



INDIA GOVERNANCE WATCH

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments



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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

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

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

- A. **DPIIT Permits 100% FDI in Inventory-Based E-Commerce for Exports:** The DPIIT has amended FDI rules to allow 100% foreign direct investment in inventory-based e-commerce, restricted strictly to exporting Indian-manufactured goods. While domestic B2C retail remains prohibited, foreign entities can now procure and store export inventory locally. This enables global platforms to establish dedicated fulfillment hubs in India, giving local manufacturers direct access to international markets while cutting intermediary costs.
- B. **RBI Revises Basel Pillar 3 Disclosure Rules for Banks:** The Reserve Bank of India has notified ten amendment directions updating Basel Pillar 3 public disclosure norms for commercial, small finance, and payments banks. The revised framework mandates board-approved disclosure policies, internal audit controls, and granular reporting on capital adequacy and risk exposures to enhance market discipline, with detailed risk templates to be issued in a subsequent phase.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

- A. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 84,084 Crore 'Samudra Manthan' Offshore Exploration Scheme:** The Union Cabinet has approved the ₹ 84,084 crore 'Samudra Manthan' (National Offshore Exploration Scheme) to accelerate deepwater and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon exploration across the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, and Andaman Sea. The initiative will fund 2D/3D seismic surveys and exploratory drilling to de-risk offshore ventures, attract private investment for future Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bidding rounds, and enhance long-term energy security.
- B. **President Promulgates Allocation of Business Amendment Rules Restructuring MoHUA:** The 386th Allocation of Business Amendment Rules, 2026, bifurcates MoHUA into the Department of Capital Development (managing NCR assets like CPWD, DDA, DMRC) and the Department of Urban Development (overseeing national urban policy and missions like AMRUT and SBM-U). Government printing shifts to MIB. Decoupling capital estate management from national policy ensures nationwide urban reforms receive dedicated administrative focus, unburdened by Delhi-centric demands.



Executive Summary

- C. **Bill Introduced to Mandate TReDS and Speed Up MSME Settlements:** The Government has introduced the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha to mandate invoice settlements for CPSEs via RBI-authorised TReDS platforms. The legislation also provides statutory recognition to the Udyam portal, decriminalises minor compliance violations, and establishes time-bound dispute resolution mechanisms to improve MSME liquidity.
- D. **Skyroot Aerospace Achieves Historic Low Earth Orbit Insertion via Vikram-1:** Skyroot Aerospace has executed Mission Aagaman, deploying its Vikram-1 rocket into Low Earth Orbit as India's first privately developed orbital launch. Validating key indigenous technologies, the mission represents a major payoff of space sector deregulation initiated six years ago.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

- A. **Parliament Passes Public Examinations Amendment Bill, 2026:** Parliament has passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, significantly strengthening legal provisions against examination malpractices across major recruitment agencies. The legislation enhances penalties for paper leaks and organised crime up to 10 years imprisonment and ₹ 10 crore fines, while establishing Special Fast Track Courts and a Special Task Force to mandate time-bound investigation and trial completion.
- B. **Fast-Track Courts Announced for Paper Leak Cases:** The Prime Minister has announced the establishment of dedicated fast-track courts to adjudicate paper leak cases in public and recruitment examinations. The initiative directs relevant authorities to expedite trials and strengthen legal deterrence to safeguard student interests and preserve the integrity of competitive exams.
- C. **Operational Guidelines Approved for PARIVARTAN Scheme:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved operational guidelines for the ₹ 9,585 crore PARIVARTAN scheme, funded through the NCR Planning Board to replace legacy trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR. Commercial operators will receive motor vehicle tax concessions, registration waivers, a 5% interest subvention, and manufacturer discounts to accelerate freight fleet decarbonisation and curb air pollution.
- D. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 36,441 Crore Revamped Khelo India and ANSF Schemes:** The Union Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) Scheme with a total outlay of ₹ 36,441 crore for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. The initiative aims to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem by expanding National Centres of Excellence, establishing structured talent pathways from grassroots to TOPS, and boosting support for coaching, sports science, and international exposure.



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IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

- A. **Ministry of Defence Unveils Policy Reforms for Indian Coast Guard:** The Ministry of Defence has introduced two key reforms for the Indian Coast Guard: establishing a gender-neutral career framework and streamlining benefits for personnel missing at sea. The new framework opens both Short Service and Permanent Appointments to women with clear pathways to higher promotions and leadership roles.
- B. **DRDO Signs Contracts for AEW&C Mk-II Programme:** The Centre for Airborne Systems has signed two agreements under the AEW&C Mk-II programme, engaging AIESL to modify six Airbus A321 aircraft and selecting Adani Defence as the Development Cum Production Partner. The contracts will expand private sector participation in defence manufacturing.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

- A. **VB-GRAM G Administrative Expenses Rules, 2026 Notified:** The Ministry of Rural Development has notified the administrative expenses rules under the VB-GRAM G Act, 2025, establishing a clear financing framework between the Centre and States. While national functions are fully Centre-funded, state-level costs will be shared. The rules cap administrative spending at 9% of the annual outlay, mandating that at least one-third be allocated directly to Gram Panchayats to support grassroots personnel and field operations.
- B. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 3.15 Lakh Crore Extension of PM-KISAN Scheme:** The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme for five years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31) with a total outlay of ₹ 3.15 lakh crore. Under the extension, eligible landholding farmer families will continue receiving ₹ 6,000 annually via Direct Benefit Transfer to cover seasonal input costs and support rural income stability.



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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. DPIIT Permits 100% FDI In Inventory-Based E-Commerce Exclusively For Exports – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [DPIIT](#)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has reviewed the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to allow 100% foreign direct investment in the **inventory-based e-commerce model** for the export of goods manufactured in India. The new provision allows Foreign-funded e-commerce companies to now procure, store, and manage inventory in India for export operations. The changes align FDI norms with **Foreign Trade Policy 2023** and apply only to exports and do not permit foreign-funded inventory-based e-commerce for domestic retail sales. The policy separates export and domestic B2C e-commerce rules allowing foreign companies to build export-focused inventory in India thus giving manufacturers a simpler route to international markets without relying on multiple intermediaries.

2. Task Force Constituted To Target 5% Global Market Share By 2032 – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

DPIIT has announced the constitution of a dedicated task force for the toy sector and released the “Toy Sector Playbook.” The task force is structured around six key operational objectives: integrating with global value chains, building manufacturing capabilities, removing supply chain bottlenecks, expanding skilled employment, driving design innovation, and improving ease of doing business. The accompanying playbook acts as a strategic roadmap for MSMEs, startups, and investors, providing actionable guidance on regulatory compliance, quality standards, intellectual property, and export expansion. Building on an ecosystem that now encompasses over 21,000 MSMEs and 1,800 BIS-licensed units, the initiative paves the way for India to become a global manufacturing hub, targeting a 5% global toy market share by 2032.

3. India And Sri Lanka Establish Anti-Tax Evasion Measures Through Amended Double Taxation Avoidance Framework – Ministry of Finance

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Government has notified a Protocol amending the **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** between India and Sri Lanka. The amendment introduces a **Principal Purpose Test (PPT)**, allowing treaty benefits to be denied where obtaining a tax advantage is one of the principal purposes of a transaction or arrangement. The revised agreement also updates its preamble to reinforce the objective of preventing tax evasion and tax avoidance while preserving the agreement’s role in promoting genuine cross-border investment and trade. The



Protocol will apply to income earned in financial years beginning on or after 1st April following its entry into force. The amendment strengthens safeguards against treaty shopping by ensuring that DTAA benefits are available only for genuine commercial arrangements with a valid business purpose.

4. **RBI Revises Basel Pillar 3 Disclosure Framework For Regulated Banks – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [RBI](#)

RBI has issued ten amendment directions revising **Basel Pillar 3** disclosure requirements across commercial banks, small finance banks, and payments banks, finalizing draft guidelines released in May 2026. Designed to foster market discipline, the updated framework mandates detailed public reporting on capital positions, risk exposures, governance, and asset-liability management. Banking groups must disclose at the top consolidated level, while subsidiary or non-top entities must issue standalone reports governed by a board-approved disclosure policy and subject to internal audit controls. Additionally, disclosure templates for market risk, operational risk, counterparty credit risk, credit valuation adjustment (CVA), and leverage ratios will be released separately in a subsequent phase.

5. **RBI Permits LCR-Linked Differential Pricing For Bulk Deposits – Reserve Bank of India**

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [RBI](#)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated deposit pricing norms to allow banks to offer **differential interest rates** on bulk deposits covering both domestic and non-resident rupee accounts based on their run-off rates under the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) framework, effective **1st October, 2026**. While upholding core non-discrimination rules across branches for identical deposits, the framework requires banks to publish their bulk deposit rate schedules daily on their websites by 10:10 AM. The reform enables risk-based deposit pricing and improved asset-liability management, allowing lenders to align funding costs directly with regulatory liquidity risks.

6. **CBDT Notifies Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026 To Redefine “Specified Fund” Scope – Ministry of Finance**

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, under the Income-tax Act, 2025. The amendment revises the definition of a “specified fund” to include Category I and Category II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) registered with SEBI or the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and located in an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), along with funds specified under Schedule VI of the Act. It clarifies which



investment funds qualify for tax provisions available to “specified funds,” reducing uncertainty for fund managers and tax authorities when applying the Income-tax Act. The amendment also reduces the scope for conflicting interpretations between tax law and financial sector regulations.

7. RBI Issues Prudential Norms For Non-Banking Assets Acquired In Debt Recovery – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [RBI](#)

RBI has issued the Commercial Banks (Resolution of Stressed Assets) Third Amendment Directions, 2026, establishing prudential norms for specified non-financial assets (SNFA) acquired through loan recovery. Effective 1st October, 2026, the guidelines mandate that banks dispose of such collateral within a maximum of seven years via public auction. To prevent moral hazard and maintain credit discipline, the framework explicitly bars banks from selling these assets back to defaulting borrowers or their related parties. Additionally, acquired assets must be recorded at the lower of the extinguished exposure’s net book value or distress sale value assessed by two independent external valuers, ensuring transparent valuation and timely balance-sheet cleanup.

8. SEBI Extends SWP And STP Standing Instruction Facilities For Demat-Held Mutual Fund Units – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [SEBI](#)

SEBI has introduced a framework allowing investors to set up **Systematic Withdrawal Plans (SWPs)** and **Systematic Transfer Plans (STPs)** for mutual fund units held in demat accounts. Until now, these automated withdrawal and transfer facilities were available only for mutual fund units held outside the demat system. The framework will be implemented in two phases. By 31st January, 2027, investors will be able to schedule automatic withdrawals or transfers of a fixed number of mutual fund units. By 30th April, 2027, the facility will also support withdrawals and transfers of fixed amounts. Depositories have been directed to develop the required systems and issue detailed operational guidelines before implementation. The framework has removed a key operational difference between demat and non-demat mutual fund holdings, allowing investors to use systematic withdrawal and transfer facilities without changing how they hold their investments.

9. SEBI Streamlines AIF Scheme Launch Process And PPM Filing Norms – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [SEBI](#)

SEBI has revised guidelines allowing regular first-time AIF schemes to launch upon registration or 10 working days post-PPM filing with merchant banker certification. Specialized funds—Accredited Investor-only Funds (AIOFs), Large Value Funds



(LVFs), and Angel Funds—are now exempted from merchant banker routing to launch immediately upon filing, subject to mandatory naming suffixes (“AIOF”/“LVF”) and manager undertakings. The reform significantly reduces time-to-market for fund managers, cuts compliance overhead, and accelerates capital deployment across specialized alternative investment funds.

10. SEBI Mandates ISIN-Level Lock On Promoter Holdings During Buyback Offer Periods – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [SEBI](#)

SEBI has directed depositories to freeze promoter and promoter group shareholdings at the **International Securities Identification Number (ISIN)** level during share buyback offer periods. The freeze will apply from the date the buyback proposal is approved by the board or shareholders until the closure of the offer. Promoters will not be allowed to transfer or otherwise change their shareholding during this period, although they may tender their shares in the buyback. The pledges or encumbrances that are created before the buyback begins may continue to be enforced. The implementation of the framework will be done by **National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)** and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The move will improve investor confidence by preventing promoters from trading based on unpublished information and allowing them to participate on the same terms as other shareholders.

11. SEBI Eases Compliance For SIF Distributors With Integrated NISM Series-V-D Certification – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [SEBI](#)

SEBI has simplified the eligibility requirements for distributors for selling Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs). It has introduced a **single certification**, National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) Series-V-D: Mutual Fund – Specialised Investment Fund Distributors Certification, that allows distributors to sell both mutual funds and SIFs together, replacing the earlier requirement to obtain multiple certifications. The existing distributors with the earlier qualification can continue to sell SIFs until their certification expires, while those selling only mutual funds will continue under the existing certification system. The simplified certification will encourage more mutual fund distributors to offer SIFs by reducing entry barriers for SIF distribution, making these investment products more widely available to investors.



12. Amendments In Master Circular For Credit Rating Agencies To Mandate Pre-Rating Factual Review And Enhanced Recordkeeping – International Financial Services Centres Authority

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [IFSCA](#)

IFSCA has amended the Master Circular for Credit Rating Agencies requiring agencies to share key information and principal considerations behind a proposed rating with the issuer prior to publication. This provides issuers an opportunity to identify any factual errors, omissions, or misperceptions that could materially affect the final rating. The circular also strengthens recordkeeping requirements by requiring CRAs to maintain records of the rating process, including material considerations, key analytical arguments supporting and opposing the rating decision, and other relevant documentation, in accordance with the **IFSCA (Capital Market Intermediaries) Regulations, 2025**. The amendment will make credit rating actions less vulnerable to factual disputes after publication, reducing the need for corrective actions and strengthening the evidentiary basis for regulatory inspections.

B. Announcements

1. India Joins WTO Agreement On Fisheries Subsidies By Depositing Instrument Of Acceptance – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Government has deposited its Instrument of Acceptance of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (AFS)**, officially becoming a party to the multilateral trade agreement. The agreement targets unsustainable fishing practices by banning subsidies linked to **illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU)** fishing as well as the exploitation of overfished stocks and focuses strictly on marine wild-capture fishing. By joining the Agreement, India aligns its fisheries subsidy policies with international rules while allowing aquaculture and inland fisheries to continue under the existing domestic policy framework.

2. US Section 301 Investigation Places India In Lower 10% Additional Tariff Tier – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has placed India in the **10% additional tariff tier** following an investigation into forced labor trade practices across 60 economies. This has reduced the initially proposed tariff of **12.5%**. Around **45% of India's exports to the US**, including generic pharmaceuticals and smartphones, will remain exempt from the additional duty, while the remaining exports will be subject to the 10% tariff. This favorable adjustment follows India's recent amendment to the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), which explicitly banned



imports of goods produced using forced or compulsory labor, aligning domestic trade rules with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. By proactively enacting trade restrictions on forced-labor imports, India satisfied core USTR criteria, securing a 10% duty rate that gives Indian manufacturers a relative cost advantage over global competitors facing the higher 12.5% tariff bracket.

3. DGFT Imposes Six-Month Minimum Import Price Restriction On Suspension-Grade PVC Resin – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: [DGFT](#)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has revised the import policy for Suspension-Grade Polyvinyl Chloride (S-PVC) resin for a period of six months. Imports priced at **\$ 0.766 per kg or less** will now require an import licence, while imports above this price will continue under the Free category. The restriction does not apply to Export Oriented Units (EOUs), Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units, or imports made under the Advance Authorisation Scheme, provided the imported material is used for exports. This restriction comes as the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) investigates allegations of cheap imports from seven countries. By curbing low-priced PVC resin inflows, the measure offers domestic producers interim protection pending the completion of the anti-dumping probe.

4. Government Revises Duty Drawback Rates For Selected Jewellery And Precious Metal Exports – Ministry of Finance

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Government has amended the **Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Schedule** to revise duty drawback rates for selected gold and silver jewellery and precious metal products under the Customs Tariff. The revised schedule increases the drawback rates for selected tariff items, allowing eligible exporters to claim higher refunds of duties paid on imported inputs used in manufacturing these products. Higher duty drawback rates reduce the effective cost of exporting eligible jewellery and precious metal products by increasing the refund of input duties. This will improve the international price competitiveness of Indian exporters and support exports from the gems and jewellery sector.

5. SEBI Extends Digital Accessibility Compliance Deadline to 31st October - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Source: [SEBI](#)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for regulated entities to complete digital accessibility audits and resolve platform issues to 31st October, 2026. Pushing back the earlier remediation deadline of 31st July, 2026, the extension responds to industry requests for additional time to



comply with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act and ensure market infrastructure is fully accessible to investors with disabilities.

6. Ministry of Finance Issues Draft Insurance Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Finance

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has released the **Draft Insurance Rules, 2026** for public consultation, proposing to replace the **Insurance Rules, 1939**. The draft seeks to modernise the regulatory framework by revising provisions relating to insurance agents, prospectuses, shareholding declarations, insurer restructuring during financial distress, premium payment requirements, and search and seizure procedures. It also proposes updated compliance requirements and procedural safeguards while inviting public comments for 30 days from the date of publication. If adopted, the draft rules could modernise India's insurance regulatory framework by replacing several outdated provisions that have been in place since 1939. The proposed changes may improve regulatory clarity, strengthen oversight of insurers, and provide greater flexibility in premium collection under specified circumstances. They could also enhance the sector's ability to respond to financial distress while aligning insurance regulations with current legal and business practices.

7. DPIIT Revises Index Of Core Industries Base Year To 2022-23 – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released a revised Index of Core Industries (ICI) with 2022-23 as the new base year, replacing the 2011-12 series. The revised index expands the basket of core industries from eight to nine sectors by including Iron Ore and introduces methodological changes to better reflect the current structure of industrial production. The updated series also revises sectoral weights to align with the latest industrial output patterns. The revised series makes the Index of Core Industries more representative of the current industrial economy by incorporating structural changes since 2011-12. As the ICI serves as a leading indicator for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the updated methodology will provide a more reliable basis for monitoring industrial activity and informing economic policy.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. Cabinet Approves ₹ 84,084 Crore “Samudra Manthan” Scheme For Deepwater Offshore Energy Exploration – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Status: Approved | Impact Level: High | Source: [PIB](#)

The Cabinet has approved the ‘Samudra Manthan’ (**National Offshore Exploration Scheme**) with a total outlay of ₹ 84,084 crore to accelerate oil and gas exploration



in India's deepwater and ultra-deepwater offshore basins. The scheme will support large-scale 2D and 3D seismic surveys, geophysical mapping, and exploratory drilling across the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, and Andaman Sea. By generating exploration data and reducing the financial risks of offshore exploration, the Government will attract greater private and international investment in future **Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)** bidding rounds and increase domestic hydrocarbon production. The scheme will unlock previously unexplored offshore oil and gas reserves, reducing India's dependence on imported crude and natural gas over the long term. Government-funded exploration data will lower entry barriers for private and global energy companies, leading to higher investment, faster exploration activity, and improved domestic energy security.

2. Cabinet Approves ₹ 5,070 Crore Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana For Floating Solar And Energy Storage Development - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Status: Approved | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) with a total outlay of **₹ 5,070 crore** to develop **5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects** integrated with energy storage systems across reservoirs and other inland water bodies. The scheme will be implemented from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with Central Financial Assistance of **₹ 1 crore per MW** for commissioned projects and additional support for feasibility studies and environmental assessments. By combining floating solar with battery storage, the scheme will utilise unused water surfaces for renewable energy generation while improving grid reliability and reducing dependence on land for large solar parks. The scheme will unlock a new segment of India's renewable energy sector by making greater use of reservoirs and other water bodies for power generation.

3. President Promulgates Allocation Of Business Amendment Rules To Bifurcate MoHUA And Shift Government Printing To MIB – Cabinet Secretariat

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The President has notified the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) (386th Amendment) Rules, 2026**, restructuring responsibilities across central ministries. The amendment bifurcates the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) into the **Department of Capital Development** and the **Department of Urban Development**. The Department of Capital Development will oversee central Government infrastructure, land and estate management, and agencies such as CPWD, DDA, DMRC, while the Department of Urban Development will be responsible for urban planning, municipal governance, urban transport, water and sanitation, and flagship urban missions such as AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, PM SVANidhi. The bifurcation will separate the policy challenges of



India's rapidly growing cities from the infrastructure and administrative needs of the National Capital Region, allowing urban reforms and flagship missions to receive greater policy attention without competing with Delhi-centric governance issues.

4. Cabinet Approves “BHAVYA Rasayan” Scheme To Establish Dedicated Chemical Parks – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved the BHAVYA Rasayan scheme to establish three dedicated Chemical Parks across the country over five years (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31) with a total outlay of ₹ 3,030 crore. Under the scheme, the Central Government will provide financial assistance to selected states for developing common infrastructure such as Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP), Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF), interconnected pipeline networks, solvent recovery systems, and dedicated warehousing. The states will be selected through a competitive process where the Central Government will provide grant assistance of up to ₹ 1,000 crore per park and the State Government will be required to provide suitable land and matching financial support. The development of these parks will improve supply chain efficiency, reduce infrastructure and compliance costs and support the growth of downstream industries such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and electronics.

5. Cabinet Approves Revised Policy For Award Of Waterfront And Associated Land To Port-Dependent Industries In Major Ports – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved a revised Policy for Award of Waterfront and Associated Land to Port Dependent Industries (PDI) across Major Ports, updating the 2016 framework. The policy enables Major Port Authorities to extend concession agreements for up to **30 years** without fresh tendering at updated rates, provides existing users a Right of First Refusal (RoFR) for capacity expansion via competitive bidding, and allows direct waterfront access to eligible government entities at notified floor prices. It also introduces flexibility to adapt to regulatory changes and cargo profile shifts, enhancing operational continuity and private sector participation.

6. Cabinet Approves Ballari–Guntakal Railway Multitracking Project Worth ₹ 1,264 Crore – Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the construction of a third and fourth railway line on the Ballari–Guntakal section in Karnataka and



Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,264 crore. The project, to be implemented under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, is expected to be completed by 2028–29. The expanded capacity will directly benefit nearly seven lakh residents across 99 villages and strengthen rail links to prominent cultural and tourist destinations, including Ballari Fort and Sri Kumara Swamy Temple. It aims to increase rail capacity, reduce congestion and cut oil imports by 1.32 crore liters and lower carbon dioxide emissions by 6.67 crore kg. The project will improve the movement of iron ore and steel along one of India's key mining and steel corridors, reducing freight bottlenecks for major steel plants in the region.

7. Mines And Minerals Adjudication Of Penalties Rules, 2026 Notified - Ministry of Mines

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Mines and Minerals Adjudication of Penalties Rules, 2026 under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, coming into force on 1st August 2026. The rules establish a formal procedure for adjudicating civil penalties under Section 25A of the Act, requiring adjudicating officers to complete inquiry proceedings within six months from notice issuance. It incorporates a summary disposal mechanism that allows non-compliant entities to settle proceedings by rectifying contraventions and paying minimum area-graded penalties, provided the same rule is not breached more than three times within five years. The framework establishes a 30-day appellate process subject to a 10% pre-deposit and mandates a **fully digital electronic facility** for e-filing, virtual hearings, and online penalty disbursement to streamline mining governance.

8. Offshore Areas Mineral Adjudication Of Penalties Rules, 2026 Notified - Ministry of Mines

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Offshore Areas Mineral Adjudication of Penalties Rules, 2026 under the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002, coming into force on 1st August 2026. The rules establish a structured statutory framework for adjudicating civil penalties for operational and reporting contraventions in offshore mining, mandating that adjudicating officers complete inquiries within six months. It introduces a summary settlement mechanism allowing violators to resolve proceedings by rectifying non-compliance and paying minimum prescribed penalties, provided repeated violations do not exceed three times in five years. The framework also provides a 30-day appellate mechanism requiring a 10% pre-deposit of the penalty amount. Crucially, the rules enforce a fully **online electronic facility** for e-filing, virtual hearings, and order uploads to streamline regulatory enforcement and enhance ease of doing business across offshore mineral blocks.



9. NHAI Revises Consultancy Framework To Mandate Minimum Salaries And Reserve 20% Staffing For Experienced Field Engineers – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has revised the consultancy framework for **Authority Engineers (AE)** and **Independent Engineers (IE)** engaged in national highway projects. The revised framework prescribes minimum salaries for key engineering personnel, mandates payment through an escrow mechanism, and requires consultancy firms to reserve at least 20% of sub-professional engineering positions for experienced personnel previously engaged on NHAI, MoRTH, or NHIDCL projects. It also introduces a structured empanelment and selection process for engineering staff via **NHAI Skill Bridge** portal to ensure the deployment of verified and competent technical personnel. The revised framework aims to attract experienced professionals thus improving the on-site decision-making and quality oversight during highway construction.

10. Department Of Telecommunications Notifies Telecommunications (Authorisation For Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Communications

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Department has notified the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2026, replacing the earlier licensing system with an authorisation-based framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Under the new rules, separate authorisations now apply to telecom infrastructure, satellite gateways, cloud networks, and mobile number portability providers. The framework further details the fees, license validity, and operational security requirements each entity must meet. The new framework simplifies market entry for telecom network providers while introducing a uniform authorisation regime with stronger security and data localisation requirements.

11. Notification Of Indian Ports Rules, 2026 to Standardise Port Operations and Waste Management Frameworks – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Indian Ports Rules, 2026 under the **Indian Ports Act, 2025**, establishing uniform operational and environmental standards for major ports and notified non-major ports across India. The rules require vessels to report and dispose of onboard waste through a digital system integrated with the Maritime Single Window, in line with **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) requirements**, prepare Port Waste Reception and Handling Plans, conduct periodic operational and pollution-control audits, provide welfare facilities for seafarers, and follow standard procedures for reporting marine pollution incidents, removing navigational obstructions, and



notifying port limits and navigable channels. The new unified digital framework removes procedural friction for calling vessels by standardizing port rules nationwide, driving faster turnaround times and ensuring strict compliance with international MARPOL environmental standards.

B. Announcements

1. Skyroot Aerospace Achieves Historic Low Earth Orbit Insertion Via India's First Privately Developed Vehicle – Ministry of Science & Technology

Source: [PIB](#)

Skyroot Aerospace has successfully executed **Mission Aagaman** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, placing its **Vikram-1** launch vehicle into **Low Earth Orbit**. The mission makes Skyroot the first Indian private company to achieve an orbital launch from Indian soil and validates key indigenous technologies, including an all-carbon composite rocket structure and a 3D-printed liquid engine. The launch marks a direct payoff of space sector deregulation initiated 6 years ago to enable private participation. By transitioning India from sole reliance on ISRO infrastructure to a multi-player commercial ecosystem, this breakthrough positions the country's space market to scale from \$9 billion to \$44 billion over the next decade.

2. Government Introduces Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 In Rajya Sabha To Mandate TReDS Settlement And Streamline Dispute Resolution – Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Government has introduced the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Rajya Sabha to address delayed payments and improve access to working capital for MSMEs. The Bill proposes mandatory payment of MSME invoices by **Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)** through RBI-authorised **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platforms**, while enabling States to adopt similar requirements for State PSUs. It also aims to decriminalise minor compliance violations, provide statutory recognition to the Udyam registration platform, and introduce time-bound mediation and arbitration for payment disputes. While existing law mandates payment within 45 days, suppliers face cash-flow squeezes during the waiting period and lengthy recovery backlogs. By mandating TReDS for instant receivables discounting and enforcing strict 90-day arbitration deadlines, this Bill transforms passive payment windows into guaranteed, immediate working capital.



3. Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy Extends Limited ALMM Exemption For Select Solar Projects Till December 2026 – Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has extended the exemption from the **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) List-II** for eligible net-metering and open-access solar projects until **31st December, 2026**. The exemption allows these projects to continue using non-ALMM-listed solar cells, even as the Government retains its broader policy of promoting domestically manufactured ALMM-approved solar cells. It applies only to specified categories of projects and replaces the earlier deadline of **31st May, 2026**. The extension ensures that eligible solar projects are not delayed due to short-term constraints in the availability of domestically approved solar cells. It enables the continued rollout of distributed renewable energy projects while giving domestic manufacturers additional time to expand production capacity before full compliance with ALMM requirements.

4. Supreme Court Panel Invites Public Inputs On Aravalli Hills Conservation And Ecological Protection – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: [PIB](#)

A **High-Powered Committee (HPC)** constituted by the Supreme Court of India officially invites representations, suggestions, and verifiable inputs from the public and stakeholders across **Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat**, including environmental groups, mining leaseholders, project proponents, farmers and local communities. Stakeholders have been given 21 days to submit documentary evidence and suggestions, which will inform the committee's recommendations regarding the protection and sustainable management of the Aravalli Hills and Ranges. The committee is tasked with evaluating environmental degradation, mining pressures, land-use dynamics, and ancillary ecological issues across the range to formulate a comprehensive report by **31st August, 2026**. The committee's recommendations will be a part of a broader effort to address the long-standing environmental challenges faced by the Aravallis, including illegal mining, unregulated development and forest degradation, through recommendations backed by stakeholder evidence.

5. The Government Issues Draft Rules To Amend Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 For Online Traffic Warnings And Dispute Adjudication – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has issued draft amendments to the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** to strengthen digital traffic enforcement and streamline vehicle-related services. The proposal provides for the online recording of traffic warnings, which



will be considered while assessing repeat traffic violations. It also requires state Governments to appoint district-level adjudicating authorities to resolve **traffic penalty disputes** electronically within 30 days. The draft also introduces forms for online cancellation of vehicle registrations in cases such as scrapping, permanent damage, or export. Additionally, vehicles with unpaid or pending traffic challans will be marked as “Not to be Transacted” on the national portal, restricting registration and licensing-related services until the dues or disputes are settled. By linking pending challans with access to vehicle-related services, the proposal will improve compliance with traffic penalties while reducing delays in enforcement and dispute resolution.

6. Department Of Telecommunications Notifies “Telecom eServices Portal” For Digital Implementation Of Authorisation Rules – Ministry of Communications

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has notified the **Telecom eServices Portal** as the official online platform for implementing the **Telecommunications (Authorisation for Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2026**. The portal will serve as a single-window platform for submitting new applications for telecom network authorisations and for migrating existing licence holders to the new authorisation framework under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The single-window portal will simplify and standardise the telecom authorisation process, reducing paperwork and processing time for telecom service providers.

7. Government Orders Removal Of Unauthorised E-Rickshaw Battery Apps And Outlines Integrated National Cybersecurity Framework – Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has directed app stores to remove **unauthorised Battery Management System (BMS) mobile applications** used for e-rickshaw batteries after reports found that these apps enabled unauthorised remote access and control, posing safety and cybersecurity risks to users. The Ministry also outlined India's multi-layered cybersecurity framework, highlighting the roles of the National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC), CERT-In, the National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC), and the **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** in cyber incident response, threat monitoring, and critical infrastructure protection. The action will improve the cybersecurity and safety of connected electric vehicles by restricting unauthorised access to battery management systems. This shows closer regulatory scrutiny of software and mobile applications used in smart mobility, encouraging manufacturers to adopt stronger cybersecurity standards and secure digital products by design.



8. NIELIT and SCL Mohali Collaborate To Make Indigenous 1.2 μm Process Design Kit Available On eChipHub – Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

Source: [PIB](#)

The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) has partnered with the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali to make SCL's **indigenous 1.2 μm Process Design Kit (PDK)** available on the **eChipHub** platform. The initiative enables students, researchers, startups and MSMEs to access indigenous semiconductor design resources and open-source **Electronic Design Automation (EDA)** tools for chip design, simulation and prototyping. The initiative lowers the entry barrier for semiconductor chip design by giving academic institutions and startups access to indigenous design tools without relying on expensive proprietary software. This will help build a larger pool of skilled chip designers and encourage domestic semiconductor innovation

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. Public Examinations (Unfair Means) Amendment Bill Passed By Parliament, Enhancing Penalties And Fast-Tracking Trials - Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Status: Completed | Impact Level: High | Source: [Gazette of India](#), [PIB](#)

Parliament has passed the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026**, following its approval in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The legislation significantly strengthens the 2024 framework to cover the entire spectrum of examination malpractices, including question paper leaks, answer sheet tampering, computer system manipulation, and fake admit card creation across recruitment agencies such as UPSC, SSC, RRBs, IBPS, and NTA. Penalties have been substantially enhanced: individual sentences increase to 5-10 years imprisonment with fines up to **₹ 50 lakh**, service provider fines rise to **₹ 5 crore** alongside an eight-year debarment, and organised crime penalties escalate to 7-10 years imprisonment with fines up to **₹ 10 crore**. To ensure rapid deterrence, the law provides for **Special Fast Track Courts**, a two-month investigation deadline, a three-month trial completion timeline post-charge-sheet, and the constitution of a Special Task Force.

2. Cabinet Approves ₹ 36,441 Crore Revamped Khelo India Scheme And Enhanced Assistance To National Sports Federations – Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Status: Initiated | Impact Level: High | Source: [PIB](#)

The Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India Scheme and an enhanced **Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF)** Scheme for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31, with a total outlay of **₹ 36,441 crore**. The revamped framework aims to strengthen India's sports ecosystem by expanding National Centres of Excellence



(NCOEs), Khelo India Centres (KICs), accredited academies, and Youth Sports Companies of the Armed Forces. It also introduces a structured talent identification and athlete development pathway from grassroots competitions to the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**, while increasing support for sports science, coaching, international exposure, equipment, and the promotion of indigenous sports. Building on its proven track record of supporting 2,700+ elite athletes and driving India's historic 107-medal Asian Games haul, the revamped scheme will now scale up grassroots scouting, sports science, and elite coaching to build a lasting pipeline for future Olympic success.

3. **Registration Of Births And Deaths Amendment Bill Passed To Tighten Delayed Registration Norms - Ministry of Home Affairs**

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026** was passed in the Lok Sabha, amending Section 13 of the 1969 Act to establish a stricter statutory mechanism for delayed civil registrations. Under the proposed provisions, delayed birth or death information submitted after one year but within two years of occurrence can only be registered upon an order issued by a District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, or authorised Executive Magistrate following verification. For delays exceeding two years, registration will strictly require an order from a Judicial Magistrate First Class. Building on the 2023 statutory amendments, the measure introduces tiered judicial and administrative oversight to prevent fraudulent delayed entries and encourage timely civil reporting.

4. **Ministry Of Housing & Urban Affairs Approves Operational Guidelines For PARIVARTAN Scheme To Combat Vehicular Air Pollution – Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Government has approved the operational guidelines for the “Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions” (PARIVARTAN) scheme. Funded through the NCR Planning Board, the ₹ 9,585 crore initiative targets the rapid replacement of highly polluting legacy trucks and buses in the Delhi-NCR zone. The framework offers commercial operators an extensive incentive package, including motor vehicle tax concessions, registration waivers, a 5% loan interest subvention, and a minimum 8% manufacturer discount on new vehicles. This scheme specifically targets heavy commercial vehicles that account for a disproportionate share of transport emissions. Concentrating incentives on this segment will deliver greater air quality gains per vehicle replaced and support faster decarbonisation of the NCR freight fleet.



5. EPFO Launches VISHWAS, 2026 For Amicable Settlement Of Damages/Penalty-Related Disputes – Ministry of Labour & Employment

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched **VISHWAS, 2026**, a one-time dispute resolution scheme for employers with long-pending disputes relating to EPF damages and penalties. Available for **six months**, the scheme allows eligible employers to settle pending EPF penalty cases related to defaults before **14th June, 2024**, by paying reduced penalties, provided they clear the outstanding interest and withdraw any pending court cases. The scheme provides employers with an opportunity to resolve legacy EPF disputes at lower cost, encouraging voluntary compliance while reducing the number of long-pending cases before EPFO and judicial authorities.

6. Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment Reports Major Milestones Under Flagship NAMASTE Scheme – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Government has announced implementation milestones for the **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)** flagship scheme, which aims to eliminate hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. The programme has profiled and validated 89,915 sewer and septic tank workers alongside 2,81,117 waste pickers across municipal grids and distributed 87,037 specialised PPE kits to tank workers and 1,84,118 kits to waste pickers. 753 **Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)** with modern safety devices have been established and over 181,500 targeted medical insurance cards have been issued to reduce financial vulnerability and formalise urban safety protocols. The programme focuses on identification and protection of sanitation workers, enabling Governments to deliver safety equipment, insurance and mechanised sanitation support through a verified beneficiary database while advancing the objective of eliminating hazardous manual sanitation.

7. Government Amends Hazardous Wastes Rules To Omit Brine Sludge Entry – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry amended the **Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016** by removing brine sludge generated during the production of caustic soda and chlorine from the list of hazardous wastes. The amendment takes effect immediately. The revised classification will reduce compliance and waste disposal costs for chlor-alkali manufacturers, thus improving efficiency across the chlor-alkali value chain.



B. Announcements

1. Ministry Of Law And Justice Releases Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026 For Public Consultation – Ministry of Law and Justice

Source: [PIB](#), [Draft Bill](#)

The Ministry, in consultation with the **Bar Council of India (BCI)**, released the Draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for public and stakeholder consultation. The proposed legislation seeks to modernise the regulatory framework governing the legal profession under the **Advocates Act, 1961**, introducing key reforms such as express statutory recognition for law firms, structured entry guidelines for foreign lawyers, enhanced representation for women in State Bar Councils, and dedicated welfare funds for legal practitioners. All feedback and suggestions are to be submitted to the designated ministry and BCI channels on or before **31st July, 2026**. If enacted, the Bill would establish a statutory framework for several aspects of legal practice that are currently governed primarily through Bar Council rules, providing greater legal clarity and regulatory certainty.

2. ICMR Licenses Three Indigenous Health Technologies To Commercialise Cancer And Vaccine Innovations – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Source: [PIB](#)

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has transferred three indigenous health technologies to Indian pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturers under its **Medical Innovations Patent Mitra** initiative. The technologies include **SHetA2**, a drug candidate for treating Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia (CIN), licensed to Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd. for further development and commercialisation. It has also licensed two vaccine technologies against *Salmonella typhi* (typhoid) and *Salmonella paratyphi*, and *Shigella* infections, developed at ICMR–NIRBI for manufacturing and further development. This will accelerate the development of indigenous therapies and vaccines, bringing new options for cervical cancer prevention and infectious disease control closer to commercial availability.

3. Prime Minister Announces Fast-Track Courts For Paper Leak Cases To Protect Student Welfare – Prime Minister's Office

Source: [PIB](#)

The Prime Minister announced the establishment of dedicated fast-track courts to adjudicate cases involving recruitment and examination paper leaks. The Government has directed concerned ministries and authorities to initiate necessary steps for setting up these **specialised judicial bodies**, emphasising youth welfare and student interests. The initiative aims to ensure the swift trial disposal of paper leak offenses, enabling prompt and stringent legal action against offenders. By accelerating proceedings and strengthening deterrence against examination malpractice, the decision seeks to protect student prospects and



maintain integrity across public competitive examinations and educational testing systems.

4. **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Notifies Mandatory Aadhaar Authentication for RGNIYD Student Scholarships - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified mandatory Aadhaar authentication for students receiving scholarships under the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD). Unenrolled beneficiaries can temporarily present alternative official IDs, while alternative verification modes and exception handling mechanisms ensure no eligible student is denied benefits due to biometric failures.

5. **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Takes Charge Of Ministry Of Education And Reviews Key Initiatives - Ministry of Education**

Source: [PIB](#)

Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi took charge of the Ministry of Education at Kartavya Bhavan in New Delhi. In addition to the Education portfolio he holds the charge of the Union Ministries of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, as well as New and Renewable Energy. The Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior ministry leadership to evaluate the execution of key educational schemes and ongoing national policy initiatives. The Ministry is dealing with issues such as examination paper leaks, implementation of NEP 2020, digital education, and improving the quality of education. The review meeting aims to give early focus on monitoring the progress of these key challenges.

IV. **National Security And Foreign Policy**

A. **Policy Updates**

1. **Government Unveils Landmark Policy Reforms for Indian Coast Guard Personnel and Their Families - Ministry of Defence**

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Defence has introduced two major policy reforms for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The first introduces a gender-neutral recruitment and career progression framework which allows both men and women to enter through **Short Service Appointments (SSA)** and **Permanent Appointments (PA)**, and also enable eligible serving female SSA officers to opt for Permanent Appointments and female PA officers eligible for higher promotions. The second reform introduces a simplified procedure for personnel missing at sea during operational duties to be treated as '**presumed dead**' for the limited purpose of processing ex-gratia compensation and terminal benefits thus enabling faster financial assistance to their families. The reforms expand the career opportunities for women, supporting a much more diverse leadership pipeline over the years.



B. Announcements

1. DRDO Signs Two Major Industry Contracts for AEW&C Mk-II Airborne Surveillance Programme – Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) has signed two contracts for the **Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) Mk-II** programme. Under the first agreement, AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) will modify six Airbus A321 aircraft for military use, while under the other agreement, Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) is selected as Development Cum Production Partner (DcPP) and will manufacture and integrate the mission systems developed by DRDO. The aircraft will undergo testing with the Indian Air Force before induction into service. The AEW&C Mk-II system aims to deliver enhanced flight endurance, advanced airborne surveillance, secure communication channels, and improved situational awareness. This deal will expand domestic private-sector participation in the development and production of advanced airborne surveillance systems, thus improving real-time monitoring of enemy aircraft and missiles, enabling faster operational response during air defence operations.

2. Ministry Of Civil Aviation Notifies Aircraft (Investigation Of Accidents And Incidents) (Amendment) Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Civil Aviation

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has notified the **Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) (Amendment) Rules, 2026** under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024. The notification amends the preamble of the principal rules published in November 2025 by inserting an explicit clause confirming the supersession of the earlier Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017. The amendment incorporates a saving provision that preserves the legal validity of actions taken or omitted under the 2017 framework prior to its supersession. The amendment aims to remove legal ambiguity by confirming that the 2025 rules have replaced the earlier framework for investigating aircraft accidents and incidents.

V. Rural and Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. Notification of VB-GRAM G Administrative Expenses Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Rural Development

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the VB-GRAM G Administrative Expenses Rules, 2026 under the **VB-GRAM G Act, 2025**. The rules define how administrative expenses under the scheme will be financed, with the Central Government bearing the full cost of national-level functions such as social audits, capacity building, grievance redressal, and national councils. State-level administrative expenses, including staff



salaries, worksite management and welfare measures, will be shared between the Centre and States. The rules also **cap administrative expenditure** at **9%** of the scheme's annual outlay and require at least one-third of the administrative allocation to be spent at the Gram Panchayat level to support Gram Rozgar Sahayaks, technical personnel, and field staff. The rules provide a predictable funding framework for administering the scheme by clearly assigning financial responsibilities between the Centre and States while ensuring that a minimum share of administrative resources reaches the Gram Panchayat level to support programme implementation.

2. Cabinet Approves Extension Of PM-KISAN Scheme Through FY 2030-31 With ₹ 3.15 Lakh Crore Outlay – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme for five years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31) with a total outlay of **₹ 3.15 lakh crore**. Under the scheme, eligible landholding farmer families will continue to receive ₹ 6,000 annually in three equal installments through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system linked to Aadhaar. Since its launch in 2019, the scheme has disbursed over ₹ 4.47 lakh crore to more than 9.49 crore farmers benefiting under the latest instalment. The extension provides long-term income support to farming families, enabling them to plan agricultural activities with greater confidence. The direct cash transfers will help farmers meet seasonal input costs, reduce dependence on informal borrowing, and sustain rural consumption, particularly during periods of fluctuating farm incomes.

3. New Digital And Climate Frameworks Unveiled To Advance Agricultural Self-Reliance – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched **Mission ICAR-100** to strengthen agricultural research, innovation and farmer outreach ahead of its centenary. As part of the initiative, ICAR released 43 new crop varieties and 17 agricultural technologies to improve productivity, resilience and sustainability. The mission also aims to expand the reach of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) through digital tools and establish 100 Climate Smart Villages to demonstrate climate-resilient farming practices and efficient natural resource management. The initiative will strengthen the transfer of agricultural research to farmers by expanding field demonstrations, digital advisory services and climate-resilient farming practices and will improve farmers' access to new crop varieties and technologies while supporting adaptation to climate-related agricultural risks.

eases its influence in the development of future global food safety standards.



4. The Government Launches Mission “Golden Spice” To Scale Meghalaya’s GI-Tagged Lakadong Turmeric Value Chain – Ministry of Development of North-East Region

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Ministry has launched **Mission Golden Spice**, a ₹ 175.45 crore initiative to strengthen the value chain of Meghalaya’s **GI-tagged Lakadong turmeric**. The five-year mission (2025–2030) aims to expand cultivation, improve processing infrastructure, enhance quality standards and develop a dedicated ‘**Brand North East**’ identity for the product. It also seeks to increase farmers’ incomes and promote Lakadong turmeric in domestic and international markets. The initiative aims to make Lakadong turmeric a branded value-added product by strengthening the entire post-harvest value chain from processing, quality certification to market linkages. This will enable farmers to earn higher returns from the same produce rather than relying only on increased cultivation.

5. Central Government Formulates Integrated Roadmap To Support Totapuri Mango Farmers In Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Ministry reviewed recommendations of an ICAR-led expert committee to address falling prices and marketing challenges faced by Totapuri mango farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. The committee proposed measures including timely procurement by processing units, forming a Central Coordination and Price Stabilisation Committee for price stabilisation, mandating a 22–25% natural mango pulp threshold in all mango-based beverages, rejuvenation of old orchards with high-value varieties, promotion of value-added products, and expansion of export markets for mango pulp and fresh fruit. The recommendations aim to improve price realisation for Totapuri farmers by spreading demand beyond the peak harvest season and creating additional markets for processed products.

6. DAANVEER Initiative Launched To Strengthen Digital Infrastructure Across Gram Panchayats – Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre and DigiHaat, has launched ‘**DAANVEER**’ on the Meri Panchayat app to bridge digital hardware gaps across India’s 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats. The platform enables individual citizens, corporate entities, and diaspora members to voluntarily donate pre-approved, quality-verified computer bundles with end-to-end delivery tracking and state-specific technical compliance. By strengthening grassroots IT infrastructure, the initiative complements core digital platforms like e-GramSwaraj to accelerate transparent public service delivery and local self-governance.



7. Government Fortifies Potassium Schoenite With Iron And Molybdenum Under Fertilisers Control Order – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has amended the **Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985** to prescribe quality standards for Potassium Schoenite fortified with iron and molybdenum. The notification specifies the nutrient composition and quality parameters for the fortified fertiliser which include a maximum moisture content of 1.5%, minimum water-soluble potassium of 23.0%, maximum sodium of 3.5%, minimum magnesium of 11.0%, minimum sulphate sulphur of 15.0%, minimum iron of 0.5%, and minimum molybdenum of 0.02% by enabling its manufacture and sale. The amendment expands the range of approved fortified fertilisers, helping farmers address multiple nutrient deficiencies with a single product.

B. Announcements

1. ICAR-CISH And APEDA Sea Route Protocol Enables Successful Export Of Dashehari And Langra Mangoes To Dubai – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Source: [PIB](#)

ICAR–Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) successfully completed the first commercial sea shipment of **Dashehari and Langra** mangoes from Uttar Pradesh to Dubai. Using a sea-route export protocol developed by CISH and APEDA, the mangoes were transported under an uninterrupted cold chain, with around 90% of the consignment remaining marketable after a 25-day journey. The successful trial demonstrates that these short-shelf-life mango varieties can be exported by sea instead of air. The validated sea-route protocol will reduce export logistics costs for Dashehari and Langra mangoes, thus improving export competitiveness and enabling better price realisation for farmers.

2. Ministry Of Consumer Affairs Imposes Countrywide Sugar Stock Limits And Mandatory Portal Reporting – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has imposed nationwide stock holding limits on sugar dealers from 1st August, 2026 to 30th November, 2026 to curb hoarding and ensure adequate market availability. Dealers cannot retain sugar stocks for more than **30 days** from the date of receipt or hold more than 4,000 quintals at any location. It also allows State Governments and Union Territories to prescribe lower stock limits within these ceilings. The order also requires sugar dealers to regularly declare and update their stock positions on the designated online portal but



exempts Government stocks and authorised Public Distribution System (PDS) dealers. This order aims to stabilise sugar prices and ensure smoother availability for the consumers.

3. Ministry of Agriculture Notifies Standards For New Fertiliser Products And Commercial Trials - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified quality standards and commercial trial provisions for several new fertiliser products under the **Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985**. It gives permission for three-year commercial trials for Potash Derived from Molasses, Calcium Magnesium Sulphur (CMS) Granules, and Anhydrous Ammonia, while also prescribing standards for imported Calcium Magnesium derived from Rhodophytes (red algae). It specifies nutrient composition, heavy metal limits and other quality parameters to regulate the manufacture, import and sale of these fertilisers. The notifications expand the range of fertiliser products available to Indian farmers, including alternative sources of potash, calcium, magnesium and sulphur. This will improve balanced nutrient management, and reduce dependence on conventional fertiliser sources. The prescribed quality standards will also ensure product safety and consistency before wider commercial adoption.



Annexure I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Policy Updates

1. Lakshadweep Town And Country Planning And Development Regulation Promulgated To Enforce Sustainable Island Growth - Ministry of Law and Justice

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The President of India has promulgated the **Lakshadweep Town and Country Planning and Development Regulation, 2026**, establishing a comprehensive statutory framework for sustainable land development and spatial planning across the Union Territory. The regulation provides for the constitution of the Lakshadweep Planning and Development Board and island-level Planning and Development Authorities tasked with formulating 20-year Regional Plans and 10-year Master Plans. It introduces modern urban land management mechanisms including Town Planning Schemes, Local Area Plans, Land Pooling, Transferable Development Rights (TDR), and GIS-based spatial budgeting. Crucially, the framework integrates stringent environmental protections by mandating island carrying capacity studies, explicitly banning coral mining and beach waste dumping, and requiring strict alignment with Coastal Regulation Zone norms to balance economic growth, sustainable tourism, and delicate marine ecosystem preservation.

2. IRDAI Notifies Revised Actuarial Cadre Rules And Expanded Investment Framework For Insurers - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#), [The Hindu](#)

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has notified the **IRDAI (Actuarial, Finance and Investment Functions of Insurers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026**, amending the 2024 principal regulations under the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha Act, 2025. The revised framework formally categorises actuaries into Appointed Actuaries, Certifying Actuaries for Foreign Reinsurer's Branches (FRBs), and Actuaries for Specific Purposes, laying down eligibility and valuation certification norms. On investments, the regulations allow insurers to deploy up to 20% in infrastructure Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) debt with a minimum AA rating, permit up to 5% exposure to private limited companies, Alternative Investment Funds, and Venture Funds, and define operational limits for Repo and Securities Lending. The reform provides insurers with enhanced financial flexibility for portfolio diversification and asset-liability matching while strengthening actuarial governance and unlocking long-term institutional capital for infrastructure.



3. Government Introduces Bill In Lok Sabha To Increase Supreme Court Judge Strength To 37 – Ministry of Law and Justice

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026** was introduced in the Lok Sabha to replace the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026**. The Bill proposes to amend the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956** by increasing the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges **from 33 to 37**, excluding the Chief Justice of India. The proposal seeks to address the growing case backlog in the Supreme Court by expanding judicial capacity and provides for the expenditure and administrative infrastructure required to create four additional judge positions. If enacted, the Bill would allow more Benches to function simultaneously and help the Court allocate judicial time between regular appeals and Constitution Bench matters.

4. Codex Alimentarius Commission Adopts Three Global Quality Standards For Spices – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the international food standards body established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), finalised three new international quality standards for large cardamom, coriander, and vanilla. Originally drafted during the India-hosted **Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)** session, the standards establish common benchmarks for the quality and grading of these spices in global trade. The Commission also named India as Co-Chair of its newly established **Electronic Working Group (EWG)** tasked with drafting policy guidance on risk analysis for new food products. The new standards provide a common quality benchmark for international trade, making it easier for Indian spice exporters to demonstrate compliance in overseas markets, while India's leadership role in the new working group.

5. NFRA Staff Guidance Establishes 10 Core Principles For Technology Adoption In Audits – Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [NFRA](#)

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has issued guidance "**General Principles for Technology Adoption in Audit**" on the use of technology in statutory audits, covering data analytics, computer-assisted audit techniques, and artificial intelligence (AI). The guidance clarifies that while technology can support audit work, it cannot replace the professional judgement or responsibility of auditors. The final responsibility for the audit opinion will be with the human auditor. The guidance gives ten principles for the responsible use of technology which includes requiring auditing firms to validate and regularly monitor the tools they use,



including technology-related risks in their quality management systems, protecting client data, maintaining proper documentation, and overseeing third-party technology providers. The framework will reduce the scope for audit firms to rely solely on AI-generated outputs and will influence the development of AI audit tools, with greater emphasis on transparency, traceability, and human review.

6. **White Rabbit Technology-Based Time Dissemination Network Launches In Bengaluru – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Regional Reference Standard Laboratory (RRSL), Bengaluru, has launched a demonstration network for disseminating **Indian Standard Time (IST)** using **White Rabbit** technology. Developed jointly by the Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (CSIR–NPL) and ISRO, the network uses Precision Time Protocol (PTP)-based technology to distribute highly accurate and secure time signals traceable to the national time standard. The initiative is part of the Government's '**One Nation, One Time**' programme to establish a uniform and reliable time dissemination system across the country. The network will enable critical sectors such as banking, telecommunications, power systems and digital services to synchronise their operations using a common national time reference. This will improve the accuracy of time-sensitive transactions, strengthen the reliability of digital infrastructure and reduce dependence on foreign time synchronisation services.

7. **Issuance Of Prudential Framework And Capital Relief Norms For Factoring Business In GIFT City – International Financial Services Centres Authority**

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [IFSCA](#)

The Authority has issued a prudential framework for Finance Companies and Finance Units engaged in factoring business in the IFSC to strengthen risk management and credit standards. The companies can receive regulatory benefits when receivables are protected by recognised credit insurance or guarantees from approved institutions such as Governments, banks, multilateral development banks, or registered import factors. The framework also prescribes common prudential norms for factoring transactions, including when overdue receivables must be classified as non-performing assets (NPAs). Receivables unpaid for more than **90 days** must generally be treated as NPAs, while smaller finance companies and finance units with assets below **\$ 150 million** may follow a **180-day** threshold. The framework will increase the availability of factoring finance by allowing companies to extend more financing against insured or guaranteed receivables without a proportionate increase in regulatory capital.



8. Centre Approves Field Trials for Polymer Banknotes in ₹ 10 and ₹ 20 Denominations – Ministry of Finance

Status: Approved | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Times of India](#)

The Central Government has approved the Reserve Bank of India's proposal under Section 25 of the RBI Act to conduct field trials for **200 crore polymer (plastic) banknotes**, 100 crore pieces each in ₹ 10 and ₹ 20 denominations, worth ₹ 3,000 crore. The pilot tests the real-world durability, dirt/water resistance, and anti-counterfeiting features of polymer currency under high-velocity transaction conditions, with polymer notes circulating alongside existing paper currency rather than replacing it. Targeting high-turnover, low-denomination notes aims to significantly extend banknote lifespans, lowering long-term printing costs and note-replacement frequency for the central bank.

9. Service Rules Notified To Operationalise Administrative Cadre Of National Sports Tribunal - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has notified the **National Sports Tribunal (Recruitment, Salary and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 2026** under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The notification establishes the administrative and operational framework for the tribunal, laying down pay matrix levels, qualifications, and service conditions across fourteen administrative and judicial support positions, including Registrar, Deputy Registrar, and Court Masters. Under the framework, key positions will be filled primarily through deputation from Central or State Governments, courts, and tribunals, with general service conditions aligned with corresponding Central Government norms. By setting up a dedicated secretariat and administrative machinery, the rules fully operationalise the tribunal as a statutory forum for resolving sports disputes and enforcing governance compliance.

10. Ministry of Ayush Notifies Drugs (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2026 To Reform ASU&H Drug Licensing, GMP Standards, And Quality Controls – Ministry of Ayush

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry of Ayush has notified the Drugs (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2026 to strengthen the regulatory framework for **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs**. The amendments introduce manufacturing licences, mandatory product identification codes, and allow the use of QR codes, barcodes and GTINs for product information. They also revise **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)**, quality assurance and laboratory standards, prescribe new stability study requirements for determining shelf life, adopt risk-based inspections, and designate additional Central Drugs Laboratories.



Manufacturers have been given transition timelines to comply with the updated GMP and lab requirements. The reforms will improve the quality, safety and traceability of ASU&H medicines through stricter manufacturing and testing standards and making it easier to track and verify products across the supply chain. Thus enhancing consumer confidence and supporting wider acceptance of traditional medicine by aligning manufacturing practices with modern quality standards.

11. SEBI Settles NSE Co-Location And Dark Fibre Cases For ₹ 1,491 Crore – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [The Hindu](#)

Market regulator SEBI has accepted the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) application to settle long-pending co-location and dark fibre cases for a total payment of ₹ 1,491.21 crore (comprising ₹ 1,223.56 crore for co-location and ₹ 267.65 crore for dark fibre). NSE will deposit a fresh ₹ 714.74 crore to satisfy the terms, adjusting ₹ 776.47 crore already held by SEBI. Upon completion, both parties will jointly move the Supreme Court to withdraw pending appeals and formally conclude the proceedings. This resolves the primary long-running legal and regulatory overhang for India's largest stock exchange, clearing a crucial obstacle in its path toward a proposed Initial Public Offering (IPO).

12. India's First Dengue Vaccine Approved For Use In Individuals Aged 4 to 60 Years - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has granted marketing authorisation for **India's first dengue vaccine**, the Dengue Tetravalent Vaccine - **Qdenga®**, manufactured by Takeda. Approved following scientific evaluation under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the recombinant DNA vaccine is indicated for individuals aged 4 to 60 years and is administered as a two-dose subcutaneous regimen spaced three months apart. The decision is supported by extensive clinical trials, including a local Phase III study in India, alongside WHO prequalification and regulatory approvals in 42 countries. By introducing a preventative biological intervention, the approval significantly strengthens India's public health framework, complementing existing vector control, diagnosis, and surveillance measures under the **National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme** to mitigate the seasonal disease burden.



13. Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting Launches Pilot Phase Of "Gems of India" Challenge To Spotlight Grassroots Digital Creators – Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The Ministry has launched the pilot phase of the 'Gems of India' Challenge on the MyWAVES platform under the WAVES OTT ecosystem. The initiative invites citizens to create **short videos** showcasing the **culture, heritage, tourism** and achievements of their districts, with the objective of promoting local storytelling through user-generated digital content. The pilot will be implemented in collaboration with Prasar Bharati, MY Bharat, YouTube, Meta and state and district administrations, with selected entries progressing to state and national-level recognition. The initiative supports India's **Orange Economy** by encouraging citizens to create digital content on local culture and heritage, helping expand the country's creative economy and promoting cultural tourism.

14. President Droupadi Murmu Launches Citizen-Centric Initiatives And Publications To Mark Four Years Of Her Presidency – President's Secretariat

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#)

To mark four years of her presidency, President Droupadi Murmu launched several citizen-centric initiatives at Rashtrapati Bhavan and the President's Estate. These include a multilingual **e-Audio Guide App** with support for 16 languages and an integrated sign language feature to improve accessibility for visitors, as well as the third edition of the **e-Upahaar portal** for the public auction of presidential gifts. The President also inaugurated the **Bachpan Bal Parisar** for children residing in the President's Estate, laid foundation stones for new welfare and civic infrastructure, and released four commemorative volumes documenting key initiatives and public outreach during her presidency. The initiatives will improve public access to Rashtrapati Bhavan through digital and inclusive visitor services while making presidential institutions more accessible to persons with disabilities and supporting greater public participation and transparency in showcasing the work of the President's Office.

B. Announcements

1. BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026 Ranks India As World's Second-Largest Maritime Workforce Supplier – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Source: [PIB](#)

The **BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026** has been released and India has emerged as the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, accounting for **311,936 maritime professionals** or **12.16% of the global seafaring workforce**, overtaking China, Indonesia and Russia. The Government has announced '**Mission 20%**', which



aims to increase India's global seafarer market share to **20%** by expanding maritime education and training capacity, modernising digital certification systems, promoting greater participation of women in the maritime workforce, and strengthening the sector through recent maritime legislative reforms. This will attract greater investment in maritime training institutions and thus increase the influence in the global shipping industry by supplying a larger share of the world's maritime talent.

2. Circulation Of Draft Corporate Average Fuel Economy 2027 Norms (CAFE – III) For Stakeholder Consultation – Ministry of Power

Source: [PIB](#), [Draft Notification](#)

The Ministry has released the draft **Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III)** norms for public consultation. The proposed standards will apply to **M1 category passenger vehicles** manufactured or imported for sale in India and are intended to remain in force from FY 2027–28 to FY 2031–32. The draft seeks to tighten fuel efficiency requirements and reduce average carbon dioxide emissions from passenger vehicle fleets. Stakeholders have been invited to submit comments on the draft until 6th August, 2026. If adopted, the new norms would require automobile manufacturers to improve the fuel efficiency of their passenger vehicle fleets, encouraging the adoption of cleaner vehicle technologies and supporting India's transport sector decarbonisation goals.

3. APEDA Facilitates Landmark Agri-Exports from Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [PIB](#), [PIB](#)

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated two **maiden export shipments**: Areko cherries and Scentrose plums from Jammu & Kashmir to Singapore, and 24 Metric Tonnes of frozen French fries from Kashipur, Uttarakhand, to Iraq. To support J&K growers, APEDA is providing targeted training on post-harvest handling and international phytosanitary standards. Additionally, the agency is working with Uttarakhand authorities under the State Agri Export Policy to offer transport assistance and mitigate inland logistics costs. These initiatives expand overseas markets for high-value regional produce while establishing the commercial viability of value-added exports from landlocked hubs.

4. CBDT Notifies Tax Exemptions For Kerala Headload Workers Welfare Board Under Legacy And New Income-Tax Acts – Ministry of Finance

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has granted income tax exemption to the Kerala Headload Workers Welfare Board under both the **Income-tax Act, 1961** and



the **Income-tax Act, 2025**. The exemption applies to specified income, including Government grants, welfare contributions, registration fees, and interest income, subject to prescribed conditions. The tax exemption allows the Welfare Board to retain more of its income, enabling greater spending on welfare schemes and benefits for registered headload workers.

5. NHAI Launches Digital Local Pass And MargMitra Help Centre On RajmargYatra Mobile Platform – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** [PIB](#)

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) rolled out a digital 'Local Pass' feature alongside the 'MargMitra' Help Centre on the RajmargYatra mobile application. The Local Pass enables commuters residing within a 20 km radius to **secure monthly toll passes online** and uses consent-based integrations with DigiLocker and **Vehicle Administration Highway And Network (VAHAN)** alongside GIS-based verification to automatically validate address details, vehicle ownership, and FASTag links. The integrated 'MargMitra' platform establishes a multilingual, single-window digital assistance centre supporting 22 Indian languages for queries, feedback, and grievance redressal and direct complaint routing with real-time progress monitoring and appeal options. This aims to support the digital delivery of highway services by enabling online toll pass management, faster resolution of FASTag-related issues and easier reporting of road safety concerns through a single application.

6. Seventy-Five Redeveloped Railway Stations Inaugurated Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme – Prime Minister's Office

Source: [PIB](#), [The Hindu](#)

The Government has dedicated **75 redeveloped railway stations** across **20 states** to the nation under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**. The stations, developed at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,570 crore, have been upgraded with improved passenger amenities, better waiting areas, enhanced accessibility for persons with disabilities, digital passenger information systems and improved multimodal connectivity. The redevelopment also incorporates local architectural features and cultural elements to reflect the identity of each region. The redevelopment improves the quality and accessibility of railway infrastructure by modernising passenger facilities at stations across the country. It will enhance the travel experience, support better integration with other modes of transport and strengthen railway stations as regional economic and mobility hubs.

7. Ministry Of Ayush And IndiaAI Sign MoU To Advance AI Integration In Traditional Medicine – Ministry of Ayush

Source: [PIB](#)



The Ministry of Ayush and IndiaAI, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to drive artificial intelligence integration across the Ayush sector. The partnership focuses on accelerating AI adoption in core operational domains, including evidence-based health research, medicinal plant mapping, drug administration, and capacity building. As part of the collaboration, the Ministry of Ayush will onboard the **AIKosh platform** to share eligible research artifacts, datasets, metadata, and AI models. Additionally, the agreement provides researchers and practitioners with subsidised access to GPU-based high-performance computing infrastructure through the IndiaAI Mission. Integrated with the digital Ayush Grid ecosystem, the initiative modernises traditional medicine through advanced computational research.

8. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Organises Special Campaign 3.0 For Pension Grievance Redressal – Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry is conducting Special Campaign 3.0 dedicated to the settlement of pension-related grievances for its pensioners and family pensioners from 17th July to 18th August, 2026, at the Office of the Additional Secretary in Parliament House, New Delhi. This campaign will provide a targeted operational platform to resolve administrative, pension calculation, and disbursement issues faced by retired personnel. Beneficiaries can present their grievances in person or submit them through speed post and official email channels by 31st July, 2026, and provide comprehensive service details, including their Pension Payment Order (PPO) numbers, bank account particulars, designation at retirement, and copies of supporting documents such as corrigendum PPOs and updated bank passbooks. The initiative aims to streamline pension welfare systems and reduce grievance backlogs.

9. Seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft 'Machilipatnam' Launched – Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Indian Navy has launched **Machilipatnam (BY 529)**, the seventh of eight Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The vessel is equipped for underwater surveillance, anti-submarine warfare, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine warfare capabilities to strengthen coastal security and Maritime Domain Awareness. Featuring over 80% indigenous content, the vessel showcases domestic warship-building capabilities under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** framework. Upon induction, the craft will augment the Navy's operational readiness and littoral defence posture across the Indian Ocean Region.



10. NHAI Extends 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' Until 30th June, 2027 – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Source: [PIB](#)

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has extended the Clean Toilet Picture Challenge until 30th June 2027. The initiative allows commuters to report unclean toilets at NHAI-operated toll plazas through the Rajmargyatra mobile application. Verified reports are rewarded with a **₹ 1,000 FASTag recharge** to encourage public participation in monitoring sanitation facilities on national highways. To participate, highway users must upload clear, geo-tagged, and time-stamped photographs of unclean toilets via the latest version of the Rajmargyatra mobile application. Eligible submissions undergo AI-assisted screening and manual validation before the FASTag recharge reward is credited directly to the linked Vehicle Registration Number (VRN). The extension will improve the continued upkeep of toilets at NHAI-operated toll plazas by encouraging commuters to report hygiene issues, thus enabling quicker corrective action by operators.

11. Telecommunication Engineering Centre Notifies Eight New Standards For 5G Core, PON OTDR, And SPAD Detectors – Ministry of Communications

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) has notified eight new technical standards for telecom equipment under the **Telecommunications Act, 2023**. The standards cover equipment used in 5G core networks, fixed wireless access, Wi-Fi offloading, optical fibre testing, FTTH networks, and Single Photon Avalanche Diode (SPAD) detectors. The standards will improve compatibility and quality of telecom equipment used in 5G and optical fibre networks, supporting faster network expansion.

12. Government Designates Exclusive NIA Special Courts In Jharkhand And Gujarat – Ministry of Home Affairs

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has designated exclusive **NIA Special Courts** in **Jharkhand** and **Gujarat** under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008. Two courts in Ranchi and two courts in Ahmedabad have been notified to exclusively hear cases involving Scheduled Offences investigated by the NIA, with jurisdiction across their respective states. The dedicated courts will speed up the trial of NIA-investigated cases by reducing dependence on regular courts and allowing exclusive handling of terrorism-related offences.



13. Government Releases Draft Telecommunications Rules, 2026 To Unify TV And Radio Regulations – Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has released the draft **Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026** for public consultation under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The draft proposes a single regulatory framework for television, radio, Direct-to-Home (DTH) licensing, **Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS)** services, **Internet Protocol Television (IPTV)** and other broadcasting services by replacing six existing guidelines. It also includes provisions to expand broadcasting infrastructure, particularly community and private radio, into remote and rural areas to improve information access nationwide and also allows existing operators to either migrate to the new authorisation framework or continue under their current permissions until they expire. This regulatory framework aims to reduce administrative delays and compliance costs for broadcasters, especially those operating multiple broadcasting services.

14. Ministry Of Agriculture Notifies Nano Urea 21% (Liquid) Manufactured By M/s Best Agro Life Limited – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has approved Nano Urea 21% (Liquid) manufactured by M/s Best Agro Life Limited for provisional commercial manufacture and sale for two years under the **Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985**. The notification also prescribes quality standards and requires proper usage instructions, farmer awareness programmes, and prohibits the bundling of nano fertilisers with other agricultural inputs. The approval increases the availability of nano urea, giving farmers an additional fertiliser option that could improve nitrogen-use efficiency and reduce the use of conventional urea.

15. Ministry Of Tourism Signs MoU With Air India To Boost Global Inbound Tourism Under “Incredible India” Brand – Ministry of Tourism

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air India to promote India as a preferred global tourism destination. The partnership is non-commercial, non-binding and non-exclusive, with no financial commitment on either party and will undertake joint domestic and international marketing campaigns across digital, print and in-flight platforms, while leveraging Air India's global route network to increase destination visibility. It also proposes a stopover tourism programme for international transit passengers, and joint participation in global travel fairs and roadshows. It will remain in force for two years, with the option of a one-year extension. The proposed actions will attract more foreign



visitors, increase tourist spending, and improve India's visibility in key international markets.

16. Indian Nursing Council Restricts Qualification Recognition For Non-Compliant Nursing Schools In Different States – Indian Nursing Council

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Indian Nursing Council (INC) has restricted the recognition of qualifications from **seven nursing institutions** in **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, and Karnataka** for failing to meet statutory inspection requirements. From 11th September 2025, graduates from these institutions can register and practise **only in their respective home states**, and their qualifications will not be recognised for registration in other states. Graduates from the affected institutions will no longer be eligible for registration in other states, limiting their employment opportunities outside their home state.

17. New Practical Guidebook Introduces Roadmap For Small Businesses Seeking Global Market Integration – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has launched **“Going Global: A Practical Guide for Indian MSMEs.”** The guidebook provides practical information on export opportunities, market access requirements, international standards, certification processes and the use of free trade agreements to help MSMEs expand into overseas markets. It also highlights publicly available trade intelligence resources and best practices for export readiness. The resource supports the internationalisation of Indian MSMEs by equipping them with practical guidance to navigate export regulations, quality standards and market access requirements more effectively.

18. Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports Enacts National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025 – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified 16th July, 2026 as the date on which the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Act, 2025 comes into force, making all provisions of the amendment effective. The notification brings the amended anti-doping law into effect, enabling its provisions to be implemented for regulating doping in sports.



19. Government Postpones Ninth Schedule Protection For Karnataka's 56% Reservation Law Over Pending High Court Challenges – Ministry of Law and Justice

Source: [PIB](#)

The Central Government has informed the Lok Sabha that it has **deferred** the proposal to include the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022 in the **Ninth Schedule of the Constitution**. The proposal has been kept pending as the Act, which provides for **56% reservation** for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, is currently under challenge before the Karnataka High Court. This decision maintains the status quo on Karnataka's reservation framework, while the matter is under judicial consideration which indicates that constitutional protection under the Ninth Schedule is unlikely to be considered for laws whose validity is still being decided by the courts.



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