NFPRC FOUNDATION

INDIA GOVERNANCE WATCH

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

1st July – 15th July

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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

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

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. **Semicon 2.0 Approved To Build Integrated Semiconductor Ecosystem:** The Union Cabinet has approved Semicon 2.0 with an outlay of ₹ 1.27 lakh crore to strengthen India's semiconductor ecosystem across design, manufacturing, R&D and talent development. The initiative adopts a holistic approach to develop domestic capabilities across the value chain, including fabs and advanced technologies. The scheme is expected to position India as a competitive global hub for semiconductor design and manufacturing.

B. **SEBI Revises Buy-Back Regulations:** SEBI has amended the Buy-Back of Securities (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, to allow companies to undertake share buy-backs without mandatory appointment of a merchant banker, while redistributing compliance responsibilities among other market intermediaries. The reforms simplify the buy-back process, reduce compliance costs and strengthen regulatory accountability.

C. **DGFT Prohibits Imports Of Goods Produced Using Forced Labour:** DGFT has amended the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, to prohibit imports of goods produced using forced labour. The amendment aligns India's trade framework with international labour standards and strengthens the legal basis for restricting imports linked to forced labour in global supply chains.

D. **Customs Duty Exemptions Extended For Electronics And Battery Manufacturing:** The Government has extended customs duty exemptions on key components and machinery used in electronics, wireless charging and lithium-ion cell manufacturing until 31 March 2029. The measure will reduce production costs, encourage domestic manufacturing and support India's electronics and clean energy supply chains.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. **Boosting Domestic Mobile Manufacturing**: The Union Cabinet approved the ₹62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme to strengthen domestic mobile phone manufacturing and promote higher value addition. The initiative aims to boost production, exports, employment, and domestic component manufacturing while reducing import dependence.

Executive Summary

B. **Natural Gas Supply Controls Rolled Back Following Supply Normalisation:** The Government has rolled back the emergency gas-rationing order issued during the Middle East supply disruption following the resumption of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. The change restores normal supply allocations for industries reliant on imported natural gas following the Middle East ceasefire. This move will improve supply stability for energy-intensive industries.

C. **NCR Boundaries Expanded In Rajasthan:** The Government has amended the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985, to expand the National Capital Region by including additional districts and selected tehsils in Rajasthan. The revised territorial framework will strengthen integrated regional planning, coordinated urban development, and infrastructure connectivity across the NCR.

D. **Seven-Year Permit Exemption Extended For Alternative Fuel Commercial Vehicles:** The Government has exempted **battery-operated, methanol, ethanol and hydrogen fuel vehicles** from permit requirements under the Motor Vehicles Act for a further seven years, subject to mandatory AIS-140 vehicle tracking. The measure lowers regulatory barriers for clean-fuel commercial transport and supports the adoption of low-emission mobility.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. **Advanced Cell And Gene Therapies Brought Under Central Licensing:** The Ministry has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, to bring cell and gene therapies, stem cell-derived products and xenografts under the Centrally License Approving Authority (CLAA) framework. The amendment establishes a uniform central licensing regime for advanced therapies, strengthening regulatory oversight and quality standards for emerging biomedical technologies.

B. **Central Assistance Norms Revised Under NFSA:** The Government has revised financial assistance to states for foodgrain movement, handling and Fair Price Shop dealer margins under the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015. The revised rules increase financial support to states while linking assistance to compliance with reforms under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. **Travel Restrictions On Yemen Withdrawn:** The Government has withdrawn its 2017 notification that had imposed travel conditions on Yemen under the Passports Act, 1967, citing an improvement in the country's security situation. The measure reverses the nine-year-old travel restriction and aligns India's travel advisory framework with the current security assessment. The Government also continues to advise Indian nationals to avoid non-essential travel to Yemen.

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V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. **National Investment Policy For Domestic Urea Manufacturing:** The Union Cabinet has approved the National Investment Policy for Urea 2026, replacing the 2012 policy to promote investment in domestic gas-based urea production. The policy introduces a revised financial framework, including a new return on equity structure and measures to reduce foreign exchange risk, to encourage investment in manufacturing and reduce dependence on urea imports.

B. **VB-GRAM G Transitional Rules Notified:** The Government has notified the VB-GRAM G Transitional Rules, 2026, establishing the framework for transitioning from MGNREGA to the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin). The rules introduce revised funding and project implementation mechanisms, including digital attendance, geo-tagging and time-bound wage payments, to strengthen transparency, accountability and efficiency in rural employment delivery.

C. **22 Crop Varieties Notified Under Seeds Act:** The Government has notified **22 crop varieties and hybrids**, bringing them within the statutory framework for seed certification, quality control and regulated sale. The notification expands the list of legally certified varieties, strengthening seed quality assurance and regulatory oversight of the seed market.

कार्यकारी सारांश

यह दस्तावेज 1 **जुलाई 2026 और 15 जुलाई 2026** के बीच केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख आर्थिक और नीतिगत निर्णयों का विवरण प्रस्तुत करता है। कुछ महत्वपूर्ण घोषणाएँ और नीतिगत अपडेट इस प्रकार हैं:

I. आर्थिक विकास और संरचनात्मक सुधार

1. **एकीकृत सेमीकंडक्टर इकोसिस्टम के निर्माण हेतु सेमीकॉन 2.0 स्वीकृत:** केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने डिजाइन, विनिर्माण, अनुसंधान एवं विकास और प्रतिभा विकास के क्षेत्र में भारत के सेमीकंडक्टर इकोसिस्टम को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए ₹1.27 लाख करोड़ के परिव्यय के साथ सेमीकॉन 2.0 को स्वीकृति दी है। यह पहल फैब्स और उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों सहित मूल्य श्रृंखला में घरेलू क्षमताओं को विकसित करने के लिए एक समग्र दृष्टिकोण अपनाती है। इस योजना से भारत को सेमीकंडक्टर डिजाइन और विनिर्माण के लिए एक प्रतिस्पर्धी वैश्विक केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित करने की अपेक्षा है।
2. **सेबी द्वारा बाय-बैक नियमों में संशोधन:** सेबी ने प्रतिभूति बाय-बैक (संशोधन) विनियम, 2026 में संशोधन किया है, जिससे कंपनियां मर्चेंट बैंकर की अनिवार्य नियुक्ति के बिना शेयर बाय-बैक कर सकें। साथ ही अन्य बाजार मध्यस्थों के बीच अनुपालन जिम्मेदारियों को पुनर्वितरित किया जा सके। ये सुधार बाय-बैक प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाते हैं, अनुपालन लागत को कम करते हैं और नियामक जवाबदेही को मजबूत करते हैं।
3. **डी.जी.एफ.टी द्वारा जबरन श्रम का उपयोग कर उत्पादित वस्तुओं के आयात पर प्रतिबंध:** डी.जी.एफ.टी ने जबरन श्रम का उपयोग करके उत्पादित वस्तुओं के आयात को प्रतिबंधित करने के लिए विदेश व्यापार नीति, 2023 में संशोधन किया है। यह संशोधन भारत के व्यापार ढांचे को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय श्रम मानकों के अनुरूप बनाता है और वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में जबरन श्रम से जुड़े आयात को प्रतिबंधित करने के कानूनी आधार को मजबूत करता है।
4. **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और बैटरी विनिर्माण हेतु सीमा शुल्क छूट विस्तारित:** सरकार ने इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, वायरलेस चार्जिंग और लिथियम-आयन सेल विनिर्माण में उपयोग किए जाने वाले प्रमुख घटकों और मशीनरी पर सीमा शुल्क छूट को 31 मार्च 2029 तक बढ़ा दिया है। इस उपाय से उत्पादन लागत कम होगी, घरेलू विनिर्माण को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा और भारत की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स तथा स्वच्छ ऊर्जा आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को सहायता मिलेगी।

II. बुनियादी ढांचा, प्रौद्योगिकी और स्थिरता

1. **घरेलू मोबाइल विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा:** केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने घरेलू मोबाइल फोन विनिर्माण को सुदृढ़ करने और उच्च मूल्य संवर्धन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹62,500 करोड़ की मोबाइल फोन विनिर्माण योजना को स्वीकृति दी है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य आयात निर्भरता को कम करते हुए उत्पादन, निर्यात, रोजगार और घरेलू घटक विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देना है।

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2. **आपूर्ति सामान्य होने के पश्चात प्राकृतिक गैस आपूर्ति नियंत्रण वापस लिए गए:** होर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य के माध्यम से समुद्री यातायात बहाल होने के बाद, सरकार ने मध्य पूर्व आपूर्ति व्यवधान के दौरान जारी किए गए आपातकालीन गैस-राशनिंग आदेश को वापस ले लिया है। यह परिवर्तन मध्य पूर्व युद्धविराम के बाद आयातित प्राकृतिक गैस पर निर्भर उद्योगों के लिए सामान्य आपूर्ति आवंटन को बहाल करता है। यह कदम ऊर्जा-गहन उद्योगों के लिए आपूर्ति स्थिरता में सुधार करेगा।
3. **राजस्थान में एन.सी.आर की सीमाओं का विस्तार:** सरकार ने राजस्थान के अतिरिक्त जिलों और चयनित तहसीलों को शामिल करके राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र का विस्तार करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र योजना बोर्ड अधिनियम, 1985 में संशोधन किया है। संशोधित क्षेत्रीय ढांचा पूरे एन.सी.आर में एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय योजना, समन्वित शहरी विकास और बुनियादी ढांचा कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करेगा।
4. **वैकल्पिक ईंधन वाले वाणिज्यिक वाहनों के लिए सात वर्षीय परमिट छूट विस्तारित:** सरकार ने अनिवार्य AIS-140 वाहन ट्रैकिंग के अधीन, मोटर वाहन अधिनियम के अंतर्गत **बैटरी चालित, मेथनॉल, इथेनॉल और हाइड्रोजन ईंधन वाहनों** को अगले सात वर्षों के लिए परमिट आवश्यकताओं से छूट दी है। यह उपाय स्वच्छ-ईंधन वाणिज्यिक परिवहन के लिए नियामक बाधाओं को कम करता है और कम उत्सर्जन वाली गतिशीलता को अपनाने का समर्थन करता है।

III. मानव विकास और समाज कल्याण

1. **उन्नत सेल और जीन थेरेपी को केंद्रीय लाइसेंसिंग के अंतर्गत लाया गया:** मंत्रालय ने सेल और जीन थेरेपी, स्टेम सेल-व्युत्पन्न उत्पादों और ज़ेनोग्राफ़्ट को केंद्रीय लाइसेंसिंग अनुमोदन प्राधिकरण (CLAA) ढांचे के अंतर्गत लाने के लिए औषधि नियमावली, 1945 में संशोधन किया है। यह संशोधन उन्नत उपचारों के लिए एक समान केंद्रीय लाइसेंसिंग व्यवस्था स्थापित करता है, जिससे उभरती हुई जैव-चिकित्सा प्रौद्योगिकियों के लिए नियामक निरीक्षण और गुणवत्ता मानकों को मजबूती मिलती है।
2. **एन.एफ.एस.ए के अंतर्गत केंद्रीय सहायता मानदंडों में संशोधन:** सरकार ने खाद्य सुरक्षा (राज्य सरकारों को सहायता) नियमावली, 2015 के अंतर्गत खाद्यान्न संचलन, हैंडलिंग और उचित मूल्य की दुकान (एफ.पी.एस) डीलर मार्जिन के लिए राज्यों को दी जाने वाली वित्तीय सहायता में संशोधन किया है। संशोधित नियम राज्यों को वित्तीय सहायता बढ़ाते हैं, साथ ही इस सहायता को राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA) के अंतर्गत सुधारों के अनुपालन से जोड़ते हैं।

IV. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और विदेश नीति

कार्यकारी सारांश

1. **यमन पर यात्रा प्रतिबंध वापस लिए गए:** सरकार ने देश की सुरक्षा स्थिति में सुधार का हवाला देते हुए, पासपोर्ट अधिनियम, 1967 के अंतर्गत यमन पर यात्रा शर्तें लगाने वाली अपनी 2017 की अधिसूचना वापस ले ली है। यह उपाय नौ साल पुराने यात्रा प्रतिबंध को उलट देता है और भारत के यात्रा परामर्श ढांचे को वर्तमान सुरक्षा मूल्यांकन के अनुरूप बनाता है। सरकार भारतीय नागरिकों को यमन की गैर-आवश्यक यात्रा से बचने की सलाह देना जारी रखती है।

V. ग्रामीण और कृषि परिवर्तन

1. **घरेलू यूरिया विनिर्माण हेतु राष्ट्रीय निवेश नीति:** केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने घरेलू गैस-आधारित यूरिया उत्पादन में निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 2012 की नीति के स्थान पर यूरिया के लिए राष्ट्रीय निवेश नीति 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है। यह नीति एक संशोधित वित्तीय ढांचा पेश करती है, जिसमें इक्विटी पर रिटर्न की नई संरचना और विदेशी मुद्रा जोखिम को कम करने के उपाय शामिल हैं, ताकि विनिर्माण में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित किया जा सके और यूरिया आयात पर निर्भरता कम की जा सके।
2. **वीबी-ग्राम जी संक्रमणकालीन नियम अधिसूचित:** सरकार ने मनरेगा (MGNREGA) से विकसित भारत रोजगार और आजीविका मिशन (ग्रामीण) (VB-GRAM G) में परिवर्तन के लिए रूपरेखा स्थापित करते हुए वीबी-ग्राम जी संक्रमणकालीन नियम, 2026 अधिसूचित किए हैं। ये नियम ग्रामीण रोजगार वितरण में पारदर्शिता, जवाबदेही और दक्षता को मजबूत करने के लिए डिजिटल उपस्थिति, जियो-टैगिंग और समयबद्ध मजदूरी भुगतान सहित संशोधित वित्तपोषण और परियोजना कार्यान्वयन तंत्र पेश करते हैं।
3. **बीज अधिनियम के अंतर्गत फसलों की 22 किस्में अधिसूचित:** सरकार ने फसलों की **22 किस्मों और संकर किस्मों** को अधिसूचित किया है, जिससे उन्हें बीज प्रमाणीकरण, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण और विनियमित बिक्री के वैधानिक ढांचे के भीतर लाया गया है। यह अधिसूचना कानूनी रूप से प्रमाणित किस्मों की सूची का विस्तार करती है, जिससे बीज गुणवत्ता आश्वासन और बीज बाजार की नियामक निगरानी मजबूत होती है।

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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 1.27 Lakh Crore Semicon 2.0 To Build End-to-End Semiconductor Ecosystem – Ministry of Electronics and IT**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB]
   The Union Cabinet has approved **Semicon 2.0** with a total outlay of **₹ 1.27 lakh crore** to develop a comprehensive semiconductor design and manufacturing ecosystem in India. Building on the progress of the earlier programme, the initiative adopts a holistic six-pillar strategy covering chip design, semiconductor manufacturing equipment and materials, fabrication units (fabs), advanced research and development, and talent development. The scheme aims to deepen domestic capabilities across the semiconductor value chain, including incentivising upstream components and supporting development of intellectual property and advanced technologies. The predecessor programme, ISM 1.0, carried an outlay of ₹ 76,000 crore and has approved 12 units worth ₹ 1.64 lakh crore in cumulative investment. Semicon 2.0 shifts incentive design from ISM 1.0's fab-heavy, anchor-investment model towards upstream materials and chip-design startups.

2. **SEBI Amends Buy-Back Regulations To Introduce Flexibility In Merchant Banker Requirement And Strengthen Compliance Framework – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level**: High | **Source**: [Gazette of India]
   SEBI has notified the Buy-Back of Securities (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing changes to the regulatory framework governing share buy-backs under the SEBI Act, 1992 and the Companies Act, 2013, with effect from 1st August 2026. The amendment introduces an enabling provision allowing companies to undertake buy-back operations without mandatorily appointing a merchant banker, while redistributing key compliance responsibilities to entities such as the company, secretarial auditor, statutory auditor, stock exchanges and compliance officers, alongside revisions to timelines, escrow management, disclosure requirements and conditions related to public shareholding. The reform is expected to increase operational flexibility for companies, reduce compliance costs, and strengthen accountability through clearer allocation of regulatory responsibilities, while maintaining oversight in buy-back transactions.

3. **Ministry Notified Customs Duty Exemptions For Components Used In Display, Wireless Charging And Lithium-Ion Cell Manufacturing - Ministry of Finance**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India]
   The Department of Revenue has issued three customs notifications extending basic customs duty exemptions on key components and machinery used in domestic electronics and lithium-ion battery manufacturing until 31st March 2029. The

exemptions cover components for specialised display assemblies, wireless charging modules for mobile phones, and an expanded list of **85 machines** used across the lithium-ion cell manufacturing value chain. The exemptions are expected to reduce capital and input costs for manufacturers, improving the commercial viability of domestic production across electronics and battery value chains. They are also likely to encourage fresh investments in advanced manufacturing, accelerate localisation of critical components, and reduce import dependence in strategically important sectors. By strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities, the measures support the objectives of the **National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage**, and broader clean energy and electric mobility goals.

4. **SEBI Amends Securitised Debt Regulations To Strengthen Governance of SPVs And Clarify Operational Roles – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level**: Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The SEBI has notified amendments to the Issue and Listing of Securitised Debt Instruments and Security Receipts Regulations, 2008, introducing changes to governance and operational frameworks for **securitisation structures** with immediate effect. The amendments include restrictions on representation of originators on boards of special purpose entities, replacement of the term "originator" with "**servicer**" in key operational provisions, limits on related-party exposure in asset acquisition, and expanded provisions enabling regulatory intervention in scheme termination and trustee replacement, along with inclusion of concentration risk disclosures. The changes will strengthen governance standards of securitisation structures, improve clarity in role definitions, and enhance investor protection through tighter regulatory oversight.

5. **SEBI Introduces Auto-Pledge Framework For Handling Clients' Unpaid Securities – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI
   SEBI has amended the Master Circular for Stock Brokers to introduce an **auto-pledge mechanism** to handle clients' unpaid securities arising from trades executed outside the Margin Trading Facility. Under the revised framework, unpaid securities will be credited directly to the client's demat account and simultaneously auto-pledged, without requiring client instruction, under a dedicated **Client Unpaid Securities Pledgee Account (CUSPA)**. Stock exchanges have been directed to issue operational guidelines, in consultation with depositories, within 30 days of the circular. The reform aims to strengthen investor protection by replacing discretionary withholding of unpaid client securities with an automated, auditable pledge-and-release system. This will improve transparency in the handling of unpaid securities and reduce disputes over ownership and custody.

6. **Government Strengthens Anti-Dumping Enforcement Across Three Industrial Products - Ministry of Finance**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has issued a notification and continued anti-dumping duties on N-Butyl Alcohol imports from Malaysia, South Africa and the United States following a sunset review, while initiating anti-absorption reviews for **Insoluble Sulphur and Glufosinate imports from China.** By subjecting Chinese imports to provisional assessment during the review period, the Government limits the possibility of exporters neutralising anti-dumping duties through price reductions. This reinforces India's trade-remedy framework in sectors where Chinese imports have significantly influenced domestic pricing.

7. **Central Board of Direct Taxes Waives TDS On Aircraft Lease Rentals To Strengthen IFSC Ecosystem – Ministry of Finance**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a notification under the Income Tax Act, 2025, removing **Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)** mandates on aircraft lease rentals effective retroactively from 1st April, 2026. The directive specifies that no tax deduction shall be made on payments for lease rents or supplemental lease rents paid by a lessee to a unit located within an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). This framework will reduce the compliance compulsion for domestic airline operators by converting complex tax-withholding protocols into a single documentation exchange, directly freeing up corporate cash flows during international aircraft acquisitions.

8. **SEBI Amends Alternative Investment Funds Regulations To Strengthen Investment Framework - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source**: Gazette of India
   SEBI has notified the **Alternative Investment Funds (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026**, introducing amendments to the regulatory framework governing Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). The amendments revise provisions relating to fund operations, investment norms and regulatory compliance to improve transparency, strengthen investor protection and enhance the efficiency of India's alternative investment ecosystem. The amendments are expected to improve regulatory certainty for AIFs, strengthen investor confidence and facilitate capital mobilisation into emerging sectors. A more robust regulatory framework could support innovation, private equity and venture capital investments while enhancing market integrity.

9. **SEBI Revises Listing Obligations And Disclosure Requirements For Listed Entities - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   SEBI has notified the Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing changes to the **disclosure and compliance framework** applicable to listed companies. The amendments seek to strengthen corporate governance, improve transparency and ensure more consistent disclosures by listed entities in line with evolving market practices. The revised disclosure framework is expected to improve investor confidence, strengthen corporate accountability and enhance the overall quality of governance in India's capital markets. It also aligns India's securities regulation with international best practices.

10. **Notification of Rules of Origin Framework To Operationalise India-UK Trade Agreement – Ministry of Finance**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry has notified the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods) Rules under the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to determine the origin of goods eligible for preferential tariff treatment. The Rules prescribe value addition requirements, origin criteria and a mandatory electronic authentication system under which UK exporters must verify origin declarations before Indian importers can claim concessional duties. The framework is expected to reduce customs disputes, prevent misuse of tariff preferences and ensure that treaty benefits accrue only to eligible goods. The Ministry has released the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods) under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) that will determine the origin of goods under the economic partnership agreement.

B. Announcements

1. **India-Israel Bilateral Investment Agreement Comes Into Force To Secure Cross-Border Capital – Ministry of Finance**
   Source: PIB, India-Israel BTA
   The Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) between India and Israel has come into effect from 4^{th} July, 2026. The agreement signed in New Delhi on 8th September 2025, establishes a legally binding and predictable investment system aimed to protect foreign assets and at the same time allow the Government to pursue public welfare without restrictions. Adopting the BTA directly addresses the **legal uncertainties** that cross-border investments were subjected to in the past, safeguards capital from sudden governmental re-regulations, and brings the corridor in line with the standards of international law. This treaty aims to instantly bring sovereign legal guarantees to Israeli venture funds entering Indian deep-tech

sectors and agri-tech centres thus giving more stability to **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flow. It also lowers the risk premiums and insurance expenses of Indian conglomerates that are planning to make corporate acquisitions in the technology ecosystem of Tel Aviv.

2. **CBDT Exempts NCCL Core Settlement Guarantee Fund From Income Tax - Ministry of Finance**
   Source: The Economic Times
   The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified an income tax exemption for the Core Settlement Guarantee Fund (CSGF) maintained by National Commodity Clearing Ltd. (NCCL) for Assessment Years 2019-20 to 2026-27. Granted under the transitional provisions of the Income-tax Act, 2025, the exemption ensures **continuity of the tax benefit** available under the previous law. The CSGF functions as a financial safeguard for settlement of trades in the event of member defaults. The exemption is conditional upon the fund filing its income tax returns and NCCL continuing to be recognised as a SEBI-recognised clearing corporation. From the date of the notification, the CSGF will remain exempt from income tax for the notified assessment years, subject to compliance with the prescribed conditions. NCCL must ensure timely filing of tax returns and maintain its SEBI recognition to retain the exemption.

3. **CPSEs Mandated To Route MSME Invoice Settlements Through TReDs - Ministry of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises**
   Source: Business Standard
   The Ministry notified revised norms on 30th June requiring all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) to onboard the RBI regulated **Trade Receivables Discounting System** and route settlement of MSME procurement invoices through it, following the Union Budget 2026-27 announcements. CPSEs must disclose details of invoices routed and settled through TReDS in a form specified by the RBI, and obtain a certificate from their statutory auditors confirming registration on at least one TReDS platform and compliance with the notification. Invoice financing through TReDS has grown from ₹ 40,000 crore in FY 2021-22 to ₹ 3.47 lakh crore in FY 2025-26, and the mandate is aimed at ensuring timely payments to MSMEs, which the ministry noted account for over 87 million enterprises registered on the Udyam Registration Portal, providing employment to more than 380 million people. The measure is expected to institutionalise receivables financing, reduce payment delays and working capital constraints for MSMEs, improve transparency in public procurement payments, and deepen formal credit access by integrating MSME cash flows into regulated digital financing platforms.

4. **IFSCA Issues Consultation Paper On Revised Regulations For International Branch Campuses At GIFT City – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
   Source: IFSCA
   IFSCA has issued a consultation paper on the revised Draft **IFSCA (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses) Regulations, 2026**, inviting public comments between 1st and 10th July 2026. The proposed regulations are intended to replace the 2022 framework governing International Branch Campuses (IBCs) at GIFT (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) IFSC. The draft revises eligibility criteria, registration procedures, permissible subject areas, course recognition norms, governance standards, student protection measures, and inspection and compliance requirements for foreign higher-educational institutions seeking a presence in GIFT City. The framework aims to create an education ecosystem aligned with GIFT City's financial services sector, enabling foreign institutions to offer specialised programmes in areas such as finance, fintech and international business, thus strengthening the availability of industry-ready talent for firms operating in the IFSC.

5. **IFSC GIFT City Units Granted Exemption From Vessel Chartering Licence Requirements To Facilitate Maritime Finance – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has exempted units operating in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), GIFT City from the licensing requirement under Section 11 of the Coastal Shipping Act, 2025, enabling them to charter foreign vessels for EXIM and international trade operations without prior approval from the Director General of Shipping. The notification removes procedural requirements for obtaining licences for vessel chartering by eligible IFSC entities, streamlining regulatory processes while maintaining the existing cabotage framework governing domestic coastal shipping. The reform is expected to facilitate maritime leasing, ship financing, and ship-owning activities through GIFT City, improve ease of doing business in international shipping operations, and strengthen India's position as a competitive hub for maritime financial services and global shipping investment.

6. **Validity of Gold Import TRQ Authorisations under India–UAE CEPA Extended to Maintain Trade Continuity – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued a public notice extending the validity of TRQ (Tariff Rate Quota) authorisations for import of gold under the India–UAE CEPA, from 30th June 2026 to 30th September 2026. The extension has been granted under the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023,

with no requirement for fresh application, amendment, or fee for availing the extension. The measure ensures continuity in gold import arrangements under the CEPA framework, reduces procedural burden for importers, and maintains stability in trade flows under preferential tariff mechanisms.

II. Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 62,500 Crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme To Deepen Value Addition And Build Domestic Capabilities – Ministry of Electronics and IT**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level**: High | **Source:** PIB
   The Union Cabinet has approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a total outlay of ₹ 62,500 crore for a period of five years (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31) to scale up domestic production, enhance value addition, and strengthen India's global competitiveness in electronics manufacturing. The scheme provides incentives of 2.25%–5% on eligible sales, with additional incentives of up to 1.5% for domestic sourcing of components and **3% for design and R&D** to promote Indian brands and technological capabilities. The initiative is expected to drive cumulative production of ₹ 39 lakh crore, boost exports, and generate significant employment. The scheme is expected to deepen domestic value addition, reduce import dependence on components, strengthen supply chain resilience, and position India higher in global value chains by moving from assembly-led manufacturing towards design- and innovation-led growth.

2. **Amendments To Natural Gas Supply Controls Following Middle East Ceasefire – Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
   Status: Announced | **Impact Level**: High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has issued the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) (Amendment) Order, 2026, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to roll back the emergency allocations. This regulatory shift deletes amendments of March 2026 rationing order, which was enacted when suppliers triggered force majeure clauses due to shipping blockades in the Strait of Hormuz during the Middle East conflict. Following a newly reached ceasefire that has legally permitted maritime sea traffic to safely resume through the Strait, the Government has removed its emergency powers over sector-wise rationing and natural gas diversions. With supply normalised, the Government's withdrawal of emergency controls will improve stability in domestic gas markets and reduce disruptions to energy-intensive industries that rely on imported natural gas.

3. **NCR Boundary Expanded To Include Additional Districts And Tehsils From Rajasthan Under NCRPB Act – Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source**: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified amendments to the Schedule of the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985, revising the territorial composition of the National Capital Region (NCR) by expanding coverage in Rajasthan. The amendment substitutes earlier entries to include the entire districts of Alwar, Kherthal–Tijara, Bharatpur, and Deeg, along with selected tehsils of Kotputli–Behror district, while excluding certain tehsils such as Kotputli, Viratnagar and Pavta. The revision has been undertaken with the consent of participating states and consultation with the NCR Planning Board. The measure aims to enhance regional planning integration, support coordinated urban development, and improve infrastructure and economic linkages across the expanded NCR region.

4. **Maritime Liability Rules, 2026 Notified To Update Limits On Shipping Claims And Align With Global Conventions – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Leve**l: High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims) Rules, 2026 under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, to revise the framework governing liability limits for maritime claims. The rules apply to Indian vessels and foreign vessels operating in Indian waters, and prescribe updated liability limits for claims relating to loss of life, personal injury, and other damages based on vessel tonnage, calculated in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in line with international conventions. The framework also defines coverage, exclusions, and computation mechanisms for liability, including provisions for passenger claims and salvage operations. The reform aims to modernise India's maritime legal framework, align domestic regulations with global standards, and enhance clarity and predictability in maritime risk and insurance practices.

5. **Ministry Notified Permit Exemption For Seven Years For Battery, Methanol, Ethanol And Hydrogen Fuel Transport Vehicles - Ministry of Road Transport And Highway**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified an order exempting battery operated vehicles and vehicles running on methanol, ethanol and hydrogen fuel from the permit requirement under the Act for goods or passenger carriage. The exemption applies for a period of seven years from the date of publication, and all exempted vehicles must be fitted with a vehicle location tracking device complying with AIS-140 specifications as amended from time to time. This extends permit-free operation for alternative fuel commercial vehicles for a fresh seven year term, continuing an

incentive that lowers entry barriers for clean fuel goods and passenger transport while mandating location tracking as a compliance safeguard.

6. **Ministry of Railways Introduces Eight New Reforms To Modernise Freight Operations and Improve Logistics Efficiency - Ministry of Railways**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has introduced eight new reforms under its 'Reform Express' initiative, taking the total reforms implemented to 17. Key measures include the introduction of containerised fly ash transportation to reduce pollution and improve handling efficiency, and a single Pan-India Container Train Operator (CTO) licence replacing the earlier category-based licensing system. The reforms also strengthen contractor qualification norms and simplify operational procedures to improve project execution and promote private participation in rail freight. The reforms are expected to reduce logistics costs, improve the ease of doing business and increase the competitiveness of rail freight. Simplified licensing and improved freight handling are likely to encourage greater private investment, enhance multimodal logistics and support India's objective of shifting more cargo from road to rail, contributing to cleaner and more efficient freight transportation.

7. **Government Invites Global Bids For 10 GWh Advanced Battery Manufacturing Capacity - Ministry of Heavy Industries**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry of Heavy Industries has issued a global Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting bids for the establishment of 10 GWh of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) manufacturing capacity under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for ACC Battery Storage. The bidding process seeks to identify eligible manufacturers for setting up giga-scale battery manufacturing facilities in India, expanding the country's domestic advanced battery ecosystem. The initiative is expected to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities, reduce import dependence for battery cells, support electric mobility and renewable energy storage, and contribute to India's objective of developing globally competitive clean energy manufacturing infrastructure.
8. **Amendment To EIA Notification To Ensure Continuity In Environmental Clearances- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source**: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has amended the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 to streamline the environmental clearance process and reduce delays arising from the expiry or reconstitution of State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs). The amendments increase the tenure of SEIAAs and SEACs from three to four years, establish a Standing Authority on Environment Impact Assessment (SAEIA) to function when State authorities are non-operational, and

revise the composition, tenure and qualification requirements for Expert Appraisal Committees and State-level appraisal bodies. The changes are intended to ensure continuity in project appraisal and minimise disruptions in environmental decision-making. The amendments are expected to improve the predictability and efficiency of the environmental clearance process by reducing administrative delays and avoiding the transfer of pending projects to the Central Government. A more stable institutional framework could facilitate faster project approvals while maintaining environmental oversight and regulatory accountability.

9. **Government Constitutes Standing Authority And Standing Committee For Environmental Impact Assessment Across States And Union Territories – Ministry of Environment, Forest And Climate Change**
   Status: Notified | **Impact Level:** High **| Source**: Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has constituted the Standing Authority on Environment Impact Assessment (SAEIA) and the Standing Committee on Environment Impact Appraisal (SCEIA) for every State and Union Territory under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The bodies will undertake environmental appraisal and clearance functions for Category 'B' projects whenever the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) or State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) is non-functional or has not been constituted. The notification establishes a uniform institutional mechanism to prevent delays in environmental clearances and ensure continuity in project approvals across the country.

10. **ONGC Approves 1.75 Million Tonne Strategic Petroleum Reserve - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Business Standard
    Oil and Natural Gas Corporation approved a 1.75 million tonne strategic petroleum reserve at Mangaluru as a Phase I extension of the existing facility, adding nearly 13 million barrels of storage, as disclosed in a stock exchange filing. Separately, the Government approved the second phase of the **Strategic Petroleum Reserves** programme, adding 6.5 million tonnes through a 4 million tonne reserve at Chandikhol in Odisha and a 2.5 million tonne expansion at Padur, following recent geopolitical disruptions to oil supply routes. Together with the existing 5.33 million tonne capacity, the combined expansion is expected to raise India's emergency crude oil coverage to more than 20 days of consumption. The measure is expected to enhance energy security by strengthening strategic buffer capacity, reduce vulnerability to global supply disruptions and price volatility, and improve India’s ability to stabilise domestic fuel markets during geopolitical shocks.

11. **Ministry of Coal Notifies Rules Allowing Insurance Surety Bonds To Meet Financial Guarantees for Coal Blocks – Ministry of Coal**
    Status: Announced | **Impact Level**: Medium | **Source:** PIB
    The Ministry has issued the Coal Blocks Allocation (Amendment) Rules 2026 which enables mining companies to raise funds through insurance surety bonds. This regulatory update gives a legal basis for coal block allottees to submit Insurance Surety Bonds (ISBs) instead of performance bank guarantees and choose between ISB and their active bank guarantees to complete their security obligation. It is introduced initially for the coal blocks under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and later will be extended to the ones allocated under Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. The move aims to prevent private mining firms from locking up huge cash collaterals with banks, and use that capital for operational activities of the mine. The reform will increase the competitiveness of the bidding process of future coal block auctions by engaging more players to the process.

12. **Ministry of Communication Notifies Telecommunications (Radio Equipment Possession Authorisation) Rules, 2026 - Ministry of Communication**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level**: Medium | **Source**: Gazette of India
    The Ministry notified the Telecommunications (Radio Equipment Possession Authorisation) Rules, 2026, under Section 56 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The rules establish a portal based authorisation system for possessing radio equipment, with fees of ₹ 10,000 per year for equipment used in manufacture, sale, or repair and ₹ 20,000 per year for testing or demonstration purposes, authorisation periods ranging from one to five years depending on use category, and mandatory disposal timelines following expiry, surrender, or revocation. The rules replace the equipment possession framework under the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, shifting existing licence holders to a digital portal based regime with defined eligibility criteria, physical verification powers for the Central Government, and breach provisions tied to Section 32 of the Telecommunications Act.

13. **Coal Ministry Launches Registration Framework for Coal Exchanges- Ministry of Coal**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level**: High | **Source**: PIB
    The Ministry of Coal has launched the application process for registration of Coal Exchanges in India, marking a significant step towards establishing a transparent and competitive coal trading ecosystem. The initiative aims to facilitate the development of regulated coal exchanges that will enable market-based price discovery, improve trading efficiency, and provide a structured platform for coal transactions among producers, consumers, and other market participants. The

reform supports the broader objective of modernising India's coal sector by enhancing transparency, encouraging competition, improving resource allocation, and strengthening market efficiency in line with ongoing commercial coal mining and sectoral liberalisation initiatives.

14. **Prime Minister Launches Modified UDAN Scheme To Accelerate Regional Aviation Infrastructure – Ministry of Civil Aviation**
    Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source**: PIB
    The next phase of the regional connectivity programme UDAN has been launched by the Prime Minister. The modified scheme backed by a 10-year Union Cabinet outlay of approximately ₹ 29,000 crore, has set aside ₹ 12,159 crore for the development of 100 new aerodromes from unserved airstrips, ₹ 3,661 crore for 200 modern helipads and more than ₹ 10,043 crore for viability gap funding to sustain remote commercial routes. To boost domestic aerospace manufacturing, the policy prioritises the deployment of locally produced aircraft platforms like the HAL Dhruv and Dornier fleets, for remote regions. The initiative aims to improve regional air connectivity while creating new opportunities for aircraft maintenance providers, aviation service companies, and local construction firms. It is also expected to support employment and economic activity in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

B. Announcements

1. **India's First Domestic EXIM Shipping Container Built With Global Logistics Standards – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has announced the successful launch of India's first internationally procured, domestically manufactured **export- import (EXIM)** shipping container in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh. This container, product of a partnership between India and A.P. Moller-Maersk, Denmark, meets both the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards and the **International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC)** requirements, making it ready for global shipping. By switching from foreign container procurement to domestic manufacturing, it protects domestic exporters from the international fluctuations of leasing prices due shortage of ocean freight containers during the high export seasons. Setting up a container manufacturing unit locally will require a ready supply of corten steel sheets and skillful welding professionals within industrial areas of India. These developments will provide a structural basis for facilities of mega transshipment like Vadhavan Port and Galathea Bay Port.

2. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 3,907 Crore Rail Multitracking Projects to Enhance Capacity and Freight Efficiency – Ministry of Railways**
   Source: PIB
   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved two rail multitracking projects Paradeep–Haridaspur doubling and Rajkharsawan–Dangoaposi fourth line with a total investment of approximately ₹ 3,907 crore, adding around **145 km** to the Indian Railways network across **Odisha and Jharkhand**. The projects aim to enhance line capacity, reduce congestion, and improve operational efficiency, while strengthening connectivity to key industrial and mineral corridors. The capacity augmentation is expected to support additional freight movement of about **44 MTPA**, improve access to rural areas and tourist destinations, and reduce logistics costs. The initiative is expected to enhance freight efficiency for bulk commodities, reduce dependence on road transport, lower emissions and fuel consumption, and support regional economic development in alignment with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

3. **CCEA Approves Two Key Highway Projects Worth Over ₹ 14,000 Crore – Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**
   Source: PIB
   The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has sanctioned two access-controlled highway projects to improve regional logistics. A 8.1 km, ₹ 6,969.67 crore project on the Delhi-Gurugram Corridor (NH-148AE) connecting the Dwarka Expressway to Vasant Kunj, featuring a 3.14 km twin-tube underground tunnel built on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) and a ₹ 7,145.14 crore project for widening of the 112 km Kanpur-Kabrai section of NH-34 in Uttar Pradesh to a 4/6 lane access-controlled highway on a **Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT Toll)** framework, linking 16 heavy industrial zones to the Bundelkhand Expressway. The two projects aim to lower bulk logistics costs, improve regional fuel efficiency, and systematically separate interstate transit from local urban traffic.

4. **Industry Experts Validate E20 Fuel Performance Across Legacy Fleets – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry held an industry briefing on the nationwide rollout of **20% ethanol-blended petrol (E20)**, during which Maruti Suzuki issued a Statement of Confidence supporting the programme. Vehicle manufacturers reported that over 1.5 crore legacy vehicles not certified for E20 were serviced during FY 2025–26 with no fuel-related issues such as corrosion or component wear. Although E20 may reduce fuel efficiency by **3–3.5%**, this is offset by improved anti-knock performance, better acceleration, and lower exhaust emissions. The findings are expected to strengthen consumer confidence, facilitate wider distribution of E20

by oil marketing companies, and encourage automobile manufacturers to accelerate the development of flex-fuel vehicles compatible with higher ethanol blends

5. **MCD–NDDB Partnership Announced To Establish Compressed Bio-Gas Plants For Urban Waste Management In Delhi – Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: PIB
   The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants in Delhi for scientific utilisation of cattle waste. The initiative aims to process cow dung from approximately **1.25 lakh cattle** through facilities at Nangli, Ghoga-Goyla and Ghazipur, converting it into bio-gas while preventing untreated waste from entering the Yamuna River. The project includes provisions for **incentivising livestock farmers** and integrating waste processing with broader urban sanitation efforts, alongside ongoing sewerage treatment initiatives in the city. The initiative is expected to support waste-to-energy generation, improve urban cleanliness and river water quality, and create additional income streams for livestock farmers, while offering a scalable model for integrated waste management in other cities.

6. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 14,447 Crore Ganga Elevated Corridor Project To Decongest Varanasi And Enhance Multimodal Connectivity – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Source: PIB
   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the development of a 46 km six-lane greenfield elevated corridor connecting NH-19 with the Varanasi Ring Road in Uttar Pradesh under the **Hybrid Annuity Model**, at a total capital cost of ₹ 14,447.64 crore. The project includes key infrastructure components such as an elevated carriageway, a cable-stayed bridge over the Ganga, an extradosed foot over bridge, ramps, loops and service roads, aimed at providing high-speed connectivity and decongesting the urban core. Designed for speeds of 80–100 km/h, the corridor is expected to reduce travel time across key routes by up to 67%, while improving connectivity to major transport nodes including railway stations, Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport and inland waterways infrastructure. The project is expected to significantly enhance urban mobility, improve logistics efficiency, reduce congestion and emissions, and strengthen tourism and pilgrimage infrastructure in Varanasi, in alignment with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

7. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 10,998 Crore Varuna River Corridor To Decongest Varanasi And Improve Regional Connectivity – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Source: PIB
   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the development of a 43.2 km 6/4-lane elevated corridor along the **Varuna riverbank**, connecting NH-31 with the Varanasi Ring Road, to be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Hybrid Annuity Model at a total cost of ₹ 10,998.32 crore. The project includes elevated carriageways, flyovers, ramps, loops and service roads, and is designed for speeds of 80–100 km/h. It is expected to reduce travel time between NH-31 and Kashi Railway Station by around 50%, while improving connectivity to key transport nodes including airports, railway stations and inland waterway infrastructure. The project is expected to significantly decongest urban traffic, improve logistics efficiency and freight movement, enhance road safety, and support regional economic growth and tourism in eastern Uttar Pradesh in alignment with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

8. **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Clarifies Regulatory Framework for 1600 and 140 Number Series - Ministry of Communications**
   Source: PIB
   TRAI has issued clarifications regarding the functioning of the designated 1600 and 140 number series under the **Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulation (TCCCPR)** to address potential misinformation around their usage. The clarification reiterates that the 1600 series is exclusively mandated for service and transaction calls by regulated entities in the BFSI sector and Government bodies, and such calls cannot be blocked, tagged, or filtered, while the 140 series is designated for promotional communications, requiring entities to register under the TCCCPR framework and comply with customer preferences through the **Do Not Disturb (DND) registry,** where users can selectively block or allow such calls. The move is expected to enhance trust in critical service communications, reduce ambiguity in telecom compliance for enterprises, and strengthen consumer control over unsolicited commercial communication through a clearer distinction between transactional and promotional calls.

9. **DoP–TRAI Collaboration to Conduct Nationwide Telecom Network Survey Across Rural India – Ministry of Communications**
   Source: PIB
   The Department of Posts (DoP) and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct a nationwide app-based survey assessing mobile network performance across over 5.68 lakh villages, leveraging the Department's extensive rural postal network. The initiative will be executed through more than 1.40 lakh Branch Post offices, with **Gramin Dak**

Sevaks collecting field-level data using a **TRAI-developed mobile application**, while TRAI provides technical support, training, and centralized monitoring over the one-year survey period. The exercise is expected to generate granular data on telecom service quality, enable identification of connectivity gaps, and support evidence-based policy interventions aimed at improving rural digital infrastructure and advancing the objectives of Digital India.

10. **NTPC Seeks Overseas Uranium Assets to Fuel Planned 30 GW Nuclear Capacity Expansion - Ministry of Power**
    Source: Bloomberg
    NTPC issued a tender to appoint consultants to identify potential uranium mining assets in **Canada, Australia, Kazakhstan, and South Africa**, with bids due 16th July, as part of its plan to build 30 gigawatts of nuclear power capacity over the next two decades. The company stated that the scale of planned capacity addition necessitates securing a **sustainable overseas uranium** fuel supply given the limitations of domestic fuel and mining reserves. The move signals NTPC's shift toward securing long term nuclear fuel supply chains through overseas exploration and potential mine acquisition, rather than relying solely on domestic uranium reserves, to support its long term nuclear capacity expansion target.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. **Amendments To Drugs Rules To Enforce Uniform Regulation Over Cell And Gene Therapies – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945 to include biomedical technologies under the **Central License Approving Authority (CLAA)** framework. The rule, which previously supervised baseline biologicals like vaccines and large-volume IV fluids, now requires uniform central licensing for cell or stem-cell derived therapies (CAR-T cancer therapies), gene therapeutics (including gene editing and replacement products), and xenografts like heart valves from animals. Moving these advanced therapies to the CLAA structure will impose compliance costs for regional advanced-care hospital cleanrooms and will make local biotech companies completely change their strategies from working with fragmented state-level drug licensing bodies to a single central approval system, thus filtering out substandard clinical laboratories.

2. **PM-SETU Expands Nationwide Industry Led ITI Investment - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** High **| Source**: PIB
   The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's 4th National Steering Committee approved the transition of Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) from its pilot phase to a nationwide rollout across all 200 identified ITI clusters, alongside **Strategic Investment Plans** worth a combined ₹ 1,237.58 crore. Anchor Industry Partners including Jindal Naveen Avsar Limited in Odisha, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India in Gujarat, and Apollo MedSkills among others in Telangana will lead hub and spoke ITI cluster upgrades across the three states, with individual investments ranging from roughly **₹ 240 crore to ₹ 275 crore per cluster**. The scale of private industry co-investment in vocational training infrastructure signals a shift toward industry aligned curricula and equipment at the ITI level, which could improve placement outcomes for technical trainees once the upgraded clusters become operational.

3. **Centre Launches Phase-III of Biomedical Research Career Programme - Ministry of Science and Technology**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), in collaboration with the **Wellcome Trust (UK)**, has launched **Phase-III of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP)** to strengthen India's biomedical research ecosystem through sustained support for early- and mid-career scientists. The programme provides competitive funding, mentorship, and international research collaboration opportunities to promote high-quality biomedical research addressing national and global health challenges. Building on earlier phases, BRCP Phase-III aims to develop a skilled scientific workforce, enhance translational research capacity, and foster long-term India–UK collaboration in life sciences and healthcare innovation. The initiative is expected to strengthen India's research infrastructure, improve scientific talent retention, and accelerate the development of innovative health technologies and evidence-based medical research.

4. **Government Notifies EPF Contribution Rate under Social Security Code - Ministry of Labour and Employment**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified a **12% employer and employee contribution rate** under the **Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme, 2026**, framed under the Code on Social Security, 2020. The notification supersedes the 1997 contribution framework and applies to establishments covered under the Code, while exempting establishments operating under approved insolvency resolution or repayment plans, as well as specified industries including jute, beedi,

brick, non-spinning coir, and guar gum factories. Effective retrospectively from 21st November 2025, the notification establishes the contribution framework for the new EPF Scheme, ensuring continuity of provident fund benefits while operationalising the Social Security Code.

5. **Central Council For Research In Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Launches Three Major Research And Digital Initiatives – Ministry of Ayush**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   CCRAS unveiled three major academic and digital governance initiatives during its 5th Executive Committee meeting. The council released a new Research Methodology Textbook in accordance with the curriculum of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine, the Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI) for the CCRAS PRAYATNA 2026-27 institutional scientific writing programme for postgraduate and Ph.D. scholars in Ayurveda and a centralised CCRAS Digital Ecosystem Dashboard to monitor pan-India research activities in real-time and reroute the financial grants to the most successful clinical trials. The reform aims to strengthen research competencies among MD, MS and Ph.D. scholars and thus increase the acceptance rates of traditional medicine research papers in globally indexed peer-reviewed journals.

6. **Addiction Treatment Infrastructure Increases Under The National Action Plan For Drug Demand Reduction – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry has launched the **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)** framework aimed at prevention, awareness generation, capacity building, treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration and increased the country's de-addiction and rehabilitation infrastructure to 768 operational centres under the **Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** initiative. As per the Government, the number of people coming forward for institutional medical help has increased by 294%, from 2.08 lakh in 2020 to more than 8.20 lakh in 2025, because of stigma-free treatment methods and targeted community mobilisation campaigns. The expansion lays the groundwork for a more decentralised de-addiction ecosystem, reducing dependence on tertiary healthcare facilities and improves the availability of patient-level data, enabling states to identify emerging substance abuse patterns and allocate de-addiction resources more effectively.

7. **AISHE 2022-23 And 2023-24 Reports Released, Showing Rising Higher Education Enrolment - Ministry of Education**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry of Education released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) reports for 2022-23 and 2023-24, drawing on **self-reported data** from over **90% of registered institutions** in both years. The Gross Enrolment Ratio rose to 30% in 2023-24 from 23.7% in 2014-15, with total enrolment reaching 4.50 crore, up 31.5% over the decade, while SC and ST enrolment grew 51.4% and 75.7% respectively over the same period, and the Gender Parity Index held above 1.0 for a seventh consecutive year at 1.08. The sustained decade-long rise across enrollment, gender parity, and disadvantaged group participation points to broadening access in higher education.

8. **High Alcohol Content Oral Formulations Brought Under Prescription Control - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level**: Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Drugs (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2026, shifting all oral formulations containing more than 12% ethyl alcohol by volume and packed in containers larger than 30 ml from Schedule K to **Schedule H1** of the Drugs Rules, 1945. Effective from January 2027, these formulations, including certain tinctures and cough syrups, will require a valid prescription, sale through licensed pharmacies, and mandatory maintenance of sales records. The amendment follows concerns raised by state drug regulators over the misuse of alcohol-based medicines and was proposed after the 2025 Chhindwara cough syrup tragedy linked to industrial solvent contamination.

9. **Central Assistance Norms Revised For Fair Price Shop Dealers Under National Food Security Act - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level**: Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Department of Food and Public Distribution amended the Food Security (Assistance to State Governments) Rules, 2015, revising the expenditure norms for central assistance to states and union territories, effective **1st April 2026**. For General category states, the intra-state movement and handling rate is set at ₹ 70 per quintal and the Fair Price Shop dealers' margin at ₹ 100 per quintal, with an **11% central share** and a 50% additional margin for point-of-sale device based sales, while Special category states receive ₹ 105 and ₹ 195 per quintal respectively with a 75% additional point-of-sale margin. The revised assistance is conditional on states and union territories complying with reforms specified under the National Food Security Act and directions issued by the Central Government from time to time, updating norms last revised in May 2022.

10. **CBSE Proposes Liberalisation of School Affiliation Norms – Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**
    Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** The Economic Times
    The CBSE has released draft amendments proposing a significant overhaul of CBSE affiliation norms to expand private participation and simplify the school approval process. Key proposals include allowing corporate entities incorporated under the Companies Act to establish CBSE-affiliated schools, replacing the mandatory **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** from State Governments with alternative compliance mechanisms in specified cases, and streamlining affiliation requirements to **reduce procedural delays**. If finalised, the reforms could increase investment in school education, accelerate the establishment of new schools, and improve access to quality education, while placing greater emphasis on implementation, regulatory oversight, and quality assurance.

11. **DGMS Prescribes Approval Standards for Mining Training Centres - Ministry of Labour and Employment**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has notified approval standards for vocational training centres established under laws other than the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The notification requires such institutions to maintain prescribed staffing, infrastructure, equipment, and training facilities before receiving approval to impart vocational training to mine workers. By standardising eligibility criteria for external training providers, the framework seeks to strengthen the quality of mining safety education, improve workforce competency, and enhance occupational safety across the mining sector.

B. Announcements

1. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches TribeX Digital Learning Platform - Ministry of Tribal Affairs**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched TribeX, a digital learning platform for tribal arts, culture, and traditional knowledge, at the National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes in Bhubaneswar. The platform currently offers 20 free certificate courses, with plans to expand to over 100, alongside five UGC recognized one year hybrid PG diploma programmes delivered through an MoU with Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, covering areas such as Santali language, tribal textiles, and museology. A Heritage Archive hosting over 5,000 multimedia resources, expanding to 10,000, will document tribal festivals and oral traditions, positioning the platform as both an education tool and a digital repository for tribal knowledge preservation.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. **MEA Rescinds 2017 Travel Restriction Notification On Yemen - Ministry of External Affairs**

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

   The Ministry rescinded its 2017 notification that had imposed conditions on travel to Yemen under the Passports Act, 1967, citing the security situation in the country at the time. The original restriction was issued on 26th September 2017 and published on **3rd October 2017**, invoking the Government's power to regulate travel to areas of precarious security. The rescission was issued under the same statutory provision, with the notification citing an evolution in the situation in Yemen as the basis for withdrawing the nine-year-old travel condition.

B. Announcements

1. **Defence Acquisition Council Accords Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) For Capital Procurements To Boost Combat Readiness – Ministry of Defence**

   Source: PIB

   The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Union Minister, has accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for various capital acquisition proposals for the Armed Forces worth **₹ 52,000 crore**. The approved procurement package spans **critical indigenous systems** for the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, featuring the AKASH TARANG, an anti-UAV electronic warfare network, Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (FW-HAPS), Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Systems, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) Weapon System, Very Short Range Air Defence System (V-SHORADS), Active Protection System for Tanks and Jet Based Kamikaze Drone System. The approvals will give domestic manufacturers greater certainty about future orders, enabling them to expand production capacity and strengthen supplier ecosystems. This will shorten future induction timelines and improve the availability of critical systems during prolonged military operations.

2. **INS Mahendragiri, Sixth Project 17A Stealth Frigate, Commissioned Into Indian Navy - Ministry of Defence**

   Source: PIB

   The Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, into its Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam, with over **75% indigenous content** and construction by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited involving more than **200 Indian industries** including numerous MSMEs. The frigate carries supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine warfare systems, and an embarked multi-role helicopter, and is the sixth ship of its class inducted in 1.5 years following INS Nilgiri, Udaygiri, Himgiri, Taragiri, and

Dunagiri. The commissioning of INS Mahendragiri strengthens the Indian Navy's operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region while enhancing maritime security and deterrence. The high indigenous content supports the Government's boosting domestic defence manufacturing, strengthening the shipbuilding ecosystem, and creating opportunities for Indian MSMEs involved in the defence supply chain.

3. **MHA Issues Fresh Directives On National Anthem, National Song, And Protocol Observance - Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: Ministry of Home Affairs
   The Union Home Ministry issued an order to states and union territories laying down fresh directives on singing the National Song and National Anthem, including protocol for state songs, foreign anthems at diplomatic functions, and observance at cultural festivals and official events. The order clarifies that when the National Anthem is played as part of a film or newsreel, the audience is **not expected to stand** since doing so may interrupt the exhibition and create disorder, and specifies that when a state song is sung alongside the National Song and National Anthem, the National Song is to be played first followed by the National Anthem. The order also sets out sequencing for foreign dignitary receptions and diplomatic functions, specifying that a visiting country's full national anthem be played first followed by India's, and reiterates on national flag hoisting that indiscriminate singing or playing of the anthem is left to public discretion rather than mandated.

V. Rural and Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cabinet Approves National Investment Policy For Urea 2026 - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level**: High | **Source**: PIB
   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the National Investment Policy for **Urea 2026** for Atmanirbhar Bharat, replacing the earlier New Investment Policy of 2012 under which the investment window expired in October 2019. The revised policy separates fixed and variable costs for greater transparency, introduces a Return on Equity band between **12% and 16%** , and mitigates foreign exchange risk by converting fixed costs into rupees after four years based on prevailing exchange rates, changes estimated to save over ₹ 250 crore per plant compared to the 2012 framework. The policy aims to attract new investment in gas based urea manufacturing to narrow the gap between India's current installed capacity of 269.42 lakh metric tonnes across 33 operational units and domestic demand, which is currently met partly through imports.

2. **Department of Rural Development Notifies Transitional Framework And Launches Nationwide Rollout of VB-GRAM G – Ministry of Rural Development**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level**: High | **Source**: [Gazette of India]
   The Ministry of Rural Development has notified the VB-GRAM G Transitional Rules, 2026, initiating the nationwide transition from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin). The framework mandates **closure of MGNREGA** expenditure accounts by **30th June 2026**, with states required to submit audited reports within **180 days** to access pending central assistance, while ongoing projects are to be migrated to the new mission. The transition introduces revised funding norms, updated project approval processes, and technology-enabled implementation mechanisms including face authentication and geo-tagging for attendance and monitoring, alongside provisions for time-bound wage payments. The measure is expected to modernise rural employment delivery through digital governance, improve transparency and accountability in fund utilisation, and enhance efficiency in project execution under a unified rural livelihood framework.

3. **India Secures Seven Codex Standards And Advances Global Food Standards Leadership At CAC49 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level**: High | **Source:** [PIB]
   India strengthened its role in global food standard-setting at the 49th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC49), with the adoption of seven Codex standards and guidelines developed under its chairmanship and co-chairmanship, including standards for Dried Coriander Seeds and Fresh Curry Leaves. The Commission also approved India's proposal to develop an **international Codex Standard for** Cashew Kernels, which is expected to harmonise global quality and safety requirements for one of India's key agricultural exports. Additionally, India was elected Co-Chair of the Electronic Working Group on New Food Sources and Production Systems (NFPS), strengthening its role in shaping future international food safety regulations. The adoption of India-led Codex standards is expected to improve market access for Indian agricultural and food products by reducing technical barriers to trade and enhancing export competitiveness.

4. **22 Crop Varieties Notified For Seed Quality Regulation And Sale - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [Gazette of India]
   The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has notified 22 crop varieties and hybrids under the Seeds Act, 1966, following consultation with the **Central Seed Committee**, covering crops such as onion, potato, coriander, ginger, chilli, mango, coconut and ashwagandha across specified states and union territories. The notification brings these varieties under the statutory framework for seed

certification, quality control and regulated sale, with effect from **8th July, 2026**. The measure expands the catalogue of officially notified varieties, enabling their legal sale in designated regions and ensuring compliance with prescribed quality standards. It is expected to improve seed quality assurance, enhance crop productivity through access to certified varieties, and strengthen regulatory oversight of the seed market.

B. Announcements

1. **ICAR And Seychelles Sign 5-Year Agricultural Work Plan To Advance Regional Food Security – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**
   Source: PIB
   The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Agriculture Department, Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Republic of Seychelles have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** and finalised a five-year Work Plan (2026 to 2031) to operationalise the agreement. The framework establishes a joint mechanism for agricultural research, technology transfer, and education, facilitating the active exchange of scientists, research students, and advanced institutional practices between the two countries. The roadmap explicitly targets **shared institutional development** in climate-smart farming, horticulture, livestock cultivation, and post-harvest management. This strengthens India's engagement with the Global South and promotes sustainable agriculture, innovation and global food and nutritional security through international cooperation.

2. **Government Deploys High-Level Expert Committee To Mitigate Crash In Totapuri Mango Prices – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has directed Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to form a high-level expert committee to investigate the reasons behind the sharp fall in market prices which have severely affected Totapuri mango growers of **Andhra Pradesh**. The committee is mandated to conduct field assessments across major growing zones within 10 days and evaluate processing infrastructure, demand-supply imbalances and domestic-export value chains to build a blueprint for structural price stabilisation. The report will aim to strengthen coordination among **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**, processors and exporters and provide sustainable support to mango growers by strengthening the value chain and creating new opportunities for value addition, exports, investment and employment in the sector.

3. **Government Increases Onion Procurement Price To Strengthen Buffer Stock – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has increased the rate of procurement of onions for Price Stabilisation Buffer by 13% from ₹ 1875 to ₹ 2125 per quintal, under the **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)** with effect from 4th July, 2026. This targeted price change, carried out through **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)** and **National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF)** aligns with the agricultural production estimates for the year 2025-26 which project a consistent domestic production of 307.37 lakh metric tons of onions. Increasing the official reference price prevents distressed sale of onions at farm level by growers in main agricultural areas such as Maharashtra. The move aims to encourage higher participation in Government aggregation schemes and forces state cooperatives to increase their local cold-storage ventilation facilities to reduce summer crop spoilage. Additionally, this would also act as a buffer for the incomes of rural households from sudden seasonal price reductions and would balance the export competition in Gulf and Far East countries against China and Pakistan.

Annexure-I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Policy Updates

1. **Cattle Trespass Rules, 2026 Notified To Establish Adjudication And Enforcement Framework – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**

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

   The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has notified the Cattle Trespass Rules, 2026 under the Cattle-trespass Act, 1871, to operationalise a structured adjudication and enforcement mechanism for violations under the Act. The rules provide for **filing of complaints** by aggrieved persons or authorised officers, issuance of time-bound show-cause notices, conduct of inquiries by adjudicating officers, and provisions for penalties, compensation, and appeals before designated appellate authorities, along with defined timelines for case disposal. The framework also specifies utilisation of penalty proceeds for animal welfare activities through the **Animal Welfare Board of India**. The measure is expected to strengthen enforcement of livestock-related regulations, improve procedural clarity, and enhance accountability in handling cases of cattle trespass and associated violations.

2. **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Notifies Merchant Shipping (Safety Management) Rules, 2026 - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**

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

   The Ministry has notified the Merchant Shipping (Safety Management) Rules, 2026, replacing the Merchant Shipping (Management for the Safe Operation of Ships) Rules, 2000 under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. The Rules mandate all applicable Indian vessels and shipping companies to establish and maintain comprehensive Safety Management Systems aligned with the **International Safety Management (ISM) Code.** They introduce a strengthened framework for safety certification, periodic internal and external audits, compliance verification, designated shore-based safety personnel, emergency preparedness, cyber risk management, and stricter enforcement mechanisms, including penalties for non-compliance. The Rules align India's maritime safety framework with international standards, improving operational safety, environmental protection and regulatory oversight. Enhanced compliance requirements are expected to strengthen the competitiveness of Indian shipping, improve maritime governance and support safer domestic and international maritime operations.

3. **Commercial Shipping Rules Strengthen Marine Environmental Compliance - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source**: Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the Commercial Shipping (Control of Anti-Fouling Systems) Rules, 2026, replacing the 2016 rules. The framework prohibits the application and use of harmful anti-fouling substances on ships, establishes mandatory survey and certification requirements, and prescribes inspection and enforcement procedures in line with the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships. The rules apply to Indian vessels, foreign ships operating in Indian waters, and offshore platforms, while providing for certification, compliance monitoring, and environmentally sound disposal of hazardous anti-fouling waste. The notification strengthens India's maritime environmental governance, enhances regulatory compliance in the shipping sector, and aligns domestic regulations with global maritime sustainability standards.

4. **Employer Contribution Rate Notified For Insurance Fund Under Social Security Code To Operationalise EDLI Scheme – Ministry of Labour and Employment**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry has notified the employer contribution rate under the Code on Social Security, 2020, specifying **0.5% of employee wages** as the monthly contribution to the Insurance Fund under the **Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) Scheme**, 2026, effective from 29 June 2026. The notification operationalises the funding mechanism for the scheme by mandating employers to deposit the prescribed contribution for each employee, thereby formalising the financial structure supporting insurance-linked benefits under the Code. The measure is expected to strengthen the implementation of social security provisions for formal sector workers, ensure predictable funding for insurance benefits, and enhance institutional clarity in the rollout of the unified social security framework.

5. **Coal PSU officials Authorised To Exercise Enforcement Powers Under MMDR Act Across Mining Areas – Ministry of Coal**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Coal has notified the authorisation of designated officials of Government coal companies to exercise powers under the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, superseding the earlier notification issued in November 2025. The notification empowers officials including Area General Managers (Mining), Project officers, Mine Managers, and CISF personnel across multiple subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and other Government entities to exercise statutory powers in specified coal and lignite mining areas. The measure strengthens on-ground enforcement capacity, improves regulatory oversight of

mining operations, and enables more effective monitoring and compliance within the coal sector.

6. **Extension of Anti-Dumping Duty On Chinese Seamless Steel Tubes - Ministry of Finance**
   Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Department of Revenue has amended its 2021 notification imposing anti-dumping duty on seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron and alloy steel originating in or exported from China, extending the duty's validity to **27th** January 2027 unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier. The original duty was imposed on 28th October 2021 for a five year term under Customs Tariff Act, 1975, and this amendment inserts a new paragraph into that notification to bridge the gap pending a sunset review determination. The extension keeps existing duty rates in place on the covered steel products, maintaining protection for domestic steel tube and pipe manufacturers against underpriced Chinese imports through the review period.

7. **New Rules Mandate Prior Approval For Inland Vessel Alterations - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has notified the Inland Vessels (Prior Approval for Alteration or Modification) Rules, 2026, finalising a draft that was published in July 2025 and put through a thirty day public objection period under the Inland Vessels Act, 2021. The rules require vessel owners to obtain approval from a designated authority before carrying out alterations affecting a vessel. This establishes a mandatory pre-clearance regime for structurally significant vessel changes for the first time, shifting inland waterway safety oversight from post-facto reporting to prior verification and closing a regulatory gap that previously allowed unapproved structural modifications to affect vessel safety and stability.

8. **Draft Rules Mandate Pre-Dispatch Safety Checklists For M2/M3 Category Bus Chassis And Bodies - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source**: Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways published draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, requiring Original Equipment Manufacturers of Category M2 and M3 chassis with seating capacity of **13 or more passengers** to submit an authorised pre-dispatch checklist, and bus body builders constructing bodies on such chassis to submit a corresponding checklist, with critical safety components certified through template based video verification. A related amendment requires RTOs or their authorised inspection officers to complete a

pre-registration checklist covering fire safety equipment, emergency exits, gangway dimensions, and structural compliance before registering such vehicles. Objections and suggestions on the draft rules can be sent to the Ministry within thirty days of gazette publication, after which the requirements will apply from 1st July 2026, standardising safety verification for intercity and sleeper buses at the manufacturing, body building, and registration stages.

9. **Ministry Notified Amendment To Rules On Evidence of Mineral Content For High Purity Quartz And Rare Earth Elements - Ministry of Mines**
Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
The Ministry has notified the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Amendment Rules, 2026 under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, amending the 2015 principal rules for the fifth time since their notification. The amendment introduces a formal definition for "**high purity quartz**" as quartz with silicon dioxide content exceeding 99.99% and total impurities below 50 ppm, and revises the **mineral deposit classification** tables to separately identify quartz, felspar and mica occurring in veins and pegmatites that are or are not associated with minerals. This creates a clearer evidentiary basis for distinguishing ordinary minor mineral deposits from those linked to strategic and critical minerals such as rare earth elements, which affects how mining lease and reconnaissance permit applications involving these minerals are evaluated going forward.

10. **Ministry Notified Revised White Category List Exempting Low-Pollution Industries From Consent Requirements Under Air And Water Acts - Ministry of Environment, Forest And Climate Change**
Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
The Ministry has notified amendments under both the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, substituting the existing White Category schedule with a revised list of **eighty seven industrial sectors** and processes exempt from prior consent requirements under both Acts. The updated list, framed in consultation with the **Central Pollution Control Board**, covers low-pollution and dry-process activities with several entries capped by processing capacity thresholds such as less than one tonne per day. This expands the categories of industrial units that can operate without seeking environmental consent under both the Air and Water Acts, reducing regulatory compliance burden for small-scale and low-emission manufacturers while keeping oversight focused on higher-pollution industrial activity.

11. **Ministry of Road Transport And Highways Enacts Stricter Vehicle Testing And Off-Road Emission Rules – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
    Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued two major amendments to the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules** to upgrade safety testing and curb air pollution from heavy vehicle sectors. The Government updated the vehicle certification protocols to the AIS-197 (Revision 1) standard, mandatory from 1st October, 2027, modernising baseline evaluation protocols for the transport sector and introduced strict **TREM Stage-V** and **CEV Stage-V** clean-air standards for heavy off-road vehicles, including agricultural tractors, power tillers, construction machinery, and combine harvesters. The revised standards will reduce regulatory fragmentation between on-road and non-road vehicle certification, making future emission norms and compliance audits to be implemented through a more uniform technical framework across the automotive sector.

12. **Inauguration of CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly And Test Facility In Sanand To Boost Domestic Chip Packaging – Ministry of Electronics & IT**
    Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB, The Economic Times
    The Ministry has inaugurated the CG Semi **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT)** plant in Sanand, Gujarat, the first commercial chip packaging operation at this site. The venture connects domestic, Japanese, and Thai industrial partners under the "**Design in India and Make in India**" blueprint with a present capacity to deliver 20 crore units per year and a long-term target of 500 crore units per year. This marks the transition of India's electronics market from simple circuit assembly to high-margin advanced silicon packaging and will compel local electronics companies to redesign their printed circuit layouts to the physical form factors of the newly indigenised chips. Additionally, the move is a step towards reduced import reliance and making India a global semiconductor hub under China+1 strategy.

13. **Marine Aids To Navigation (Vessel Traffic Services) Rules, 2026 Notified - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry has notified the Marine Aids to Navigation Rules, 2026, under Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021. The rules establish a Competent Authority requiring a minimum of **five years** of professional experience, classify vessel traffic services into port or harbour based and coastal categories, and set out functions covering authorisation of service providers, equipment and manpower standardisation, inter agency coordination, and periodic audits. The framework formalises a structured regulatory regime for **vessel traffic management** across Indian ports and coastal waters, aligning domestic standards with guidelines from the International

Maritime Organisation and the International Organisation for Marine Aids to Navigation.

14. **National Mission For Clean Ganga (NMCG) Launches Two Nature Based Solutions Pilot Projects For Urban Drain Treatment - Ministry of Jal Shakti**
Status: Ongoing | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** PIB
The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has initiated two **nature-based solutions (NbS) pilot projects** for urban drain treatment at **Shastri Park Drain and Kailash Nagar Drain**, both discharging into the Yamuna, with a combined treatment capacity of approximately **10 MLD** under its Sustainable River Rejuvenation programme. The projects utilise constructed wetland systems incorporating stone masonry structures, rock filters, aquatic vegetation and phytoremediation as low-energy alternatives to conventional treatment infrastructure. While site clearance and initial civil works have progressed at Kailash Nagar, preparatory work continues at Shastri Park, with both projects positioned as scalable models. The initiative is expected to demonstrate cost-effective and energy-efficient wastewater treatment solutions, support decentralised urban water management, and provide a replicable model for improving river water quality across the Ganga basin without reliance on capital-intensive infrastructure.

15. **Ministry of Steel Expands Eligible Officer Designations For Statistics Collection Roles- Ministry of Steel**
Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Low **| Source**: Gazette of India
The Ministry of Steel amended its April 2025 notification under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008, and Collection of Statistics Rules, 2024, expanding the designation for both the statistics officer and adjudicating officer roles from "Deputy Director (Statistics Division)" to "**Joint Director (Statistics Division) or Deputy Director (Statistics Division)**". The amendment allows either rank to hold these two positions under the ministry's statistics collection framework. This is a designation level correction rather than a change to the underlying statistical collection process or requirements.

16. **Additional NPS Investment Choices Extended To Central Autonomous Body Employees - Ministry of Finance**
Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** PIB
The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has extended two additional **National Pension System** investment options to employees of Central Autonomous Bodies. These include the Aggressive Life Cycle Fund with up to **75% equity exposure**, and a rebranded Balanced Life Cycle Fund with equity capped at 50%, options that were earlier available only to Central Government employees.

Administrative Ministries have been directed to inform CABs under their control, with the choices to be operationalised through the Central Record Keeping Agency system. The move widens portfolio flexibility for a subscriber base outside core Government service, potentially nudging a segment of long horizon pension savers toward higher growth allocations and narrowing the parity gap between Central Government and CAB employee benefits under NPS.

17. **Amendments To The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry has published the **Legal Metrology (General) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026** under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, making it effective immediately. The regulatory amendment **updates testing norms** at the place of use, permitting any standard constant load to substitute standard weights provided the actual standard weights make up at least half of the instrument's maximum capacity. This minimum standard weight portion can be further scaled down to one-third or one-fifth of the maximum capacity depending on measured repeatability errors. The ministry has also enacted a strict compliance mechanism by increasing the statutory penalty from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 50,000. The revised verification protocol will reduce the logistical burden of transporting large standard weights during on-site verification of high-capacity weighing instruments and strengthen compliance with legal metrology standards.

18. **Ministry Notified Extension Power For Two-Year Export Obligation Period Under Customs Exemption For Exhibition Goods - Ministry of Finance**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Department of Revenue has amended notification, which exempts goods **imported for display** or use at **specified exhibitions** from customs duty subject to re-export conditions, by inserting a new provision to condition 6 governing the two year time limit tied to this exemption. The amendment empowers the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs to extend the two year period on a case by case basis where sufficient cause is shown, and makes a consequential wording change to the existing second proviso. This gives importers using the exhibition goods exemption formal recourse to seek additional time beyond the standard two year window in genuine hardship cases, reducing the risk of duty demands arising from delays outside an importer's control.

19. **Ministry of Home Affairs Extends Punjab Right To Business Act To Chandigarh To Boost Ease of Doing Business – Ministry of Home Affairs**

    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India

    The Ministry has extended the "Punjab Right to Business Act, 2020 (as extended to Chandigarh)" under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. This legislative extension establishes the Chandigarh Bureau of Enterprise and Investment to issue **time-bound Certificates** of **In-Principle Approval** to new or under-expansion business units, allowing them to operate without the immediate production of clearances like municipal building plan approval, factory licence, or environmental consents, etc. The qualified businesses which are situated within approved industrial parks will automatically be granted "deemed approvals" through an online **single-window portal** within five working days from the date of application. The reform aims to improve investment by reducing the time between project approval and factory commissioning and improving industrial occupancy in Chandigarh's industrial estates, thus enhancing the attractiveness for MSMEs and new manufacturing units.

20. **Notification Oil Pollution Damage Compensation Fund Contribution Rules - Ministry of Ports, Shipping And Waterways**

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

    The Ministry has notified the Merchant Shipping (International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage) Rules, 2026, superseding the 2008 rules and issued under the newly enacted Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. The rules define who qualifies as an "associated person" liable to contribute to the International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage and require liable contributors to declare oil receipt information to the Director-General in a prescribed form, with a two week compliance window and penalties for refusal or false statements. This formalises India's domestic contributor reporting mechanism to the IOPC Fund under the new shipping law framework, replacing an eighteen year old rule set.

21. **SEBI Strengthens Disclosure And Governance Framework For Municipal Debt Securities Issuances – Securities and Exchange Board of India**

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

    The SEBI has notified amendments to the Issue and Listing of Municipal Debt Securities Regulations, revising disclosure and governance requirements for **municipal bond issuances.** The amendments mandate enhanced disclosures on borrowing details, outstanding debt, credit ratings, and repayment obligations, along with requirements to publish creditor information and outstanding dues through web links and QR codes. Additional provisions include expanded reporting on litigation, regulatory actions, and financial liabilities, as well as structured risk disclosures based on materiality and potential impact. The changes aim to improve transparency in municipal bond issuances, strengthen investor protection, and enhance accountability in urban local body financing frameworks.

22. **BSF Notifies New Recruitment Rules For Water Wing Technical Cadre Posts, Ministry of Home Affairs**
Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Border Security Force Water Wing (Combatised Technical Staff) Group B and Group C Posts Cadre Recruitment Rules, 2026, superseding the separate 2012 and 2013 recruitment rules that had governed these posts. The new rules consolidate the method of recruitment, age limits, educational qualifications, promotion quotas, and departmental promotion committee composition for fifteen specified posts spanning Inspector, Sub-Inspector, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Head Constable, and Constable ranks across the Master, Workshop, and Engine Driver streams of the Water Wing. The rules came into force on the date of gazette publication and apply uniformly to all future recruitment and promotion actions in this cadre, replacing the fragmented framework that previously existed under the two separate 2012 and 2013 instruments.

23. **Amendment Notified To Expand And Reorganise Transmission Asset Management Centres under IT Act Framework – Ministry of Power**
Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
The Ministry of Power has notified amendments to its 2022 notification under the Information Technology Act, 2000, revising the institutional framework for transmission asset management by updating the designation of critical infrastructure centres. The amendment replaces earlier provisions with a structured framework comprising the National Transmission Asset Management Centre (NTAMC) and multiple Regional Transmission Asset Management Centres (RTAMCs) across designated regions, including northern, eastern, western, southern, and north-eastern zones. The revision aims to strengthen oversight and coordination of critical power transmission infrastructure, enhance system reliability through improved asset management, and support secure and efficient grid operations within the broader digital governance framework for critical infrastructure.

24. **NPPA Fixes Retail Prices For 39 Drug Formulations - Ministry of Chemicals And Fertilisers**
Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority fixed the retail prices, exclusive of Goods and Services Tax, for 39 drug formulations under the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.** The formulations covered span combination therapies for

cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, antibiotics, ophthalmic solutions, and oncology treatments, including new fixed-dose combinations not previously subject to price ceilings, with prices ranging from about ₹ 2.80 per millilitre for a clobazam oral suspension to over ₹ 60,238 per vial for a tenecteplase injection used in dissolution therapy. Manufacturers listed in the order are barred from setting retail prices above the notified ceiling, other existing manufacturers of the same new drug may enter the market at the same ceiling price within twelve months subject to filing the prescribed form, and any pricing non-compliance makes the manufacturer liable to deposit the overcharged amount with interest under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 read with the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

25. **DGMS Revises Refresher Training Norms for Oil Mine Workers - Ministry of Labour and Employment**
Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium **| Source:** Gazette of India
The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has notified conditions permitting oil mines operating on an **"on-and-off" work pattern** to conduct mandatory refresher safety training during employees' off periods instead of normal working hours. The exemption is subject to workers receiving compensatory leave equivalent to the training period in addition to applicable training allowances. The measure provides greater operational flexibility for oil sector employers while ensuring compliance with mandatory occupational safety training requirements and preserving worker welfare safeguard.

B. Announcements

1. **President Summons Lok Sabha For Monsoon Session - Lok Sabha Secretariat**
Source: Gazette of India
The President has issued an order summoning the Lok Sabha to meet at New Delhi on Monday, 20th July 2026 at 11:00 AM. The notification was published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on 4th July 2026, formally setting the commencement date for the House's next sitting.

2. **Union Minister Inaugurates Advanced Common Incubation Centre At Parbhani To Drive Rural Value Addition – Ministry of Food Processing Industries**
Source: PIB
The Ministry inaugurated a **Common Incubation Center (CIC)** at the College of Food Technology, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV) in Parbhani, Maharashtra. Established under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan framework, the focus is to scale rural value addition by giving local smallholders and entrepreneurs institutional access to modern food processing technologies, manufacturing pipelines, and post-harvest management infrastructure. It will provide infrastructure to convert raw agricultural commodities into processed goods, thus protecting small landholders from distressed harvest sales due to

inadequate storage, while reducing regional crop wastage and boosting local farm incomes.

3. **APEDA Facilitates First Export Shipment of Areko Cherries And Scentrose Plums from Jammu & Kashmir to UAE – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
   Source: PIB
   The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first export shipment of premium Areko Cherries and Scentrose Plums from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to the UAE. Sourced from local growers in the **Shopian and Pulwama districts,** this initial one-metric-tonne consignment highlights a newly established international market linkage for the region's high-value horticultural sector. Access to these premium global buyers has instantly elevated local farmers' income, with participating growers realising nearly **60% higher returns** for cherries and 120% higher returns for plums compared to standard domestic wholesale market prices. The shipment will encourage farmers to shift towards export-grade cherry production, increasing demand for grading, packaging, cold storage and traceability systems thus strengthening the competitiveness of India's premium horticulture exports.

4. **Ministry Notifies New NIA Special Courts In Assam And Punjab - Ministry of Home Affairs**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Home Affairs has designated two new National Investigation Agency (NIA) Special Courts under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008. The Special NIA Court at Guwahati has been notified for the trial of NIA-investigated scheduled offences across Assam, while NIA-I at SAS Nagar has been designated as the Special Court for Punjab. These courts will exclusively handle cases investigated by the NIA within their respective state jurisdictions and will aim to reduce delays caused by transferring NIA cases to other jurisdictions. In Assam, the Guwahati court will expedite trials involving insurgency and cross-border security cases in the Northeast, while the Punjab court will strengthen judicial capacity for cases related to terrorism, drone-based smuggling and organised cross-border networks. This will help minimize delays between investigation and prosecution in complex national security cases.

5. **Navi Mumbai Airport Notified As Port For Drug Imports - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has amended Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945 to include Navi Mumbai Airport among designated ports of entry for drug imports, following consultation with the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board** under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The addition brings the total number of notified ports of entry for pharmaceutical imports, across road, rail, ship, and air, to **42**. The expanded entry point network gives importers an additional logistics route for pharmaceutical consignments into Maharashtra, potentially easing congestion at existing ports while maintaining regulatory oversight through the same notified framework.

6. **Justice Yogesh Khanna Appointed officiating Chairperson, NCLAT - Ministry of Corporate Affairs**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry appointed Justice (Retd.) Yogesh Khanna, Member (Judicial) of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, as officiating Chairperson following the completion of Justice (Retd.) Ashok Bhushan's term on 4 July 2026. The appointment is effective from 5th July 2026 for three months or until a regular Chairperson is appointed, whichever comes first. This is an interim administrative arrangement to ensure the tribunal continues functioning without a leadership gap while the process for a regular appointment is underway.

7. **Aadhaar-Enabled Delivery Framework Notified For SECL's 'Ke Sushrut' CSR Scheme To Strengthen Targeted Benefit Delivery – Ministry of Coal**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry has notified a Gazette enabling **Aadhaar-based authentication** for beneficiaries of **SECL Ke Sushrut**, the flagship CSR initiative of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), under the Aadhaar Act, 2016. The framework permits voluntary Aadhaar authentication while providing alternative identity mechanisms for beneficiaries. It formalises the delivery of the programme, which provides **free residential NEET coaching** to meritorious students from mining-affected regions. The notification is expected to improve beneficiary identification, enhance transparency and strengthen the efficiency of DBT-linked benefit delivery, while supporting the scalability and credibility of CSR-led human capital initiatives.

8. **Validity of Mandatory Jute Packaging Norms Extended To Ensure Continued Use In Commodity Packing – Ministry of Textiles**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Textiles has amended its earlier order under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, extending the validity of mandatory jute packaging provisions. The amendment revises the timeline specified in the 2025 order, extending the applicability of compulsory use norms from 30th June 2025 to **31st October 2026** or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The extension ensures continuity in the mandated use of jute packaging materials for notified commodities, supporting demand stability for the jute sector while maintaining regulatory consistency in packaging requirements.

9. **Ministry Notified UPSC Consultation Exemption For Filling Mission Director Posts Under National Quantum And Cyber-Physical Systems Missions - Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Department of Personnel and Training has notified the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2026, amending the 1958 regulations to exempt two posts from mandatory UPSC consultation. The exemption applies to the Mission Director post under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems** and the Mission Director post under the National Quantum Mission, both under the Department of Science and Technology, allowing these positions to be filled on deputation or short-term contract without UPSC consultation. This speeds up leadership appointments for two flagship technology missions by removing a procedural approval step, letting the Government fill these mission-critical roles through direct deputation rather than the standard UPSC consultative process.

10. **Inauguration of Bharat Tex 2026 With Record Global Participation - Ministry of Textiles**
    Source: PIB
    The Ministry of Textiles inaugurated Bharat Tex 2026, India's flagship global textile exhibition. The event features over 4,000 B2B meetings, 100+ B2G engagements, and the signing of 30+ MoUs across trade, investment, sustainability and technology. A key highlight was the Letter of Intent (LoI) between the **Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF)** and **Première Vision Paris**, aimed at strengthening India-Europe collaboration in textile innovation, sustainable sourcing and global market access. Bharat Tex 2026 is expected to strengthen India's position as a global textile manufacturing and sourcing hub by attracting investment, expanding export opportunities and deepening international partnerships. The event is also likely to enhance market access for Indian manufacturers, MSMEs and textile

clusters while supporting the development of resilient and sustainable global textile value chains.

11. **Inauguration of 15th BRICS Trade Union Forum, Highlighting Labour Reforms and Expanded Social Protection - Ministry of Labour & Employment**
Source: PIB
The Ministry of Labour & Employment inaugurated the 15th BRICS Trade Union Forum (TUF) Summit 2026 in Hyderabad, reaffirming India's commitment to a worker-centric future of work based on social justice, responsible innovation and universal social protection. The Government highlighted key labour reforms, including the implementation of the **Four Labour Codes**, expansion of the **e-Shram portal**, and improved coverage under EPFO and ESIC. Social protection coverage has increased from 19% in 2015 to over one billion people in 2026 and discussions at the summit focused on social security portability, AI and the future of work, skill development, and women's participation in the labour market. The summit reinforces India's focus on strengthening labour market institutions and expanding social security coverage in line with changing employment patterns. It also positions India to shape international cooperation on labour standards, digital employment governance and social protection within the BRICS framework.

12. **Sea Cargo Manifest Transitional Deadline Extended Till August 2026 - Ministry of Finance**
Source: Gazette of India
The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs amended the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018, extending a compliance deadline listed to 31st August 2026. This is the latest in a series of periodic extensions to this regulation, last amended on 30th March 2026, and does not alter the substantive requirements of the framework. The extension gives stakeholders under the Sea Cargo Manifest system additional time to meet the specified transitional requirement without changing the underlying compliance obligations.

13. **EPFO Launches Upgraded CITES 2.01 Portal And Declares 8.25% Interest For FY26 - Ministry of Labour and Employment**
Source: Business Standard
The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation rolled out an upgraded Centralised IT Enabled Services portal, CITES 2.01, migrating about **340 million member** accounts from over 120 field offices to a unified national system with auto processed claims, while also declaring an interest rate of 8.25% on Employees' Provident Fund deposits for FY26, to be credited to member accounts by 15th July. The upgraded platform, approved by the **Central Board of Trustees** in 2021 with phased rollout since January 2023, is expected to speed up claim processing and let members view

pensionable service records, claim status, and benefits through a single decentralised database, replacing separate regional office based processing. The platform upgrade and the declared interest rate give EPFO's roughly 340 million subscribers faster claim turnaround alongside a fixed FY26 return benchmark on their provident fund balances.

14. **Navy Cyber Forensic Laboratory Notified As Examiner of Electronic Evidence – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**
Source: Gazette of India
The Ministry has notified the Cyber Forensic Laboratory, Navy Cyber Group, Naval Headquarters, as an Examiner of Electronic Evidence under the Information Technology Act, 2000. The laboratory has been authorised to **examine computer media** (excluding floppy disk drives) and **mobile device forensics** for legal proceedings. The notification strengthens India's digital forensic capabilities and supports cybercrime investigations by expanding the network of recognised electronic evidence examiners.

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