated regulatory regime for temperature-sensitive biologics and short-lived medical isotopes.

5. **NPPA Caps Trade Margins At 30% For 137 Anti-Cancer Drugs - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The NPPA capped trade margins at 30% for 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, including targeted therapies, immunotherapies, and **patented drugs unless exempted**. Effective 9th November, 2026, manufacturers must revise retail prices based on the first sale price to stockists/distributors plus GST, or hospital invoice prices for direct supplies. This move aims to curb excessive mark-ups, lower out-of-pocket costs for cancer patients, and standardise hospital billing, with NPPA and state authorities monitoring compliance.

B. Announcements

1. **CGPDTM And Ministry Of Ayush Release Status Report Highlighting Eightfold Growth In Ayush Patent Filings (2014–2026) – Ministry of Ayush**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry of Ayush and the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks in October 2026 released a report tracking Ayush inventions from 2014 to 2026. Annual patent applications surged eightfold from 63 (2014–15) to 590 (2025–26), recording **4,077 applications and 711 patent grants** overall. The enhanced patenting and research validation help safeguard new discoveries from traditional knowledge, while the TKDL prevents inappropriate patenting.

2. **PM-AJAY Declares 18,093 Villages As Adarsh Grams And Releases ₹ 1,730 Crore - Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**
   Source: PIB
   Under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY), 18,093 villages with >=50% SC population from FY 2021–22 to 2025–26 were declared Adarsh Grams to improve local infrastructure and living standards. The Ministry released ₹ 1,730 crore for skill training, livelihoods, asset creation, and 785 hostels, directly benefiting over 2.5 lakh people. These measures enhance rural basic services, raise household incomes, and **reduce accommodation barriers** to higher education for SC students.

3. **FSSAI Proposes Ban On Added Sucrose And Fructose In Food Products For Infants Up To Six Months – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
   Source: PIB
   The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed prohibiting the addition of sucrose and fructose to infant food products intended for babies up to six months old. The draft amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020, was published on 16th October, 2026, for public consultation over 60 days. The proposed restriction applies to **infant formulas and other covered products for babies under six months**, existing rules for products intended for older infants remain unchanged. If approved, the amendment will require manufacturers to reformulate affected products and review their ingredients and quality-control processes. It will limit early exposure to added sugars and align infant food standards with recommendations favouring exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months.

4. **CCPA Directs District Collectors To Enforce Guidelines Against Misleading Coaching Advertisements – Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)**
   Source: Mint
   The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed District Collectors and Magistrates across all States and Union Territories to enforce compliance with guidelines against misleading advertisements by coaching institutes. As part of a nationwide crackdown, district authorities have been instructed to conduct regular inspection drives, monitor promotional claims, and channel students' grievances for timely redressal. The decentralised enforcement mechanism empowers local administration to take direct action against false claims, exaggerated success rates, and unfair trade practices, improving the reach and speed of consumer-protection interventions in the education sector.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. **MEA Notifies Prevention And Suppression Of Terrorism Fifth Amendment Order, 2026 To Align UNSC ISIL/Al-Qaida And Taliban Sanctions Lists – Ministry of External Affairs**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The MEA notified the Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism (Implementation of Security Council Resolutions) Fifth Amendment Order, 2026, to align India's domestic sanctions lists with UNSC decisions. The amendment removes seven entries from the ISIL/Al-Qaida sanctions list, updates identity details for one individual, and revises records for five individuals on the Taliban list. These updates ensure **accurate enforcement** of asset freezes, travel restrictions, and arms

embargoes by financial institutions and enforcement agencies, mitigating risks associated with outdated information.

2. **DAC Approves ₹ 2.12 Lakh Crore Capital Acquisition Proposals To Modernise Armed Forces – Ministry of Defence**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth ₹ 2.12 lakh crore to modernise the armed forces. Key procurements include artillery, air defence systems, anti-drone tech, and UAVs for the Army; indigenous platforms and anti-missile decoys for the Navy; and air defence systems, helicopters, and weather radars for the Air Force. With **82% of the procurement value** sourced from Indian industry, these decisions aim to enhance surveillance and defence capabilities while boosting indigenous defence manufacturing and reducing import dependency.

B. Announcements

1. **India And Poland Announce Key Strategic Outcomes On Trade Target 2030, CDRI Accession, Defence Dialogue, And Counter-Terrorism Cooperation – Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   India and Poland agreed to double bilateral trade by 2030 across engineering, pharmaceuticals, digital technology, and green equipment during the Polish Prime Minister's visit to New Delhi. Poland also joined the India-led Coalition for **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**. Furthermore, both nations established a Defence Industry Dialogue for joint production and maintenance, alongside regular counter-terrorism and intelligence-sharing talks. This partnership expands market access for businesses in key sectors, boosts regional security coordination, and strengthens global cooperation on resilient infrastructure.

2. **Ministry of Defence Signs ₹ 770 Crore Contract With BEL To Procure Improved Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLR-I) – Ministry of Defence**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry signed a ₹ 770 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for Improved Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLR-I) for the Indian Army. The radars track low-flying aircraft, cruise missiles, and small drones in difficult mountainous and high-altitude terrain to help identify and prioritise aerial threats. Production will involve domestic suppliers and MSMEs to **strengthen indigenous radar manufacturing and reduce dependence** on foreign technology.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 7,395 Crore Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY) To Transform Gram Panchayats Into Hubs Of Local Governance – Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB

   The Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY) for 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹ 7,395.55 crore (₹ 4,869.48 crore central, ₹ 2,526.07 crore state) to transform over 2.55 lakh Panchayats into local governance hubs. Implemented via annual Gram Panchayat Development Plans on eGramSwaraj, the scheme provides capacity-building for 32 lakh representatives and uses the AI-enabled PANCHAM platform in 17 languages alongside AuditOnline. This initiative aims to **align rural spending with local needs**, improve infrastructure grant utilization, and enhance transparency and community decision-making.

2. **Ministry Of Finance Notifies Comprehensive Opium Poppy Cultivation And Licensing Policy For Crop Year 2026-27 - Ministry of Finance**

   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India

   The Ministry has issued three notifications under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Rules, 1985, setting out the licensing conditions and approved cultivation areas for opium poppy for the 2026–27 crop year. Cultivation is permitted in notified areas of **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**. Separate eligibility criteria apply to farmers growing poppy for opium gum extraction and those growing it for un-lanced poppy straw, including minimum yield requirements and limits on the area permitted under each licence. The policy aims at improving the reliability of legal opium production for pharmaceutical use by encouraging licensed cultivation and more consistent crop yields. Clear licensing conditions aim to help farmers plan cultivation and income, while stronger oversight can reduce diversion into illegal channels and support the regulated supply of opium-based medicines.

3. **Government Updates Approved Seed Varieties and Regional Cultivation Zones - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

   Status: Notified | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India

   The Ministry has amended orders under the Seeds Act, 1966, to expand the list of approved seed varieties and regional cultivation zones across northern, central, southern, and eastern India. The updates recognize new varieties of pulses, rice, sugarcane, and biofortified maize to **improve nutritional value and crop productivity**. By expanding access to climate- and region-suited seeds, the decision helps farmers boost yield, enhances regional agricultural planning, and strengthens national food and nutritional security.

B. Announcements

1. ICAR-CIRCOT Signs MoU For Commercial Technology Transfer Of Protective Gloves For Cotton Harvesters – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Source: PIB

The ICAR–Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology (ICAR-CIRCOT), Mumbai, signed an MoU with ARS Rubber Private Limited, to commercialise protective gloves for cotton-picking workers. The reusable gloves are designed to protect workers' hands from cuts and injuries caused by sharp cotton bracts while remaining durable, flexible and comfortable during harvesting. Commercial production of these gloves will **improve safety** for cotton pickers, reduce hand injuries during manual harvesting and help private manufacturers bring **affordable, locally developed protective equipment** to agricultural workers.

Annexure–I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Finance, Taxation And Trade

1. **RBI's daily money market operations indicate continued net liquidity absorption between 22nd and 25th October 2026**

   Source: RBI

   The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported net liquidity absorption across its operations between 22nd and 25th October, 2026. The net position, including outstanding operations, reflected absorption of ₹ 31,254.95 crore on 22nd October and ₹ 39,082.95 crore on 25th October. Overnight money-market transactions stood at ₹ 7.15 lakh crore and ₹ 7.09 lakh crore on 22nd and 23rd October, respectively, with weighted average rates of 5.66% and 5.74%; no transactions were reported in the listed money-market segments on 24th and 25th October.

2. **APEDA Facilitates Maiden Export Consignment Of Organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder From Tamil Nadu To Bulgaria – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**

   Source: PIB

   The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first export of 1.755 metric tonnes of organic palmyra jaggery powder from Gobichettipalayam, Tamil Nadu, to Bulgaria via Chennai Port. The export opens a new market for Tamil Nadu's palmyra jaggery industry, increasing demand for palmyra sap processing and creating better income opportunities for traditional jaggery producers.

3. **CCI Clears Seven Corporate Combinations Across Healthcare, Financial Services, Telecommunications, Energy and Consumer Services**

   Source: CCI

   The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** cleared seven proposed acquisitions and mergers to enable corporate consolidations and investments across key sectors. The approved deals include Maybach Asia Holdings II Pte. Ltd.'s acquisition of 100% of Sahrudaya Health Care Private Limited (28 hospitals with ~4,800 beds), Integrace Private Limited's share acquisition in Universal Nutriscience Private Limited, MIH Payments Holdings B.V.'s stake in Navi Limited, Vega SAS's 16.2% stake acquisition in Vodafone Group PLC, Aditya Birla Renewables Limited's 100% acquisition of Solenergi Power Private Limited, Adani Energy Solutions Limited's 100% acquisition of IntelliSmart Infrastructure Private Limited, and the merger of Sapphire Foods India Limited into Devyani International Limited. These approvals cover transactions that enable the proposed corporate consolidations and investments to proceed subject to applicable requirements.

4. **Ministry of Finance Designates Special PMLA Courts In Rajasthan And Karnataka – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended its 2016 order under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, to designate Special Courts and clarify their jurisdiction in Rajasthan and Karnataka. The notifications assign cases to specific courts based on district boundaries and High Court jurisdiction, with certain courts in Jaipur handling only cases transferred to them by the Rajasthan High Court. The revised court arrangements will help **distribute money-laundering cases more systematically**, reduce jurisdictional confusion and support more efficient case handling. Clearer allocation of cases will also improve coordination between courts and enforcement agencies, strengthening the administration of anti-money-laundering proceedings.

5. **India And Belgium–Luxembourg Economic Union Hold 19th Joint Economic Commission Session to Deepen Trade and Investment Cooperation - Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: PIB
   The 19th India–Belgium–Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission session took place in Luxembourg on 29 October 2026 to review trade relations and enhance economic cooperation. The session addressed logistics, renewable energy, financial services, digital transformation, healthcare, Ayurveda, and agro-food processing, while exploring future ties in **aerospace, R&I, higher education, and skill development**. Concurrently, the Indian Commerce Secretary engaged Luxembourg-based firms to foster investment and technology partnerships. This institutional platform addresses trade concerns and facilitates bilateral investment, supporting India's integration into European value chains.

6. **DGFT Amends Handbook Of Procedures, 2023 To Expand PSIC Exemptions For Metallic Waste And Scrap At 11 Sea Ports And ICDs – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has expanded Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate (PSIC) exemptions for imported metallic waste and scrap originating from USA, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, EU by adding Hazira, Kamarajar, and Adani Gangavaram sea ports. This takes the total to 11 eligible ports alongside ICDs. Mandatory radiation and explosive screenings, plus supplier certificates, remain compulsory. This step **streamlines raw material access**, cuts paperwork and inspection delays for metal recyclers, and simplifies inland cargo clearance while preserving safety standards.

7. **CBDT Exempts International Rice Research Institute From Specified Income Tax Provisions - Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), has **exempted payments** received by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) from tax deduction and collection provisions under the Income-tax Act, 2025. The exemption is subject to the conditions of the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947, and aligns with earlier directions from the Ministry of External Affairs. The exemption **reduces tax-related compliance requirements** for eligible payments to IRRI, supporting its research and institutional activities in India.

8. **DFS Launches Nationwide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign Across 2.70 Lakh Gram Panchayats And ULBs – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: PIB
   The Department of Financial Services (DFS) will conduct a financial inclusion campaign across 2.70 lakh Gram Panchayats and ULBs from 21st October to 31st December, 2026. Local bank camps will assist citizens in opening bank accounts, updating KYC and nominations, enrolling in insurance and pension schemes, and recovering unclaimed assets. Additionally, the drive will expand **Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs)** for PM-KISAN families, promote Rabi crop insurance, and raise awareness about digital payment fraud. This initiative aims to extend banking, pension, and seasonal credit coverage to underserved rural and urban households while safeguarding citizens against financial fraud.

9. **NICDC Launches Bihar Integrated Manufacturing City Gaya Limited (BIMCGL) With ₹ 4,200 Crore Initial MoUs – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: PIB
   The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) and Government of Bihar launched the Bihar Integrated Manufacturing City Gaya Limited (BIMCGL) to build an Integrated Manufacturing Cluster across 1,670 acres in Dobhi, Gaya, under the Amritsar–Kolkata Industrial Corridor. Formed as a 50:50 joint venture between BIADA and NICDIT, 12 MoUs worth ₹ 4,200 crore were signed across 300 acres to generate ~16,095 jobs. The project will **attract manufacturing investment** by offering ready industrial land, boost job creation in food processing, auto parts, and pharma, and drive demand for local suppliers and logistics while enhancing regional trade access.

10. **Basic Customs Duty Exemption On Cotton Imports Until 31st December 2026 - Ministry of Finance**

Source: PIB

The Ministry has extended the existing customs duty exemption on cotton imports by two months, from **31st October 2026 to 31st December 2026**. The extension aims to augment domestic cotton availability, address specialised raw-material requirements and ease input-cost pressures for textile and apparel manufacturers, including **MSMEs**. The measure is intended to support manufacturing competitiveness and value addition across the textile value chain, while the Government continues to balance the industry's requirements with the interests of domestic cotton farmers. The extension provides short-term relief to cotton-dependent manufacturers by improving access to imported raw material at competitive prices. Its continuation beyond December 2026 will depend on any subsequent government notification.

11. **RBI Removes Limits On Non-Option Derivative Contracts For Commercial And Small Finance Banks – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

Source: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Miscellaneous) Second Amendment Directions, 2026 and the Reserve Bank of India (Small Finance Banks - Miscellaneous) Amendment Directions, 2026, coming into force immediately on 19th October 2026. The regulatory deletion eliminates standalone, prescriptive exposure ceilings on non-option derivatives, granting commercial and small finance banks greater operational latitude to hedge interest rate, currency, and balance-sheet risks. This rationalisation streamlines treasury compliance and aligns derivative exposure controls with broader prudential market-risk and counterparty credit frameworks.

12. **ESIC Enhances Funeral Expenses Benefit To ₹ 20,000 Under Code On Social Security, 2020 – Ministry of Labour & Employment**

Source: Gazette of India

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has increased the funeral expenses benefit for insured workers from the earlier applicable amount to a fixed ₹ 20,000. The amount is payable to the deceased worker's dependents or the person who bears the funeral expenses. The enhanced benefit takes effect retrospectively from 8th May, 2026, under the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Social Security (Central) Rules, 2026. The higher benefit will provide **additional financial support** to families dealing with a worker's death, helping them cover funeral costs and reducing immediate financial pressure during that time.

13. **IFSCA Notifies Financial Soundness Criteria For Payment System Operators In The IFSC – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
Source: IFSCA
The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has notified the financial soundness criteria for existing and prospective Payment System Operators (PSOs) within the GIFT IFSC. The framework sets out **specific minimum net-worth thresholds** for different categories of payment systems: Trade Receivables Discounting Systems (TReDS) must maintain a minimum net worth of USD 1 million, Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) issuers require USD 0.2 million, and Trade Repositories (TRs) must maintain net worth equivalent to at least one year's operating costs, calculated half-yearly. Large Value Payment Systems (LVPS) and Card Payment Networks are mandated to maintain a "sound financial status". Existing PSOs are granted a six-month compliance window, after which they must submit annual statutory auditor certificates confirming adherence to the prescribed criteria. The requirements ensure adequate capitalisation and financial resilience for payment infrastructure entities operating within the offshore jurisdiction.

14. **Cabinet Approves 3% Increase In Dearness Allowance (DA) And Dearness Relief (DR) For Central Government Employees And Pensioners – Ministry of Finance**
Source: PIB
The Union Cabinet has approved a 3-percentage-point hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) **from 60% to 63%** of basic pay/pension, effective retrospectively from 1st July, 2026, as per the 7th CPC formula. Benefiting 48.54 lakh employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners (1.17 crore total), it entails an annual expenditure of ₹ 10,016.10 crore. This revision increases monthly pay and pensions to offset rising living costs, while stimulating household consumption economy-wide.

15. **Department Of Revenue Extends Duty-Free Raw Sugar Import Window Under TRQ – Ministry of Finance**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry has extended the deadline for duty-free raw sugar imports under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) scheme from 31st October to 31st December, 2026. The extension applies to the existing quota of 10 lakh metric tonnes and allows eligible importers and refiners to complete customs clearance without paying standard import duties, subject to the scheme's conditions. The two-month extension gives sugar importers and refiners more time to bring in raw sugar, **helping maintain domestic supplies** and potentially ease wholesale price pressures if additional imports reach the market.

16. **SEBI Proposes Automatic Approval Route For Market Infrastructure Institutions To Invest In Related Activities – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
Source: SEBI
SEBI issued a consultation paper proposing an automatic approval route for stock exchanges and depositories to deploy funds and undertake related operational activities without prior approval. Under the proposal, eligible activities include initiatives directed by SEBI, internal share transfers between MII subsidiaries, fund deployments from operating subsidiary profits, and investments in entities regulated by other financial sector regulators. To streamline procedural bottlenecks and maintain ring-fencing, eligible activities include SEBI-directed initiatives, internal subsidiary share transfers, and investments in regulated entities, capped at the lower of 5% of net worth or statutory minimum net worth.

17. **CBIC Revises CGST Rules On GST Registration, E-Invoicing And ITC Refunds - Ministry of Finance**
Source: Gazette of India
The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notified amendments to the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Rules, 2017, covering **e-commerce supplier registration, e-invoicing, registration cancellation, and input tax credit (ITC) refunds**. Suppliers selling via e-commerce platforms can now register platform warehouses as their place of business under specified conditions, including platform consent, a ₹ 2.5 lakh monthly tax liability limit on supplies to registered persons, and Aadhaar biometric verification. The rules also tighten return-filing compliance and update ITC refund calculations and documentation. To be implemented in phases between November 2026 and April 2027, the changes simplify platform operations for small e-commerce sellers, curb non-compliance, and require businesses to adapt their accounting procedures for revised ITC claims.

18. **SEBI Waives Real-Time Margins On Subsequent Cash Market Positions Up To Early Pay-In Value – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
Source: SEBI
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed Clearing Corporations to waive, on a real-time basis, margin collection from Trading and Clearing Members on subsequent buy or sell positions of clients in the cash segment, up to the value of accepted Early Pay-In (EPI) of securities. Under the framework, where a client has a net sell obligation and the EPI block request is successfully accepted, the available EPI value is credited as margin on the same trade date. If a client subsequently squares off the sale position, the EPI benefit will be immediately withdrawn and any resultant margin shortfall will be blocked from the member's proprietary collateral. Coming into force four months from issuance, the measure prevents double-margining and unblocks client liquidity for same-day

trading, enhancing trading efficiency and lowering working capital friction for retail and institutional investors.

19. **Ministry Of Finance Notifies New Synthetic Narcotics And Penal Thresholds Under The NDPS Act 1985 - Ministry of Finance**
Status: Notified | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
The Ministry amended the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 to bring additional high-potency synthetic substances under strict penal and regulatory control. N-pyrrolidino isotonitazene and N-desethyl etonitazene were classified as manufactured drugs, while MDMB-FUBINACA was added as a psychotropic substance. Commercial quantity thresholds were established at **0.085 grams, 0.025 grams, and 0.125 grams**, respectively. These clear legal benchmarks empower law enforcement to prevent synthetic drug circulation, eliminate enforcement loopholes, and ensure effective prosecution of trafficking offences.

20. **Government Imposes Anti-Dumping Duty On Titanium Dioxide Imports From China – Ministry of Finance**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry has imposed an anti-dumping duty on titanium dioxide imported from China for five years. The duty ranges from US$ 460 to US$ 681 per metric tonne, depending on the producer. Certain specialised grades used in food additives, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, textiles and products with particles smaller than 100 nanometres are excluded. The notification also withdraws the previous anti-dumping duty order. The duty will **improve the competitiveness** of domestic titanium dioxide producers by making covered imports from China more expensive. At the same time, Indian manufacturers that rely on imported titanium dioxide as a raw material may face higher production costs, potentially affecting prices in sectors such as paints, coatings and plastics. The overall impact will depend on the availability and pricing of domestic alternatives.

B. Ease Of Doing Business And Regulatory Affairs

1. **NSDC Lists On NSE Social Stock Exchange To Fund Skill Training For Rural Youth - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
Source: PIB
The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has listed on the National Stock Exchange's Social Stock Exchange (SSE) to raise funds through **Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds**. The initiative has an estimated outlay of ₹ 11.25 crore, including a ₹ 4 crore investment from NABARD, with funding from development finance, philanthropy and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The funds will support specialised training for 600 rural youth from Other Backward Classes (OBC) in Madhya Pradesh to improve their access to overseas employment. The initiative

also includes third-party social audits and impact monitoring. The listing creates a regulated channel for CSR and development funding to support skill training, with the aim of connecting rural youth to overseas jobs while improving transparency and tracking of employment outcomes.

2. **Government Dispatches Maiden 'Kanda Express' Consignment To Agartala To Enhance Onion Availability In North-East – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**
   Source: PIB
   The Department of Consumer Affairs dispatched its first 'Kanda Express' railway consignment carrying around 440 tonnes of buffer-stock onions to Agartala, Tripura. The shipment is intended to improve regional availability and moderate price increases during the festive season.

2. **SEBI Extends Compliance Timeline For Digital Accessibility Audits And Remediation To January 2027 – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has extended the deadline for Regulated Entities to comply with key provisions of its Digital Accessibility framework. The timeline for appointing an IAAP-certified auditor, conducting an accessibility audit of digital platforms, and remediating the audit findings has been deferred to 31st January 2027, following representations from industry stakeholders. The extension provides stock exchanges, depositories, and registered intermediaries additional time to complete technical audits and implement necessary digital accessibility features for persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, without altering the underlying regulatory requirements.

3. **IBBI Amends Corporate Insolvency Regulations To Mandate Project-Wise Accounts And Strengthen Homebuyer Protections – Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**
   Source: IBBI
   The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in October 2026 notified the CIRP (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, to reform real estate insolvency resolution and protect homebuyers. The rules mandate separate project bank accounts, enforce RERA fund-utilisation compliance, and require independent technical and cost assessments before inviting EOIs. Additionally, the CoC can vote (66% threshold) to exclude completed, occupied projects from CIRP, while homebuyers and RERA nominees gain monitoring committee representation. These measures curb cross-project fund diversion, facilitate project-wise resolution, and enable expedited possession handovers.

4. **CBIC Mandates Reverse Charge And TDS On Waste And Scrap Sectors And Rationalises Agricultural GST Rates – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified a comprehensive package of GST rate revisions and compliance mandates, effective from 1st November 2026. To integrate the informal circular economy and curb input tax credit evasion, the government has introduced the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) on supplies of used cooking oil, plastic waste, tyre scrap, and electronic waste supplied by unregistered persons to registered buyers, while mandating Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on B2B transactions across these scrap categories and metal scrap. Concurrently, the GST rate on retreaded tractor tyres has been slashed from 18% to 5%, psyllium seeds (*isabgol*) have been granted a full tax exemption, and seaweed extract-based bio-stimulants have been formally included within the 5% concessional tax bracket. The reforms **enhance tax compliance** and audit trails across secondary raw material supply chains while reducing operational and input costs for agricultural mechanisation and processing.

5. **Indian Nursing Council Introduces One-Year Residency Diploma In Operation Room Nursing - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Indian Nursing Council (INC) introduced a one-year Post Basic Diploma Residency Program in Operation Room Specialty Nursing to prepare nurses for advanced surgical care. The 1,970-hour program **mandates 90% practical and 10% theory training**, requiring eligible nursing colleges to align with hospitals having at least 200 beds. Candidates must secure 60% overall to pass. This initiative addresses the growing demand for skilled perioperative nurses, standardises surgical training, and improves healthcare quality across hospitals.

6. **NHAI Introduces Smart Monitoring And Safety Standards For Toilet And Parking Facilities At Toll Plazas- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**
   Source: PIB
   The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** issued guidelines to improve toll plaza toilet and parking facilities, effective via smart sensors and Rajmargyatra app complaints, to enhance traveler hygiene, safety, and EV readiness. The guidelines mandate at least one universally accessible toilet unit at every covered toll plaza, alongside adequate lighting, CCTV surveillance of approaches and parking areas, sanitary napkin vending machines and designated parking bays with provisions for future electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Non-compliant maintenance agencies face penalties, while mandatory mechanised desludging prevents hazardous manual cleaning, reducing worker exposure risks.

7. **SEBI Extends Compliance Deadline For Debenture Trustees' Unregulated Activities To April 2027 – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has granted a six-month extension, until 27th April 2027, for registered Debenture Trustees (DTs) to comply with requirements governing activities outside SEBI's regulatory purview. The extension was granted in response to industry representations regarding operational and structural challenges, and to allow the Expert Working Group (EWG) constituted in June 2026 to conclude its comprehensive review of the debenture trusteeship regulatory framework. The relief prevents disruption to ongoing trusteeship operations and provides market participants additional time to adjust corporate structures without facing non-compliance penalties.

8. **NHAI Strengthens Dust-Control And Air Pollution Mitigation Measures Across Delhi-NCR Expressways – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**
   Source: PIB
   The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) strengthened dust-control measures across Delhi-NCR expressways using 60 sprinklers, 14 anti-smog guns, 23 sweepers, and over 900 personnel. Contractors must cover materials and **submit daily photo compliance reports**. NHAI also planted 9.8 lakh saplings in FY 2025–26 and reused 13.58 lakh tonnes of landfill waste. These measures directly reduce seasonal construction dust, recycle waste, ease landfill pressure, and limit winter air pollution.

9. **Mizoram Receives Approval for 45 New Road Works under PMGSY-IV - Ministry of Rural Development**
   Source: PIB
   As a part of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV),** Batch-I for FY 2026–27, the Ministry of Rural Development has approved 45 road works covering 509.54 km in Mizoram, at an estimated cost of ₹710.40 crore. The projects are expected to provide all-weather road connectivity for the first time to 48 previously unconnected habitations, improving access to schools, healthcare facilities and rural markets. With these approvals, the State has received sanctions under PMGSY for a cumulative 367 road works covering 4,935 km and seven bridges, at a total sanctioned cost of ₹3,412 crore. The newly approved works are expected to address last-mile rural connectivity gaps in Mizoram, particularly for habitations without all-weather road access. Improved connectivity can facilitate access to essential services and strengthen the movement of people and agricultural and other goods to local markets.

10. **Government Introduces Annual 'Concessional Local Pass' For National Highway Users Residing Near Toll Plazas – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**
Source: PIB
MoRTH with effect from 1st November, 2026, introduced an annual Concessional Local Pass for non-commercial vehicle owners living within 20 km of eligible National Highway toll plazas without alternative routes. Costing ₹ 1,500/year outside municipal limits and ₹ 3,000/year within, the FASTag-linked pass is non-applicable on expressways. Digital access via the Rajmargyatra app launches on 1st December, 2026. This measure **provides predictable travel expenses** and significantly reduces annual commuting costs for local residents daily crossing the same toll plaza for work, education, or essential services.

11. **WWF-India EIACP Launches Nationwide Green Diwali Campaign Across 130 NCAP Cities – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
Source: PIB
WWF-India's Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) centre launched a Green Diwali campaign (Oct 20–Nov 8, 2026) across 130 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities to combat festive air pollution and waste. The initiative promotes cracker-free celebrations, clay diyas, energy efficiency, waste segregation, and local artisans, alongside an **online carbon footprint survey**.

12. **National Steering Committee Approves ₹ 1,194.92 Crore Investment Under PM-SETU For Five ITI Clusters Across Maharashtra, Odisha, And Jammu & Kashmir – Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
Source: PIB
The National Steering Committee approved ₹ 1,194.92 crore to modernise 5 ITI clusters in Maharashtra, Odisha, and Jammu & Kashmir under PM-SETU, bringing total scheme investment to ₹ 3,687 crore. Additionally, 3,744 vocational trainers were trained in advanced technologies like robotics, AI, green tech, and Industry 4.0. Implemented via a hub-and-spoke model with industry partners, these upgrades aim to **bridge classroom learning and workplace needs**, enhancing practical training, equipment quality, and job readiness across manufacturing and emerging sectors.

13. **CERC Adopts Tariffs For 1,200 MW Assured Peak Renewable Energy Capacity With Energy Storage Systems - Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**
Source: CERC

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has **adopted competitively discovered tariffs**, for 1,200 MW of ISTS-connected renewable energy projects awarded for Assured Peak Supply of 4,800 MWh under the SECI-FDRE-VII scheme. The awarded capacity comprises 100 MW at ₹ 6.27 per kWh allocated to Adyant Enersol Private Limited, alongside ₹6.28 per kWh awarded to Serentica Renewables India Private Limited (600 MW), AMPIN Energy Utility Nine Private Limited (199 MW), and ACME Solar Holdings Limited (301 MW), with an approved trading margin of ₹0.07 per kWh for SECI. The tender mandates 100% power supply through Energy Storage Systems (ESS) during evening peak hours (18:00 to 24:00 hrs) without daytime injection, providing state distribution utilities with firm, dispatchable green power to manage peak grid demand.

14. **CERC Proposes Inclusion Of Pumped Storage Plants In High Price Day Ahead Market To Expand Peak Power Flexibility – Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**
Source: CERC
CERC has initiated suo-motu proceedings proposing the inclusion of **Pumped Storage Plants (PSPs)** as an eligible generating category in the **High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM)** segment on Power Exchanges. The proposal builds on recommendations from the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) and the Ministry of Power, noting that while India has 7,425.6 MW of operational PSP capacity and 15,870 MW under construction, merchant participation remains constrained under conventional Day Ahead Market (DAM) price ceilings due to levelised landed costs of up to ₹8.92 per unit. Permitting PSPs to bid in HP-DAM alongside gas, imported coal, and battery storage will allow storage operators to capitalise on diurnal peak-period price differentials, improving commercial viability for capital-intensive storage assets and providing the national grid with flexible balancing reserves during supply crunches. The Commission has issued a public notice inviting stakeholder comments within 15 days.

15. **MoSJE Notifies Identification Directives And Non-Denial Protections For Pre-Matric SC Scholarship Scheme – Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry notified identity verification rules under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and others. Applicants without Aadhaar can submit enrolment acknowledgements and approved government documents. If biometric authentication fails, alternative methods like **OTP verification, paperless e-KYC, QR scanning**, or parental verification must be provided to prevent denial of benefits. These safeguards protect eligible students from losing scholarship support due to documentation or technical issues while ensuring operational transparency and accountability.

16. **TRAI Recommends Light-Touch Authorisation Framework For Application-based Linear Television Distribution (ALTD) Services – Ministry of Communications**
Source: PIB
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended a light-touch authorisation framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 for Application-based Linear Television Distribution (ALTD) services, including Free Ad-Supported Streaming Television (FAST) platforms. The framework proposes a national operating area, a 20-year initial authorisation renewable for 10-year terms, a ₹ 10,000 application fee, and a one-time entry fee of ₹ 1 lakh, with no recurring authorisation fees or bank guarantees. Low entry costs will **help Indian streaming providers** launch free ad-supported TV services and compete for advertising revenue, while authorised app listings and standardized viewership measurement will improve regulatory compliance and provide reliable audience data for advertisers.

17. **CAQM Mandates 24/7 Camera Monitoring For NCR Industries - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
Source: PIB
The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) mandated high-definition Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) cameras for all industries across the National Capital Region (NCR). By 30th November, 2026, industries must provide **continuous camera coverage** of fuel storage, boilers, and emissions-monitoring equipment, streaming live feeds to Pollution Control Boards. Non-compliance risks closure, penalties, or utility disconnection.

18. **FSSAI Notifies Draft Amendment Proposing Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) For Acetamiprid And Imidacloprid In Tea – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**
Source: PIB
The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on October 2026, published a draft amendment under the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2026, proposing maximum residue limits (MRLs) for two pesticides in tea: **20 mg/kg for acetamiprid** and **50 mg/kg for imidacloprid**. Issued for public and stakeholder feedback, this measure aims to clarify pesticide standards for growers, processors, testing labs, and exporters. Once finalised, it will provide clear quality control benchmarks, require growers to adjust pesticide usage, and enhance predictable compliance for tea exports.

19. **Government Enforces UN Security Council Sanctions On DRC And Libya - Ministry of External Affairs**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry of External Affairs issued two orders implementing UN Security Council sanctions for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Libya. The DRC order adds designated rebel commanders and armed groups, including the Alliance Fleuve Congo and Twirwaneho, to the sanctions framework. The Libya order targets the vessel Avax, banning petroleum loading, transport, port entry, and related financial transactions. These measures align India with **international security resolutions**, restricting financial and logistical support to designated groups and requiring heightened compliance from domestic financial and shipping entities.

20. **Government Extends Mandatory Jute Packaging Norms Until January 2027 - Ministry of Textiles**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry of Textiles has extended the mandatory use of jute packaging for specified commodities under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. The requirement, which expired on 30th June, 2025, will now continue until 31st January, 2027, or until further orders. The extension will **maintain demand** for jute bags used to package specified commodities, supporting jute mills, farmers and workers who depend on the sector while providing continued market support for domestic jute production.

C. Governance And Administrative Affairs

1. **President Promulgates Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026 – Ministry of Law and Justice**
Source: Gazette of India
The President has promulgated the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, revising the governance framework across seven districts: Leh, Kargil, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zanskar, and Drass. Each council now consists of 7–24 elected members, up to 4 nominated members for underrepresented groups, and a 5-year term, mandating **at least one woman in the Executive Council**. This regulation adapts local governance to the expanded district structure, establishing clearer election rules under the State Election Commission. While it strengthens local decision-making and panchayat powers, council authority remains limited by the exclusion of lands allotted to the UT, Central Government, and defence establishments.

2. **MHA Notifies Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Expanding Enumerator Eligibility To Private Educators And Corporate/Bank Personnel – Ministry of Home Affairs**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026, expanding the enumerator pool to include private school teachers, clerks, and staff from PSUs, banks, and private firms, alongside state-designated personnel. This gives states and UTs greater operational flexibility and digital capability to mobilise adequate staff for census operations. The amendment provides States and UTs with a **wider and more flexible staffing base** for Census operations, which require extensive house-to-house enumeration. It aims to ease the concentration of census duties on government teachers and help maintain continuity in school activities while supporting comprehensive population coverage.

3. **Inauguration And Foundation-Stone Laying Of ₹ 8,941 Crore Yamuna Rejuvenation And Sewerage Infrastructure Projects in Delhi – Ministry of Home Affairs**
Source: PIB
The Ministry has launched 43 Yamuna rejuvenation and sewerage projects worth ₹ 8,941 crore (10 inaugurated and 33 new) to reduce river pollution with Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh coordinating to stop untreated sewage and industrial waste from entering the river. Expanding sewage treatment plants, network upgrades, and household connections **prevents untreated waste from entering the river**. This simultaneously clears 2.17 crore metric tonnes of legacy landfill waste reclaimed over 100 acres for urban green spaces. Coordinated regional sewage management directly addresses upstream pollution to improve Yamuna water quality and environmental health.

4. **Department Of Justice Notifies Union Territories Court Fees (Adjudication Of Penalties And Appeal) Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Law and Justice**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry has notified the Union Territories Court Fees (Adjudication of Penalties and Appeal) Rules, 2026, to establish procedures for handling violations involving court fees and stamp vendors. Complaints can be filed by revenue officers, licensed stamp vendors or affected individuals. The designated officer must issue a show-cause notice within 30 days of receiving a complaint and give the accused at least 30 days to respond. Penalties will depend on factors such as the amount involved, repeated violations, public hardship and unfair financial gains, while unpaid penalties can be recovered as land revenue. Appeals must be filed within 30 days of the penalty order and decided within 60 days of filing. The rules will **make action against illegal stamp sales and unauthorised court fee charges** more consistent by setting clear procedures and deadlines, while giving affected parties a formal appeal process and enabling authorities to recover unpaid penalties.

5. **MoSPI Proposes Changes To PLFS To Better Capture Gig Work And Unpaid Caregiving – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
Source: PIB
MoSPI has proposed changes to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), set to begin in January 2027, inviting feedback within 15 days. The revised framework creates dedicated sampling groups for digital platform workers to **capture gig economy trends**. It also tracks unpaid household work, caregiving, volunteering, and training for individuals aged 15 and above. These updates will help policymakers design targeted labour and social protection policies while making unpaid contributions visible in official statistics.

6. **RBI Re-Allocates Lead Bank Responsibilities Consequent Upon District Re-Organisation In NCT Of Delhi – Reserve Bank of India**
Source: RBI
Consequent upon the administrative re-organisation of districts by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restructured and assigned Lead Bank responsibilities across the capital with effect from 26th October 2026. Following the creation of three new districts and the dissolution of Shahdara, the RBI designated Canara Bank for Old Delhi (Code: 03E), State Bank of India (SBI) for Central North (Code: 03F), and Punjab National Bank (PNB) for Outer North (Code: 03G), while revoking Bank of Baroda's lead responsibility for erstwhile Shahdara. Additionally, lead responsibilities for existing districts were modified, shifting Central district to SBI and Northwest district to Union Bank of India. The realignment ensures administrative continuity in district credit planning, priority-sector monitoring, and State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) coordination across Delhi's updated territorial boundaries.

7. **President Promulgates Lakshadweep Tourism Trade Regulation 2026 For Sustainable And Safe Tourism - Ministry of Law and Justice**
Source: Gazette of India
The President of India has promulgated a new regulation, Lakshadweep Tourism Trade (Registration, Safety and Facilitation) Regulation, 2026, to **improve tourism safety, service quality and environmental protection** in Lakshadweep. It requires tourism businesses, including accommodation providers, travel agents, online platforms and water-sports operators, to register. Operators of high-risk activities must have insurance, trained staff, standard safety equipment and emergency plans. The regulation aims to reduce tourist accidents and protect Lakshadweep's fragile marine ecosystem by restricting coral damage, littering and unauthorised beach facilities. Authorities can impose fines of ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 5 lakh, blacklist violators and confiscate equipment, encouraging tourism businesses to follow safety and environmental standards.

D. Technology, Innovation And Partnerships

1. MoES And AcSIR Operationalise Strategic Partnership Recognising Ten Autonomous Research Institutes As AcSIR-ARIs – Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

Source: PIB

The Ministry and the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) have formalised a partnership recognising all 10 MoES autonomous research institutes as AcSIR Associated Research Institutes. Under the arrangement, PhD scholars will conduct research at MoES laboratories under the supervision of approved MoES scientists, while AcSIR will award the degrees. Research areas include **weather forecasting, oceanography, polar studies, deep-sea technologies, earthquake hazard** mapping and the use of AI in Earth system modelling. The agreement also sets out rules for patent ownership and crediting researchers as inventors. The partnership will give PhD scholars access to specialised laboratories, research vessels and scientific facilities across Earth science disciplines. It will strengthen research on weather forecasting, ocean resources and natural hazards, while clearer intellectual property rules will help researchers and institutions develop and commercialise new technologies.

2. CAQM Operationalises 'PAVAN-I3C' Integrated Command And Control Centre For Real-Time Air Quality Monitoring Across Delhi-NCR – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: PIB

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has operationalised the **PAVAN-I3C** (Platform for Air quality Vigilance and Analytics for NCR), an Integrated Command and Control Centre integrating over **30 data streams and APIs** for real-time environmental surveillance. The platform centralises live data from **111 CAAQMS stations**, Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems across 2,300 industrial units, 3,200 active construction sites, and satellite feeds to automate alert escalation to State Pollution Control Boards. Operating on an automated 'Detect, Analyse, Act' protocol, the deployment is paired with a directed halt on **construction and demolition (C&D) activities** across the NCR from 5th to 20th November 2026 to curb peak winter pollution spikes.

3. RBI Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute Inaugurated in Bhubaneswar - Ministry of Finance

Source: RBI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji inaugurated a RBI Data Centre and Cybersecurity Training Institute in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 25th October 2026. The Data Centre will house the RBI's mission-critical systems, including RTGS and NEFT, while the Training Institute will **develop specialised expertise in cybersecurity,**

artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. The facilities are intended to strengthen the resilience of India's digital financial infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity capabilities and support technological self-reliance. The Data Centre strengthens the technological infrastructure supporting critical payment systems, while the Training Institute addresses the need for specialised cybersecurity and emerging-technology skills within the financial sector.

4. **Sports and Education Ministries Sign MoU With UNESCO To Promote Clean Sport In Schools – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministries of Youth Affairs and Sports and Education have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNESCO to promote clean sport values in schools. The initiative introduces an **educational toolkit** focused on respect, integrity and fairness, which can be used in classrooms and playgrounds. The partnership aims to reach millions of students and encourage ethical sporting behaviour from an early age, shifting the focus from addressing violations after they occur to building awareness and **good practices through education**. Integrating clean sport values into school education will help students develop fair-play habits, discourage cheating and unethical conduct in sports, and encourage teachers to build a culture of integrity and respect both on and off the playing field.

5. **AIIA Signs Two MoUs To Strengthen Ayurvedic Training And Child Health Outreach - Ministry of Ayush**
   Source: PIB
   The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, signed two MoUs to strengthen Ayurvedic training and community healthcare. The agreement with Rashtriya Ayurved Vidyapeeth (RAV) aims to strengthen **traditional guru-shishya learning** and improve clinical skills among practitioners. The MoU with Arogya Bharati focuses on expanding preventive child healthcare outreach and health awareness at the community level. The partnerships will improve the practical training of Ayurvedic practitioners and expand child health awareness in local communities, supporting earlier identification of health concerns and greater access to preventive care.

6. **TDB-DST Approves ₹ 116 Crore Financial Support For Manastu Space To Commercialise Indigenous Green Propulsion Technology – Ministry of Science & Technology**
   Source: PIB
   The Technology Development Board (TDB) has approved ₹ 116 crore in financial support for Navi Mumbai-based Manastu Space Technologies through the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund. The funding will contribute to a ₹ 277.63 crore project to develop and commercialise satellite propulsion systems using

hydrogen peroxide-based propellant instead of highly toxic conventional hydrazine fuel. The project aims to advance the technology from Technology Readiness Level 6 to Level 9, meaning it is proven through actual mission operations, with applications ranging from small satellite thrusters to larger propulsion systems. The funding will reduce India's reliance on imported satellite propulsion components and create opportunities for domestic suppliers of specialised materials and propulsion systems, while replacing hydrazine with a less toxic propellant will improve handling safety and support the growth of India's satellite manufacturing and space services industry.

7. **National Biodiversity Authority Disburses ₹ 1.19 Crore Under ABS Mechanism – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
   Source: PIB
   The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) transferred ₹ 1.19 crore to 29 State Biodiversity Boards and 1 UT Council under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Funded by commercial resource and research charges, these funds are routed to local Biodiversity Management Committees. This measure **supports local biodiversity conservation**, traditional knowledge documentation, and sustainable resource use. Consequently, it financially rewards protecting communities and compels commercial users of biological resources in herbal, cosmetic, and nutraceutical sectors to comply with statutory benefit-sharing obligations.

8. **Ministry Of Culture Signs MoU With Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BnF) To Digitise And Preserve Indic-Origin Manuscripts – Ministry of Culture**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) under **India's Gyan Bharatam Mission** to preserve and digitise Indian-origin manuscripts held in France. The partnership involves the National Archives of India, the National Library in Kolkata and BnF, with cooperation on digitisation, physical conservation, research and technology sharing. It will also support the development of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) tools for ancient Indian scripts. Digitised collections will be made available through India's National Digital Repository under controlled access arrangements. The partnership will help Indian researchers access historical manuscripts preserved in French collections without relying solely on physical visits, while improved recognition tools for ancient scripts will make handwritten texts easier to search, study and translate, supporting research into India's history, languages and traditional knowledge systems.

9. **Government Launches AATAL Laboratory To Identify Pollution Sources And Health Risks In Delhi-NCR – Ministry of Earth Sciences**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has inaugurated the Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory (AATAL) at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Delhi branch. The facility analyses pollutants such as **gases, PM2.5 particles and toxic metals** to identify pollution sources, including vehicle emissions, crop-residue burning and industrial dust, and assess their potential health effects. Integrated with the AIRWISE system, it will provide localised air-quality forecasts at a 400-metre spatial resolution up to 72 hours in advance. AATAL will help authorities identify whether vehicles, industrial emissions or crop-residue burning are driving pollution in specific areas, allowing them to target restrictions and enforcement more precisely instead of relying only on region-wide measures. Its forecasts will also give residents and agencies more time to prepare for severe pollution episodes and reduce exposure to harmful pollutants.

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