NFPRC FOUNDATION

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Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

16th August- 31st August

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Contributors

Veer Patil

Lead Editor

veerabhadra.patil@nationfirstpolicy.org

Shankarjeet

Editor

shankarjeet.panda@nationfirstpolicy.org

Sheetanshu Dwivedi

Consultant

sheetanshu.dwivedi@nationfirstpolicy.org

In case of any queries/ feedback please reach out to either the Lead Editor or the Editor at their respective emails

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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

(16th August, 2026 - 31st August, 2026)

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. **Raw Sugar Imports Allowed Under Duty-Free TRQ:** The Government has enabled duty-free imports of up to 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar under a Tariff Rate Quota until 31st October, 2026, to increase domestic sugar availability ahead of the festival period and moderate the sharp rise in sugar prices.

B. **Semicon 2.0 Scheme Notified:** The Government notified the Semicon 2.0 scheme providing fiscal support across the semiconductor value chain, including 40% of eligible capital expenditure for 300-mm silicon wafer fabs, 35% for compound semiconductor, display and advanced packaging facilities, 30% for specified equipment and materials facilities, and up to 75% of project costs for advanced R&D and talent development. The scheme will lower the capital burden for semiconductor manufacturers and R&D projects.

C. **Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Remove 12-Minute Advertisement Cap:** The Government has notified amendment removing the 12-minute-per-clock-hour limit on television advertisements, giving broadcasters greater flexibility in the volume and scheduling of advertising content. The removal of the fixed advertising ceiling, will allow channels to monetise advertising inventory more flexibly.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme Notified:** The Government has notified the ₹ 62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 to deepen domestic value addition, boost local component sourcing and foster Indian-owned mobile brands, with the scheme projected to generate around 60,000 direct jobs.

B. **Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules Notified:** The Department of Telecommunications notified the final Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2026, mandating verifiable biometric-based user identification through e-KYC or Digital KYC for notified telecom services to prevent fraud and SIM-based impersonation

Executive Summary

C. **DoT Directs Telecom Operators To Enforce Nine-SIM Limit Per Subscriber:** The Department of Telecommunications has directed telecom service providers to enforce the existing limit of nine mobile connections per individual, with a lower limit of six in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and the North-East, using the Digital Intelligence Platform to identify subscribers beyond the prescribed limit and suspend excess connections. The directive strengthens enforcement of SIM ownership limits and helps curb bulk SIM procurement linked to cyber fraud and impersonation.

D. **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules Notified:** The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, establishing IST as the common time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes across the country, with the Rules coming into force 180 days after publication in the Official Gazette. The Rules will ensure consistent and accurate time-stamping across banking and digital payments.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. **ANSF Scheme Continued With ₹ 7,386.74 Crore Outlay:** The Government approved the continuation of the Assistance to National Sports Federations Scheme through 2030–31, including ₹ 2,500 crore earmarked for preparations and infrastructure for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, enabling sustained athlete training and international competition while accelerating infrastructure and event-readiness.

B. **Disclosure Of Sterilisation Subcontractor Licence Numbers Mandated:** The Ministry notified the Medical Devices (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, requiring manufacturers that outsource sterilisation of medical devices to a separately licensed facility to mention the sterilisation site's licence number on the device label, with the provision becoming mandatory six months after notification. The measure will improve traceability, enabling regulators to identify the facility responsible for sterilisation in case of quality or safety issues.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. **India And Uzbekistan Announce Long-Term Uranium Supply Arrangement:** India and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish a long-term arrangement for the supply of uranium, diversifying the fuel sourcing base for India's nuclear power programme, reducing dependence on existing suppliers and providing fuel security for planned capacity expansion.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. **Targeted Release of Onion Buffer Stocks Commenced:** The Government has started releasing 2 lakh metric tonnes of onion buffer stock at a subsidised price of ₹ 35 per kg in high-consumption centres to increase availability during the seasonal supply gap and contain retail price increases.

भारत गवर्नेंस वॉच

विकसित भारत के नीतिगत और प्रशासनिक घटनाक्रम

(16 अगस्त, 2026 - 31 अगस्त, 2026)

कार्यकारी सारांश

यह लेख **16 अगस्त 2026 से 31 अगस्त 2026** के बीच केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लिए गए प्रमुख आर्थिक और नीतिगत निर्णयों का विवरण देता है। महत्वपूर्ण घोषणाएं और अपडेट इस प्रकार हैं:

I. आर्थिक विकास और संरचनात्मक सुधार

A. **कच्ची चीनी के आयात को शुल्क-मुक्त टी.आर.क्यू (TRQ) के अंतर्गत अनुमति:** त्योहारों के मौसम में चीनी की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने और बढ़ती कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए सरकार ने 31 अक्टूबर 2026 तक 10 लाख मीट्रिक टन तक कच्ची चीनी के शुल्क-मुक्त आयात की अनुमति दी है।

B. **सेमीकॉन 2.0 (Semicon 2.0) योजना अधिसूचित:** सरकार ने सेमीकंडक्टर वैल्यू चेन के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने हेतु 'सेमीकॉन 2.0' योजना को अधिसूचित किया है। इसके अंतर्गत सिलिकॉन वेफर फैब के लिए 40%, कंपाउंड सेमीकंडक्टर, डिस्प्ले और पैकेजिंग सुविधाओं के लिए 35%, और उपकरण/सामग्री सुविधाओं के लिए 30% तक की वित्तीय सहायता दी जाएगी। साथ ही, उन्नत अनुसंधान (R&D) के लिए 75% तक की परियोजना लागत का प्रावधान है। इससे निर्माताओं पर पूंजीगत बोझ कम होगा।

C. **केबल टेलीविजन नेटवर्क (संशोधन) नियम, 2026:** सरकार ने टेलीविजन विज्ञापनों पर प्रति घंटे 12 मिनट की समय-सीमा को हटा दिया है। इससे ब्रॉडकास्टर्स को विज्ञापनों के समय के प्रबंधन में अधिक लचीलापन मिलेगा।

II. बुनियादी ढांचा, प्रौद्योगिकी और स्थिरता

A. **मोबाइल फोन निर्माण योजना (MPMS) अधिसूचित:** घरेलू उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने और स्थानीय स्तर पर कल-पुर्जे बनाने के लिए सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 से 2030-31 के लिए ₹62,500 करोड़ की मोबाइल फोन निर्माण योजना को अधिसूचित किया है। इससे लगभग 60,000 प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार सृजित होने की उम्मीद है।

B. **दूरसंचार (उपयोगकर्ता पहचान) नियम अधिसूचित:** दूरसंचार विभाग ने फर्जीवाड़े और सिम के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए e-KYC या डिजिटल KYC के माध्यम से अनिवार्य बायोमेट्रिक पहचान के नियम अधिसूचित किए हैं।

C. **टेलीकॉम ऑपरेटरों को प्रति सब्सक्राइबर अधिकतम 9 सिम का निर्देश:** दूरसंचार विभाग ने ऑपरेटरों को प्रति व्यक्ति अधिकतम 9 मोबाइल कनेक्शन की सीमा लागू करने का निर्देश दिया है (असम, पूर्वोत्तर और जम्मू-कश्मीर में यह सीमा 6 है)। इसका उद्देश्य साइबर धोखाधड़ी और फर्जी सिम के थोक आवंटन पर रोक लगाना है।

D. **कानूनी मापविज्ञान (भारतीय मानक समय) नियम अधिसूचित:** उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग ने बैंकिंग और डिजिटल

कार्यकारी सारांश

भुगतान में सटीक और एक समान समय-स्टैम्पिंग सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'भारतीय मानक समय' (IST) को कानूनी, प्रशासनिक और आधिकारिक उद्देश्यों के लिए मानक समय के रूप में स्थापित करने के नियम अधिसूचित किए हैं। ये नियम गजट में प्रकाशन के 180 दिनों बाद लागू होंगे।

III. मानव विकास और सामाजिक कल्याण

A. **ANSF योजना का विस्तार:** सरकार ने 'राष्ट्रीय खेल महासंघ सहायता योजना' (Assistance to National Sports Federations Scheme) को 2030-31 तक जारी रखने की स्वीकृति दी है। इसमें 2030 राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों के लिए बुनियादी ढांचे और एथलीटों की तैयारी हेतु ₹ 2,500 करोड़ आवंटित किए गए हैं।

B. **स्टरलाइज़ेशन सब-कॉन्ट्रैक्टर लाइसेंस नंबर का खुलासा अनिवार्य:** चिकित्सा उपकरण (द्वितीय संशोधन) नियम, 2026 के अंतर्गत, जो निर्माता चिकित्सा उपकरणों के स्टरलाइज़ेशन का काम बाहर की लाइसेंस प्राप्त सुविधा से करवाते हैं, उन्हें अब डिवाइस के लेबल पर उस सुविधा का लाइसेंस नंबर लिखना अनिवार्य होगा। यह उपाय छह महीने बाद लागू होगा और इससे उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता व सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में मदद मिलेगी।

IV. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और विदेश नीति

A. **भारत और उज्बेकिस्तान के बीच यूरेनियम आपूर्ति समझौता:** भारत और उज्बेकिस्तान ने यूरेनियम की लंबी अवधि की आपूर्ति के लिए समझौता किया है। इससे भारत के परमाणु ऊर्जा कार्यक्रम के लिए ईंधन के स्रोत विविध होंगे और मौजूदा आपूर्तिकर्ताओं पर निर्भरता कम होगी।

V. ग्रामीण और कृषि परिवर्तन

A. **प्याज के बफर स्टॉक की बिक्री शुरू:** खुदरा कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने और बाजार में उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार ने 2 लाख मीट्रिक टन प्याज का बफर स्टॉक ₹35 प्रति किलो की सब्सिडी दर पर जारी करना शुरू कर दिया है।

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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. **Raw Sugar Imports Allowed Under 10 Lakh MT Duty-Free TRQ Till October 2026 – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has enabled duty-free imports of up to 10 lakh metric tonnes of raw sugar under a **Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ)** until **31st October, 2026**. The DGFT has revised the import policy to permit raw sugar imports within the 10-lakh-MT quota and issued the framework for allocating the quota to eligible importers. The Ministry has subsequently provided the corresponding full exemption from basic customs duty, with imports allowed only against electronically issued DGFT authorisations linked to the Customs Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) System. The framework also allows eligible entities that had previously imported raw sugar under the Advance Authorisation scheme to make a **one-time conversion to the TRQ scheme**, subject to specified conditions. The measure will increase domestic sugar availability ahead of the high-demand festival period and help moderate the sharp rise in sugar prices.

2. **Semicon 2.0 Scheme Notified To Strengthen India's Semiconductor Design And Manufacturing Ecosystem – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India, The Hindu
   The Government has notified the Semicon 2.0 scheme to expand financial support for semiconductor manufacturing, design, packaging and R&D, covering wafer fabs, compound semiconductors, photonics, sensors, display fabs, ATMP/OSAT facilities and talent development. Key support includes 40% of eligible capital expenditure for 300-mm silicon wafer fabs, 35% for eligible compound semiconductor, display and advanced packaging facilities, 30% for specified equipment and materials facilities, and up to 75% of project costs for advanced R&D and talent development. The scheme also supports semiconductor startups/MSMEs and provides reimbursement for deployment of eligible semiconductor IPs, chips and SoCs. The scheme will lower the capital burden for semiconductor manufacturers and R&D projects through fiscal support, encouraging new fabrication, packaging, display and advanced semiconductor facilities.

3. **Government Notifies Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Scrapping The 12-Minute TV Advertisement Cap – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has notified the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2026, removing the provision that limited television channels to **12 minutes of advertising per clock hour**, including commercial advertisements and self-promotional content. The amendment gives broadcasters greater flexibility in determining the volume and scheduling of advertising content. The change brings greater flexibility to traditional television broadcasters operating alongside digital and OTT platforms, while reducing prescriptive restrictions on television advertising. The removal of the fixed advertising ceiling will change the economics of television broadcasting by allowing channels to monetise advertising inventory more flexibly, thus improving revenue opportunities for broadcasters, particularly smaller and niche channels, while increasing competition between television and digital platforms for advertising expenditure and potentially changing how broadcasters package and price commercial content.

4. **Directorate General Of Foreign Trade Amends Export Policy For Wheat And Wheat Products – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The DGFT has revised the export policy for wheat and major wheat-based products from **"Prohibited" to "Free"** with immediate effect. The change covers Durum Wheat, other wheat varieties, Atta, Maida, Semolina (Rava/Suji), Wholemeal Atta and resultant Atta under the relevant ITC (HS) codes. The move reopens export channels for both raw wheat and processed wheat products, allowing Indian farmers, traders and flour mills to access overseas markets without the earlier export restriction. The removal of export restrictions will give wheat producers and flour mills greater access to overseas buyers, particularly for processed products where export demand can support higher-value realisation. It will also increase competition for domestic wheat supplies, making domestic prices and availability important factors to monitor as exporters scale up shipments.

5. **Competition Commission Of India Notifies Commitment Amendment Regulations, 2026 To Extend Timelines And Streamline Defect Rectification – Competition Commission of India (CCI)**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   CCI has notified the Competition Commission of India (Commitment) Amendment Regulations, 2026, revising the procedural framework for businesses seeking to offer commitments in competition law proceedings. The amendment **extends the time for filing a commitment application** from 45 to 60 days, increases the CCI's initial review period from 7 to 15 working days, and extends the overall period for concluding proceedings from 130 to 180 working days. Time taken by parties to provide additional information will be excluded from the 180 days, while proceedings will revert to a formal investigation if the commitment process is not completed

within the applicable timeframe. The longer timelines will make the commitment route more practical for businesses seeking to resolve competition concerns without a full investigation. At the same time, the provision to resume formal proceedings where commitments are not concluded within the prescribed period could discourage prolonged negotiations and give the CCI greater leverage to secure timely remedies in anti-competitive conduct cases.

6. **DGFT Revises Import Policy And Imposes Minimum Import Price On Clear Float Glass – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   DGFT has revised the import policy for **Clear Float Glass (4 mm–12 mm)** under specified ITC (HS) codes, changing its status from **"Free" to "Restricted."** Imports will remain permitted where the Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) value is ₹ 34,000 or more per metric tonne, effectively introducing a Minimum Import Price (MIP) for one year. Imports by Advance Authorisation holders, Export Oriented Units (EOUs), and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units are exempt, provided the imported glass is not sold in the domestic market. The MIP will reduce the inflow of low-priced imported float glass, giving domestic manufacturers greater pricing space and reducing pressure from cheaper overseas supply. This will further encourage capacity utilisation and investment in domestic glass production, although downstream sectors such as construction and automotive may face higher input costs if domestic prices rise.

7. **RBI (NBFC: Concentration Risk Management) Fourth Amendment Directions, 2026 — Reserve Bank of India**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** RBI
   The RBI has amended its Concentration Risk Management Directions, 2026, with immediate effect. The amendment **extends the large exposure limits** applicable to Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs) to Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs (IDF-NBFCs) that fall under the Upper Layer regulatory framework. This fills a regulatory gap where exposure limits for large IDF-NBFCs were previously not explicitly defined. The change will provide greater regulatory clarity for bank-sponsored IDF-NBFCs while limiting their concentration of lending to a small number of large infrastructure borrowers or project sponsors.

8. **DGFT Relaxes Export Performance Criterion For Grant Of One Star Export House Status – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The DGFT has amended the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 to relax the export performance requirement for obtaining **One Star Export House** status. Under the revised framework, exporters, except those in the Gems & Jewellery sector, will

qualify based on export performance in **any two of the three preceding financial years**, instead of having to demonstrate performance in all three years. All other eligibility conditions remain unchanged, making the recognition framework more accessible to exporters with intermittent or uneven export performance. The relaxation will bring more emerging and smaller exporters into the formal export-recognition framework, giving them access to associated trade facilitation benefits at an earlier stage of growth. Broader access to Export House status will encourage firms with irregular export cycles to sustain overseas market engagement and diversify the base of recognised exporters.

9. **DGFT Amends Foreign Trade Policy 2023 to Rationalise Denomination of Export Contracts – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The DGFT has revised the currency denomination and settlement rules for export contracts and invoices, allowing exporters to transact in Indian Rupees or foreign currencies, subject to RBI norms. Rupee-denominated export proceeds received through permitted banking channels will continue to qualify for export benefits, incentives and fulfilment of export obligations. The amendment simplifies Rupee-based export transactions, particularly for exporters serving non-ACU markets, Nepal and Bhutan, and provides greater flexibility in settling export contracts while aligning trade policy with existing foreign exchange regulations.

10. **Ministry Of Commerce And Industry Notifies Adjudication Of Penalties Rules For APEDA Under the 1985 Act – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry has notified the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Adjudication of Penalties) Rules, 2026 under the APEDA Act, 1985, **establishing a formal framework for adjudicating** penalties and appeals. The Rules provide for show-cause notices, an opportunity to present evidence, reasoned orders and a defined appeals process. The framework replaces ad hoc penalty action with clear procedures and safeguards, enhancing transparency, procedural fairness and predictability for exporters.

11. **SEBI Permits Acceptance Of Digitally Signed Power Of Attorney For Foreign Portfolio Investors – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI
    SEBI has allowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to submit digitally signed Power of Attorney (PoA) documents to custodians. This **removes the earlier requirement for physical certification** of these documents when used as proof of address and will make the process effective from 20th August 2026. The change will reduce

paperwork and processing time, making it easier and faster for foreign funds and institutional investors to start investing in India remotely.

12. **SEBI Mandates 100-Point IT Resilience Index And Early Warning System For Market Infrastructure Institutions – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI
    SEBI has introduced a 100-point IT Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs), including stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories to measure the resilience of their critical IT systems. The index covers nine areas, including system availability, cybersecurity, data integrity, governance, business continuity and incident handling. MIIs will have to calculate the index automatically every six months and set up an Early Warning System and real-time service dashboards. The framework is to be fully operational by 28th February, 2027. The framework will allow SEBI and MIIs to **identify weakening IT and cyber resilience** before it leads to major service disruptions, rather than relying only on post-incident reviews. A stronger monitoring of exchanges, clearing systems and depositories will reduce the risk of trading interruptions, settlement failures and prolonged outages during cyberattacks or technical failures.

13. **IFSCA Mandates Dedicated Websites And Public Disclosure Norms For Fund Management Entities – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** IFSCA
    The authority has mandated all FMEs operating in the IFSC to maintain a publicly accessible website or dedicated webpage **from 1st December, 2026**. Non-retail FMEs can use either their own website or a dedicated page on their parent entity's website, while retail FMEs must maintain an independent website. The websites must provide key information such as registration details, schemes managed, key managerial personnel, grievance data and regulatory enforcement history. Retail FMEs will also have to disclose information such as portfolio holdings, NAVs, Total Expense Ratios (TER) and valuation policies. The requirement will make it easier for investors and potential investors to compare IFSC fund managers and assess their regulatory track record before investing. It also **increases accountability of FMEs**, and regular disclosure of portfolio and cost information for retail schemes gives investors greater visibility into how their money is being managed.

B. Announcements

1. **MeitY Approves 31 Additional Projects Under ECMS With ₹ 6,844 Crore Investment – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has approved 31 additional proposals under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), taking total approvals to 106 projects

across 15 States. The approved projects represent ₹ 69,548 crore in investment, with projected production of **₹ 5.34 lakh crore and 74,628 direct jobs**. The latest approvals cover electronic sub-assemblies, components, supply-chain products and capital goods, including camera and display modules, connectors, capacitors, magnets, anode materials and other critical inputs. 38 plants have already begun manufacturing, while 16 are at advanced construction or machinery-installation stages. The scheme will reduce dependence on imported electronics components and raw materials while strengthening domestic supply chains, making the electronics sector less reliant on assembly and more capable of producing critical inputs domestically.

2. **CERC (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026 — Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**
   Source: [CERC]
   CERC has issued the draft Third Amendment to the Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) and Related Matters Regulations, 2024, proposing changes to how deviation charges are calculated and settled. The draft replaces the time-block-wise weighted average Area Clearing Price (ACP) with a daily weighted-average ACP for deviation-charge computation. It also brings wind-solar projects and general sellers under a common deviation framework for newer projects, while prescribing a separate mechanism for standalone energy storage systems, including pumped hydro. The amendment further replaces the fixed 10-day payment timeline with the procedure prescribed for the National Deviation and Ancillary Services Pool Account. Overall, the changes would alter the financial treatment of deviations for renewable and storage projects, particularly as their share in India's power system expands.

3. **Revised FDI Framework Facilitates ₹ 4,895.65 Crore In Proposed Investments – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Source: [PIB]
   The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has reported **29 FDI proposals worth ₹ 4,895.65 crore** under the revised framework governing investments from countries sharing a land border with India. Under the changes, foreign investors with **non-controlling beneficial ownership of up to 10%** can invest through the automatic route without prior Government approval, subject to sectoral caps and reporting requirements. The proposals reported so far involve investors from jurisdictions including Mauritius, the US, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, with investments spanning AI, IT, data centres, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and transport services. The early investment response shows that the revised framework is lowering approval-related friction for non-controlling foreign investment while retaining safeguards for strategic

ownership. This will improve access to overseas capital and technology in emerging sectors such as AI, data centres and advanced manufacturing.

4. **Ministry Of Textiles Notifies Draft Textiles Committee (Adjudication of Penalties and Appeal) Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Textiles**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the draft Textiles Committee (Adjudication of Penalties and Appeal) Rules, 2026, inviting objections and suggestions from affected persons within 30 days of publication. The draft rules provide for the Central Government to appoint an Adjudicating Officer, not below the rank of Director, to inquire into contraventions and impose penalties, and an Appellate Authority, not below the rank of Joint Secretary, to hear appeals against the Adjudicating Officer's orders. The framework prescribes detailed procedures, including issuance of show-cause notices, a 15-day period for filing replies, a right to personal hearing, a **180-day timeline** for passing speaking orders, and recovery of unpaid penalties as arrears of land revenue. It also allows the appellate order to be treated as final and binding. This will bring procedural transparency, defined timelines and due-process safeguards to the adjudication of penalties under the Textiles Committee Act, reducing arbitrariness and giving regulated entities a clear, time-bound avenue for redress and appeal.

5. **India's Real GDP Grows 7.8% In Q1 FY 2026-27 Despite Global Headwinds – Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has released the Quarterly Estimates of GDP for Q1 (April-June) of FY 2026-27, with real GDP recording 7.8% year-on-year growth and nominal GDP growing by 10.3%. The estimates have been released under the new GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year, incorporating updated data and revised methodology, including the Output Producer Price Index (PPI), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and updated administrative data sources. The release also updates quarterly GDP estimates from Q1 FY 2022-23 to Q4 FY 2025-26 and the provisional FY 2025-26 estimates. The strong Q1 growth indicates that the Indian economy has maintained its growth momentum despite global economic headwinds.

6. **SEBI Proposes Fixed Income Channel Partners For Online Bond Platforms – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has issued a Consultation Paper on 21st August 2026 proposing the introduction of **Fixed Income Channel Partners (FICPs)** to facilitate the distribution of fixed-income securities through Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs). The proposal seeks to establish a regulated distribution channel, with FICPs subject to

defined requirements relating to eligibility, registration or association, activities, responsibilities and investor protection. The move forms part of SEBI's broader efforts to develop the corporate bond and retail fixed-income market and strengthen the regulatory framework for OBPPs. As the proposal is still under consultation, public comments will be considered before any final framework is adopted. The proposed framework will expand retail investor access to fixed-income securities while bringing greater regulatory oversight and accountability to entities involved in their distribution.

7. **CBIC Revises Customs Tariff Values For Gold, Silver, Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, And Areca Nuts – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has updated the tariff value used to calculate customs duty on imported gold, fixing it at **$ 1,500 per 10 grams** from 26th August, 2026. The tariff value for **silver remains at $ 2,097 per kg**, while the existing values for palm oil, soya bean oil, brass scrap and areca nuts have not been changed. These tariff values are used by customs to determine the value on which import duties and related charges are calculated. The change will directly affect the customs-duty calculation for imported gold, while importers of the other listed commodities will continue to work with the existing benchmark values. The use of updated benchmark values also **helps customs assess imports more consistently** and reduce the risk of goods being undervalued for duty purposes.

8. **SEBI Aligns Cyber Incident Reporting Portal With Financial Stability Board's FIRE Framework – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has updated its Cyber Incident Reporting Portal to align with the Financial Stability Board's (FSB) Format for Incident Reporting Exchange (FIRE) framework. The change requires regulated entities such as stock brokers, mutual funds, depositories, clearing corporations and credit rating agencies to use common data fields and classifications when reporting cyber incidents. The new system also tracks an incident from the initial alert through updates to final resolution, alongside existing requirements to alert SEBI within 6 hours and submit the incident through the portal within 24 hours. Standardised reporting will give SEBI a more consistent view of cyber threats across different parts of the securities market, making it easier to identify recurring attack patterns and incidents affecting multiple entities and also improves comparability of Indian cyber incidents with those reported internationally, which can support faster coordination when a cyberattack has cross-border implications.

9. **SEBI Enables KYC Information Interoperability Between KRAs And IFSCA-Regulated Entities – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has recognised IFSCA as a financial sector regulator for the purpose of sharing KYC information with SEBI-registered KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs). This allows entities regulated by IFSCA, including those operating in GIFT IFSC, to access KRA databases for client KYC during onboarding. The entities must continue to follow SEBI's KYC, data security and protection requirements. The change will **reduce duplication in KYC checks** for clients moving between India's domestic financial markets and GIFT IFSC, making onboarding quicker for financial institutions and investors. It also creates a more connected KYC system across the two regulatory ecosystems, which could make it easier for financial firms operating across domestic and IFSC markets to serve the same clients.

10. **SEBI Launches Cyber Suraksha Portal As Centralised Cybersecurity Hub For Securities Market – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
    Source: SEBI
    SEBI has launched the Cyber Suraksha Portal under its Cyber Security Initiative, providing a comprehensive, centralised hub for the securities market to share knowledge and disseminate information regarding cybersecurity. Through the portal, market participants can directly access the latest cybersecurity circulars, vulnerability warnings and incident insights. The centralised repository will reduce fragmentation in how cybersecurity directions reach regulated entities, making it easier for market participants to track applicable circulars and act on vulnerability warnings in time. The portal also complements SEBI's recent alignment of its Cyber Incident Reporting Portal with the FSB's FIRE framework, consolidating the regulator's cybersecurity infrastructure for the securities market.

11. **CBIC Draft Warehouse Licensing Regulations, 2026 Consolidating Public, Private And Special Warehouse Licensing Under A Single Framework – Ministry of Finance**
    Source: CBIC
    The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has released the draft Warehouse Licensing Regulations, 2026 for public comments under the Customs Act, 1962. The draft replaces the three separate warehouse licensing regulations of 2016 with a single framework and common licensing form through the ICEGATE portal. It introduces a **30-day timeline** for licence approval, extendable up to 45 days where deficiencies are identified, and requires applicants to meet security, fire-safety and digital inventory-control requirements. Existing licensees would have to comply with the new requirements within three months of commencement. The framework also introduces quarterly stock verification, annual Chartered

Accountant audits and an inactivity rule for warehouses with no deposits for one year. It standardises licensing procedures while increasing compliance requirements for warehouse operators.

12. **CBIC Revises Customs Tariff Values For Gold, Edible Oils, Palmolein And Soya Bean Oil Effective 1st September, 2026 – Ministry of Finance**
Source: Gazette of India
The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified revised tariff values for specified imported commodities under the Customs Act, 1962, effective from **1st September 2026**. The tariff value for gold has been revised to $ 1,468 per 10 grams, while silver remains unchanged at $ 2,267 per kilogram. Tariff values for crude and RBD palm oil, palmolein and crude soybean oil have also been updated, ranging between $ 1,214 and $ 1,262 per metric tonne, while brass scrap and areca nuts remain unchanged at $ 8,162 and $ 11,574 per MT, respectively. This is the second revision within a week, following the notification issued on 25th August 2026. The revised benchmark values will affect customs duty calculations for imports, particularly gold and edible oils, with the lower gold tariff value marginally reducing the assessable base. The frequent revisions reflect CBIC's practice of periodically aligning tariff values with prevailing international prices.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. **Government Notifies ₹ 62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) To Deepen Domestic Value Addition And Foster Indigenous Brands – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
Status: Announced | **Impact Level**: High | **Source:** Gazette of India
The Ministry has notified the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with an outlay of ₹ 62,500 crore for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, succeeding the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing. The scheme aims to increase domestic value addition, local component sourcing and Indian ownership of intellectual property and brands. Additional incentives are available for manufacturers that localise key components and sub-assemblies, with the scheme projected to **generate around 60,000 direct jobs** and support approximately **₹ 39 lakh crore** in cumulative production. The scheme will move the mobile phone industry beyond assembly-led growth by making deeper component localisation and Indian-owned product development commercially viable. This will increase India's share of higher-value segments of the electronics supply chain and create Indian firms capable of competing in global markets.

2. **DoT Directs Telecom Operators To Enforce Nine-SIM Limit Per Subscriber Through Digital Intelligence Platform – Ministry of Communications**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Business Standard
   The Department of Telecommunications has directed telecom service providers to enforce the existing limit on mobile connections, under which an individual can hold up to nine SIMs, with a **lower limit of six in** Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and the North-East. From 24th August 2026, operators must use the DoT's Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) to identify subscribers seeking connections beyond the prescribed limit, while connections found to be beyond the limit must be suspended. Operators have been given until 30th November 2026 to integrate the process with DIP. The directive strengthens enforcement of SIM ownership limits and helps curb bulk SIM procurement linked to cyber fraud and impersonation.

3. **Petroleum And Natural Gas Regulatory Board Notifies ERDMP Amendment Regulations, 2026 Mandating Strict Post-Incident Accountability And Timelines – Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNGRB)**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Times of India
   The Board has notified the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Codes of Practices for Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP)) Amendment Regulations, 2026, strengthening emergency preparedness and post-incident accountability for regulated petroleum and natural gas entities. The amended framework requires Emergency Response and Disaster Management Plans to include details of available medical facilities, including burn treatment wards and bed capacity. After a major incident, entities must explain lapses within three months, form an internal inquiry committee within one month, complete disciplinary or administrative action within prescribed timelines, and submit Action Taken Reports (ATRs) and board deliberations to the Board. Compensation for fatalities or permanent disabilities must be completed within nine months, with 25% paid as an advance within one month.

4. **Central Government Notifies Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2026 Mandating Biometric-Based Verification – Ministry of Communications**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Department of Telecommunications has notified the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2026 under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The Rules **require biometric-based user identification** for notified telecom services through e-KYC for Aadhaar holders and Digital KYC for non-Aadhaar users or those unable to complete Aadhaar authentication. Biometric verification will be required for new enrolment, updating subscriber details, disconnection and Government-directed re-verification. Telecom entities must securely maintain subscriber records, obtain user acknowledgements on responsibilities and misuse, and report fraud or

impersonation to law enforcement. The required compliance infrastructure must be established within three months, extendable by another three months. The Rules establish a nationwide biometric verification framework to reduce fraud and SIM-based impersonation and improve subscriber traceability.

5. **Department Of Food And Public Distribution Issues Sugar (Stockholding Limit Of Bulk Consumers) Order, 2026 - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Department has notified the Sugar (Stockholding Limit of Bulk Consumers) Order, 2026, effective from 1st September, 2026 to 30th November, 2026, to prevent excessive sugar stocking by large commercial consumers. The order restricts confectioners, soft drink manufacturers, food processing industries, sweetmeat sellers and other institutional buyers consuming at least **10 metric tonnes** of sugar per month to holding stocks equivalent to no more than **15 days** of their operational requirement. Government institutions are exempted from the restriction. The measure will improve the Government's ability to monitor sugar demand and discourage bulk consumers from building up excessive inventories during periods of supply or price pressure. This will lead to greater market availability of sugar and reduce the scope for sharp short-term price movements.

6. **Government Notifies Wireless Access And Mobile Internet Telephony Services As Subject To Mandatory Biometric User Identification – Ministry of Communications**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Central Government has notified **"wireless access services" and "internet telephony service through mobile user terminals"** as the specific telecommunication services to which the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2026 will apply. Authorised entities providing these services will be required to ensure verifiable biometric-based identification through e-KYC or Digital KYC, as applicable, for fresh enrolment, subscriber record updates, disconnection requests and Government-mandated re-verification. By limiting the requirement to these two service categories at this stage, the Government has targeted segments vulnerable to identity fraud, unauthorised SIM issuance and cybercrime, including spoofed calls, fraudulent OTP interception and app-based VoIP calling. The measure brings mobile wireless connections and mobile internet telephony under mandatory biometric verification, strengthening identity verification and reducing the scope for SIM-based fraud and unauthorised use.

7. **Department Of Consumer Affairs Notifies Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 To Establish IST As Common Time Reference – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Department of Consumer Affairs has notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026, establishing Indian Standard Time (IST) as the common time reference for legal, administrative, commercial and official purposes across the country. The Rules will come into force **180 days** after publication in the Official Gazette. They provide for the generation, maintenance, dissemination and synchronisation of IST through authorised Indian institutions, including the use of NavIC for time dissemination. The move aims to ensure consistent and accurate time-stamping across banking, digital payments, telecommunications, transport, power systems and government records, while reducing dependence on foreign satellite-based timing sources.

8. **Government Approves Incentive Scheme For Promotion Of Domestic PNG Connections – Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** India Today
   The Government has approved the Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections, effective from 1st September 2026, to expand domestic PNG connections beyond the existing 1.74 crore households. Eligible CGD entities will receive an additional 200 SCM of cheaper APM gas for each incremental billed PNG connection above the prescribed threshold, in two six-month tranches. The scheme is expected to reduce the payback period for PNG investments from around 10 years to nearly three years and incentivise activation of inactive or unbilled connections. By linking incentives to billed connections, the scheme shifts the focus from pipeline installation to active household usage, potentially accelerating PNG adoption and improving the commercial viability of domestic connections.

9. **Amended BharatNet Programme Expands Rural Broadband Coverage Across 11,682 Gram Panchayats In Chhattisgarh – Ministry of Communications**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Department of Telecommunications has signed an agreement with the Government of Chhattisgarh, BSNL and state agencies to implement the Amended BharatNet Programme under the State-led model. The Centre has approved ₹ 3,942 crore to cover 11,682 Gram Panchayats and provide on-demand connectivity to 8,328 villages, along with more than **3 lakh rural fibre connections**. The project will expand last-mile broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas of Chhattisgarh, improving access to e-Governance, online education, telemedicine, digital payments and other essential digital services.

B. **Announcements**

1. **Government Notifies Draft Central Motor Vehicles Amendment Rules Mandating Upgraded Automotive Safety Standards By 2028 – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Ministry has issued draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, proposing upgraded visibility and lighting requirements for vehicles from **1st April, 2028**. The draft requires **Type II and Type III M3 buses** to use rear retro-reflective contour markings meeting updated AIS standards. Similar requirements for retro-reflective devices, warning markings and lighting components are proposed for tractors, combine harvesters, construction equipment vehicles and modular hydraulic trailers. The draft also proposes changes to Automatic Headlamp On (AHO) systems and headlamp and rear-position lamp configurations across vehicle categories. The proposed standards will reduce the risk of collisions involving large, slow-moving and agricultural vehicles by improving their visibility, particularly in low-light conditions. Common visibility and lighting standards across diverse vehicle categories will also reduce safety gaps between newer and legacy vehicle segments and push manufacturers towards more uniform safety equipment.

2. **Draft Central Motor Vehicles Amendment: Low-Powered Electric Two-Wheelers - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**

   Source: Gazette of India

   India's automotive testing and certification agencies are reviewing the power and weight limits for low-speed electric two-wheelers exempt from licence and registration requirements under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR). The review is considering whether to raise the existing 250W power and 60 kg weight limits, alongside a related proposal to allow 16–17-year-olds to ride electric two-wheelers up to 1,500W, capped at 25 km/h. The changes expand the legally recognised category of low-speed electric two-wheelers, ease entry for manufacturers and users, and bring more vehicles under a clearer regulatory framework.

3. **MNRE Advises Up To Four-Month Force Majeure Extension For Renewable Energy Projects Affected By West Asia Situation – Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

   Source: MNRE

   The Ministry has advised Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies and State/UT energy departments to grant up to four months' extension in the scheduled supply or commissioning dates of renewable energy projects affected by the West Asia situation. The extension will be considered case-by-case under Force Majeure provisions, without cost or penalty, where delays are directly attributable to the disruption. The Ministry has also sought corresponding relief on GNA/connectivity and continuation of the ISTS waiver for the extended project period. The measure provides relief to renewable energy developers facing supply-chain disruptions while limiting penalties for eligible delays.

4. **Cabinet Approves Four Multitracking Projects Covering Eight Districts In West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu And Andhra Pradesh, Increasing The Existing Network Of Indian Railways By About 410 Kms - Ministry of Railways**

   Source: PIB

   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved four multitracking railway projects covering 410 km across eight districts in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, at an estimated cost of **₹ 9,450 crore**, with completion targeted by 2030–31. The projects will add 76 MTPA freight capacity, connect around 6,448 villages serving nearly 60 lakh people, and improve connectivity to key economic and industrial areas. The projects will reduce logistics costs, facilitate faster movement of freight and passengers, lower dependence on oil imports and **reduce CO_2 emissions**, while strengthening regional economic activity and the capacity of the Indian Railways network.

5. **India And Brazil Sign MoU To Strengthen Cooperation In Telecommunications And ICTs - Ministry of Communications**

   Source: PIB

   India and Brazil have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21st August, 2026 to strengthen bilateral cooperation in telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) during the BRICS ICT Track Meeting in Pune. The framework provides for the exchange of information, experience and best practices and cooperation in AI, 5G/6G, Open RAN, IoT, Direct-to-Device connectivity, LEO satellites, spectrum and satellite management, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, universal connectivity and digital inclusion, among other areas. The MoU will create a structured framework for collaboration between the two countries, supporting digital infrastructure development, cybersecurity capabilities, emerging technology adoption and international cooperation in the telecom and ICT sectors.

6. **DoT And C-DOT Sign Five-Year Agreement To Establish End-to-End Optical Network Testbed For Indigenous Telecom Technologies – Ministry of Communications**

   Source: PIB

   The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) have signed a five-year agreement to establish an **End-to-End Optical Network Testbed** at the C-DOT campus in New Delhi. The publicly funded facility will allow Indian startups, researchers and telecom companies to test and validate optical communication technologies in real-world conditions before commercial deployment. The testbed will cover optical core, optical access and quantum security technologies, supported by testing equipment and technical expertise. The first two years will focus on setting up the facility, followed by three years of operations, user support, training and capacity building. This will reduce the time and cost involved in moving indigenous telecom technologies from laboratory prototypes to commercially deployable products. It gives startups and researchers access to real-world testing and validation facilities, lowers entry barriers for smaller technology firms and strengthens India's domestic supply chain for advanced optical and secure communications equipment.

7. **Cabinet Approves Upgradation Of The Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa Section Of NH-22 To 4-Lane Standard In Bihar On Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) At Total Capital Cost Of ₹ 3590.73 Crore - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

   Source: [PIB]

   The Cabinet has approved the upgradation of the 82.578 km Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa section of NH-22 in Bihar to four-lane standards under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of ₹ 3,590.73 Crore. The project will connect Muzaffarpur on NH-27 with the India–Nepal border at Sonbarsa, improve passenger and freight movement, and reduce congestion across key towns, with a design speed of 100 kmph and an average speed of 80 kmph. Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, it includes 7 Major Bridges (including a 340-m Bagmati River bridge), 3 ROBs and 2 Flyovers (1,170 m and 270 m), and will connect 5 PM GatiShakti Economic Nodes, 4 Social Nodes and 2 Logistic Nodes, while strengthening connectivity to the Bhithamore Land Port, industrial zones, railway stations and major religious and cultural destinations. The project will reduce travel time and vehicle operating costs, improve road safety and fuel efficiency, strengthen agricultural supply chains and cross-border trade, and support regional economic growth in northern Bihar.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. **Government Restricts Certain FDCs For Children Below Four Years - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

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

   The Ministry has restricted the manufacture, sale and distribution of all the formulations of **Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride** for use in children below four years of age. Following recommendations of an Expert Committee and the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB)**, manufacturers are required to prominently display the warning "Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age" on product labels, package inserts and promotional material. The restriction will reduce the risk of adverse effects from these combinations in young children and promote the use of safer alternatives, strengthening safeguards around paediatric medicines.

2. **Government Notifies Continuation Of 'Assistance To National Sports Federations' (ANSF) Scheme With ₹ 7,386.74 Crore Outlay Through 2030–31 – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has approved the continuation of the Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) Scheme for 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹ 7,386.74 crore. The scheme will provide ₹ 4,236.74 crore for athlete training, coaching, sports science, nutrition, medical support and international exposure, while another ₹ 3,150 crore will support the hosting of national and international sporting events, including ₹ 2,500 crore for preparations and infrastructure for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**. The expanded funding will allow Indian athletes to spend more time in sustained training and international competition, rather than relying primarily on event-specific preparation. The dedicated Commonwealth Games allocation could also accelerate sporting infrastructure and event-readiness ahead of 2030, while greater support for sports science and high-performance coaching may improve athlete preparation in Olympic and other elite disciplines.

3. **Government Mandates Disclosure Of Sterilisation Subcontractor Licence Numbers On Medical Devices – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the **Medical Devices (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026**, amending the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 which requires manufacturers that outsource sterilisation of medical devices to a separately licensed facility to mention the sterilisation site's licence number on the device label. The requirement is intended to make the sterilisation chain identifiable and traceable, with the provision becoming mandatory **six months after notification**. The amendment also formally defines the term **"Certificate of Registration"** for specified registration forms and introduces a Ninth Schedule prescribing fees for medical-device testing and evaluation, with a 5% annual escalation. The labelling mandate will make it possible for regulators to trace a medical device back to the specific licensed facility responsible for its sterilisation, strengthening accountability when sterilisation-related quality or safety issues arise. For manufacturers, however, naming the subcontracted facility on labels could create operational constraints when switching between approved sterilisation providers.

4. **Medical Devices (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026 Notified – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Medical Devices (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. The amendment strengthens compliance requirements by adding Quality Management System requirements alongside existing standards and expands the regulatory framework for Government Medical Device Testing Laboratories. It also recognises European Union countries alongside Japan for accepted regulatory standards. The amendment will raise quality and compliance requirements for medical device manufacturers, strengthen testing and regulatory oversight, and facilitate recognition of standards followed in the EU and Japan.

5. **Government Fixes ₹ 21,000 Monthly Wage Ceiling For Bonus Eligibility Under Code On Wages – Ministry of Labour and Employment**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry exercising powers under the Code on Wages, 2019, has notified that employees drawing wages of up to ₹ 21,000 per month will be eligible for payment of bonus as specified under the Code. Although the notification was issued on 25th August, 2026, it has been deemed to have come into force from 21st November, 2025. The notification provides a clear wage threshold for determining bonus eligibility, which will give employers greater certainty in identifying employees covered by the statutory bonus provision and allow eligible lower-wage workers to claim the benefit under the Code on Wages.

6. **Government Revises CBG Pricing Framework Under GOBARdhan Scheme To Support Producers And Protect Consumers – Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Government has revised the Compressed Biogas (CBG) pricing framework under the GOBARdhan Scheme, fixing the CBG procurement price at ₹ 2,110 per MMBtu to provide a stable and viable price for producers. To limit the impact on consumers, the Government will provide affordability support of ₹ 10 per kg of CBG, equivalent to approximately ₹ 215 per MMBtu, reducing the effective cost to around ₹ 1,895 per MMBtu. CBG will continue to be pooled with other domestically produced natural gas, with its cost now spread across a domestic gas base approximately 2.5–3 times larger than the earlier base. The revised framework is intended to support the financial viability of CBG plants while ensuring that the resulting impact on CNG and household PNG consumers remains negligible.

7. **Ministry Of Home Affairs Amends BSF Law Officer Recruitment Rules To Streamline Deputation, Absorption And Re-Employment Norms – Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended the BSF legal officer recruitment rules, expanding the routes for filling Law Officer Grade-I and Grade-II vacancies. Grade-I positions can now be filled through promotion, failing which deputation/absorption, while Grade-II positions can be filled through deputation, absorption or re-employment, including eligible Government officers and armed forces personnel. The amendment widens the recruitment pool and provides greater flexibility to fill legal officer vacancies in the BSF, reducing the risk of prolonged vacancies.

B. **Announcements**

1. **Government Constitutes National Sports Election Panel Under National Sports Governance Act, 2025 – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has brought the National Sports Election Panel under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 into operation from **17th August, 2026**, activating the statutory framework for the **National Sports Election Panel**. The provision empowers designated electoral officers to oversee and conduct elections of National Sports Bodies through a standardised process, with the aim of strengthening **transparency, athlete representation and accountability** in sports administration. The move will reduce the scope for prolonged electoral disputes and governance instability within national sports bodies by placing elections under a common statutory framework. This will further improve continuity in high-performance programmes and make national sports bodies more capable of implementing long-term talent-development and Olympic preparation strategies.

2. **Government Proposes Draft Rules To Impose Stricter Prescription Controls On Four Medicines – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has proposed bringing **Flupentixol, Zopiclone, Gabapentin and Carisoprodol under stricter prescription** controls by adding them to the list of medicines subject to enhanced monitoring. Chemists would be required to dispense these medicines only against valid prescriptions and maintain records of their sale, helping prevent misuse, dependency and unauthorised diversion. The draft is open for public comments for 30 days, after which the final rules are proposed to take effect 180 days after Gazette publication. The move aims to strengthen oversight of medicines with a higher potential for misuse and reduce their unauthorised or over-the-counter sale.

3. **Government Migrates Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Portal To SAMAVESH Platform To Strengthen Digital Access – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry has completed the migration of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) Portal from its earlier platform to the SAMAVESH Portal, developed by the **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**. The upgraded platform provides new access links and QR codes for the NMBA Portal, e-Pledge, Nasha Mukti Mitr registration, NMBA Login and NMBA Mobile App, improving access to the Abhiyaan's digital services and citizen participation mechanisms. The migration will strengthen the digital delivery of drug-prevention and de-addiction programmes by bringing multiple citizen-facing services onto a more integrated platform. Improved access to pledging, volunteer registration and campaign participation will enable consistent tracking of outreach activities in anti-drug initiatives.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. **Government Notifies Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026 Empowering District Collectors In Border States And UTs – Ministry of Home Affairs**

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

   The Ministry has notified the Citizenship (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the **Citizenship Rules, 2009**. The amendment authorises District Collectors in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, and the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to receive, scrutinise and decide electronic applications for **registration or naturalisation of citizenship**. Collectors will be able to verify documents, conduct required inquiries, administer the Oath of Allegiance and grant citizenship to eligible applicants, while retaining the power to reject applications where requirements are not met, including failure to appear in person after being given a reasonable opportunity. This reform will improve the Government's ability to maintain accurate records of persons residing in strategically sensitive areas. Stronger district-level scrutiny will also help identify documentation inconsistencies and potential cases of fraudulent identity or citizenship claims earlier, supporting more effective border management and internal security.

2. **Government Adds 405 Items To Positive Indigenisation List To Strengthen Domestic Defence Manufacturing - Ministry of Defence**

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

   The Ministry has notified the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL), covering 405 strategically important defence items with an estimated business potential of ₹ 3,070 crore, including 16 items for the Indian Coast Guard and 389 for Defence Public Sector Undertakings, covering components, spares, sub-systems and raw materials used in platforms and systems such as the **ALH, LCA, Su-30MKI, T-72, T-90, BMP-II, warships, missiles, radars and sonars**. These items will be progressively indigenised and subsequently procured from Indian industry, with opportunities for MSMEs and start-ups through the **SRIJAN portal**. The inclusion of spares, sub-systems and raw materials for platforms such as the Su-30MKI, LCA, T-90, warships, radars and sonars will shift domestic defence demand towards specialised component manufacturing, where import dependence remains significant

3. **Government Approves Transfer Of Technology Of DRDO-Developed Conventional Missile Systems To Indian Industry – Ministry of Defence**

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

   The Minister has approved the Transfer of Technology (ToT) of DRDO-developed technologies for all conventional missile systems to the Indian defence industry for domestic production. The move will allow eligible Indian companies to manufacture these missile systems after meeting the required technical, certification and regulatory requirements. It is aimed at moving indigenous missile technologies from the development stage to wider production while creating greater opportunities for Indian manufacturers, MSMEs and technology partners to participate in defence supply chains. This will increase the share of **Indian-made components and systems in missile production** thus reducing dependence on imported technologies and inputs and help Indian companies build capabilities in advanced missile technologies.

B. Announcements

1. **India And Uzbekistan Announce Long-Term Uranium Supply Arrangement During Prime Minister's Visit To Tashkent – Ministry of External Affairs**

   Source: PIB, NDTV

   India and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish a long-term arrangement for the supply of uranium, announced by the Prime Minister following talks with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during his visit to Tashkent concluding on 30th August 2026. The visit also covered the finalisation of three sister-city and sister-state agreements, an offer to host an Uzbek delegation to study GIFT City as a model for the New Tashkent urban development project, and Uzbekistan’s decision to remove visa requirements for Indian citizens for stays of up to 30 days. Bilateral trade crossed the $ 1 billion mark last year for the first time, with joint ventures increasing sevenfold and 14 direct weekly flights now connecting the two countries. A long-term uranium supply arrangement will diversify the fuel sourcing base for India's nuclear power programme, reducing dependence on existing suppliers and providing fuel security for planned capacity expansion. The visa waiver and connectivity gains will deepen commercial and people-to-people engagement with a partner of growing importance in Central Asia.

2. **Indian Army Signs Letter Of Offer And Acceptance To Procure Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile System From The United States – Ministry of Defence**
   Source: The Tribune
   The Indian Army has signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with the United States to procure Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) systems under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales framework. It includes over 100 Javelin missiles, 25 lightweight launch units, training and simulation systems, spares and lifecycle support. The man-portable, fire-and-forget system is intended to address anti-armour requirements in high-altitude and rugged border areas, while discussions on possible bilateral co-production are also expected to continue alongside India's indigenous DRDO-developed MPATGM programme. The acquisition will provide the Army with a **rapidly deployable anti-armour capability for difficult border terrain**, particularly against modern armoured platforms. The parallel exploration of co-production will create opportunities for Indian industry to participate in the Javelin supply chain and potentially support future technology and manufacturing cooperation in anti-tank systems.

3. **Indian Navy Signs ₹ 1,943 Crore Contract To Lease Two MQ-9B Sea Guardian HALE Drones From The United States – Ministry of Defence**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for the Indian Navy from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. of the United States, at a cost of ₹ 1,943 crore. The contract was signed on 17th August 2026 at Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi. The MQ-9B Sea Guardian can loiter for over 30 hours and carries advanced multi-mode radar, EO/IR sensors and sonobuoy systems, enabling persistent maritime domain awareness. The acquisition will substantially strengthen India's surveillance coverage over the Indian Ocean Region, complementing the Navy’s existing P-8I Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft with a lower-cost, longer-endurance unmanned platform. This will improve India's ability to monitor critical chokepoints and sea lanes across the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, enhancing maritime domain awareness and strategic autonomy in the Indian Ocean Region.

4. **Ministry Of Defence Simplifies Standard Operating Procedure And Open General Export Licence For Defence Exports – Ministry of Defence**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry of Defence has simplified the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing defence export approvals and streamlined the **Open General Export Licence (OGEL) framework**, reducing procedural steps for exporters of defence items. The move is aimed at easing compliance for Indian defence manufacturers and exporters, cutting delays in obtaining export clearances for eligible items and categories already covered under general licensing arrangements. The simplification will reduce approval timelines for defence exporters and make it easier for Indian defence manufacturers, including MSMEs, to access overseas markets, supporting the Government's broader target of scaling up defence exports and strengthening India's position in the global defence manufacturing supply chain.

5. **Indian Navy Receives 'Mangrol', Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Built By Cochin Shipyard – Ministry of Defence**

   Source: PIB

   The Indian Navy received 'Mangrol', the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), indigenously built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, with delivery taking place on 21st August 2026. The vessel strengthens India's programme to indigenise coastal submarine-hunting capability, addressing the specialised acoustic and operational demands of shallow-water anti-submarine operations that differ from deep-water ASW frigates. The delivery advances Aatmanirbharta in defence shipbuilding and expands the role of Indian shipyards in specialised naval platforms. It will strengthen the Navy's ability to detect and respond to submarine threats in complex coastal and shallow-water environments, an area where thermal gradients and proximity to shorelines make detection especially difficult.

6. **Indian Navy Receives 'Samarthak', The First Indigenously Built Multi-Purpose Vessel From L&T Shipyard – Ministry of Defence**

   Source: PIB

   The Indian Navy has received **'Samarthak'**, the first indigenously designed and built Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV), constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai. The 106-metre vessel has **over 75% indigenous content** and will be used to test indigenous weapons and sensors, operate uncrewed systems, and conduct target launch and recovery. It can also undertake maritime surveillance, offshore patrolling, ship towing and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. The vessel will expand the role of private shipyards in naval shipbuilding and increasing domestic capabilities in specialised maritime platforms. The vessel will **shorten the testing and validation cycle** for new weapons, sensors and autonomous systems by providing the Navy with a dedicated platform for trials at sea. It will also enable more frequent testing of emerging technologies under realistic maritime conditions, helping identify operational and integration issues before their deployment on frontline warships.

7. **Ministry Of Home Affairs Formulates Strategic Roadmap For 'Smart Border' Management And Integrated Command Centres – Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has initiated a "Smart Border" framework to modernise surveillance and coordination across India's land borders through an integrated, technology-driven system. The framework will connect tactical command centres, field formations and operational headquarters to create a real-time **Common Operational Picture (COP)** using ground radars, thermal and optical sensors, image-processing systems and aerial surveillance addressing difficult and unfenced terrain and emerging threats such as cross-border drone smuggling and narco-terror networks. It brings Central Border Guarding Forces, State Police, civil administration and local communities into a **"quadrangular security grid"**, with an initial pilot planned along the western border with Pakistan. The integrated system will enable faster detection and coordinated response to infiltration, drone-based smuggling and other cross-border threats, particularly in areas where physical fencing is not feasible. Greater involvement of State Police and local communities will also improve the flow of ground-level intelligence to border security agencies.

8. **INS Nipun Commissioned Into Indian Navy, Enhancing Deep-Sea Diving And Submarine Rescue Capabilities – Ministry of Defence**
   Source: PIB
   The Indian Navy commissioned INS Nipun, the second Diving Support Vessel (DSV) of the Nistar Class, at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, strengthening its capabilities in deep-sea diving, underwater intervention, salvage and submarine rescue operations. Indigenously designed and constructed by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, the vessel is equipped to support saturation, air and heliox diving, remotely operated underwater systems, dynamic positioning and specialised life-support and medical facilities. INS Nipun can also support submarine rescue operations involving both Indian and partner-nation submarines, strengthening India's position as a "Preferred Submarine Rescue Partner" in the region. Its commissioning advances Aatmanirbharta in defence shipbuilding and enhances the Navy's readiness for underwater contingencies, maritime operations and HADR missions.

9. **Ministry Of Home Affairs Designates Exclusive Special Courts For Trial Of NIA Cases Across Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, And Rajasthan – Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has designated exclusive Special Courts for trials of cases investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. The designated courts each in Patna, Visakhapatnam and Jaipur will have jurisdiction across their respective states and will hear cases involving scheduled offences investigated by the NIA. In Bihar, the dedicated court will help expedite NIA cases linked to terror networks, radicalisation and terror financing, while in Andhra Pradesh, faster trials could strengthen the response to terror-related and other scheduled offences with a coastal or organised-crime dimension. In Rajasthan, where the state's location along the India–Pakistan border creates particular exposure to cross-border security threats, quicker adjudication could strengthen action against cross-border terror networks, terror financing and related offences.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. **Department Of Drinking Water And Sanitation Releases Policy On Data Sharing, Interoperability And Stakeholder Access – Ministry of Jal Shakti**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has issued the Policy on Data Sharing, Interoperability and Stakeholder Access under **Sujalam Bharat Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** to establish a common framework for secure and interoperable data exchange in rural drinking water management. The policy enables governed data sharing among the Centre, States/UTs, Gram Panchayats and authorised stakeholders through common identifiers, standardised metadata, interoperable registries and tiered access controls. It also provides for technology-enabled applications such as AI-based predictive maintenance, water-quality monitoring, geospatial planning and Digital Twins, while incorporating data classification, cybersecurity and personal data protection safeguards. The framework will shift fragmented monitoring of rural water infrastructure towards predictive and data-driven monitoring. This will help to identify failing infrastructure before service disruption and improve targeting of maintenance expenditure.

2. **Government Launches National Campaign On Entrepreneurship-II Under DAY-NRLM To Scale Women-Led Rural Enterprises – Ministry of Rural Development**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has launched the second phase of the National Campaign on Entrepreneurship-II under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) for three months, from 21st August to 21st November,

2026, focusing on handholding, formalisation and market linkages for women-led rural enterprises rather than training alone. The three-month campaign aims to **train 5 lakh SHG women**, support the **formalisation of 50,000 enterprises**, train 50,000 community cadres, and expand digital market access. The campaign seeks to help rural women move from small livelihood activities to formal, market-oriented businesses with greater potential to grow and generate employment.

3. **Government Notifies Seventh Amendment To Plant Quarantine Order, 2003, Regulating Timber Imports From Bhutan – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Seventh Amendment) Order, 2026, allowing imports of specified timber and wood materials from Bhutan subject to prescribed phytosanitary conditions. The amendment adds multiple Bhutanese timber species to Schedule VI of the **Plant Quarantine Order, 2003** and requires consignments to undergo **pre-shipment treatment** through approved fumigation, heat treatment or an equivalent protocol. The treatment must be recorded on the Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the exporting authority. This makes timber trade with Bhutan more predictable by clearly specifying the treatment requirements that exporters must meet before shipments enter India. It will also reduce the risk of plant pests entering India through imported timber, particularly for species that may carry pests or pathogens not present in Indian ecosystems.

B. **Announcements**

1. **Government Commences Calibrated And Targeted Release Of Onion Buffer Stocks To Moderate Seasonal Price Pressures – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**
   Source: PIB
   The Government has started the targeted release of 2 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of onion buffer stock procured through NAFED and NCCF to prevent seasonal price increases and maintain adequate supplies in major markets. Onions are being transported through rail and road, including dedicated railway rakes, to high-consumption centres. The buffer stock is also being sold to consumers at a **subsidised price of ₹ 35 per kg** through retail outlets and mobile vans operated by NCCF, NAFED and Kendriya Bhandar. The release will be expanded to additional locations based on changes in onion prices and arrivals monitored across 579 centres. The intervention will increase onion availability in major consumption centres during the seasonal supply gap and limit sudden increases in retail prices. The use of rail alongside road transport will also improve the speed and

cost-efficiency of moving buffer stocks from producing regions to high-demand markets.

2. **Centre Constitutes Supervisory Committee And Review Authority To Implement Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal's Decision Between Odisha And Andhra Pradesh – Ministry of Jal Shakti**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has constituted a Supervisory Committee and Review Authority to oversee implementation of the Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal's final order between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The Committee will monitor the Side Weir complex, regulate water-sharing and ensure Andhra Pradesh's seasonal water drawal remains within **8 Thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC)**. The Union Water Resources Secretary will adjudicate disputes arising from the Committee's directions. The measure establishes a formal mechanism to oversee compliance with the tribunal's order and resolve implementation-related disputes.

3. **Government Approves 11.19 Lakh Pucca Houses For Bihar With ₹ 13,427 Crore Allocation – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
   Source: PIB
   The Government has announced a package of rural-development measures for Bihar, including approval of 11.19 lakh pucca houses with an allocation of ₹ 13,427 crore under the rural housing programme. The package also includes implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Bihar to provide crop-loss protection against natural calamities. Measures have also been announced to expand Lakhpati Didi opportunities through SHGs and establish She-Marts in every district to improve market access for women entrepreneurs. The measures combine housing, crop-risk protection, rural connectivity, women's livelihoods and digital farmer identification, with potential to directly affect a large number of rural households and strengthen Bihar's agricultural and rural economy.

4. **Draft Banning Of Carbosulfan Order, 2026 – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
   Source: Business Standard
   The Ministry has proposed a complete ban on carbosulfan, a carbamate insecticide, under the Insecticides Act, 1968. An Expert Committee recommended prohibiting its manufacture, import, transport, distribution, sale and use, citing its high toxicity and risks to birds, pollinators and aquatic organisms. The Registration Committee has supported the recommendation, and the draft order has been opened for public comments before a final decision. If approved, the ban would remove carbosulfan

from agricultural use, requiring farmers and agrochemical suppliers to shift to alternative pest-control products, while reducing potential risks to human health and the environment.

5. **Government To Release 'Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031' Strategic Action Plan For Ornamental Fisheries Development – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying**
   Source: PIB
   The Department of Fisheries is set to release the "Mission Rangeen Machhli 2031" Strategic Action Plan for Ornamental Fisheries Development at an outreach programme in Agatti, Lakshadweep. The Action Plan will establish a uniform framework for scientific management, biosecurity, quality assurance and regulatory compliance across the ornamental fisheries value chain, with standard operating procedures covering broodstock management, breeding, hatchery operations, production, quarantine, health management, traceability, aquarium operations, handling, transport and trade. The initiative will strengthen stakeholder capacity, improve product quality and biosecurity, facilitate certification and market access, and support the sustainable and globally competitive growth of India's ornamental fisheries sector.

Annexure-I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Finance, Taxation And Trade

1. **MoSPI Releases Concept Paper On Experimental Monetary Asset Accounts for Marine Fish Resources – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry has released a Concept Paper on the **monetary valuation of India's marine fish resources**, aligned with the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework. The proposed methodology combines data on **fish stocks and their economic value** to assess the condition, sustainability and long-term productive capacity of marine fisheries. The framework builds on MoSPI's existing environmental accounting work and adapts international natural-resource valuation methods to India's marine fisheries. The paper has been released for technical feedback from researchers, sector experts and international agencies before a standard national methodology is developed. The framework will make the economic value and condition of India's marine fish resources more visible in national-level economic planning. A consistent valuation of fish stocks will support more evidence-based fisheries management, help assess the economic costs of resource depletion, and strengthen the integration of marine sustainability considerations into development and policy decisions.

2. **Government Notifies Auction For Sale/Re-Issue Of Two Government Securities Worth ₹ 32,000 Crore – Ministry of Finance**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Department of Economic Affairs (Budget Division) has notified the auction of two Government Securities on 4th September 2026: a new 5-year Government Security 2031 for ₹ 21,000 crore and the 7.71% Government Security 2066 for ₹ 11,000 crore, with the Government retaining the option to accept an additional ₹ 2,000 crore against each security. The auction will be conducted by the Reserve Bank of India through the E-Kuber electronic bidding system, with results announced on the same day and payment due on 7th September 2026, the date of issue. Up to 5% of the notified amount will be reserved for eligible individuals and institutions under the Non-Competitive Bidding Scheme, allowing retail investors to participate through aggregators, facilitators or RBI's Retail Direct Gilt Account without quoting a price or yield. The auction will support the Government's market borrowing requirements and debt management, while the non-competitive allocation will broaden retail investor participation in Government securities and deepen the domestic Government bond market.

3. **Government Extends Anti-Dumping Duty On Natural Mica-Based Pearl Industrial Pigments From China PR Till February 2027 – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has extended the anti-dumping duty on natural mica-based pearl industrial pigments imported from China PR until 25th February 2027. The duty, originally imposed in 2021 and scheduled to expire on 25th November 2026, will remain in force while the ongoing **sunset review** is completed. The extension continues protection for Indian manufacturers against potentially dumped Chinese imports, providing greater market stability and policy certainty. However, downstream industries using these pigments may face **higher input costs or limited sourcing options**, while importers may need to diversify toward alternative suppliers. The outcome of the sunset review will determine whether the protection is retained beyond February 2027, balancing domestic manufacturing interests with the cost implications for downstream users.

4. **NPPA Notifies Ceiling Retail Prices For 11 Scheduled And New Drug Formulations Under DPCO, 2013 – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed **ceiling retail prices for 11 drug formulations** under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013. The formulations cover medicines used for **diabetes, hypertension, CNS disorders, pain management and antiviral treatment**, including combinations such as Empagliflozin-Linagliptin-Metformin, Telmisartan-Amlodipine and Dolutegravir-Lamivudine–Tenofovir Alafenamide. The notified prices are exclusive of GST, and manufacturers introducing identical formulations can adopt these prices subject to the prescribed filing requirements. Retailers and distributors are required to display the revised price lists for transparency at the point of sale. The price ceilings will directly lower or limit the retail prices of commonly prescribed medicines, particularly for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension where patients require long-term treatment. The inclusion of multiple combination therapies make fixed-dose treatment options more affordable for patients who depend on regular medication.

5. **NPCI International Partners With Uzbekistan's NIPC To Enable UPI Payments Through UZQR – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: PIB
   NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) has entered into a commercial agreement with Uzbekistan's National Interbank Processing Centre (NIPC) to enable Indian users to make merchant payments across Uzbekistan by scanning the country's interoperable UZQR using UPI-enabled applications. The partnership, approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of Uzbekistan, will provide

near-universal UPI merchant acceptance across retail, hospitality and service establishments, allowing Indian tourists, business travellers and students to make direct payments from their Indian bank accounts. The initiative strengthens India-Uzbekistan digital payments cooperation and expands the international footprint of India's digital public infrastructure, taking UPI's overseas acceptance to 11 countries with Uzbekistan.

B. Ease Of Doing Business And Regulatory Affairs

1. **Ministry of Road Transport And Highways Engages EIL For Independent Third-Party Quality Audits Across Highways And Expressways – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

   Source: The Economic Times

   The Ministry has engaged Engineers India Limited (EIL) as an independent third-party agency to conduct **quality audits across approximately 5,000 km** of national highways and expressways over an initial three-year period. The audits will cover expressways and two, four and six-lane highways, with EIL independently checking engineering quality, material testing and compliance with project specifications from construction through completion. This will address structural deficiencies and premature pavement failures and shifts quality oversight towards an institutional, PSU-led audit model. Independent audits at multiple stages of construction will help identify design, material and workmanship deficiencies before they translate into pavement failures or costly repairs. This standardised audit process across MoRTH and NHAI projects will make contractors more accountable for meeting specified quality standards and improve the durability of newly constructed highway assets.

2. **CBN Partners With PHARMEXCIL To Boost Legitimate Pharmaceutical Exports And Strengthen Regulatory Cooperation – Ministry of Finance**

   Source: PIB

   The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) has signed an MoU with the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) to make it easier for pharmaceutical companies to obtain export approvals while ensuring that controlled substances are not diverted for illegal use. The agreement will improve information sharing between regulators and exporters, introduce a **Voluntary Code of Conduct** for industry, and provide companies with designated contacts for compliance-related matters. It will also support joint training with CDSCO and Customs to help exporters address regulatory and procedural issues more efficiently. The partnership will reduce delays in pharmaceutical export approvals and make compliance requirements clearer for exporters and better information sharing between industry and regulators will strengthen controls over sensitive drugs and chemicals and reduce the risk of their diversion into illegal channels.

C. **Governance And Administrative Affairs**

1. **Centre Circulates 23-Point Action Plan For Viksit Bharat 2047 To Union Government Secretaries – Cabinet Secretariat**
   Source: Moneycontrol
   Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has laid down a 23-point action plan to the Secretaries of Government of India for advancing the Viksit Bharat 2047 agenda, based on the Prime Minister's recent interactions with secretaries. The plan treats Viksit Bharat as a mass movement rather than a Government-only goal, with priorities including aligning skill training with global workforce demand, strengthening sports and agricultural education, promoting domestic digital and AI platforms, reducing dependence on consultants, deregulating the pharmaceutical sector, and building domestic capacity for heavy machinery. The action plan will guide policy priorities and administrative reforms across ministries, with greater emphasis on domestic technology, skilled workforce development, reduced reliance on consultants, and stronger inter-ministerial coordination.

2. **Ministry Of Minority Affairs Strengthens Administrative Structure Of Central WAQF Council And Revises Secretary Recruitment Rules - Ministry of Minority Affairs**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified two amendments to strengthen the administrative and leadership structure of the Central Waqf Council (CWC). The first amendment makes the position of **Secretary a mandatory post** within the Council. The accompanying recruitment rules revise eligibility for the position, allowing appointment through deputation of serving Government officers or retired Central Government officers at **Deputy Secretary/Director level or above**, subject to prescribed qualifications and experience in administrative, financial and legal matters. The Secretary will ordinarily have a **four-year tenure**, with an upper age limit of 56 years for deputation appointments. The creation of a dedicated senior administrative position will strengthen continuity and professional oversight within the CWC, particularly in financial, legal and administrative matters. A clearer leadership responsibility will improve coordination between the Council and Government authorities and strengthen the institutional capacity for monitoring and administering waqf-related matters.

3. **Andaman And Nicobar Islands Registration Of Societies Regulation, 2026, Replacing The Societies Registration Act, 1860 – Ministry of Law and Justice**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The President has promulgated the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Registration of Societies Regulation, 2026, repealing the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in its application to the Union Territory. The Regulation establishes a new two-tier

registration framework and requires existing societies to obtain a new registration number within one year of commencement. It also introduces requirements for annual meetings, Governing Body elections, audited accounts and timely filing of annual returns. The Registrar General is given wider powers to approve or supersede Governing Bodies, seize records and take action in cases of suspected misappropriation, while penalties are prescribed for non-compliance and false filings. The framework will bring societies, including resident welfare associations, under greater statutory oversight and increase compliance requirements for existing organisations, particularly smaller charitable and cultural bodies.

4. **Ministry Of Labour And Employment Notifies New Recruitment Rules For Economic Officer Post – Ministry of Labour and Employment**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the Economic Officer Group 'B' Post Recruitment Rules, 2026 on 18th August 2026. The Rules provide for six Group 'B', Gazetted, Non-Ministerial posts, with recruitment split **50% by direct recruitment and 50% by promotion** (failing which by deputation). Key changes include a two-year probation with mandatory induction training, revised eligibility criteria, an **upper age limit of 30 years** for direct recruits (with applicable relaxations), and mandatory UPSC consultation for direct recruitment. The Rules will provide the ministry with a standardised pipeline for filling Economic Officer vacancies through direct recruitment and promotion, reducing procedural ambiguity that could otherwise delay appointments to data-collection and labour-statistics roles within the ministry.

5. **Ministry Of Labour And Employment Notifies Voluntary Aadhaar Authentication For Employment Portals – Ministry of Labour and Employment**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has authorised the Directorate General of Employment (DGE) to **use Aadhaar authentication on a voluntary basis** across its employment portals and mobile applications. The authentication can be used for job matching, career counselling, skilling opportunities, apprenticeship placements and job fairs, with the aim of preventing impersonation and duplicate registrations. Users must provide explicit consent, and those who do not opt for Aadhaar can continue accessing services through alternative identity documents such as PAN, Passport, Voter ID, Driving Licence, Employment Exchange ID and UAN. Voluntary Aadhaar authentication will help reduce duplicate job-seeker profiles and impersonation, improving the reliability of databases used for job matching and employment programmes.

6. **Government Notifies "Telecom eServices Portal" As Digital Implementation Platform For User Identification Rules – Ministry of Communications**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Department of Telecommunications has notified the "Telecom eServices Portal" as the designated platform for implementing the Telecommunications (User Identification) Rules, 2026. The portal will provide standardised forms, accepted identity and address documents, and applicable directions for entities undertaking e-KYC or D-KYC verification. The move establishes a common digital platform for telecom KYC and standardises verification and compliance processes across telecom operators.

7. **CAQM Approves Phased Shift Towards Cleaner Light Goods Vehicles In Delhi-NCR; Strengthens Dust Control At Stone Crushing Units - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

   Source: PIB

   The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has approved a phased transition to cleaner Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) and strengthened dust-control measures across Delhi-NCR. Registration of new petrol, diesel and CNG N1 LGVs will be restricted in phases from 2027, followed by restrictions on N2 LGVs from 2028–29. Stone-crushing units will also face stricter dust-control and monitoring requirements. CAQM has additionally imposed ₹ 61.85 crore in environmental compensation on six non-compliant thermal power plants. The measures aim to reduce vehicular and dust-related air pollution and strengthen compliance across Delhi-NCR.

8. **IFSCA Extends Deadline For IFSC Units To Transition Domestic ISINs To Depository In IFSC – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**

   Source: IFSCA

   The authority has extended the deadline for IFSC-based entities holding domestic International Securities Identification Numbers (ISINs) to obtain new ISINs from an IFSCA-recognised depository. The deadline has been moved from 31st August 2026 to **31st December, 2026**, following requests from stakeholders. The deadline for IFSC depositories to submit their final transition compliance reports has also been extended to **31st January, 2027**. The extension gives IFSC entities **four additional months to complete the transition** without disrupting their existing securities records and operations. It also gives depositories and market participants more time to migrate securities identifiers in an orderly manner, reducing the risk of errors or operational disruption in trading, settlement and record-keeping during the transition.

9. **Ministry Of Labour And Employment Designates Career Centres (Central) And Mandates Digital Vacancy Reporting Under Social Security Rules – Ministry of Labour and Employment**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Ministry has designated the Central Employment Exchange and National Career Service (NCS) Portal as Career Centres (Central) under the Social Security (Central) Rules, 2026. The notification establishes a digital employment reporting framework requiring employers to **electronically report vacancies and subsequent changes** to the designated Career Centres. Regional Career Centres will also share vacancy and placement data digitally with the central system, while technical and scientific vacancies at Pay Level 5 and above must be reported directly to the Career Centre (Central). The centralised vacancy-reporting system will improve the Government's visibility over labour demand across sectors and regions, enabling more targeted employment and skilling interventions. Better vacancy and placement data will help identify emerging skill shortages and improve matching between workers and employers, thus making public employment programmes more responsive to changing labour-market requirements.

10. **Government Notifies Full Enforcement Of The Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026 – Ministry of Law and Justice**

    Source: Gazette of India

    The Ministry has notified **25th August 2026,** as the date for bringing all provisions of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026 into force. The Act introduces changes to the administration and search-cum-selection process for tribunals, their tenure conditions and the jurisdiction of various statutory tribunals and appellate bodies. The notification makes these changes operational across the tribunal system. The reforms will affect how quickly cases move through tribunals and how tribunal members are appointed and retained, with changes to selection and tenure potentially influencing continuity in tribunal functioning.

11. **Ministry Of Home Affairs Notifies Enforcement Of The Kerala (Alteration Of Name) Act, 2026 – Ministry of Home Affairs**

    Source: Gazette of India

    The Ministry brought the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026 into force from 25th August, 2026, formally changing the official name of the State from "Kerala" to "Keralam". The change will apply to the State's official nomenclature, including relevant statutory registers and constitutional references. The change will require Government departments, statutory bodies and official records to transition to the name "Keralam", involving updates to laws, databases, identity and administrative systems, official correspondence and public-facing Government services. It will also lead to changes in references to the state across central Government records and inter-governmental documents, while the practical impact on governance and public services is expected to be limited.

12. **Ministry Of Law And Justice Formally Establishes The Mediation Council Of India At New Delhi – Ministry of Law and Justice**
    Source: Gazette of India
    The Ministry has formally established the **Mediation Council of India (MCI)** under the Mediation Act, 2023, with its headquarters in New Delhi. The Council will oversee key aspects of India's mediation ecosystem, including registration of mediators, recognition of mediation service providers and mediation institutes, formulation of professional standards and codes of conduct, and promotion of domestic and international mediation. The Council will create a **more standardised and credible mediation market**, making it easier for parties to identify qualified mediators and recognised service providers. This will shift suitable commercial and civil disputes away from courts, potentially reducing litigation costs and court caseloads while making dispute resolution faster for businesses and individuals.

13. **President Promulgates Regulation Authorising High Court Sittings And Benches In Union Territory Of Ladakh – Ministry of Law and Justice**
    Source: Gazette of India
    The President of India has promulgated the Union Territory of Ladakh (Sitting of Bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in Ladakh) Regulation, 2026 under Article 240 of the Constitution. The regulation allows Judges and Division Courts of the common High Court to **sit at designated locations within Ladakh**, with the places of sitting determined by the Chief Justice with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor. The cases which arise in Ladakh may also be directed to be heard at Jammu or Srinagar. The provision will reduce the need for residents, lawyers and litigants in Ladakh to travel outside the UT for High Court proceedings, particularly for cases that can be heard locally. This will improve access to appellate and constitutional remedies in a geographically difficult region and could also reduce travel-related costs and delays in pursuing High Court litigation for people in Leh, Kargil and other parts of Ladakh.

D. Technology, Innovation And Partnerships

1. **C-DOT Unveils 14 Indigenous Quantum Products to Strengthen Security of India's Communication Networks – Ministry of Communications**
    Source: PIB
    The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has unveiled 14 indigenous quantum products covering Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) and Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) to strengthen the security of India's communication networks against emerging quantum-era threats. The portfolio includes Q-AKSHAY CD and

MD for quantum key distribution, quantum-safe encryptors such as Q-SETU, Q-MAHASETU, Q-VIKRAM, Q-AMOGH and Q-PARAKRAM, and solutions for IP phones, enterprise networks, wireless links and existing access infrastructure. The products cater to telecom, enterprise, optical, wireless, strategic and defence applications, with encryption solutions supporting network speeds of up to 200 Gbps. The initiative strengthens indigenous capabilities in quantum-safe communications and supports the development of secure and future-ready telecom infrastructure in anticipation of threats from quantum computing.

2. **MeitY Partners With PhonePe To Integrate Hyperlocal Data Intelligence Into PM GatiShakti – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PhonePe to integrate aggregated and anonymised data from **PhonePe PulsePro** into the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** portal. The integration will provide Government planners with granular, near-real-time information on economic activity, commercial clusters and transaction patterns across different geographies, complementing existing GIS-based infrastructure data. The initiative will strengthen evidence-based planning and support more informed decisions on infrastructure development, multimodal connectivity and regional economic activity. This will enable infrastructure planning to respond more closely to actual patterns of economic activity rather than relying primarily on static demographic and infrastructure data. Further, it will help identify emerging commercial centres and infrastructure requirements, thus reducing mismatches between infrastructure capacity and local economic demand.

3. **Ministry Inaugurates ₹ 427.80 Crore Infrastructure Projects And Signs ₹ 1,580.36 Crore Berth Mechanisation Concession Agreements At Paradip Port – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has inaugurated infrastructure projects worth ₹ 427.80 crore at Paradip Port and signed ₹ 1,580.36 crore in concession agreements to accelerate berth mechanisation. An 18.5-metre deep-draft capability, supported by ₹ 352 crore in capital dredging, will allow the port to handle fully laden Capesize vessels, while the new Atharbanki Second Bridge and Advanced Vessel Traffic Management System are expected to improve port connectivity and vessel movement. Under the mechanisation programme, two berths with a combined capacity of **13 MTPA** will be developed on a BOT basis, supporting the port's target of **100% berth mechanisation by 2030**. The deeper draft and berth mechanisation will allow Paradip to handle larger vessels and higher cargo volumes with fewer trans-shipment and handling constraints, improving India's bulk-cargo logistics economics and greater port

efficiency will improve the competitiveness of mineral and industrial exports, and support the development of logistics and manufacturing activity around the port.

4. **India And ADB Sign $ 230 Million Loan To Modernise Water Supply And Sanitation In Chennai - Ministry of Finance**

   Source: PIB

   The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $ 230 million loan agreement for the Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project, aimed at modernising and expanding Chennai's water supply and sanitation infrastructure, improving climate resilience, public health and quality of life, and creating a more efficient and financially sustainable urban water system. The project will construct over 170 km of water and sewer pipes, upgrade 7 water pumping stations and 38 sewer pumping stations, introduce performance-based contracts, and make Chennai the **first Indian city to implement a comprehensive ring-main water supply system**. It will also digitally transform water and sanitation services through real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making, introduce technology to improve sewer blockage detection and eliminate hazardous manual inspections, and prepare distribution networks in at least two Greater Chennai zones for future investments.

5. **Centre For Marine Living Resources & Ecology Releases National Report On Deep-Sea And Distant-Water Fishery Resources Of The Indian EEZ – Ministry of Earth Sciences**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry has released the **National Report on Deep-Sea and Distant-Water Fishery Resources** of the Indian EEZ, drawing on nearly four decades of research and more than 400 scientific cruises covering India's 2.37 million sq. km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The report identifies **underexploited deep-sea resources**, including deep-sea shrimps, perches, flatfishes and oceanic squids, and maps ecologically significant areas. By combining fisheries acoustics, environmental DNA, satellite data, autonomous platforms and AI-based ecological modelling, the report provides a scientific basis for marine spatial planning and sustainable development of India's deep-sea fisheries. The assessment will shift India's deep-sea fisheries policy towards evidence-based resource management by identifying where commercial potential exists alongside ecologically sensitive areas. Better scientific mapping will guide future fishing investments, prevent overexploitation of newly targeted resources, and support the development of a higher-value deep-sea fisheries sector.

6. **NSDC, Cultus Education And AWS Launch Nationwide Cloud And AI Skilling Initiative – Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
   Source: News On Air
   The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Cultus Education have announced a nationwide cloud and Artificial Intelligence skilling initiative in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS). The programme aims to provide foundational AI and cloud literacy to **1.5 lakh learners** through AWS digital training content, and intensive, job-ready training to 10,000 participants through the AWS re/Start program, covering instructor-led training in cloud infrastructure, security, networking and AI fundamentals. The initiative will cover all States and Union Territories through a fully online model, with special focus on youth in underserved communities and Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns. The fully online delivery model will extend access to industry-recognised cloud and AI training beyond metropolitan centres, reducing the geographic concentration of technology skilling. The progression pathway from digital literacy content to instructor-led job-ready training will create a pipeline of entry-level cloud and AI talent aligned with industry-recognised certification.

7. **Department of Pharmaceuticals Announces Second Call For Applications Under ₹ 5,000 Crore PRIP Scheme – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has opened the second call for applications under the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma & MedTech (PRIP) Scheme to support the development and commercialisation of new pharmaceutical and medical technologies in India. The scheme provides funding through two tracks: an **Early Stage Track** offering assistance of up to ₹ 5 crore to startups and MSMEs developing technologies from early research to advanced prototypes, and a **Later Stage Track** offering grants of up to ₹ 100 crore to startups, MSMEs and large companies taking technologies closer to commercialisation. It includes areas such as new medicines, complex generics and biosimilars, and innovative medical devices and digital health technologies. The focus on AI-enabled medical devices, biosimilars and new drug development will strengthen India's domestic deep-tech innovation pipeline and improve the ability of Indian firms to develop and commercialise globally competitive healthcare technologies.

8. **Bihar And Jharkhand Sign MoU On Sone River Water Sharing, Resolving Long-Standing Inter-State Water Dispute – Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: PIB
   Bihar and Jharkhand signed an MoU for sharing the waters of the Sone River, resolving a nearly 25-year-old inter-state water dispute and strengthening cooperative federalism. The agreement is expected to provide water for irrigation

and drinking purposes across several districts of Bihar, including Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Gaya and Patna, as well as Palamu, Garhwa and other regions of Jharkhand. The agreement was facilitated through the Inter-State Council and is part of a broader effort to resolve long-pending inter-state water disputes through negotiated settlements. The development is expected to improve water availability for agriculture and rural communities while providing a framework for resolving similar disputes through dialogue and cooperative federalism.

9. **DPIIT Partners With PhonePe And Shell India To Strengthen Startup Ecosystem – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Source: PIB
   The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed MoUs with PhonePe and Shell India Pvt. Ltd. to expand market access, digital support and sector-specific opportunities for DPIIT-recognised startups. The PhonePe partnership provides startups with payment gateway transaction credits, access to the **Indus AppStore**, and support on scaling, sales and go-to-market strategies. The Shell India partnership focuses on **energy and climate-tech startups**, offering mentorship, investor and incubator networks, participation in the Shell E4 Smart Energy Track, and opportunities to develop sectoral knowledge products. The partnerships will help early-stage startups to access customers and specialised industry networks. The stronger links between startups, large technology platforms and energy-sector players will improve the commercialisation of Indian innovations, and strengthen the pipeline of climate-tech solutions entering the market.

10. **Vice-President Launches India's First Indigenous Non-GMO High-Expansion Popcorn Maize Hybrid Seed – Vice-President's Secretariat**
    Source: PIB
    The Vice-President of India launched the country's first indigenously developed non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn maize hybrid seed in Andhra Pradesh, developed by Gourmet Popcornica. The initiative currently links **more than 17,500 farmers across eight States**, covering nearly **40,000 acres**, and integrates seed development with post-harvest processing and market linkages. This strengthens domestic agricultural technology and creates higher-value market opportunities for farmers. The availability of an indigenous high-expansion hybrid will reduce Indian popcorn growers' dependence on imported seed technology and retain more value within the domestic seed and processing ecosystem. Thus creating a more reliable domestic supply of quality popcorn maize for processors and supporting export-oriented value chains.

11. **Vice-President Launches 'Gnani Artha' Sovereign AI Stack Comprising Evon 3.3 And Plexus Platform – Vice-President's Secretariat**

    Source: PIB

    The Vice-President launched 'Gnani Artha', an indigenously developed sovereign AI stack by GNANI AI, comprising Evon 3.3, a large language model, and Plexus, a platform that connects AI capabilities with enterprise and public-sector systems. The stack is designed to support applications across multiple sectors, including governance. Its existing applications include **multilingual access to the Digital Sansad portal** and AI-powered simultaneous interpretation across **eight Indian languages**, with plans to expand to all 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule. The development of a **sovereign generative AI** stack will reduce dependence on foreign AI models for Government and enterprise applications, particularly where data security and control are important. Its use in legislative translation and interpretation will demonstrate how India-specific generative AI models can be adapted for public-sector use and also lower language barriers in accessing public information.

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@NFPRC_Ind

nfprcfoundation.substack.com

nfprcfoundation

samparka@nationfirstpolicy.org