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Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

1st August- 15th August

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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

(1st August, 2026 - 15th August, 2026)

Executive Summary

This document tracks the various key economic and policy decisions made by the Central Government between **1st August 2026 and 15th August 2026**. Some of the important announcements and policy updates are as follows:

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. **Parliament Passes Taxation And Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026:** The Bill replaces the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, amending the Income-tax Act, 2025, Finance Act, 2026, and Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. It empowers the Central Government to allow levying of fees on digital payments, offers incentives to promote rough diamond trading, electronics manufacturing and management of foreign funds.

B. **MSMED (Amendment) Bill, 2026 To Strengthen The Legal Framework Governing The MSME Sector:** The Bill introduces Online Dispute Resolution with strict timelines for MSEFCs and grants statutory permanence to the Udyam Registration Portal. It also mandates that Central Public Sector Enterprises route MSME invoice settlements through TReDS and decriminalises penal provisions via graded civil penalties.

C. **Parliament Passes Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 To Establish A National Tribunals Commission:** Following the Supreme Court's ruling in Madras Bar Association vs. Union of India (2026), the Bill repeals the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and creates a National Tribunals Commission to oversee appointments and service conditions across 16 Tribunals. The reform strengthens judicial independence and institutional accountability in tribunal appointments.

D. **Parliament Passes Mines And Minerals (Development And Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 To Curb State-Level Taxes and Control On Mineral Rights:** The Bill vests jurisdiction over "mineral-bearing lands" in the Central Government and restricts States from imposing tax, cess or other levies on mineral rights except as prescribed by the Centre. It aims to provide a stable fiscal regime and strengthen long-term investment confidence in mining.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. **Cabinet Approves 'Samudra Manthan' National Offshore Exploration Scheme:** The scheme, to be implemented through FY 2030–31, seeks to harness India's potential offshore hydrocarbon reserves. Out of the total outlay of ₹ 84,084 crore, ₹ 28,534 crore has been allocated for collection of offshore seismic data, ₹ 43,200 crore for drilling deepwater exploration wells, ₹ 12,000 crore for providing common infrastructure and

Executive Summary

promotion of domestic manufacturing and rest for monitoring and support. By building on prior reforms the scheme aims to increase hydrocarbon production and reduce import dependency.

B. **Cabinet Approves GOBARdhan, India's National Unified Scheme For Compressed Biogas:** To be implemented from FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36, the scheme expands domestic Compressed Biogas production from agricultural residue, cattle dung and organic waste. It is backed by assured CBG procurement, a stable pricing mechanism, capital assistance and credit guarantees for MSMEs.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. **Government Launches "Nasha Mukt Yuva For Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" To Drive A Nationwide Anti-Drug Movement:** Building on the Kashi Declaration, the 100-week campaign will engage youth every Sunday through awareness programmes, sports and community participation, with support from NSS volunteers, MY Bharat, spiritual organisations and NGOs. It also focuses on expanding rehabilitation support and reducing the stigma around addiction.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. **Parliament Refers Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 To Joint Parliamentary Committee For Detailed Review:** The Bill, which proposes changes to the FCRA, 2010, has been referred to a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee following objections from Opposition parties over its potential impact on NGOs and other organisations receiving foreign funding. The Government maintains the amendments aim to improve transparency and oversight of foreign contributions.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. **The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 To Widen NCDC's Direct Financing Mandate:** The amendment broadens NCDC's mandate to finance co-operative development more widely, enabling loans, grants and share capital participation directly to statutory bodies, State agencies and specialised institutions. It also expands the definition of "foodstuffs" and removes the geographical restriction on industrial goods assistance.

इंडिया गवर्नेंस वॉच

विकसित भारत के नीतिगत और प्रशासनिक विकास

(1 अगस्त, 2026 – 15 अगस्त, 2026)

कार्यकारी सारांश

यह लेख 1 अगस्त 2026 से 15 अगस्त 2026 के बीच केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक और नीतिगत निर्णयों पर आधारित हैं। कुछ महत्वपूर्ण घोषणाएँ और नीतिगत अपडेट इस प्रकार हैं:

I. आर्थिक विकास और संरचनात्मक सुधार

A. **संसद ने कराधान और अन्य विधि (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया:** यह विधेयक आयकर (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 2026 का स्थान लेगा और आयकर अधिनियम, 2025, वित्त अधिनियम, 2026 तथा भुगतान और निपटान प्रणाली अधिनियम, 2007 में संशोधन करेगा। यह केंद्र सरकार को डिजिटल भुगतान पर शुल्क लगाने की अनुमति देता है और कच्चे हीरे के व्यापार, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण और विदेशी निधियों के प्रबंधन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करता है।

B. **MSME क्षेत्र को नियंत्रित करने वाले कानूनी ढांचे को मजबूत करने के लिए MSMED (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026:** यह विधेयक MSEFC (सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्यम सुविधा परिषद) के लिए सख्त समय-सीमा के साथ ऑनलाइन विवाद समाधान प्रस्तुत करता है और उद्यम (Udyam) पंजीकरण पोर्टल को वैधानिक मान्यता प्रदान करता है। साथ ही, यह भी अनिवार्य करता है कि केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उद्यम MSME चालान निपटान को TReDS के माध्यम से भेजें और श्रेणीबद्ध नागरिक दंड के माध्यम से दंडात्मक प्रावधानों को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करें।

C. **संसद ने राष्ट्रीय न्यायाधिकरण आयोग की स्थापना के लिए न्यायाधिकरण सुधार विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया:** मद्रास बार एसोसिएशन बनाम भारत संघ (2026) में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय के बाद, यह विधेयक न्यायाधिकरण सुधार अधिनियम, 2021 को खत्म करता है। साथ ही , 16 न्यायाधिकरणों में नियुक्तियों और सेवा शर्तों की देखरेख के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय न्यायाधिकरण आयोग का गठन करता है। यह सुधार न्यायाधिकरण नियुक्तियों में न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता और संस्थागत जवाबदेही को मजबूत करता है।

D. **संसद ने खनिज अधिकारों पर राज्य-स्तरीय करों को रोकने और नियंत्रण के लिए खनन और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया:** यह विधेयक 'खनिज-युक्त भूमि' पर अधिकार केंद्र सरकार में निहित करता है और राज्यों को केंद्र द्वारा निर्धारित के अलावा खनिज अधिकारों पर कर, उपकर (cess) या अन्य शुल्क लगाने से रोकता है। इसका उद्देश्य एक स्थिर राजकोषीय व्यवस्था प्रदान करना और खनन में दीर्घकालिक निवेश विश्वास को मजबूत करना है।

कार्यकारी सारांश

II. बुनियादी ढांचा, तकनीक और स्थिरता

A. **मंत्रिमंडल ने 'समुद्र मंथन' राष्ट्रीय अपतटीय अन्वेषण योजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की:** वित्त वर्ष 2030-31 तक लागू होने वाली इस योजना का लक्ष्य भारत के संभावित समुद्री हाइड्रोकार्बन भंडारों का उपयोग करना है। कुल ₹84,084 करोड़ के बजट में से, ₹28,534 करोड़ समुद्री भूकंपीय डेटा जुटाने के लिए, ₹43,200 करोड़ गहरे पानी में अन्वेषण कुओं की खुदाई के लिए, और ₹12,000 करोड़ सामान्य बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण एवं घरेलू विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए आवंटित किए गए हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त शेष राशि निगरानी और सहायता कार्यों के लिए रखी गई है। पहले किए गए सुधारों को आगे बढ़ाते हुए, इस योजना का उद्देश्य हाइड्रोकार्बन उत्पादन को बढ़ाना और आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना है।

B. **मंत्रिमंडल ने 'गोवर्धन' (GOBARdhan), संपीड़ित बायोगैस (Compressed Biogas) के लिए भारत की राष्ट्रीय एकीकृत योजना को स्वीकृति प्रदानक की:** वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 से 2035-36 तक लागू होने वाली यह योजना कृषि अवशेषों, गोबर और जैविक कचरे से घरेलू स्तर पर संपीड़ित बायोगैस के उत्पादन को बढ़ाएगी। इसे सुनिश्चित खरीद, स्थिर मूल्य निर्धारण व्यवस्था, पूंजीगत सहायता और सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यमों (MSMEs) के लिए ऋण गारंटी का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

III. मानव विकास और सामाजिक कल्याण

A. **सरकार ने देशव्यापी नशा विरोधी आंदोलन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए "नशा मुक्त युवा, विकसित भारत संकल्प अभियान" शुरू किया:** काशी घोषणा पर आधारित यह 100-सप्ताह का अभियान हर रविवार को युवाओं को जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों, खेलों और सामुदायिक गतिविधियों में शामिल करेगा। इसमें एन.एस.एस (NSS) स्वयंसेवकों, माई भारत (MY Bharat), आध्यात्मिक संस्थाओं और गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) का सहयोग लिया जाएगा। यह अभियान नशामुक्ति के लिए सहायता का विस्तार करने और नशे की लत से जुड़े सामाजिक कलंक को दूर करने पर भी जोर देता है।

IV. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और विदेश नीति

A. **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 को विस्तृत समीक्षा के लिए संयुक्त संसदीय समिति के पास भेजा गया:** विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 के माध्यम से FCRA, 2010 में बदलाव प्रस्तावित किए गए हैं। विदेशी अनुदान पाने वाले गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) और अन्य संस्थाओं पर इसके संभावित प्रभावों को लेकर विपक्षी दलों द्वारा जताई गई आपत्तियों के बाद, इस विधेयक को 31 सदस्यीय संयुक्त संसदीय समिति को सौंप दिया गया है। सरकार का मानना है कि इन संशोधनों का उद्देश्य विदेशी अंशदान में पारदर्शिता और निगरानी को बेहतर बनाना है।

कार्यकारी सारांश

V. ग्रामीण और कृषि परिवर्तन

A. **NCDC के सीधे वित्तीय सहायता (फाइनेंसिंग) के अधिकार क्षेत्र को व्यापक बनाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026:** यह संशोधन सहकारी विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए NCDC के वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के अधिकारों का विस्तार करता है। इसके माध्यम से वैधानिक निकायों, राज्य एजेंसियों और विशेष संस्थानों को सीधे ऋण, अनुदान और शेयर पूंजी में भागीदारी उपलब्ध कराई जा सकेगी। साथ ही, यह "खाद्य पदार्थों" (foodstuffs) की परिभाषा को और व्यापक बनाता है तथा औद्योगिक वस्तुओं की सहायता पर लगी भौगोलिक सीमाओं को समाप्त करता है।

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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. Parliament Passes Taxation And Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 To Replace Income-Tax Ordinance And Reform Digital Payment Charges – Ministry of Finance

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India, Business Standard

The Parliament has passed the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to replace the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026. The statute empowers the Central Government to specify the digital payment systems subject to **transaction levies**, aims to promote trade in rough diamonds and support foreign enterprises supplying electronic components to Indian contract manufacturers through targeted income tax exemptions, and refines the regulatory framework for foreign entities procuring services from Indian data centres. The statutory amendments further streamline the taxation framework for foreign funds managed from India and grant tax exemptions to foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS) for capital gains on G-Secs. These amendments would improve ease of business and provide tax certainty amid the disruption due to the US - Iran war.

2. Parliament Passes MSMED (Amendment) Bill, 2026 To Strengthen Legal Framework Governing MSME Sector – Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

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

The Parliament has passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The amendments incorporate classification of investments and turnover, grant statutory permanence to the Udyam Registration Portal as a free, voluntary digital platform, and introduce **Online Dispute Resolution** alongside strict timelines for Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils (MSEFCs) to complete mediation, arbitration and issuing of awards. The Bill also mandates that all Central Public Sector Enterprises route invoice settlements for MSME procurement through the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform, empowers states to constitute multiple MSEFCs and decriminalises penal provisions. The reforms will strengthen the ease of doing business, accelerate resolution of delayed payment disputes, formalisation, and foster a trust-based regulatory environment.

Read NFPRC's Legislative Brief on *The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026* here.

3. **Parliament Passes Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 To Establish National Tribunals Commission Following Supreme Court Directive – Ministry of Law and Justice**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Parliament has passed the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026 to repeal the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and establish a **National Tribunals Commission** to oversee the appointment, tenure and conditions of service of Chairpersons and Members across 16 Tribunals. The Bill follows the Supreme Court's ruling in **Madras Bar Association vs. Union of India (2026),** which struck down provisions of the 2021 Act on grounds of judicial independence and directed the creation of an independent oversight body. The Commission will comprise a Chairperson (a former Supreme Court Judge or High Court Chief Justice) and two Judicial (former High Court Chief Justice or Judge) and two Technical members. Additionally the commission will maintain a National Tribunals Data Grid. The Bill will strengthen judicial independence and institutional accountability in tribunal appointments. The Executive continues to have a significant role in the rule making, grants, appointments and tribunals to be included in the ambit of this commission.

4. **Parliament Passes Mines And Minerals (Development And Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 To Curb State-Level Taxes On Mineral Rights – Ministry of Mines**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India, Indian Express
   Parliament has enacted the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha to vest **jurisdiction over "mineral-bearing lands**" in the Central Government, in addition to mines and minerals. The bill also restricts the imposition of tax, cess or other levies by State Governments on mineral rights and mineral bearing lands except in accordance with conditions prescribed by the Central Government. The bill seeks to address concerns on heavy sector tax burdens, retrospective and unpredictable levies imposed by states leading to reduced commercial viability of domestic mineral production. The reform aims to provide a **stable fiscal regime** for mining operations, strengthen long-term investment confidence in India's mining sector.

   Read NFPRC's Legislative Brief of the *Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026* here.

5. **RBI To Close Swap Window For FCNR(B) Deposits Amid Robust Inflows – Reserve Bank of India**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** RBI, MoneyControl
   The swap facility for **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits**, instituted in June to mitigate hedging costs for banking institutions and bring in foreign exchange, has now been restricted to deposits mobilised up to August 31st, advancing

the prior deadline of 30th September 2026 in response to substantial dollar inflows. The facility for overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCBs) and external commercial borrowings (ECBs) continues to remain available till 31st December 2026. By withdrawing the hedging subsidy earlier than planned, the RBI signals confidence in the adequacy of dollar inflows and its external buffers, with the trade-off that NRI deposit mobilisation is likely to moderate.

6. **Parliament Passes Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 To Modernise Digital Banking Evidence Standards – Ministry of Finance**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Parliament passed the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 to update the legal framework for the digital banking era. The Bill **expands the definition** of bankers' books to include records maintained in electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based systems. It also provides that certified electronic bank records will be admissible as evidence in courts and cannot be rejected solely because they are in digital form. It continues to protect bank officials from being routinely summoned to produce original records except in special circumstances, and empowers the Government to extend the law to other financial institutions through notification. This will reduce legal uncertainty in disputes involving electronic records by recognising certified digital records as valid evidence, thus speeding up judicial proceedings, reducing compliance burdens for banks, and strengthening confidence in paperless banking and digital financial services.

   Read NFPRC's Legislative Brief on *The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026* here.

7. **Government Operationalises Inventory-Based Cross-Border E-Commerce Export Framework Under FTP 2023 – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB, Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Inventory-based Cross-border E-Commerce Export Framework under the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**, following amendments to the FDI Policy permitting inventory-based e-commerce exclusively for exports. The framework enables eligible e-commerce entities to export goods through a registered **Exporter-on-Record (EOR)**, who will be responsible for export documentation, customs compliance, logistics and overseas fulfilment. To safeguard domestic manufacturers and MSMEs, the framework mandates digital tracking of export inventories, prohibits diversion into the domestic market, requires timely payments to sellers, and ensures export-related benefits are passed on to them within prescribed timelines.

8. **Government Digitises Duty Payment Challans For Export Obligation Discharge Certificates Under Advance Authorisation And EPCG Schemes - Ministry of Commerce & Industry.**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has removed the requirement for physical duty payment challans in Export Obligation Discharge Certificate (EODC) applications under the Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods Schemes. An **API-based data exchange** between **DGFT** and Indian Customs National Trade Portal (**ICEGATE)** enables the exchange of Licence-wise voluntary duty payment data, giving exporters and Regional Authorities direct access to authenticated customs duty payment records. The Advance Authorisation Scheme allows duty-free input imports incorporated into export products, whereas the EPCG Scheme permits capital goods imports at zero or concessional duty, both subject to export obligations. This is expected to shorten processing timelines, reduce compliance and transaction costs and would particularly benefit MSME exporters.

9. **RBI Issues Housing Finance Companies Third Amendment Directions, 2026 To Align Recovery Agent Norms With Unified NBFC Conduct Framework – Reserve Bank of India**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** RBI
   The RBI has amended **Housing Finance Companies** Master Directions, effective from 1st January, 2027. HFCs will now have to follow the same customer conduct rules applicable to non-banking finance companies (NBFC) for loan recovery and for appointing or monitoring recovery agents, replacing their separate HFC-specific provisions. The change makes it harder for recovery agents to use **coercive practices** against borrowers. It also requires HFCs to strengthen oversight of outsourced agents, including customer grievance handling and accountability for agent misconduct. For borrowers, this creates a more uniform basis to challenge improper recovery behaviour.

10. **Ministry of Corporate Affairs Notifies Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2026 To Update Financial Instrument And Energy Contract Accounting – Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2026. The amendments introduce specific accounting treatment for contracts and financial instruments linked to **nature-dependent electricity generation**. They also clarify accounting for **ESG-linked financial instruments** and electronic settlement of financial liabilities. The amendments give renewable-energy buyers a clearer route to hedge weather-linked electricity

contracts without creating accounting volatility that may not reflect their underlying power costs. They also require companies using ESG-linked debt or other contingent financial instruments to disclose how such features affect cash flows and risk exposure. Using electronic payment systems, financial liability can now be discharged before the actual settlement date. Together, this will improve comparability of reporting for corporate renewable-power procurement and sustainability-linked financing.

B. Announcements

1. **Government Sets Aspirational Target Of 50 Fortune 500 Companies From India Within A Decade - Prime Minister's Office**

   Source: PIB

   The Prime Minister, in his Independence Day speech, articulated a national aspiration for 50 Indian companies to feature among the Fortune 500 within the next decade. The Prime Minister stated the need for Indian corporate leadership in banking, pharmaceuticals, law, credit rating, consulting and technology. It signals the Government's intent to anchor future industrial and financial-sector policy around global competitiveness benchmarks. The aspiration translates into greater policy emphasis on scaling domestic firms through easier access to capital, support for international expansion, regulatory simplification and the development of globally competitive service-sector champions.

2. **RBI's Monetary Policy Committee Keeps Policy Repo Rate Unchanged At 5.25%, Retains Neutral Stance – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

   Source: RBI

   RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), has voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) at 5.25%. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 5.00%, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate remain unchanged at 5.50%. The MPC also decided to continue with its **neutral stance**, citing the need for greater clarity on the path and composition of inflation, driven largely by food and fuel pressures rather than broad-based demand, before recalibrating policy rates, alongside continued uncertainty around the south-west monsoon, El Niño conditions, geopolitical developments and global trade policy. The decision reflects the Committee's assessment that while growth remains resilient, supported by robust domestic demand, sustained manufacturing and services expansion and strong exports, headline inflation is expected to rise further before moderating, warranting a watchful, status-quo approach.

3. **CBDT Notifies Disclosure Scheme Rules For Small Taxpayers' Undisclosed Foreign Assets - Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India, Business Standard
   The Central Board of Direct Taxes, under the Finance Act, 2026, has notified the Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers – Disclosure Scheme Rules, 2026, effective 16 August 2026, offering a limited window for taxpayers to voluntarily declare previously undisclosed foreign bank accounts, income, and assets with 31st March 2026 as the valuation date. The scheme recognises aggregate undisclosed assets and income up to ₹ 1 crore which attract an effective tax rate of 60%. The scheme also covers assets up to ₹ 5 crore which were already offered to tax or were acquired when the assessee was a non-resident, but not declared in the relevant Schedule. Such assets face a flat fee of ₹ 1 lakh. By granting immunity from further tax, penalty, and prosecution under the Black Money Act upon compliance, the scheme allows small taxpayers with modest overseas holdings to regularise their foreign asset disclosures.

4. **SEBI Eases Online Bond Platform Rules, Allows IFSCA Products And 54EC Tax-Saving Bonds - Securities And Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI, MoneyControl
   The SEBI has modified the regulatory framework governing **Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)** to widen the range of products they can offer and ease compliance requirements. With immediate effect, OBPPs can now list products, securities, and services regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), provided they follow the same framework applicable to SEBI-registered stock brokers operating in GIFT-IFSC and comply with FEMA's Overseas Investment Rules and Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) limits. Platforms have also been permitted to offer **capital-gains tax-saving bonds**, subject to mandatory disclosures on lock-in period, investment limits, transferability, and tax features. By opening access to overseas GIFT-IFSC debt instruments and formalising tax-bond distribution through regulated digital channels, the move is expected to widen the pool of investment options available to retail investors and promote ease of business.

5. **Government Approves RBI Proposal For Field Trials Of Polymer Banknotes In ₹ 10 And ₹ 20 Denominations – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1335, Business Standard
   The Government has approved a proposal from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), sent under Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934 on the recommendation of its Central Board, for the introduction of one billion pieces each of ₹ 10 and ₹ 20 **polymer banknotes** for field trials, with regular issuance to follow in these two denominations upon successful completion of the trials. The Minister of State for Finance, Shri Pankaj

Chaudhary, informed the Lok Sabha that RBI cited international studies showing polymer banknotes have a significantly **longer lifespan** than paper banknotes, and clarified that the initiative is currently at a **preliminary phase**. The Government further clarified that polymer banknotes are proposed to be issued alongside existing paper substrate-based currency, with no timeline or proposal for phasing out paper notes. The initiative will help the RBI evaluate the durability, cost-efficiency and security benefits of polymer currency in the Indian context, informing future decisions on India's currency composition strategy.

6. **SEBI Proposes Fully Digital KYC For NRIs, OCIs And Foreign Investors Without Requiring Physical Presence In India - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has released a consultation paper proposing to let NRIs, OCIs, and foreign nationals complete their **KYC** online, without the current requirement of being physically located in India during digital onboarding. The relaxation would apply only to individuals based in **FATF-compliant** countries, with safeguards including live GPS geo-tagging matched against the investor's declared country, face-liveness checks, protection against spoofed IP addresses, and mandatory concurrent audits of the video verification process; other proposed changes include making KYC records portable across intermediaries once key details are validated against source databases, allowing intermediaries to rely on KYC already done by other financial regulators (RBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, IFSCA), and permitting self-declared current addresses where the underlying ID document is independently verifiable.

7. **Government Introduces Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026 To Modernise Governance And Expand Data Science Mandate – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Government introduced the Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026 to replace the Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959 and establish the **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)** as a statutory body corporate with a modern governance framework. The Bill seeks to align the Institute with the needs of India's data-driven economy by expanding its mandate beyond traditional statistics to include data science, artificial intelligence, cryptology, computer science, quantitative social sciences and other emerging disciplines. It empowers ISI to establish campuses in India and abroad, grant academic degrees and distinctions, **promote start-ups** and innovation, strengthen collaboration with industry and Government, and undertake **interdisciplinary research** in statistical sciences and allied fields. By strengthening industry-academia-Government collaboration, this will help build high-end data

talent pipelines, support innovation in strategic sectors, and improve the country's capacity for data-driven governance and economic planning.

8. **Government Notifies Rules For Adjudication Of Penalties Under Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act – Ministry of Coal**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Central Government has notified the **Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Adjudication of Penalties Rules, 2026** under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 to establish a uniform procedure for adjudicating violations under the Act. The Rules empower the adjudication authority to initiate inquiries suo motu or based on complaints, seek information and technical reports, issue show-cause notices, and provide alleged violators an opportunity to submit written replies and appear for hearings, either physically or through electronic means. Penalties will be determined based on factors such as the nature and gravity of the violation, repetition of defaults, unfair gains, loss to public interest or Government revenue, intent, cooperation during the inquiry, and corrective measures taken. This framework will reduce the regulatory risk associated with commercial coal mining, making long-term investments in mine development more attractive and improving the ease of doing business for commercial miners.

9. **IFSCA Mandates Continuous Compliance With Letter Of Approval Requirements For Regulated Entities – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
   Source: IFSCA
   IFSCA has issued a circular, effective immediately, directing all Regulated Entities to hold a valid and subsisting Letter of Approval under the SEZ Act, 2005, alongside applicable Regulatory Instruments such as registration, licence, recognition, authorisation or approval, at all times. LoAs carry prescribed validity periods and must be renewed under the SEZ Rules, 2006, with renewal applications submitted at least two months before expiry. Entities are barred from carrying out permissible activities without a subsisting LoA. Any breach may attract penal or enforcement action under the IFSCA Act, 2019 and the SEZ Act, 2005.

10. **IFSCA Proposes Stricter Governance And Staffing Norms For IFSC Banking Units – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
    Source: IFSCA
    IFSCA released a consultation paper proposing amendments to the IFSCA Banking Handbook – General Directions, requiring IFSC Banking Units to hold at least two quarterly Governing Body meetings in physical mode within the IFSC, with video-conferencing permitted only for overseas-based members. The draft also mandates that the CEO/Head, Compliance Officer and Risk Officer positions be held

by an Approved Individual at all times, with a dedicated Risk Officer required specifically where an IBU's outstanding advances or total investments exceed $ 2.5 billion, or its derivatives portfolio notional turnover exceeds $ 5 billion, in the preceding financial year.

11. **IFSCA Proposes Consolidated Framework For Leasing Activity In IFSC – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
    Source: IFSCA
    IFSCA issued a consultation paper on a draft circular consolidating the existing Aircraft Lease and Ship Leasing frameworks. The draft also adds Oilfield Equipment Leasing as a newly eligible asset class, provides a detailed framework to govern SPVs, and repeals 13 existing circulars once the new consolidated framework comes into effect. The consolidation would ease compliance GIFT IFSC by replacing fragmented product-specific circulars with one framework, while the SPV and oilfield equipment provisions could broaden the range of leasing business routed through the IFSC.

12. **SEBI Lowers Stress Testing Z-Score Threshold For Commodity Derivatives Segment To Enhance Ease Of Doing Business – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
    Source: SEBI
    SEBI has relaxed stress testing provisions for commodity derivative markets by lowering the Z-score use to account for extreme price movements from 10 to 5. This changes the testing framework for **Core Settlement Guarantee Fund** which is used to protect the market if a trader fails to pay or deliver commodities. The exchanges and clearing members will need to keep less money in this safety fund because exceptionally rare price spikes will have less effect on its calculation. The lower costs incentivises trading activity and improves ease of business.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cabinet Approves 'Samudra Manthan' National Offshore Exploration Scheme With ₹ 84,084 Crore Outlay – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Union Cabinet has approved "Samudra Manthan," the National Offshore Exploration Scheme, with an outlay of ₹ 84,084 crore for implementation through FY 2030–31. The scheme comprises four components: ₹ 28,534 crore for acquisition and processing of offshore seismic data (2D/3D surveys and data reprocessing), ₹ 43,200 crore for drilling 60 deepwater exploration wells, with support of up to 50% of eligible drilling cost or ₹ 675 crore per well, whichever is lower, ₹ 10,000 crore for common offshore infrastructure hubs and ₹ 2,000 crore for Manufacturing and Services Zones to promote domestic equipment localisation. The remaining amount

will be used for monitoring and support. The initiative builds upon reforms, including the expanded allocation of offshore blocks for exploration, the transition from Production Sharing to Revenue Sharing Contracts, and the modernisation of the regulatory framework through the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 2025, alongside the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025. This scheme would increase hydrocarbon production and reduce import dependency.

2. **Cabinet Approves GOBARdhan, India's National Unified Scheme For Compressed Biogas, With ₹ 23,731 Crore Outlay – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Cabinet has approved the GOBARdhan, a National Unified Scheme for Compressed Biogas with an outlay of ₹ 23,731 crore for implementation from **FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36**. The scheme aims to significantly expand domestic **Compressed Biogas (CBG)** production by converting agricultural residue, cattle dung, press mud and municipal organic waste into clean fuel and organic manure. To encourage private investment, the scheme provides assured CBG procurement by City Gas Distribution entities, a stable administered pricing mechanism, capital assistance for new and existing plants, pipeline connectivity support, credit guarantees for MSMEs, and a district-level CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund. The scheme will create a nationwide market for organic waste, providing rural entrepreneurs with an additional source of income. Higher domestic biogas production can **lower dependence** on imported natural gas, strengthen India's **circular economy**, and support the transition to cleaner transport and industrial fuels.

3. **The Department Of Chemicals And Petrochemicals Notifies BHAVYA Rasayan Scheme To Establish Three Dedicated Chemical Parks – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana–Rasayan (BHAVYA Rasayan) Scheme, with a **₹ 3,030 crore outlay** for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. The scheme will select three States through a competitive challenge process to develop greenfield chemical parks, each on at least 8 sq. km of contiguous, encumbrance-free land provided by the host State. The Centre will provide up to ₹ 1,000 crore per park for common infrastructure, including central effluent-treatment plants, solvent-recovery facilities, pipeline networks and emergency-response centres. The states must contribute at least ₹ 500 crore and bear any cost overruns. The scheme lowers the entry cost for chemical manufacturers by creating shared facilities that are difficult and expensive for individual plants to build. This will enable chemical units to cluster around common utilities rather than develop fragmented standalone sites, improving compliance

with pollution and safety requirements thus attracting manufacturers that depend on reliable feedstock and waste-management infrastructure.

4. **MoRTH Issues Advisory On Ride-Hailing Aggregators Against Advance Tipping Nudges – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** MoRTH
   The Ministry has directed ride-hailing aggregators to comply with the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 by keeping **tipping completely voluntary** and allowing customers to tip only after completing a ride. Platforms have been told not to show prompts during booking or while a ride is underway suggesting that an advance tip could improve the chances of getting a driver or faster ride confirmation. The advisory also requires 100% of voluntary tips to go to drivers, without any platform commission, and directs aggregators to remove misleading or manipulative interface designs that could pressure users into making additional payments. The advisory will change how ride-hailing platforms monetise and design their booking interfaces by restricting dark patterns that encourage customers to make additional payments.

5. **Ministry Of Coal Notifies Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2026 To Streamline Approvals For Opening Coal Mines – Ministry of Coal**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2026, to simplify approvals for opening coal mines. Under the revised framework, companies registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and statutory corporations will no longer require prior approval from the **Coal Controller Organisation (CCO)** to open a mine, seam or section, provided their Board of Directors or governing authority ensures all statutory clearances have been obtained. Other colliery owners will continue to require CCO approval. All operators must inform the CCO within **15 days** of commencing or resuming mining operations after a closure of **180 days or more**. The amendment makes coal mine approvals a compliance-based model for eligible companies, reducing procedural delays in operationalising mines. Faster commencement of mining projects will improve domestic coal production and attract greater private investment.

6. **Ministry Launches E-Samudra Digital Platform For Single-Window Maritime Governance And Seafarer Welfare Services - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Directorate General of Maritime Administration under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has inaugurated **E-Samudra**, a comprehensive digital platform integrating services for seafarers, shipping companies, and ports into a single window with end-to-end workflows, online payments, real-time tracking, and

digitally issued certificates. Additionally the **e-NAVIK 24/7** grievance redressal system, a Tracking Dashboard, **the Digital Seafarers Employment Agreement**, and enhanced welfare measures under the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society were also showcased. India's active seafarer workforce has grown from about 1.03 lakh in 2013 to over 3.23 lakh in 2025. DGMA monitored over 16,000 calls, handled 40,000+ communications, and coordinated repatriation of more than 4,000 stranded Indian seafarers amid recent geopolitical shipping disruptions. The launch of the portal would ensure a simplified and transparent governance experience for marine stakeholders.

7. **Government Notifies Rules For Adjudication Of Penalties And Appeals Under Dock Workers Act – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Central Government has notified the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Adjudication of Penalties and Appeal Rules, 2026 under the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 to establish a structured mechanism for handling **violations of schemes**. The Rules allow inspectors to file complaints electronically, in person or by speed post, issue show-cause notices within 30 days of receiving a complaint, and provide alleged violators an opportunity to submit evidence and be heard before penalties are imposed. Unpaid penalties will be recoverable as arrears of land revenue. The rules will facilitate faster resolution of labour-related compliance issues, reduce operational disruptions at major ports, improve industrial relations, and support smoother cargo handling and logistics, enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of India's maritime trade ecosystem.

8. **Government Amends PM E-DRIVE Scheme Outlay And Claim Deadlines – Ministry of Heavy Industries**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended the PM E-DRIVE scheme, retaining its ₹ 11,900 crore overall outlay through March 2028 while earmarking up to ₹ 2,767 crore for eligible electric two-wheelers. The revised terms support up to **45.79 lakh e-two-wheelers** priced below ₹ 1.5 lakh, with incentives of ₹ 2,500 per kWh, which are capped at ₹ 5,000 or 15% of the ex-factory price. It also confirms closure of the e-three-wheeler (L5) segment after its target was met and requires all scheme claims to be filed by 31st December, 2027. The e-two-wheeler cap will give manufacturers and dealers a defined remaining incentive pool and vehicle target, allowing them to plan sales and inventory before the subsidy window closes. It also shifts demand toward unsubsidised models or other eligible vehicle segments. The earlier claim deadline also limits delayed or disputed claims from extending beyond the scheme's final year.

9. **Ministry Of Railways Notifies Indian Railways (Permission For Operators To Move Container Trains On Indian Railways) Amendment Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Railways**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended the Indian Railways (Permission for Operators to Move Container Trains on Indian Railways) Rules, replacing the earlier multiple-category licensing system with a single **All-India Container Train Operator** (CTO) licence, which allows operators to run container trains across the entire Indian Railways network. New applicants will pay a **₹ 15 crore** non-refundable registration fee, others can either continue under their existing arrangements or shift to the new nationwide licence by paying the prescribed fee. The licence will be valid for 20 years, with a further **20-year** extension available under the revised framework. Entities declared insolvent or bankrupt under the IBC are not eligible to apply. A single nationwide licence will lower the regulatory fragmentation and make it easier to build large-scale rail freight networks across multiple regions and help shift more long-distance cargo from roads to rail.

B. **Announcements**

1. **Prime Minister Reaffirms 100 GW Nuclear Capacity Target For 2047, Five Reactors Targeted This Decade - Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   The Prime Minister reaffirmed the target of 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047, with five new nuclear reactors targeted for commissioning within this decade, building on the enabling framework of the SHANTI Act passed by Parliament. He also noted that India achieved a milestone this year in mastering **Fast Breeder Reactor** technology, a step toward self-reliance in nuclear fuel. This underscores nuclear energy's role in India's broader energy-security strategy alongside rising power demand from AI and data-centre infrastructure.

2. **Government Continues Push On Semiconductors, Critical Minerals And 6G Technology - Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   The Prime Minister, in his Independence Day speech, reaffirmed the Government's focus on strategic technologies. He announced that five to eight additional semiconductor plants are expected to commence operations over the next seven to eight years, building on the three facilities already established under India's semiconductor programme. The PM also highlighted ongoing efforts under the National Critical Minerals Mission and the Critical Minerals Corridor, noting that India is signing agreements with several countries to secure supplies of critical minerals required for semiconductors, electronics and clean-energy technologies. In addition, he called for the development and global deployment of indigenous 6G

technology. Together, the announcements point to a continued policy focus on strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem and the critical supply chains that support it.

3. **Department Of Atomic Energy Releases Draft Rules Of SHANTI Act, 2026 – Department of Atomic Energy**
   Source: Department of Atomic Energy, Economic Times
   The Department of Atomic Energy has released draft SHANTI Rules, 2026 to operationalise the SHANTI Act, 2025, requiring nuclear operators to maintain insurance or financial security on a strict, no-fault basis covering nuclear damage until spent fuel is fully removed. The rules retain graded liability caps from ₹ 100 crore to ₹ 3,000 crore based on reactor size, introduce a single composite licence for construction, ownership, operation and decommissioning, and allow foreign-designed reactors if certified by a trusted origin-country regulator. They also widen nuclear applications to hydrogen, medical isotopes, data centres and AI-related uses, supporting India's 100 GW by 2047 target, with public feedback open till 4th September 2026.

4. **Domestic Value Addition Norm For Most Iron And Steel Products Replaced With 'Melt & Pour' Requirement – Ministry of Steel**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended the Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products (DMI&SP) Policy, 2025, replacing the "50% Domestic Value Addition" requirement with a stricter "Melt & Pour" condition for products such as structural steel, rails, tubes, wires, chains and various steel articles. Under this standard, the steel used must be entirely melted and poured within India, rather than meeting only a value-addition threshold. A smaller set of products such as seamless tubes, large-diameter welded tubes, pipe fittings, and railway rolling-stock parts will continue under the existing 50% norm. The tighter localisation standard will deepen domestic manufacturing in the steel value chain, reduce reliance on imported semi-finished inputs.

5. **Government Moves To Secure Domestic LPG Supply Through New Production Mandate For Oil Companies- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Petroleum Products (Maintenance of Production, Storage and Supply) Amendment Order, 2026, which introduces a new mechanism empowering the Central Government to direct refiners and upstream oil companies to ramp up LPG output whenever supply, equitable distribution, or fair pricing is at risk. All Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), joint venture, and private sector refining and upstream companies have been directed to build adequate storage and

evacuation infrastructure and pursue technology upgrades to raise production beyond current minimums, with a Schedule benchmarking a combined national LPG potential of 63.81 thousand metric tonnes per day to be reviewed twice yearly. The move points toward a more assertive regulatory posture on energy security, with the Centre for High Technology tasked with monitoring compliance and enforcement.

6. **Cabinet Approves Construction Of 135.87Km 4-Lane Access-Controlled Guwahati-Tezpur Highway Corridor In Assam – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**
   Source: PIB
   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the construction of a 135.87 km, four-lane access-controlled highway corridor between Baihata Chariali (Guwahati) and Tezpur in Assam at an estimated cost of ₹ 8,970.20 crore under the NH(O) Scheme on a **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)** Toll model. The project is designed to improve connectivity in Assam by reducing travel time, easing congestion on the existing NH-27 corridor, and strengthening multimodal connectivity under the PM Gati Shakti initiative. The corridor will connect major economic and logistics hubs and include five bypasses, 15 major bridges, 19 flyovers, a dedicated elephant underpass, and a 4.9 km Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) developed in coordination with the Indian Air Force. The corridor will strengthen Assam's role as a logistics gateway to the North-East by improving freight movement between the Brahmaputra Valley and the rest of India.

7. **TRAI Initiates Phase-Wise Implementation Of 1601-Series Numbers For Utilities, Courier And Logistics Sectors To Combat Call Fraud - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**
   Source: TRAI
   The TRAI has issued a Direction on the usage of 1601-series numbering framework, modelled on the successful 1600-series used by Banking, Financial Services and Insurance entities, for transactional and service calls by companies in other sectors. This will be allocated directly to eligible entities (not intermediaries) after verification by Telecom Service Providers. TSPs must complete onboarding of Phase-I entities within 90 days of the order. This measure is expected to **curb impersonation** fraud by scammers misusing normal 10-digit numbers to pose as legitimate businesses, while giving consumers an easily identifiable, distinct numbering identity for genuine utility and logistics communications.

8. **Ministry Issues Draft Notification For Mandatory Vehicle-To-Vehicle (V2V) System - Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**
   Source: PIB

The Ministry has issued a draft notification to introduce Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication systems in a phased manner. The V2V technology enables vehicles to **exchange real-time information** on speed, location, and movement, helping drivers receive alerts about potential hazards such as sudden braking, collision risks, wrong-way driving and approaching emergency vehicles. A ministry constituted taskforce recommended the use of 5.9 GHz for V2V communication. The proposal requires vehicles with factory-fitted V2V systems to comply, while making compliant V2V systems mandatory for all newly manufactured L, M and N category vehicles from 1st October 2028. The adoption of V2V technology will reduce accidents caused by human error and support faster movement of emergency vehicles, thus improving road safety by enabling vehicles to warn each other of potential hazards before drivers can see them.

9. **Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways Issues Draft Notification To Regulate Two-Wheeled Road Ambulances Under Central Motor Vehicles Rules – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**
Source: PIB
The Ministry has released a draft notification proposing amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to formally regulate two-wheeled road ambulances. The draft introduces safety, design and operational standards for these vehicles, including compliance with AIS-209 (Part 1):2026 for new vehicles manufactured from 1st October 2027. It also proposes mandatory periodic fitness certification covering patient transport systems, emergency equipment and vehicle safety features, while allowing State Governments to define the areas where these ambulances can operate. The framework will enable wider deployment of two-wheeled ambulances for emergency response in congested cities, remote villages and hilly regions where conventional ambulances often face delays, thus improving access to critical pre-hospital care during the 'golden hour'.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. **Government Launches "Nasha Mukt Yuva For Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" To Drive Nationwide Anti-Drug Movement – Prime Minister's Office**
Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', a nationwide campaign to prevent substance abuse among youth. Building on the Kashi Declaration, the 100 week initiative will focus on engaging young people every Sunday through awareness programmes, sports, cultural activities, meditation and community participation with support from NSS volunteers, MY Bharat, spiritual organisations and NGOs. The campaign also focuses on expanding rehabilitation support, reducing the social stigma associated with

addiction, and encouraging schools, colleges and universities to actively promote anti-drug awareness.

2. **Parliament Passes The Registration Of Births And Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 To Tighten Rules For Delayed Registrations – Ministry of Law and Justice**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Parliament has passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to strengthen the verification process for delayed birth and death registrations. It introduces a **two-tiered, graded regulatory mechanism** for processing delayed birth and death registrations. The registrations delayed by more than one year but up to two years will require approval from the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, or an authorised Executive Magistrate after verification and payment of prescribed fees. For registrations delayed by more than two years, approval must be obtained from a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class having territorial jurisdiction before registration can be completed. By strengthening the integrity of civil registration data, it can improve the reliability of identity verification for Government welfare schemes, passports, voter rolls, inheritance claims, and other public services.

3. **Food Safety And Standards Authority Of India Notifies Regulations Restricting Plastic In Pan Masala Packaging – Food Safety and Standards Authority of India**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Authority has amended the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 to prescribe packaging materials for pan masala. With immediate effect, pan masala must be packed in paper, paperboard, cellulose or other natural materials that contain no plastic, aluminium foil or metallised layers, tin and glass containers are also permitted. The amendment links pan masala packaging to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. This reform will create demand for plastic-free barrier packaging and paper-based alternatives, while reducing the volume of pan masala wrappers that are difficult to recycle, entering streets and municipal waste streams. Although the immediate transition will be especially challenging for smaller manufacturers that depend on existing sachet-packaging suppliers.

B. Announcements

1. **Government To Train 1 Crore Youth In AI Skills Over The Next Year And Provide Free Coaching Classes – Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   The Prime Minister, in his Independence Day speech, announced two major initiatives aimed at expanding educational and employment opportunities for young people. The Government will train one crore youth in AI skills over the coming year to build capacity in emerging technology fields and strengthen India's position in the

AI economy. The announcement follows the recently held AI Impact Summit and aligns with the Government's broader focus on frontier technologies. Additionally, the Government will establish a free online coaching network for competitive examinations. The measure is intended to reduce the financial burden on middle-class and economically weaker families that rely on private coaching and will leverage India's digital public infrastructure and existing teaching talent to deliver coaching support on a nationwide scale.

2. **Government Notifies Revamped Khelo India Scheme (2026–27 to 2030–31) With ₹ 29,054 Crore Outlay – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the overhauled Khelo India Scheme for five years, from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. The scheme consolidates funding for sports infrastructure, competitions, talent identification, coaching, training facilities, Fit India and sports technology. It also introduces a four-tier athlete-development pathway, digital athlete-data systems, a National Coach Accreditation Board, and targeted support for women, para-athletes and regional sports. The large allocation for Khelo India Training Facilities and strategic sports assets will shift athlete development towards sustained access to coaching, sports science, rehabilitation and competition support. A common digital athlete record and standardised progression pathway will help selectors track promising athletes from district-level competition to elite training centres, while reducing the risk that talent is lost during transitions between state, school and national programmes.

3. **Nationwide Sports Talent-Hunt Campaign Launched For Children Aged 5–15 – Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   The Prime Minister announced a nationwide talent-hunt campaign across villages, cities and schools to identify sporting talent among children aged 5 to 15. It will assess the abilities of identified children and provide them with specialised coaching and long-term support to develop them into athletes capable of representing the country at the highest levels of competition. The programme is explicitly linked to India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Noting that India currently does not compete or qualify in nearly two-thirds of Olympic events, the Prime Minister called for a focused effort to expand the country's presence across a wider range of sports. The talent-hunt campaign will build a pipeline of athletes over the next decade, with particular emphasis on identifying talent at an early age, including among girls, and nurturing it through structured training and support.

4. **National Medical Commission Issues Revised Draft Registration Of Medical Practitioners And Licence To Practice Medicine (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ethics and Medical Registration Board, under the National Medical Commission has issued revised draft amendments to the Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine Regulations, 2026, inviting comments for 30 days. The proposal creates a "One Nation, One Registration" system linking State Medical Registers with the National Medical Register through a **Unified Registration Portal (UID)**. Doctors, including eligible foreign medical graduates and OCIs, would receive a **centrally generated UID** after primary registration with a State Medical Council. The draft also proposes State-based disciplinary jurisdiction and longer temporary registrations for foreign doctors. This will reduce administrative barriers for doctors moving between States or working across multi-state hospital networks.

5. **Government Amends National Children's Fund Governance Structure Under Charitable Endowments Act – Ministry of Women and Child Development**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended the National Children's Fund governance structure. It extends the Fund's stated mandate across India and reconstitutes its Board of Management, chaired by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development. The Board now includes representatives from child-rights, social-justice and skill-development institutions, along with **nominated non-official members**, the Director of Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD) will act as Secretary-Treasurer. The revised Board brings child protection, disability and social-justice representation into the Fund's decision-making structure, which can help align its grants with the needs of vulnerable children who require support across more than one welfare system. It also creates a clearer administrative chain for approving, monitoring and accounting for Fund-supported initiatives.

6. **PCIM&H and IPC Renew "One Herb, One Standard" MoU To Harmonise Quality Benchmarks For Traditional Medicines - Ministry Of AYUSH**
   Source: PIB
   The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), under the Ministry of Ayush, and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, have renewed their MoU for a further three years to continue the "One Herb, One Standard" initiative, which seeks uniform, scientifically validated quality benchmarks for medicinal plants used across AYUSH. Harmonised standards would reduce ambiguity for manufacturers, exporters, testing laboratories, and regulators.

7. **Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Notifies Drugs (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2026 To Expand Drug Manufacturing Licence Categories – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Ministry has notified the Drugs (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2026 that expands the categories of licensed drug manufacturers that are eligible to obtain permission to manufacture drugs for **examination, testing and analysis**. Earlier, only a limited set of manufacturers could obtain such permission. The revised rules now include several other licence categories, such as **loan licences** and **specialised manufacturing licences**, broadening access to research, testing and analytical manufacturing activities. The amendment will improve the ease of conducting pharmaceutical research, product development and quality testing by expanding access to Form 29 licences. This will facilitate regulatory testing for a wider range of manufacturers, and strengthen India's pharmaceutical R&D and manufacturing ecosystem.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. **Registrar General Notifies Household Schedule Questionnaire And Enables Mobile Self-Enumeration For Census Of India 2027 – Ministry of Home Affairs**

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

   The Office of the Registrar General has notified the finalised set of questions under the Household Schedule for the Census of India 2027. The notification lists 40 items to be canvassed from all persons within an enumerator's assigned area, covering demographic details, socio-cultural characteristics, educational and economic indicators, migration history, and several digital-era additions such as Aadhaar number, mobile number, voter ID, passport number, total bank accounts, driving licence availability, and place of Covid-19 vaccination. Complementing this, the Prime Minister, in his Independence Day speech, announced that citizens will also be able to submit census information through their phones, with subsequent verification by a Government representative.

B. Announcements

1. **Government Notifies 11 More International Ports To Expand E-Visa Entry Points – Ministry of Home Affairs**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry of Home Affairs has notified 11 additional International Ports, consisting of **9 land ports** and **2 airports**, enabling entry of E-Visa holder foreigners into India, taking the total number of notified International Ports to 88, including 37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land ports. The newly added entry points include the airports at Bhopal and Tirupati, and land ports at Agartala, Darranga, Gede, Ghojadanga, Haridaspur, Jaigaon, Dawki, Moreh and Attari (Road). The expansion forms part of the Government's broader effort to liberalise, streamline and simplify India's visa regime, which now extends E-Visa facility to nationals of 172 countries across 17 sub-categories, with roughly 78% of visas now issued electronically and approximately 95% of E-Visa applications processed in under 72 hours. The move will widen travel access points for legitimate foreign visitors, ease cross-border movement, boost tourism and business travel connectivity, while supporting the Government's parallel efforts to strengthen technological infrastructure for internal security screening.

2. **Parliament Refers Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 To Joint Parliamentary Committee For Detailed Review – Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: Lok Sabha, Mint
   The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which proposes changes to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA), has been referred to a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for detailed examination. The committee comprises 21 Lok Sabha and 10 Rajya Sabha members. The referral followed objections from Opposition parties, who raised concerns about the potential impact of the proposed changes on NGOs, minority institutions and other organisations **receiving foreign funding**. The Government has maintained that the amendments are aimed at improving transparency and oversight of foreign contributions and protecting national interest.

3. **Government To Build Nationwide Civil Defence Network – Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   In his Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister announced that the Government will establish a vibrant civil defence network to strengthen India's preparedness for the changing nature of warfare. Modern conflicts are no longer confined to conventional battlefields or national borders, requiring greater societal resilience and preparedness. Both volunteers and civil defence personnel will be equipped with modern systems, technologies and preparedness training to enhance their ability to respond to emerging threats and crises. The proposed civil defence network will comprise a volunteer force of citizens trained to protect their cities and support emergency response efforts.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. **The President Assents To The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 To Widen NCDC's Direct Financing Mandate – Ministry of Cooperation**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India

The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has received the assent of the President to broaden the NCDC's mandate from financing exclusively through co-operative societies to planning and promoting "co-operative development" more widely, **enabling it to provide loans, grants and share capital participation** directly to entities engaged in co-operative development, such as statutory bodies, State agencies and specialised institutions. It also expands the definition of "foodstuffs" to include processed food and other notified items, removes the geographical restriction limiting industrial goods assistance to rural areas, updates statutory references to the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, and empowers the Corporation to exchange credit information with the Reserve Bank and financial institutions. The reform will reduce procedural delays caused by routing assistance through State Governments or co-operative societies alone, widen institutional channels for co-operative sector support, and align the Corporation's operations with the Government's vision for cooperative-led rural development.

B. Announcements

1. **Ministry Of Rural Development Issues Draft Audit Of Schemes Rules, 2026 Under VB-G RAM G Act To Institutionalise Bi-Annual Social Audits – Ministry of Rural Development**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Ministry has published the draft VB-G RAM G Audit of Schemes Rules, 2026 inviting public comments within 30 days. The draft rules propose a two-tier audit system comprising annual financial audits by authorised auditors and mandatory social audits every six months in every Gram Panchayat. Social audits will be conducted by **independent Social Audit Units (SAUs)** to ensure impartial oversight. The framework also prescribes that social audit findings must be uploaded within 7 days of the Social Audit Gram Sabha, finalised findings forwarded to the Programme Officer within 21 days, and Action Taken Reports (ATRs) submitted within 30 days under automatic digital escalation to the District Programme Coordinator if delayed. It also seeks to recover misappropriated funds, and complete audit proceedings through a dedicated digital portal. By this reform, the regular social audits will act as a key accountability mechanism in rural development programmes. This will improve transparency in fund utilisation and strengthen community participation in monitoring Government schemes.

2. **Government Mandates Aadhaar Authentication For VB-GRAM G Scheme Benefits – Ministry of Rural Development**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry notified that beneficiaries under VB-GRAM G Scheme must undergo Aadhaar authentication or furnish proof of possessing an Aadhaar number to receive wage employment benefits. Individuals who do not yet have an Aadhaar number can apply for enrolment and continue to access benefits using their Aadhaar enrolment slip along with other valid identity documents. The notification also provides alternative verification methods, including **OTP-based authentication**, offline e-KYC through QR codes, and alternate biometric authentication, to ensure that beneficiaries are not denied benefits due to authentication failures. This will strengthen beneficiary verification and reduce **identity-related fraud** while ensuring genuine beneficiaries continue to receive wage payments without disruption. By allowing multiple authentication options the reform aims to improve last-mile access to benefits, particularly in rural areas where biometric authentication may not always be successful, hence taking a further step to ease DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).

3. **NBA Releases ₹ 8.22 Crore To Research Bodies And Rice-Growing States – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
   Source: PIB
   The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** has disbursed ₹ 8.22 crore to three research institutions and 33 State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils under the **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)** provisions of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**. The funds were received from Pioneer Overseas Corporation for using Indian rice (*Oryza sativa*) varieties to develop and commercialise hybrid seeds. ₹ 2.47 crore has been allocated to research institutions that conserved and supplied the rice germplasm, while ₹ 5.75 crore has been distributed among States and UTs based on their rice-growing area. The funds will support biodiversity conservation, germplasm preservation, ecosystem restoration, documentation of traditional knowledge, and assistance to local farming communities. This ensures that benefits from the commercial use of indigenous biological resources are shared with institutions and regions that conserve them thus creating a financial incentive to preserve native crop varieties and traditional knowledge.

Annexure-I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Governance And Administrative Affairs

1. **Government Notifies Prevention Of Insults To National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026 Extending Legal Protection To The National Song – Ministry of Law and Justice**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Ministry has notified the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026 which extends the legal protection available to the National Anthem to also cover the National Song. Under the amended law, any person who **intentionally prevents the singing** of the National Anthem or the National Song, or **causes disturbance to an assembly** engaged in such singing, will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years, or a fine, or both. The amendment gives the National Song the same statutory protection as the National Anthem, expanding the scope of offences relating to disrespect of national symbols.

2. **Parliament Approves Amendment To Rename Kerala As "Keralam" – Ministry of Home Affairs**

   Source: Lok Sabha

   Parliament has passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, proposing to amend the First Schedule of the Constitution to change the official name of the State of Kerala to "Keralam." The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 11th August, 2026 and the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 2026, following the Kerala Legislative Assembly's earlier resolution supporting the change. The change is based on the State's request to align its official constitutional name more closely with the Malayalam name, Keralam.

3. **Government Identifies 27 Places/Features In Arunachal Pradesh On Official Survey Of India Maps – Ministry of Home Affairs**

   Source: PIB

   The Government of India, in consultation with the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, has identified a total of 27 places/features located in Arunachal Pradesh by standard place and feature names for inclusion on the official maps of the Survey of India (SoI). The identified features span multiple categories, including land areas, mountain passes (such as Dzo La, Riza La, Pukur La and Thag La), a lake (Sambho Sarovar), and a monument (Sher-e-Thapa Memorial), covering locations such as Longju, Jairampur, Kamlang Nagar and Shivaji Nagar. The exercise is aimed at facilitating accurate recognition of these places and improving public awareness, with the updated map made available on the Survey of India's official portal. The move strengthens formal geographic documentation of the border state, reinforces administrative and cartographic clarity over locally significant places and features, and supports India's continued assertion of sovereignty and territorial administration in Arunachal Pradesh.

4. **Coal India Strengthens Post-Retirement Care Through Comprehensive Welfare And Pension Reforms – Ministry of Coal**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has introduced a series of reforms to improve post-retirement support for its employees. Around 1.13 lakh retirees under the Contributory Post Retirement Medicare Scheme (CPRMS) now have access to cashless treatment at 532 empanelled hospitals across the country. CIL has also digitised pension and provident fund processing through the **C-CARES portal**, enabling Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) and Coal Mines Provident Fund (CMPF) settlements to be processed on the day of retirement. The reforms also simplify family pension transfers by automatically including spouse details in revised PPOs, while expanding retiree benefits through higher pension support and access to holiday homes. This will improve healthcare coverage and provide greater financial security and reduce post-retirement hardships for beneficiaries.

B. Finance, Taxation And Trade

1. **Central Government Releases ₹ 1.09 lakh crore In Advance Tax Devolution To Accelerate State Capital Expenditure – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: PIB
   The Government has released an advance tax devolution of ₹ 1.09 lakh crore to State Governments, ahead of the regular August installment due on 10th August 2026. The early release is intended to provide States with additional financial resources to meet expenditure requirements and accelerate development activities. Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation, followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Maharashtra, in accordance with the approved tax devolution formula. This will enable states to speed up infrastructure projects without waiting for the scheduled transfer, thus improving budget execution and supporting local economic activity through faster public expenditure.

2. **Government Launches 'Bank In A Box' And Security Operations Centre For 1400 Urban Cooperative Banks Under New Umbrella Organisation - Ministry of Cooperation**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has launched a bundled banking-services package covering core banking, digital payments, cloud, and compliance support, alongside a shared cybersecurity monitoring facility and a digital forensics partnership, aimed at giving even small cooperative banks access to modern banking capabilities at lower cost. Participation is voluntary and open to all Urban Cooperative Banks nationally, with

the goal of eventual full-sector enrolment, and the release also referenced a broader set of earlier regulatory adjustments extended to the sector around branch expansion, priority-sector lending, collateral-free lending, and debt settlement. This will improve institutional capacity and competitiveness for Urban Cooperative Banks, a significant credit channel for small traders, cottage industries, MSMEs, and women's self-help groups underserved by larger commercial banks.

3. **RBI Excludes Eligible FCNR(B) And NRE Deposit Advances From ANBC - Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**
   Source: RBI
   The RBI has amended its priority-sector lending directions which would allow banks to exclude certain foreign currency non-resident FCNR(B) and Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE) deposits from the calculation of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC). The benefit applies only to eligible deposits raised between June and September 2026. This incentive has been provided in addition to exemption from Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratios. This makes such deposit-backed lending relatively more attractive for banks and helps them mobilise foreign-currency and NRI funds during the window.

4. **Anti-Dumping Duty On Phthalic Anhydride From China, Korea And Thailand Continued For Five Years – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Central Government has issued the notification to continue levying the anti-dumping duty on Phthalic Anhydride originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Thailand. The notification follows the designated authority's final findings (published 7th May, 2026) that dumping from China and Korea has continued and that the cessation of the dumping duty would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry. Acting under Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and Anti-Dumping Rules, 1995, the Government has superseded the earlier notification of 9th August, 2021 and imposed duty of $ 40.08/MT on Phthalic Anhydride originating or exported from China and $ 140.17/MT if it is originating or exported from Korea.

5. **IFSCA Proposes Financial Soundness Criteria For Payment System Operators In IFSC – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
   Source: IFSCA
   IFSCA issued a consultation paper proposing financial soundness criteria for existing and prospective Payment System Operators (PSOs) in IFSC. The draft sets category-wise net-worth thresholds. However, Large Value Payment Systems and Card Payment Networks must maintain "sound financial status." Existing PSOs get six months from the circular's issuance to comply, while new applicants must meet the

criteria before authorisation. The move formalises capital-adequacy benchmarks for IFSC's payment ecosystem in line with authorisation practices ahead of any scale-up in transaction volumes.

6. **Central Board Of Direct Taxes Notifies Tax Exemption For Odisha Joint Entrance Examination Committee For Assessment Year 2026-27 – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination Committee (OJEE Committee) for tax exemption under the Income-tax Act, 1961, read with the savings provisions of the Income-tax Act, 2025. Applicable for Assessment Year 2026–27, the exemption covers income earned from examination fees, counselling and application processing fees, and interest on bank deposits. The exemption is subject to the Committee remaining non-commercial in nature, maintaining the specified sources of income, and complying with statutory income tax return filing requirements. The exemption reduces the Committee's tax liability, enabling more resources to be utilised for conducting entrance examinations and related administrative activities. It also reinforces the Government's approach of granting tax relief to statutory public bodies performing non-commercial educational and public service functions.

C. Standards And Regulatory Affairs

1. **Launch Of New Accreditation Framework For Mobile Food Testing Laboratories - Ministry Of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: PIB
   National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), under Quality Council of India (QCI), launched India's first accreditation scheme for Mobile Food Testing Laboratories under the Integrated Assessment Programme, alongside a Multilateral MoU Exchange **aimed at coordinated assessments and mutual recognition among regulators.** The scheme extends accredited, internationally benchmarked food testing beyond fixed labs to bring services closer to communities. The accreditation will build stronger food safety surveillance, faster regulatory response, and improved ease of doing business which is particularly in food- sector MSMEs and informal supply chains previously distant from fixed-lab testing access.

2. **Department Of Consumer Affairs Invites Applications For Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
   Source: PIB
   The Department has invited online applications for recognition as Government Approved Test Centres (GATCs) under the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013. Eligible industries, laboratories, engineering colleges, polytechnics, ITIs and testing facilities can apply through the online portal. Recognised GATCs are authorised to verify and re-verify 23 categories of weighing and measuring instruments, including water, gas and energy meters, fuel dispensers,

weighing instruments, speed meters and medical devices. The initiative will expand the country's verification infrastructure and improve the delivery of legal metrology services hence reducing the time required for verification and calibration of weighing and measuring instruments and helping businesses comply with legal metrology requirements more efficiently.

3. **TRAI Issues Consultation Paper On Draft Amendments To Access Service Quality Standards To Curb Unsolicited Communications – Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**
   Source: PIB, TRAI
   The TRAI has released a consultation paper proposing amendments to the Standards of Quality of Service of Access (Wireline and Wireless) Services Regulations, 2024 to strengthen consumer protection against spam calls and unsolicited commercial communications (UCC). This will make telecom operators more accountable by linking anti-spam compliance with Quality of Service (QoS) standards. Key proposals include stricter network performance benchmarks, financial penalties for operators that fail to curb spam and unregistered telemarketers, real-time detection and disconnection of persistent spam callers, and stronger implementation of the **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) framework**. TRAI has invited stakeholder comments before finalising the regulations. The proposed changes will shift telecom regulation towards proactive prevention of spam and fraud, improving consumer confidence in digital and mobile services.

4. **Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways Notifies Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2026 Mandating Covered Load Bodies For Tippers And Dumpers – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2026 to enhance road safety and prevent the spillage of construction materials during transport. All tippers and dumpers must be equipped with a mechanically or electrically operated system to fully cover the load body while in transit. The Rules also mandate an **audio-visual warning system** to alert drivers if the cover remains open or unsecured, and clarify that the fitted covering mechanism will not be considered while measuring the overall height of the vehicle. The amendment will reduce accidents and environmental hazards caused by falling construction materials and dust pollution from uncovered vehicles. It will also improve compliance with road safety and environmental standards hence lowering maintenance costs arising from debris-related road damage and enhancing the efficiency of construction material logistics.

D. **Innovation, Technology And Partnerships**

1. **Government Launches National Scholarship Portal For Agriculture Students (NSP-DBT) - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched the National Scholarship Portal. The Initiative shifts scholarship payments from the traditional delayed system to a transparent, monthly DBT mechanism, alongside the call for stronger practical training and industry orientation in agricultural education. This will give better financial security to students pursuing agriculture and create a greater demand for agriculture courses.

2. **Government Outlines Regulatory Framework To Address AI-Generated Deepfakes – Ministry of Electronics & IT**

   Source: PIB

   The Government informed the Lok Sabha of its legal framework addressing AI-generated deepfakes, drawing on the IT Act, 2000, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2021. In February 2026, it amended the IT Rules to target **synthetically generated information (SGI)**, mandating **labelling** and traceable metadata for AI content, explicit coverage of child sexual exploitation material and non-consensual intimate imagery, and sharply cut compliance timelines, takedowns reduced from 36 to 3 hours, grievance redressal from 72 to 36 hours (24 to 2 hours for sensitive categories). Intermediaries must deploy automated detection tools or lose safe-harbour protection under Section 79. This complements the India AI Governance Guidelines and IndiaAI Mission's Safe & Trusted AI pillar, which has approved 13 responsible AI projects, including deepfake-detection tools like Saakshya. Implementation is backed by I4C, SAHYOG, and the Samanvaya platform, which has enabled 12,987 arrests to date.

3. **Civil Aviation Ministry Allocates 11 New Flying Training Organisations Across AAI Airports To Boost Pilot Capacity – Ministry of Civil Aviation**

   Source: PIB

   The Ministry has awarded Letters of Intent (LoIs) for establishing 11 new Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) across seven Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports. The expansion is expected to increase India's pilot training capacity by **750 cadets annually**, addressing the growing demand for skilled pilots as Indian airlines rapidly expand their fleets. The Minister noted that after the launch of **DGCA's FTO Ranking Framework**, there has been a reduction in Category 'C' FTOs and an increase in Category 'B' FTOs. The initiative will strengthen India's aviation training ecosystem, including FTO policy liberalisation, simplified licensing processes, and performance-based ranking of training institutes. By expanding domestic pilot training capacity, the initiative could reduce a key supply-side bottleneck in India's aviation sector. A stronger pipeline of trained pilots will support faster airline expansion, improve regional air connectivity, and reinforce India's ambition to become one of the world's largest aviation markets.

4. **Prime Minister Lays Foundation Stone And Inaugurates Development Projects In Andhra Pradesh Worth ₹ 17,900 Crore – Prime Minister's Office**
   Source: PIB
   Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹ 17,900 crore in **Bhogapuram, Andhra Pradesh**, covering aviation, semiconductors, transport, ports and clean energy. Key projects include the inauguration of the **Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport** and the foundation stone for a **semiconductor manufacturing plant** in Visakhapatnam. The Prime Minister also highlighted ongoing investments in railway and port infrastructure aimed at strengthening connectivity and supporting industrial growth across the state. The projects will position North Andhra Pradesh as an emerging hub for aviation, electronics manufacturing and port-led industrial development. This will attract private investment and strengthen export-oriented industries supporting the development of a Coastal Economic Corridor along Andhra Pradesh's coastline.

5. **Pawan Hans And Norway's Noemi Aerospace Sign MoU For Zero-Emission Regional Aviation – Ministry of Civil Aviation**
   Source: PIB
   State-owned helicopter operator Pawan Hans Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Norway-based Noemi Aerospace** to collaborate on the deployment of sustainable aviation technologies with a specific emphasis on electric seaplanes in India. The partnership will assess the use of electric aircraft for regional connectivity, particularly on short-haul routes, island services, and remote hilly areas under the **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN)** scheme. It also includes the development of supporting infrastructure such as vertiports and charging facilities, establishment of local Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) capabilities, and joint training programmes for pilots and technical personnel. The partnership will help in the adoption of electric aviation in India, making regional air connectivity more sustainable and cost-efficient and developing a domestic eVTOL ecosystem, thus reducing dependence on foreign aviation support services over time.

6. **NeGD Partners With AAERI To Launch DigiLocker-Integrated Document Verification Platform For Students Applying To Australian Universities - Ministry of Electronics & IT**
   Source: PIB
   The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under MeitY partnered with the Association of Australian Education Representatives in India (AAERI) to launch **'AAERI Verify'**, integrating DigiLocker to enable secure, consent-based, paperless verification of students' academic, identity, and financial documents. The platform operates in two stages, a Student Check before university application and a Sponsor Check after an admission offer to verify financial authenticity. This allows Australian universities direct, consent-based access to digitally signed records from original issuing authorities, replacing manual document verification. It reduces fraud risk, ensures data privacy, and cuts application processing times, positioning it as an extension of DigiLocker into international education use cases.

7. **RSVC-AMRIT Platform Launched To Strengthen Rural Innovation And Technology Transfer – Ministry Of Finance**
   Source: PIB
   NABARD launched the RSVC-AMRIT platform to strengthen the RuTAGe Smart Village Centre (RSVC) ecosystem and accelerate the adoption of appropriate technologies in rural areas. The RSVC initiative already facilitates transfer of affordable, need-based technologies through village-level technology hubs, with NABARD currently supporting eight such centres and planning further expansion. By adding a coordinated digital layer to this physical network, the platform aims to improve visibility and coordination across rural technology deployment.

8. **Digital India BHASHINI Division And NITI Aayog Sign Statement Of Intent To Advance Multilingual AI For Inclusive Governance – Ministry of Electronics & IT**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) reports that the Digital India BHASHINI Division and NITI Aayog have signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to advance multilingual, voice-first AI for inclusive governance and citizen-centric public services. The partnership will integrate BHASHINI's language technologies, translation APIs, reference applications and voice bots into NITI Aayog's digital platforms and workflows. It will also support language-data collection, specialised translation models, training and wider adoption of multilingual digital services across districts. The initiative is expected to reduce language barriers and improve accessibility and communication between citizens and Government, particularly for users with different linguistic and digital-literacy needs.

9. **C-DAC And GSI Sign MoU To Advance AI-Driven Mineral Exploration And Geoscience - Ministry of Electronics & IT**
   Source: PIB
   The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the Geological Survey of India (GSI) have signed an MoU to strengthen collaboration in **geoscience**, mineral exploration and **disaster management** using Artificial Intelligence (AI), High-Performance Computing (HPC) and other advanced digital technologies. C-DAC's computing capabilities will be combined with GSI's geological expertise to process large geophysical datasets, develop high-resolution 3D subsurface maps, improve mineral targeting, and build a domain-specific Large Language Model (LLM) from geological records. The collaboration will also support landslide monitoring, Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) studies and early warning systems. This will increase the speed and accuracy of mineral exploration, helping identify critical minerals and rare earth elements needed for clean energy and high-technology industries and reducing dependence on imported technologies for geoscience and strategic resource mapping.

10. **Ministry signs MoUs With IDEAS, ISI Kolkata To Develop GDP Nowcasting Tool And Harmonised Welfare Indicator Framework - Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
    Source: PIB
    MoSPI has signed two Memoranda of Understanding with the Institute of Data Engineering, Analytics and Science Foundation (IDEAS) at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, to undertake collaborative research studies, with MoSPI providing financial assistance and data support while IDEAS develops the technical tools. The collaboration will produce a desktop-based **GDP nowcasting** software tool and a **harmonised indicator** framework linking administrative data on Government health, nutrition, and well-being schemes with household-level NSS data. This will strengthen data-driven decision making enhancing harmonisation with MoSPI's various statistical releases and other data sources.

11. **DPIIT Signs Five Strategic MoUs With Cashfree, Darwin Dynamics, Vultr India, Cars24 And Council For Startup India To Strengthen Startup Ecosystem - Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
    Source: PIB
    DPIIT signed five separate Memoranda of Understanding with Cashfree Payments, Darwin Dynamics, Vultr India, Cars24, and the Council for Startup India, each targeting a different support area for **DPIIT-recognised startups** such as digital payment and fintech, promotion of entrepreneurship in Tier II-III, rural areas, providing technical support, capacity building mobility and automotive technology ecosystem and facilitating access to global markets. These would be delivered

through **partner-run capacity-building activities** rather than direct Government funding. These MoUs strengthen India's startup ecosystem competitiveness across payments, cloud tech, mobility, and global scaling.

12. **MSME Ministry And DPIIT Sign MoU To Accelerate Commercialisation And Global Market Access For Indian GI Products - Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises**
    Source: PIB
    The Ministry of MSME and DPIIT signed an MoU on 5th August 2026 to accelerate the commercialisation, quality standardisation and market access of Indian Geographical Indication (GI) products. The collaboration will bring GI collectives and authorised users onto **ONDC and GeM under a dedicated "Bharat GI" banner** and support their participation in domestic and international trade events. It also aims to integrate GI products more closely with the One District One Product (ODOP) ecosystem and provide capacity-building and digital-enablement support to artisans, weavers and producer collectives. The initiative will improve market access, export readiness and income opportunities for GI producers.

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