

INDIA GOVERNANCE WATCH

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments



1st October – 15th October

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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

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

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

- A. **Establishment Of Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA) Approved:** The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA) to harmonise multi-modal planning across roads, railways, ports, inland waterways, aviation, and urban transit. ITLA will formulate a National Transport Master Plan, and maintain a centralised National Transport Data Repository.
- B. **₹ 10,000 Crore Commitment Approved For SME Growth Fund (SGF):** The Union Cabinet approved a ₹ 10,000 crore commitment to establish the SME Growth Fund (SGF) through an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) structure to provide patient equity capital for capacity expansion, automation, and acquisitions to high-growth small and medium enterprises.
- C. **RBI Hikes Repo Rate By 25 Bps To 5.50% And Shifts Stance To Calibrated Tightening:** The RBI Monetary Policy Committee raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% and shifted its stance to calibrated tightening to anchor medium-term inflation expectations. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate is adjusted to 5.25% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) / Bank Rate to 5.75%.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

- A. **BS VII Emission Norms Notified For Heavy-Duty And Motor Vehicles:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified Bharat Stage VII (BS VII) emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles and motor vehicles which sets a new regulatory baseline to drive cleaner powertrain technologies, reduce transport-related emissions, and guide long-term vehicular compliance frameworks.
- B. **CERC Adopts Tariffs For 1,800 MW Of ISTS-Connected Wind Power Projects:** The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) adopted competitively discovered tariffs ranging from ₹ 3.67 to ₹ 3.69 per kWh (with a ₹ 0.07 per kWh trading margin) for 1,800 MW of grid-connected wind capacity, providing tariff certainty for independent power producers and procuring state discoms.



Executive Summary

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

- A. **Government Approves 30% Trade Margin Cap On Non-Scheduled Anti-Cancer Medicines:** The Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers approved a 30% trade margin cap on non-scheduled anti-cancer formulations to curb excessive supply-chain markups and reduce out-of-pocket cancer treatment expenses. Manufacturers and marketing entities are statutorily required to maintain existing production and distribution volumes.
- B. **Cabinet Approves ₹ 53,428 Crore Outlay And Restructuring For NSAP:** The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 with a financial commitment of ₹ 53,428 crore. The restructuring lowers the benchmark disability threshold for pension eligibility from 80% to 40% and raises central monthly assistance to ₹ 375 (up to 79 years) and ₹ 625 (80 years and above).

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

- A. **CBIC Notifies Customs Tariff Rules Of Origin Under India-New Zealand FTA:** The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified the Customs Tariff Rules of Origin under the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, 2026. The rules establish criteria for preferential tariff access, permit bilateral cumulation of originating materials, prescribe Qualifying Value Content (QVC) formulas, and provide a 10% de minimis allowance for non-originating inputs.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

- A. **201 New Crop Varieties And Hybrids Notified Under Seeds Act, 1966:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare notified 201 crop varieties and hybrids spanning cereals, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, forage crops, and 42 Bollgard II cotton cultivars. It integrates these varieties into the certified seed production, field inspection, and seed quality testing architecture for nationwide agricultural deployment.
- B. **Statutory Central Biostimulant Committee Constituted Under FCO:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare constituted an eight-member statutory Central Biostimulant Committee for a five-year tenure. The panel brings together agronomic, toxicological, and chemical quality control experts from ICAR and testing institutes to systematically evaluate, standardise, and regulate biostimulants entering the market.



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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. Cabinet Approves Establishment Of Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA) To Harmonise Multi-Modal Planning And Project Appraisal – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

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

The Cabinet has approved the establishment of the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)** to coordinate planning across roads, railways, ports, inland waterways, aviation and urban transit. ITLA will prepare a National Transport Master Plan with a 10-year or longer horizon, review shorter-term plans and annual investments to identify overlaps and gaps, and technically appraise transport and connectivity projects costing ₹ 500 crore or more. It will also monitor implementation and assess infrastructure utilisation after completion. A National Transport Data Repository will integrate data such as e-way bills, FASTag transactions, vehicle registrations and GPS tracking to support planning. The common review framework will help identify connectivity gaps, bottlenecks and underused infrastructure, including cases where road, rail or port projects are planned without adequate network integration, enabling future investment to be directed towards areas where capacity is needed.

2. Cabinet Approves ₹ 10,000 Crore Commitment For SME Growth Fund (SGF) To Provide Direct Equity Investments To High-Growth Enterprises – Ministry of Finance

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

The Cabinet has approved a ₹ 10,000 crore commitment to establish the SME Growth Fund (SGF), aimed at providing equity capital to high-growth small and medium enterprises. The fund will operate through an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** structure and is intended to address the gap in long-term equity funding for SMEs that have outgrown early-stage financing but need significant capital to expand. A major focus will be on manufacturing enterprises and businesses in Tier-II and Tier-III industrial clusters. The fund will provide growth-stage SMEs with long-term equity capital for capacity expansion, automation, acquisitions and technology upgrades without adding debt. By supporting firms in regional manufacturing clusters, it could strengthen supply-chain integration, improve competitiveness and help promising SMEs scale towards public-market access.

3. RBI Increases Policy Repo Rate By 25 Bps To 5.50% And Shifts Stance To Calibrated Tightening – Reserve Bank Of India

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

The RBI MPC unanimously raised the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% and shifted its stance to calibrated tightening, with the SDF at 5.25% and MSF/Bank Rate at 5.75%.



The stance prioritises inflation control, with future action limited to a hike or pause. The RBI projects 7.1% GDP growth and 5.2% CPI inflation for FY 2026–27, with inflation peaking at 6.0% in Q3 of FY 2026–27, amid monsoon, El Niño and energy-price risks. The rate hike will increase the cost of repo-linked and other floating-rate loans, raising EMIs and interest payments for borrowers; higher borrowing costs can reduce new credit demand, interest-sensitive consumption and private investment. At the same time, banks may raise deposit rates, improving returns for savers. Tighter credit conditions are intended to reduce demand-side price pressures and anchor inflation expectations, while the calibrated-tightening stance limits the scope for near-term rate cuts if inflation remains elevated.

4. CCEA Approves Strategic Restructuring And Sale Of IDBI Bank Stake – Ministry of Finance

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank Ltd through the proposed sale of a combined 60.72% equity stake held by the Government of India and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to a strategic buyer. The proposed sale involves 30.48% of the Government's stake and 30.24% of LIC's stake to 10955230 Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings, for approximately ₹ 52,878.08 crore. Post-sale, the Government and LIC would retain 15% and 19% stakes, respectively. The transaction advances the Government's bank-disinvestment process, generates potential disinvestment proceeds and reduces public-sector shareholding in IDBI Bank. It will reshape the bank's governance and business strategy, with the final impact depending on regulatory approvals, transaction completion and post-acquisition management arrangements.

5. SEBI Issues New Portfolio Managers Regulations And Multiple Regulatory Amendments – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

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

SEBI has issued a new Portfolio Managers regulatory framework and notified amendments to several securities-market regulations in October 2026. Amendments dated 10th October, 2026 cover Research Analysts, Employees' Service, Mutual Funds and Intermediaries Regulations, while those dated 9th October, 2026 cover Vault Managers and Certification of Associated Persons regulations. The updated framework will strengthen regulatory oversight and require changes to compliance, governance and operational processes across securities-market entities. Portfolio managers have time to prepare for the April 2027 commencement, while the effective dates and specific obligations of each amendment will determine the immediate compliance impact.



6. RBI Introduces Standardised Rules For Banks To Assess Derivatives-Related Risks - Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

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

RBI has introduced a new method, the **Standardised Approach for Counterparty Credit Risk (SA-CCR)** to help banks calculate the risk of losses when the other party in a derivatives contract fails to meet its obligations. From 1st April, 2027, banks with an international presence or at least ₹ 25,000 crore in outstanding derivatives must use this method across their banking groups. Other commercial banks can choose between the new method and the existing one. The new method will help large banks assess potential losses from derivatives more consistently and set aside capital to cover these risks. This will strengthen their ability to absorb losses if a counterparty defaults. Banks covered by the rules will need to update their risk calculations and systems before the deadline, while smaller banks retain flexibility in choosing their approach.

7. Government Extends Remission Of Duties And Taxes On Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme - Ministry of Commerce & Industry

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

The Ministry has extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme until **31st December, 2026**. The existing rebate rates and value caps under will continue to apply, covering eligible exports by DTA units, Advance Authorisation holders, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) manufacturing units and Export Oriented Units (EOU). Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) refunds eligible duties, taxes and levies that are not otherwise recovered or credited to exporters, including certain state and local taxes incurred during production and distribution. The extension avoids a break in the existing benefit framework while exporters continue to face uncertain global demand and trade conditions. Exporters can continue factoring RoDTEP benefits into their pricing and margins through December, avoiding a sudden increase in the tax and duty costs embedded in exported goods. This is relevant for sectors with tight export margins, where losing the rebate could make Indian products less competitive in overseas markets or reduce the amount exporters can retain from each shipment.

8. RBI Raises Daily CRR Maintenance Requirement for Banks from 90% to 99% - Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

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

RBI has increased the minimum daily Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) maintenance requirement for banks from 90% to 99% of the prescribed requirement, effective from the reporting fortnight beginning 16 October 2026. The move does not increase the overall CRR rate; instead, it reduces banks' flexibility to maintain lower reserve balances on individual days while meeting the required fortnightly average. The



decision comes amid surplus liquidity in the banking system and aims to improve day-to-day liquidity management. By limiting banks' ability to vary their reserve holdings, the measure could moderate short-term liquidity surpluses and influence money-market conditions, potentially affecting banks' funding flexibility and short-term lending rates.

9. Government Issues Quality Control Notification For Cookware, Utensils And Cans – Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, published a notification concerning cookware, utensils and cans. The Order mandates BIS certification for wrought aluminium utensils (IS 1660:2024) and aluminium beverage cans (IS 14407:2023), with phased implementation timelines for small and micro enterprises and specified exemptions. The Order strengthens product-quality assurance and consumer protection. Manufacturers and importers must meet applicable Indian Standards and certification requirements, potentially increasing compliance costs, while staggered timelines provide smaller enterprises additional preparation time.

B. Announcements

1. PFRDA Sets Up ASCEND Panel To Bridge Global Pension Funds With Indian Pension Funds Under NPS – Pension Fund Regulatory And Development Authority (PFRDA)

Source: [PFRDA](#)

PFRDA has constituted the ASCEND (Accelerated Scaling of Global Capital Ecosystem and NPS Development) Committee, chaired by Shri Dinesh Khara, to develop a roadmap for channeling long-term global pension capital into India. The committee will recommend policy, regulatory and governance frameworks to enable Indian pension funds to partner with global pension funds through co-investment platforms, strategic partnerships and innovative investment structures. With NPS assets of about USD 185 billion (₹17.50 lakh crore) covering 100 million subscribers, the initiative aims to mobilise stable long-term capital for infrastructure, deepen domestic capital markets and support sustainable growth while protecting subscriber interests.

2. GST Council Recommends Decriminalisation, Automated Refunds, And Compliance Rationalisation At 57th Meeting – Ministry of Finance

Source: [PIB](#)

The GST Council recommended removing arrest provisions under GST and raising the prosecution threshold from ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 5 crore. It also proposed reducing



penalties in non-fraud cases and introducing an automated system to issue **90% of provisional refunds** for zero-rated supplies and inverted duty structures. Other proposals include easier GST registration for small e-commerce sellers, expanded Input Tax Credit eligibility and simplified compliance for small consumer-facing businesses with annual turnover up to ₹5 crore. Raising the prosecution threshold and reducing penalties will lower the risk of severe consequences for businesses facing non-fraud compliance disputes. Automated provisional refunds will release working capital to exporters and manufacturers sooner, reducing the need to borrow while waiting for tax refunds. Easier registration and simplified compliance will also help smaller sellers enter e-commerce and spend less time managing GST procedures, although the proposals will require implementation through the relevant legal and administrative changes.

3. SEBI Introduces Credit Risk-o-Meter for Debt Securities to Standardise Credit Risk Disclosure – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Source: [SEBI](#)

SEBI has introduced a mandatory, colour-coded **Credit Risk-o-Meter** for listed and proposed-to-be-listed non-convertible securities, commercial papers, securitised debt instruments, security receipts and structured debt or market-linked debentures, covering public issues and private placements. It maps credit ratings into six risk levels, from lowest to high/very high default risk, and must appear in offer documents, advertisements and online bond platforms. Where multiple ratings exist, the lowest must be displayed, alongside the rating agency and actual rating; unsecured instruments must be identified. Platforms must update ratings within 24 hours of notification, use SEBI-registered credit rating agencies and maintain audit trails. Effective 45 days after issuance, the measure will help investors compare credit risk and strengthen disclosure compliance.

4. SEBI Revises Closing Auction Rules And Derivatives Settlement Methodology - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Source: [SEBI](#)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revised the Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework and reinstated the 30-minute volume-weighted average price (VWAP) for settling expiring stock and index derivatives. Effective 7th December, 2026, the framework introduces a 10-minute closing auction from 3:30 PM to 3:40 PM, revises derivatives trading cut-off times and standardises the cash-market post-close session to 3:50–4:00 PM. The automatic transition of unexecuted limit and iceberg orders into the auction will begin on 8th February, 2027. The revised settlement method reduces reliance on a single closing-auction price for derivatives expiry calculations, while the dedicated auction provides a structured mechanism for closing-price discovery. Different expiry-day cut-offs for index and



stock derivatives will require traders and brokers to adjust their strategies and systems. Exchanges and clearing corporations must align operating procedures and risk-management systems ahead of implementation.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. ANRF Operationalises Research, Development And Innovation Fund (RDIF) With Approval Of First Cohort Of 19 Second-Level Fund Managers – Ministry of Science & Technology

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

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), has approved the first **19 Second-Level Fund Managers (SLFMs)** under the RDIF. The fund-of-funds model will support technology enterprises working on innovations at Technology Readiness Level 4 (TRL 4) and above, with fund managers expected to mobilise matching private capital. The Empowered Group of Secretaries has also approved five additional technology areas under the fund that will give companies working in these fields access to capital for scaling domestic technologies towards commercial use. The approval creates funding channels for deep-tech companies that have moved beyond early research but need substantial capital to develop and commercialise their technologies. Requiring fund managers to mobilise private investment will help stretch public funding across more ventures and bring private investors into higher-risk R&D.

2. Government Publishes BS VII Norms For Heavy-Duty Vehicles And Motor Vehicles – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

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

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways published two Gazette instruments concerning the introduction of BS VII emission norms for heavy-duty vehicles and motor vehicles. The two notifications establish a new regulatory development in vehicle-emission standards. The new standards will encourage cleaner vehicle technologies and help reduce transport-related air pollution. Vehicle manufacturers, component suppliers and testing agencies may need to adapt product development, certification and manufacturing processes to meet the revised requirements. The actual compliance burden and implementation timeline will depend on the notified standards and their effective dates.



3. CERC Adopts Tariffs For 1,800 MW Of ISTS-Connected Wind Power Projects - Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

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

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) adopted tariffs for two Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS)-connected wind power procurement schemes. The first covers **600 MW under SJVN's Wind-3 tranche**, while the second covers **1,200 MW under SECI's Tranche-XIX**, with adopted tariffs ranging from ₹ 3.67 to ₹ 3.69 per kWh and a trading margin of ₹ 0.07 per kWh. The projects involve multiple independent power producers and are linked to long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and Power Sale Agreements (PSAs) with state utilities. The orders provide greater tariff certainty for developers and procuring utilities, helping projects move towards financial closure, construction and power offtake arrangements. For state discoms, the competitively discovered tariffs establish the procurement rates for contracted wind power, supporting renewable energy purchase planning. Once commissioned, the projects could expand wind generation on the national grid and diversify electricity supply, although actual capacity addition will depend on construction timelines and transmission readiness.

4. Government Extends Implementation Deadlines For Three Quality Control Orders Governing Synthetic Woven Sacks – Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers

Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has amended three Quality Control Orders covering High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/ Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks used for cement packaging and PP/HDPE laminated sacks used in postal logistics. The compliance deadlines have been extended to **6th November, 2026** for laminated block-bottom cement sacks and **6th January, 2027** for 50-kg cement sacks and postal logistics sacks. Sack manufacturers get additional time to complete BIS certification, factory audits and required testing before the standards become mandatory. This reduces the risk of manufacturers being unable to supply compliant sacks immediately when the QCOs take effect, helping avoid disruptions for cement dispatches and postal logistics. The extension also gives smaller packaging units more time to upgrade testing and production processes without an abrupt compliance cost.

B. Announcements

1. Government Launches Auction Of Two Offshore Mineral Blocks For Polymetallic Nodules And Crusts In The Andaman Sea – Ministry of Mines

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has launched the electronic auction of two offshore mineral blocks covering **1,632 sq. km** in the Andaman Sea. The blocks; Sewell Rise-01 and West Sewell Ridge-01, contain polymetallic nodules and crusts with minerals such as cobalt, nickel, manganese, copper and rare earth elements. Successful bidders will



receive a **Composite Licence** covering exploration as well as subsequent production. The auction is being conducted under the offshore mineral auction framework introduced through the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 and the Offshore Areas Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2024. The Government has invited both domestic and international mining and exploration companies to participate. The auction gives companies a formal route to explore these offshore deposits and, if commercially viable, could create a domestic source of minerals used in batteries, EVs, electronics and defence equipment. It will also create demand for deep-sea exploration, seabed surveying and related technologies as companies move from resource mapping towards commercial assessment.

2. MoEFCC Reconstitutes State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) And State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) For Assam – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has reconstituted the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for Assam under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and EIA Notification, 2006. Both bodies will have a **four-year tenure** and will handle appraisal and environmental clearance of projects falling under their state-level mandate. The reconstituted bodies provide Assam with a functioning state-level mechanism to assess environmental clearance proposals, particularly for infrastructure, mining and industrial projects. The five-year recusal rule for members who previously worked on a project proponent's EIA, along with restrictions on members preparing Environment Impact Assessments (EIA)/ Environment Management Plans (EMP), will reduce conflicts of interest during appraisal. Making **unreasonable delays beyond statutory timelines** a ground for removal also puts direct pressure on the authorities to process clearance applications within the prescribed time.

3. Government Extends RoSCTL Scheme On Export Of Apparel, Garments And Made-Ups – Ministry of Textiles

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has extended the **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)** scheme for exports of apparel, garments and made-ups from **1st October to 31st December, 2026**. Existing product-wise rebate rates, value caps and other conditions remain unchanged, with rebates continuing through electronic duty credit scrips maintained on the Customs system. Exporters can continue receiving the tax and levy rebates when pricing orders for the next three months, avoiding a sudden increase in the cost embedded in export shipments. The continued availability of transferable e-scrips also provides exporters with usable duty credits



after shipment, supporting cash flow. For garment manufacturers competing in price-sensitive overseas markets, retaining the rebate can help protect margins and reduce the risk of higher export prices or lost orders.

4. PNGRB Proposes Up To 5% Green Hydrogen Blending In Domestic PNG Networks - Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

Source: [PNGRB](#)

The PNGRB has released draft guidelines on 13th October, 2026, proposing to permit **up to 5% green hydrogen blending by volume** in natural gas supplied to households through Piped Natural Gas (PNG) networks. The proposed framework requires initial trials in hydraulically isolated pipeline zones supplied through a single injection point. City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities would need to assess pipeline embrittlement, gasket degradation, odorant stability and leak-detection systems before introducing hydrogen. The guidelines also propose energy-based metering and billing protocols to account for hydrogen's lower energy content per unit volume compared with methane. This will create an initial route for green hydrogen use in household gas distribution, supporting demand under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. CGD operators will need to invest in pipeline integrity assessments, monitoring systems and compatible metering before blending can begin. Energy-based billing would help prevent consumers from paying for the same volume of gas despite receiving less energy.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. Government Approves 30% Trade Margin Cap On Non-Scheduled Anti-Cancer Medicines - Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers

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

The Ministry has approved a 30% trade margin cap on non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines to reduce excessive markups across the supply chain. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will notify the list of covered formulations following an expert committee's review. Manufacturers and marketing entities will also be required to maintain existing production and distribution volumes to prevent shortages. The cap will lower prices for patients where medicines currently carry high markups, reducing out-of-pocket spending on cancer treatment. By limiting margins across the supply chain, it also narrows price differences between hospital and retail pharmacies. However, requiring manufacturers to maintain existing supply levels will be important to prevent lower margins from leading to reduced availability of covered medicines.



2. National Medical Commission Directs Medical Colleges to Establish Patient Safety Committees – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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

The National Medical Commission (NMC) directed medical colleges and medical institutions to establish a Patient Safety Committee/Cell and designate a Patient Safety Nodal Officer. The initiative supports the institutionalisation of patient-safety practices, standard operating procedures and accountability across healthcare facilities. The committees are expected to coordinate action across 11 patient-safety domains, including medication safety, surgical safety, blood transfusion, medical devices, infection prevention and control, diagnostic safety, patient and family engagement, facility safety and safety in Ayush systems. Institutions are also required to share the committee's composition and the nodal officer's details with the National Patient Safety Secretariat. The directive will strengthen institutional oversight, promote consistent patient-safety protocols, improve reporting and management of safety risks, and help prevent avoidable harm to patients.

3. Cabinet Approves Continuation And Restructuring Of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) – Ministry of Rural Development

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

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for five years, from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with an outlay of ₹ 53,428 crore. Key changes include renaming NSAP as the **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana** and revising eligibility, coverage and assistance rates for disability pensions. The revised guidelines are to be issued and implemented within three months. The restructuring lowers the benchmark disability threshold for pension eligibility from 80% to 40% and raises central monthly assistance to ₹ 375 (up to 79 years) and ₹ 625 (80 years and above). Pension schemes for older persons and widows, along with the family benefit scheme, will continue in their existing form. The five-year commitment strengthens the continuity and predictability of social assistance. Revised disability-pension provisions could expand coverage and improve benefit adequacy, while updated beneficiary records and streamlined administration can strengthen targeting, transparency and timely payments, reinforcing income security for vulnerable groups.

4. NCAHP Notifies Regulations For Allied Healthcare Governance And Competency-Based Imaging Curricula - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

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

The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) notified the Autonomous Boards and Central Assessment Committee (Establishment, Constitution, Functions and Powers) Regulations, 2026, establishing boards for Education, Ethics and Registration, and Assessment and Rating, alongside a Central



Assessment Committee (CAC) to oversee institutional recognition, inspections and standards enforcement. NCAHP also notified a competency-based Diploma in Medical Radiology and Imaging Technology (D.MRIT) curriculum for implementation from the 2026–27 academic session, complementing existing bachelor's and master's frameworks. These measures aim to standardise allied healthcare education, identify institutions that fail to meet prescribed requirements, align imaging skills with diagnostic service needs, and strengthen professional registration and accountability, enabling employers and patients to verify practitioners' credentials.

5. **Government Revises Sugar Stock Holding Norms To Prevent Hoarding And Ensure Smooth Supply – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

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

The Ministry has tightened stockholding and turnover limits for sugar dealers from **15th October to 30th November 2026** ahead of the festive season. Dealers nationwide may hold a maximum of **1,000 quintals (100 MT)** and must sell stocks within 15 days of receipt. A higher limit of **2,000 quintals** applies to dealers in Kolkata and its extended metropolitan area and Assam. The move comes amid a sharp fall in wholesale ex-mill sugar prices, while retail prices have declined more slowly. The restrictions target potential stock accumulation at the intermediary level by requiring dealers to sell inventory more frequently. This will accelerate the movement of sugar to retailers, improve market availability during peak festive demand and limit speculative hoarding. The higher stock limit for Kolkata and Assam provides flexibility for their distinct supply and distribution requirements, while closer inventory turnover may help narrow the gap between wholesale and retail price movements.

B. Announcements

1. **Parliamentary Standing Committee Submits 382nd Report Recommending Comprehensive Institutional Overhaul Of National Testing Agency (NTA) – Rajya Sabha Secretariat**

Source: [PIB](#)

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports has submitted its 382nd Report recommending reforms to strengthen the National Testing Agency (NTA). Key recommendations include a statutory framework for greater accountability, permanent leadership, recruitment to address 41% staff vacancies, gradual in-house management of examination logistics, secure computer-based testing with dynamic question banks, mandatory conflict-of-interest declarations, and at least one Government-operated examination centre in every district. These reforms could reduce dependence on private vendors, strengthen examination security, improve transparency and restore public confidence in national entrance examinations. However, implementation



would require substantial investment in staffing, technology and infrastructure, along with Government action on the committee's recommendations.

2. Ministry of Education Approves Five Centres Of Excellence For Studies In Classical Languages – Ministry of Education

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Education approved five Centres of Excellence for Classical Assamese, Classical Bengali, Classical Marathi, Classical Pali and Classical Prakrit. The centres will be established at Tezpur University in Assam, Visva-Bharati University in West Bengal, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute in Pune, Central University of Odisha and Central University of Gujarat, respectively. The initiative will support advanced academic research, preservation and digitisation of linguistic and literary resources, and wider dissemination of India's classical-language heritage. By strengthening research infrastructure across five states, the initiative will expand scholarly opportunities and institutional capacity for documenting and preserving India's linguistic traditions.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. MoD Revises SOP To Improve Defence Industry Access To Proof Ranges And Testing Facilities – Ministry of Defence

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

The Ministry has approved a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Indian defence industry's use of proof ranges, field firing ranges and laboratory testing facilities managed by DRDO, quality assurance agencies and the three Armed Services. The revised framework waives proof and testing charges for development projects under initiatives such as iDEX, the Technology Development Fund (TDF) and Make schemes. It also introduces a conciliation clause for dispute resolution, standardises application procedures and reserves three days per quarter at MoD proof ranges for testing developmental platforms, including self-funded industry projects. Waiving testing charges reduces R&D costs for startups and domestic manufacturers, allowing them to direct more resources towards prototype development. Dedicated quarterly testing slots will improve access to facilities and help reduce delays in validating defence equipment. Faster testing and a conciliation-based dispute resolution process would shorten development timelines, support domestic procurement and help Indian manufacturers prepare products for export markets.



2. CBIC Notifies Customs Tariff Rules Of Origin Under The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, 2026 – Ministry of Finance

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

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notified the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods under the Free Trade Agreement between India and New Zealand) Rules, 2026, establishing the conditions for goods to qualify for preferential tariffs under the bilateral FTA. The rules cover origin criteria, bilateral cumulation, Qualifying Value Content calculations, a 10% de minimis allowance and **12-month validity for origin certificates and declarations**. Clear origin rules will help exporters claim preferential tariffs and encourage the use of Indian and New Zealand inputs in cross-border supply chains. Exporters must maintain supporting records to pass origin verification and avoid losing tariff benefits.

3. MHA Brings Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 Into Force – Ministry of Home Affairs

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

The Ministry has notified **8th October, 2026**, as the commencement date for the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 (Act No. 9 of 2026), bringing its provisions into force nationwide. The Act establishes a legislative framework for the general administration of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), including the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB, covering personnel administration, service rules and related organisational arrangements. A common legislative framework will help standardise personnel administration and disciplinary procedures across the CAPFs, reducing differences in how administrative matters are handled. Clearer service and organisational rules will improve personnel management and coordination across forces.

B. Announcements

1. India And Switzerland Strengthen Cooperation On Mobility, Transport And Innovation– Prime Minister's Office

Source: [PIB](#)

India and Switzerland have finalised a series of bilateral agreements covering **migration and mobility, young professionals, transport technology, scientific research and startups**. The Migration and Mobility Partnership provides for multiple-entry visas of up to five years for eligible travellers, while the Young Professionals Scheme will initially allow **300 professionals annually from each country**, with scope to increase the quota to 500. The agreements expand opportunities for Indian students and young professionals to gain international work experience. Cooperation in EVs, ropeways and tunnelling will support technology transfer for Indian infrastructure projects, while joint research and startup initiatives will help Indian innovations access international markets.



2. Government Signs ₹ 661.50 Crore Contract With BrahMos Aerospace For Fire Control Systems And Launchers For Indian Navy Warships – Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has signed a ₹ 661.50 crore contract with BrahMos Aerospace for Fire Control Systems and specialised missile launchers for Indian Navy warships. The procurement is under the **Buy (Indian-IDDm)** category and requires a minimum **68% indigenous content**, above the 50% threshold under DAP 2020. The systems will support the integration of BrahMos missiles with naval combat management systems, covering functions such as targeting, launch sequencing and weapon assignment. The contract will be implemented over **three years** and is expected to involve Indian defence manufacturers and MSMEs in areas such as precision manufacturing and electronic assembly. The contract will give the Navy additional domestically produced fire-control and launcher systems for integrating BrahMos on its warships, supporting faster weapon deployment and fleet readiness. The 68% indigenous-content requirement also means a larger share of manufacturing and component work will remain within Indian defence supply chains, giving specialised domestic firms more opportunities to participate in naval missile programmes.

3. Defence Minister Launches INS Surya, India's First Indigenous Fleet Support Ship, at Hindustan Shipyard Limited – Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched Surya (FSS-1), India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The vessel is designed to strengthen the Indian Navy's operational reach and endurance by providing at-sea replenishment and logistical support during extended deployments. The Fleet Support Ships will feature enhanced cargo and fluid-carrying capacity, onboard first-line maintenance workshops, a helicopter deck for multi-role helicopter operations and self-defence systems. During the same event, the keel of the fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5) was laid, and the upgraded Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne Goliath crane were inaugurated at HSL to expand its capacity to construct larger and more complex vessels. The development will strengthen maritime logistics, enhance indigenous naval shipbuilding and support India's defence self-reliance and maritime presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

4. MoD Signs ₹ 4,106 Crore Contracts For GSAT-7C Satellite And Varunastra Torpedoes – Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has signed two contracts worth a combined ₹ 4,106 crore with domestic public sector enterprises. The first, worth ₹ 2,563 crore, was awarded to NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for the **design, development and launch of the GSAT-7C** dedicated military communications satellite for the Indian Air Force. The



second, worth ₹ 1,543 crore, was awarded to Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the **production of Varunastra heavyweight torpedoes**, developed by DRDO's Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL). The satellite is intended to provide secure communications for the IAF, while the torpedoes will strengthen the Navy's anti-submarine warfare capabilities. The GSAT-7C contract will improve secure communications between airborne platforms and ground-based systems, supporting coordination during military operations. The Varunastra order provides production demand for an indigenous naval weapon and supports domestic defence manufacturing. This directs ₹4,106 crore towards domestic defence capabilities, thus reducing reliance on imported systems and supporting specialised aerospace and naval technology supply chains.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. Government Notifies 201 Crop Varieties Across Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, And Cotton Under The Seeds Act, 1966 – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

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

The Ministry has notified 201 crop varieties and hybrids under the Seeds Act, 1966, following consultation with the Central Seed Committee. The notification covers cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane and forage crops, including rice, wheat, maize, millet, mustard, soybean and 42 Bollgard II cotton cultivars. While commercial sale approvals are specified for particular states and agro-climatic zones, the varieties are notified nationally for purposes including certified seed production, field inspections and seed quality testing. The notification brings the listed varieties within the formal seed regulatory framework, enabling their varietal identity and quality to be monitored during certified seed production and testing. Breeders and seed producers gain a defined regulatory basis for multiplying and supplying eligible varieties, while state-specific sale approvals help align commercial availability with regional conditions. Farmers will benefit from access to improved, biofortified or locally adapted varieties, although actual gains in productivity and climate resilience will depend on the characteristics of individual varieties and their suitability to local growing conditions.

2. Government Constitutes Statutory Central Biostimulant Committee – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

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

The Ministry has constituted the Central Biostimulant Committee under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985. The eight-member committee brings together officials from agriculture, health, ICAR, fertiliser quality control and toxicology institutions to support the evaluation and regulation of agricultural biostimulants. The Committee will have a **five-year tenure** and will be supported by technical and



administrative staff provided by the Central Government. Its composition brings agronomic evaluation and quality testing together with health and toxicological expertise, particularly through ICAR, the Central Fertiliser Quality Control and Training Institute and CSIR-IITR. Biostimulant manufacturers and importers will have a more defined central regulatory body through which products can be evaluated for quality, agricultural performance and safety. Bringing agricultural and toxicological expertise into the same committee will also make it easier to identify products that do not meet required standards before they are widely marketed, particularly as the use of biostimulants expands alongside conventional fertilisers.

3. **Government Notifies Statutory Amendment To Schedule I Of The VB-GRAM G Act, 2025, Expanding Asset Creation Framework – Ministry of Rural Development**

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

The Ministry has amended Schedule I of the Viksit Bharat: Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAM G Act). The amendment replaces “Central Government” with “**Central Government and State Government**” in the provision covering permissible works and asset creation, allowing both levels of Government to be included within the relevant framework. State governments will now have a clearer statutory route to bring their own rural development works within the employment programme's asset-creation framework, rather than limiting the provision to centrally driven works. This will allow rural wage employment to be linked more closely with state-funded infrastructure and livelihood projects, while giving Gram Panchayats a wider pool of Government projects through which local labour demand can be utilised.

4. **Government Amends Elemental Sulphur Specifications Under Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

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

The Ministry has amended the specifications for Elemental Sulphur fortified with Micronutrients, replacing the standards notified in March 2026. The revised specifications require **at least 31.5% total sulphur**, along with prescribed minimum concentrations of magnesium, zinc, iron, copper, boron, manganese and molybdenum. They also set maximum limits for lead (30 mg/kg), cadmium (25 mg/kg) and arsenic (25 mg/kg), alongside physical quality requirements covering moisture content, sieve retention and particle size. Fertiliser manufacturers will need to ensure that their formulations meet the revised nutrient composition, heavy-metal limits and physical specifications, potentially requiring adjustments to production and quality-control processes. Standardised nutrient levels will help farmers obtain more consistent sulphur and micronutrient inputs, supporting soil nutrient management. Stricter contaminant limits will also reduce the risk of heavy metals entering agricultural soils through repeated fertiliser application.



5. Government Notifies Six New Plant Species Including Rubber, Mahua, And Niger Under PPV&FR Act, 2001 – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

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

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare amended the 2017 notification under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, adding six species to the list of crops eligible for plant variety registration. The additions are **niger (ramtil), summer squash, rubber, mahua, alstroemeria and tulip**. Their inclusion brings these crops within the notification framework for plant variety protection and enables the application of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) testing requirements for eligible varieties. Breeders and researchers working on these crops gain a formal route to seek registration and protection for eligible new varieties. This will encourage investment in crop improvement, including plantation crops and high-value floriculture. Inclusion of traditional species such as mahua may also support the documentation and development of local varieties, while registration and benefit-sharing outcomes will depend on the applicable legal requirements and individual cases.

B. Announcements

1. ICAR And FCI Sign MoU To Advance Safe And Sustainable Foodgrain Storage Operations – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Source: [PIB](#)

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have signed an MoU to improve pest management and reduce post-harvest losses in foodgrain storage. The agreement promotes different fumigation methods based on the storage system, including **high-purity nitrogen for wheat in metal silos**, carbon dioxide and phosphine for bagged wheat and rice, and carbon dioxide for grain stored under hermetic covers. The use of storage-specific fumigation methods will help FCI and other warehouses control pests more effectively while reducing dependence on conventional chemical treatments. Better pest control will also reduce grain losses during long-term storage, helping preserve more of the foodgrain procured for the public distribution system.



Annexure-I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Finance, Taxation And Trade

1. Government Notifies Inquiry, Adjudication, And Penalty Imposition Rules, 2026 Under Textiles Committee Act – Ministry of Textiles

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Textiles Committee (Adjudication and Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2026. The rules establish a uniform procedure for adjudicating violations, including complaints by authorised officers, show-cause notices with at least seven days to respond, and completion of inquiries within six months. They require adjudicators to consider the seriousness of the violation, repeated or continuing defaults, financial loss and mitigating circumstances when determining penalties. **Appeals must be filed within 30 days and are to be disposed of within 60 days.** Defined inquiry and appeal timelines will make enforcement more predictable for textile-sector businesses while giving them a formal opportunity to respond to alleged violations. Proportionate penalty assessment allows authorities to account for the seriousness and circumstances of each case. The recovery mechanism strengthens the consequences of non-payment, encouraging timely compliance and reducing the risk that imposed penalties remain uncollected.

2. Cabinet Approves 78-Day Productivity Linked Bonus For Railway Employees – Ministry of Railways

Source: [PIB](#)

The Union Cabinet has approved a Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to **78 days' wages** for eligible railway employees, involving an expenditure of ₹ 2,009.61 crore. The bonus will benefit 11,40,770 non-gazetted employees, including track maintainers, locomotive pilots, train managers, station masters, technicians and other Group C staff, with a maximum payment of ₹ 17,951 per employee. The payment recognises employees' contributions to railway operations and is a performance-linked bonus, not a permanent salary increase. The ₹ 2,009.61 crore payout provides a one-time income boost to over 11.4 lakh railway households, potentially increasing spending on consumer goods, transport, retail and festive purchases. For the Railways, the bonus sustains incentives for operational staff whose work supports train movement, track maintenance and station operations. However, its longer-term impact on productivity, punctuality and safety will depend on whether performance-linked incentives are complemented by measurable service-delivery targets, adequate staffing and effective monitoring.



3. Government Notifies Central Silk Board Rules For Inquiry, Adjudication, And Arrear Recovery – Ministry of Textiles

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Central Silk Board (Adjudication and Manner of Holding Inquiry and Imposition of Penalty) Rules, 2026. The rules establish procedures for penalising violations, including unauthorised silkworm seed production or distribution and reporting defaults. Adjudicating Officers must issue show-cause notices allowing **15–30 days for a response** and ordinarily conclude proceedings within 120 days, recording reasons for delays. Appeals must be filed within 30 days and are to be disposed of within 60 days by an Appellate Authority with specified civil court powers. Unpaid penalties can be recovered as arrears of land revenue, and collected penalties are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. This will give silk-sector businesses and seed producers a clearer process for responding to alleged violations and challenging penalty orders. The rules strengthen enforcement against unauthorised silkworm seed production and distribution, supporting greater oversight of the silk seed supply chain.

4. Government Extends Operational Timelines Of RELIEF Intervention To Shield Exporters Amid Ongoing West Asia Maritime Logistics Disruptions – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has extended the operational timeline of the RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme to support Indian exporters facing higher freight costs, war-risk insurance premiums and shipping disruptions in West Asian maritime routes. Under Component II, eligible Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) policies provide 95% risk coverage for war-related risks, civil strife and related political defaults, with the government absorbing the additional premium cost to maintain exporter premiums at pre-disruption levels. The scheme covers Full Container Load (FCL), Less than Container Load (LCL) and refrigerated (reefer) containers moving to or through notified countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Iran, Israel and Yemen, with Egypt and Jordan included as transit routes, while bulk shipments of crude petroleum and petrochemicals are excluded. The extension reduces insurance costs and financial risks, helping exporters, particularly MSMEs, engineering and agricultural exporters, continue accepting and fulfilling overseas orders despite disruptions that could otherwise make shipments commercially unviable or increase costs for overseas buyers.



5. RBI Introduces One-Time Approval Window For Institutional Major Shareholding – Reserve Bank of India

Source: [RBI](#)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a one-time approval facility allowing eligible domestic mutual funds, pension funds and insurance companies to make subsequent acquisitions of **up to 10% of a bank's shares or voting rights**. While prior approval is still required for an initial acquisition of 5% or more, eligible institutions can use the new facility for subsequent acquisitions without repeatedly seeking fresh approval, even if their holdings previously fell below 5%. Applications can be submitted through RBI's PRAVAAH portal. Investors must report any movement across the 5% shareholding threshold to both RBI and the bank within three working days. The change reduces repeated paperwork for eligible institutional investors and makes it easier for them to adjust their holdings in banks. Clearer rules for portfolio managers also help distinguish investments made on behalf of clients from the managers' own shareholdings.

6. RBI Amends Basel Capital Adequacy Norms For Clearing Member Trade Exposures And Incurred CVA Write-Downs – Reserve Bank of India

Source: [RBI](#)

RBI has amended bank capital rules to clarify how banks must calculate risks arising from clearing transactions and derivatives. The changes prescribe a **2% risk weight** for eligible exposures to qualifying central counterparties (QCCPs) and clarify how losses arising from changes in the value of derivatives must be recorded when calculating exposure. Banks must also maintain records reconciling these losses with their published financial statements. The changes standardise how banks account for eligible clearing exposures and derivatives-related losses when calculating capital requirements. Clearer accounting rules improve the consistency of risk reporting, while documentation requirements make these calculations easier for auditors and regulators to verify.

7. SEBI Expands Private Placement ISIN Ceiling With Special Carve-Outs For Green And Sovereign Debt – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Source: [SEBI](#)

SEBI has increased the number of debt instruments companies can issue through private placement from the earlier limit to **17 per financial year**. Of these, up to 12 can be regular corporate bonds and five can be more complex debt instruments. Companies can also issue six additional instruments for tax-saving bonds. Government-backed bonds and certified green and other ESG bonds are excluded from these limits. Companies will now have more flexibility to raise money for business expansion and manage loan repayments without being restricted by the number of bond issues. The separate provision for green bonds can support funding



for environmentally focused projects. However, companies issuing complex debt instruments will still need to follow the prescribed limits.

8. RBI Notifies Dedicated Credit Valuation Adjustment (CVA) Risk Capital Framework – Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Source: [RIB](#)

The RBI introduced a dedicated framework for calculating capital requirements against **Credit Valuation Adjustment (CVA) risk**, which arises when changes in a counterparty's creditworthiness affect the value of a derivatives contract. Banks with non-centrally cleared derivatives worth up to ₹ 10 lakh crore may use an alternative calculation method, while other banks must follow the prescribed Basic Approach. Eligible banks can also account for certain hedges when calculating their CVA capital requirements. Banks with large derivatives portfolios may need to set aside additional capital to cover losses caused by changes in counterparties' creditworthiness. The alternative method gives eligible banks with smaller portfolios a simpler calculation option, while larger banks face more detailed risk assessments and disclosure requirements. Banks will need to update their risk-management systems and reporting processes before the rules take effect.

9. Department Of Economic Affairs Notifies 7.1% Interest Rate On Special Deposit Scheme (SDS) For Q3 FY 2026-27 – Ministry of Finance

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry fixed the interest rate under the Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident, Superannuation and Gratuity Funds at **7.1% per annum for 1st October to 31st December, 2026**. The rate applies to eligible deposits held by non-government retirement benefit trusts, exempted establishment provident funds, and private superannuation and gratuity funds. The fixed rate provides greater certainty for trustees managing retirement-benefit funds and estimating investment income for the quarter. It influences the returns earned on eligible deposits and the resources available to meet future retirement and gratuity obligations. For employers and fund managers, the rate also informs investment planning and assessments of whether fund assets are sufficient to meet expected liabilities.

10. RBI Opens Special Dollar Window For Three Public-Sector Oil Companies To Ease Pressure On Rupee – Reserve Bank of India

Source: [RBI](#)

RBI has announced a special dollar-supply window to meet the daily foreign-exchange requirements of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), effective 12 October until further notice. Under the facility, the RBI will supply US



dollars through designated banks, shifting these companies' purchases away from the open foreign-exchange market amid pressure on the rupee from elevated crude oil prices and strong dollar demand. The RBI also tightened foreign-exchange derivative rules to curb speculative positions and strengthen risk management. The measures will reduce spot-market dollar demand, moderate exchange-rate volatility and support stability in the rupee. However, supplying dollars directly from foreign-exchange reserves could reduce reserve holdings, while the impact on the currency will depend on global oil prices, capital flows and broader market conditions.

11. DGFT Extends Minimum Import Price (MIP) On Glufosinate And Its Salts - Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) extended the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on glufosinate and its salts until **12th April, 2027**. The restriction applies to eight specified eight-digit tariff lines, covering imports of the herbicide and related products. The extended price floor limits the ability of importers to bring in covered products below the prescribed minimum price, potentially reducing price competition from low-cost overseas suppliers. This may give domestic agrochemical manufacturers greater pricing stability, while importers will need to factor the MIP into sourcing and procurement decisions. The effect on domestic production and market prices will depend on the prescribed price level, import dependence and availability of alternative suppliers.

12. Ministry Of MSME Notifies Two-Stage Phased Enforcement For MSME Development (Amendment) Act, 2026 - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has issued a commencement notification for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Act, 2026, establishing a two-stage implementation schedule. Sections 2-7, Section 11 and Sections 13-17 will come into force on **15th October, 2026**, while Section 12 will take effect on **15th December, 2026**. The staggered commencement separates the implementation of the Act's provisions across two dates. The first stage will require affected stakeholders to align their procedures with the provisions commencing in October, while the December deadline provides additional preparation time for the requirements under Section 12. This staggered enforcement window provides regulatory authorities, banking channels, and industrial stakeholders a planned two-month transition buffer to adjust administrative mechanisms and compliance infrastructure to the revised statutory mandates.



13. India And Japan Launch Operational Manual For The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) Under The Paris Agreement – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: [PIB](#)

India and Japan have launched the Operational Manual for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under the Paris Agreement. It outlines the process from Project Idea Note (PIN) submission to methodology approval, validation, registration, monitoring, verification and carbon-credit issuance. The mechanism supports Japanese low-carbon technology and investment in Indian projects, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, hydrogen and carbon capture. A Joint Committee will oversee project approvals and credit tracking, with safeguards against double-counting emission reductions. The manual provides Indian project developers with a clearer pathway to access Japanese technology and climate finance. Revenue from verified carbon credits will improve the financial viability of industrial energy-efficiency upgrades and clean-energy projects, complementing India's domestic carbon market.

14. MDoNER Announces ₹ 331 Crore Development Projects In Mizoram – Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry inaugurated projects and laid foundation stones for initiatives worth ₹ 331 crore in Mizoram. The package covers sports infrastructure, arts and music facilities, regional connectivity, tourism and agricultural development. A key component is the **Mizoram Ginger Mission**, which aims to establish processing, cold-chain and market-linkage infrastructure. It also announced ₹ 6,812.30 crore in capital investments for the North Eastern Region for FY 2026–27. Local ginger processing and cold-storage facilities will help farmers preserve produce, reduce post-harvest losses and sell beyond immediate local markets instead of relying solely on raw ginger sales. This will bring more visitors and customers to local businesses, creating opportunities for transport operators, homestays and other small enterprises. These investments will help retain more value from agriculture and tourism within Mizoram rather than allowing much of the economic benefit to flow to outside suppliers and intermediaries.

B. Ease Of Doing Business And Regulatory Affairs

1. Department Of Animal Husbandry Notifies Mandatory BIS Certification For Cattle Mineral Mixtures, Dicalcium Phosphate, And Feed Salt – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Animal Feeds and Feed Ingredients (Quality Control) Order, 2026. The order prohibits the manufacture, import, distribution, sale or



stocking of covered products without the BIS Standard Mark. These include cattle-feed mineral mixtures, feed-grade dicalcium phosphate and common salt and cattle licks for animal consumption. BIS will oversee certification and enforcement, with export oriented consignments exempted. Compliance deadlines are **1st April, 2027, for large and medium enterprises; 1st July, 2027, for small enterprises; and 1st October, 2027, for micro enterprises**. Mandatory certification will require manufacturers and importers to meet prescribed quality standards, potentially increasing testing, certification and production costs, particularly for smaller firms. It will reduce the circulation of adulterated or substandard feed ingredients, helping protect livestock health and productivity. Better control over feed quality will also reduce risks to the wider dairy and meat supply chains, while the staggered deadlines give smaller enterprises additional time to comply.

2. Government Notifies Central Silk Board (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Textiles

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Central Silk Board (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955. The amendment replaces the requirement to submit Form-14 with the option to submit **Form-14(a), Form-14(b) or Form-14(c)**. This change introduces three documentation options within the existing regulatory framework governing the Central Silk Board. The amendment provides flexibility in documentation and will allow sericulture stakeholders to use forms suited to their specific activities. This will reduce administrative friction for silkworm seed producers, grainages and silk establishments, provided the new forms address their different reporting or compliance requirements. The practical extent of the change will depend on the specific requirements prescribed under each form.

3. NHAI Mandates Independent Design And Hydraulic Verification For Major Bridges And Critical Highway Structures – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Source: [PIB](#)

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) introduced mandatory independent design verification for major bridges, viaducts and complex highway structures, effective **1st December, 2026**. The policy covers river bridges designed for flood discharge of at least **3,000 cubic metres per second** and structures with spans of **40 metres or more**. Designs will undergo third-party review by empanelled IITs, government engineering institutions or specialist consultants, including checks on hydraulic modelling, foundation scour and compliance with Indian Roads Congress standards. Independent reviews will identify structural and foundation weaknesses before construction, reducing the risk of failures and costly corrective work. Contractors and project developers may face additional review time and costs but gain clearer technical validation before execution. Stronger checks on flood



discharge and scour will also improve bridge resilience during extreme rainfall and flooding.

4. TRAI Mandates First-Tab Display Of Special Prepaid Recharge Packs To Ensure Transparent Tariff Access – Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

Source: [TRAI](#)

TRAI has directed telecom operators to display a dedicated “**TRAI-Mandated Packs**” tab as the first option on prepaid recharge pages across their official apps and websites. The requirement covers 30-day validity vouchers, monthly renewable plans and standalone voice/SMS packs. Operators must also display these plans prominently at physical retail outlets and customer service platforms, and submit compliance reports by **14th November, 2026**. The directive makes mandated recharge options easier for consumers to find and compare, reducing the effort needed to locate plans that suit their usage. Greater visibility of voice and SMS-only packs will help consumers avoid purchasing data bundles they do not need. Telecom operators will need to update their digital interfaces and retail displays within the compliance window.

5. Ayush Vertical Issues Standard Treatment Guidelines For Dermatological Disorders Across Traditional Medicine Systems – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare / Ministry of Ayush

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ayush Vertical of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has issued Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) for managing dermatological disorders across Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy, with Yoga included. The guidelines cover conditions such as psoriasis, dermatitis, vitiligo, urticaria and dermatophytosis, and provide system-specific recommendations for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up and rehabilitation. Developed through expert consultations, review of classical texts and contemporary scientific evidence, the protocols were also field-validated with medical officers in primary and secondary healthcare settings in Delhi. The initiative aims to improve consistency in clinical practice, strengthen quality assurance and support evidence-informed decision-making, while retaining the principles of each traditional system. It will also support practitioner training, research and the integration of Ayush services into public healthcare delivery.

6. CBDT Notifies Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2026 Prescribing Revised Form 161 For Penalty Waiver – Ministry of Finance

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending Rule 231 and revising the penalty-waiver application form. The revised form incorporates DIGIPIN address details, separates calculations for categories of



under-reported income, and requires verification of assessed tax, interest and additional-tax payments. Applicants must also undertake that they have neither appealed nor will appeal against the underlying assessment order. These changes clarify documentation requirements, improve transparency in tax calculations and facilitate verification of outstanding dues. However, applicants must weigh the benefits of penalty relief against their ability to challenge the assessment through the appellate process.

7. Government Launches Special Drive For Dematerialisation Of Securities By Private Companies And Urges Compliance – Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has launched a special compliance drive requiring eligible private companies to dematerialise existing securities under the Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Rules, 2014. Companies covered by the rules must obtain an International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) and facilitate the conversion of physical shareholdings held by promoters, directors and key managerial personnel (KMP). Non-compliant companies face restrictions on issuing bonus shares, rights offers, buybacks and new securities, while shareholders cannot transfer or subscribe to shares until their physical holdings are dematerialised. The drive reinforces securities compliance but may delay fundraising and corporate actions for companies that have not completed the process, increasing the costs of non-compliance.

8. DPIIT Notifies Second Amendment To Air Conditioner And Related Parts Quality Control Order (QCO) – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has amended the 2019 Quality Control Order for air conditioners and related components. The amendment expands the specified compressor category to cover both scroll and rotary hermetic compressors, bringing scroll compressors explicitly within the compliance framework. It also provides a **three-year exemption for up to 6,000 hermetic compressors and heat exchangers per year** when these are manufactured or imported for maintenance and servicing by certified manufacturers or manufacturers that have applied for BIS certification. The stock and record-keeping requirements also make it easier to distinguish older inventory and maintenance supplies from components entering the regular market under the mandatory quality regime.



9. DPIIT Notifies Revised Hand Tools (Quality Control) Order, 2026 With R&D Exemptions And Phased MSME Timelines – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified the Hand Tools (Quality Control) Order, 2026, superseding the 2025 order. It mandates the BIS Standard Mark for nine categories of hand tools, including pipe wrenches, spanners, adjustable wrenches and combination side-cutting pliers. Export-oriented domestic production is exempt, while manufacturers may import up to 200 units annually for research and development, subject to record-keeping and scrap disposal requirements. BIS will oversee certification and enforcement. The order aims to standardise product quality and safety but may raise testing and compliance costs for manufacturers. Staggered implementation deadlines provide additional adjustment time for smaller enterprises, while the limited R&D exemption supports product development.

10. CAQM Mandates Installation Of PTZ Cameras At Industries In NCR For Real-Time Monitoring Of Fuel Use And Emissions Compliance – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: [PIB](#)

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has directed NCR industries to install additional **HD PTZ cameras by 31st October 2026** at fuel storage, boiler/furnace feeding and, where applicable, gas-meter, emission-monitoring and furnace areas. The cameras must provide **continuous live feeds** to CPCB, DPCC and the concerned pollution-control boards in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, with industries required to maintain reliable internet connectivity and power backup. The measure targets the unauthorised use of diesel, petcoke, high-sulphur furnace oil and unauthorised coal.

11. TRAI Issues Draft DRM-Based Digital Addressable Systems Audit Manual, 2026 For Stakeholder Consultation – Ministry of Communications

Source: [PIB](#)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), has released the **Draft Digital Rights Management (DRM)-Based Digital Addressable Systems Audit Manual, 2026** for public consultation until 30th October, 2026. The draft sets out procedures for **pre-signal compliance** and **annual subscription audits** of DRM-based platforms, including IPTV. It covers billing integration, encryption, content fingerprinting and software security across set-top boxes and digital applications. Standardised audits will help broadcasters and distribution platform operators identify security gaps that allow unauthorised access to paid content. Checks on billing and subscription records will also help resolve disputes over subscriber numbers and payments between broadcasters and distributors. For IPTV providers and connected-device



platforms, the proposed requirements may mean additional security testing and documentation before and during operations.

12. MoRTH Issues Draft Rules To Remove Scrapping Exclusivity And Broaden RVSF Access – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has issued draft amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021, inviting stakeholder feedback within 30 days. The proposal removes the words “Government-owned vehicle or”, modifying the existing provision governing Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs). The amendment is proposed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and will require final notification before taking effect. Removing the distinction could simplify the regulatory treatment of government-owned and other vehicles during scrapping, depending on the provision's final scope. A more uniform process will help RVSFs handle a wider range of end-of-life vehicles, potentially increasing facility utilisation and the supply of scrap materials for recycling.

13. Government Approves Accession To Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) To Expand High Seas Marine Harvesting – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Source: [PIB](#)

The Government approved India's accession to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), moving the country from Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status, held since 2022, to **full Contracting Party status**. SIOFA regulates fishing of non-highly migratory and deep-sea fish stocks in the high seas of the Southern Indian Ocean. Accession provides a framework for Indian-flagged vessels to access eligible high-seas fisheries under India's High Seas Fisheries Guidelines and Sovereign Letters of Authorisation. It also enables India to participate in scientific stock assessments and the agreement's high-seas boarding and inspection arrangements. Full membership gives India a formal role in regional decisions on deep-sea fisheries management and conservation. Access to regulated high-seas fishing grounds will create opportunities for Indian fishing operators to harvest commercially valuable species, including toothfish and alfonsino, subject to applicable quotas and conservation rules. Participation in monitoring and inspection mechanisms will also strengthen oversight of Indian vessels and cooperation against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, although commercial gains will depend on vessel capacity, operating costs and sustainable stock availability.



14. Government Introduces Standardised Audit Reporting For Multi-State Cooperative Societies - Ministry of Cooperation

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has issued the Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Auditor's Report) Order, 2026 (MSCARO) to standardise statutory audit reporting for multi-state cooperative societies. Modelled on the corporate sector's CARO framework, it requires auditors to report on financial health, internal controls, governance and statutory compliance. Implementation will begin with societies meeting the specified **₹ 1,000 crore threshold**, with phased expansion to societies exceeding **₹ 50 crore** in balance sheet, turnover or deposits. Audit findings will also be integrated into the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) portal. Standardised reporting of NPAs, overdue loans, borrowings and liquidity could help identify financial weaknesses earlier. Checks on member funds, board functioning and related-party transactions will strengthen accountability and protect cooperative assets. Digital audit records will also help the CRCS prioritise inspections based on risk, while phased implementation gives smaller societies more time to prepare for compliance.

C. Governance And Administrative Affairs

1. MoSPI Launches Third Round Of Forward-Looking Survey On Private Corporate Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions - Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Source: [PIB](#)

The National Statistical Office has launched the third round of its Forward-Looking Survey on Private Corporate Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions for October–December 2026. The survey collects information on past and ongoing capital expenditure as well as companies' planned investments, including spending on capacity expansion, technology upgrades and replacement of existing assets. The survey also captures planned investment in **green energy, decarbonisation and robotics/automation**, along with how companies plan to finance these investments through bank loans, external commercial borrowings, equity and internal funds. Companies will submit the information through a dedicated online portal. The data will give the Government a more current view of where private companies are planning to invest and whether investment is moving towards capacity expansion, technology or newer areas such as green energy and automation. This will help identify changes in private investment activity earlier than relying only on completed financial-year data, supporting economic planning and assessment of future capital formation.



2. The President Notifies Ministry Of Parliamentary Affairs, Section Officer Recruitment Rules, 2026, Superseding 2002 Framework – Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The President has notified the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Section Officer Recruitment Rules, 2026, replacing the 2002 rules. The new framework fixes 16 Section Officer posts at Pay Level 8 and provides for recruitment primarily through promotion from Assistant Section Officers with five years of regular service and mandatory training, with deputation as the alternative where promotion is not possible. The new rules give ASOs a clearer promotion route, while the mandatory training requirement means officers will need additional preparation before moving into Section Officer positions. The revised senior-junior provision will also bring eligible senior officers into consideration when a junior becomes eligible first, reducing promotion-related anomalies. The defined Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) structure and deputation conditions provide a more predictable way to fill vacancies in a cadre handling parliamentary administrative work.

3. Indian Railways Announces 3,548 Graduate-Level NTPC Vacancies To Augment Operational And Commercial Cadres – Ministry of Railways

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has announced **3,548 graduate-level vacancies** under the Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC) through Railway Recruitment Boards. The recruitment covers four posts, including 2,750 Goods Train Manager positions, alongside commercial, accounts and clerical roles. Applications are open until **6th November, 2026**, with selection through computer-based tests, skill tests where applicable, document verification and medical examinations. Filling Goods Train Manager vacancies will strengthen staff availability for freight train operations, where shortages may affect scheduling and train movement. Recruitment to commercial and accounts posts will also help manage ticketing-related work and financial records as railway activity increases. For graduates seeking public-sector employment, the drive provides opportunities across operational and administrative roles, with selection subject to the prescribed eligibility and examination requirements.

4. Health Ministry Launches JOSH Teams for Grassroots TB Outreach – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Source: [PIB](#)

The Union Health Minister launched JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams under the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, bringing together MY Bharat volunteers and NCC cadets for community-level TB awareness and outreach. Initially deployed across 55 districts in 11 States and Union Territories, the teams will promote early diagnosis,



treatment adherence and stigma reduction. The initiative will strengthen community participation, improve access to TB services and support India's TB elimination efforts, particularly in underserved areas.

5. Department Of Legal Affairs Amends Recruitment Rules And Service Exit Terms For Registrar And Counsels At IIAC – Ministry of Law & Justice

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has notified the India International Arbitration Centre (Number of Posts and Recruitment of Registrar, Counsels and other Officers and Employees) Amendment Rules, 2026. It introduces a standard 45-day written notice period for resignation by officers and employees and allows the Centre to require an employee to relinquish office with 45 days' notice, provided reasons are recorded in writing. It also revises recruitment qualifications for Registrars, Counsels and Executive Assistants/Assistant Section Officers. Clearer eligibility criteria will help India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC) recruit personnel with relevant legal, managerial and administrative experience as its operations expand. The standard notice period gives employees and the Centre a defined timeframe to manage departures and arrange replacements, while the requirement to record reasons provides a measure of procedural accountability when the Centre initiates separation. These changes will improve staffing continuity and administrative planning at the institution.

6. Government Re-constitutes Auroville International Advisory Council For Four-Year Term – Ministry of Education

Source: [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has reconstituted the Auroville International Advisory Council under the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988. The four-member council comprises Hasmukh P. Rama, David Frawley, Kiran Vyas and Kottamasu Venkateswara Rao, with members appointed for an honorary four-year term. The Council advises the Central Government and the Governing Board on **Auroville's cultural, educational, ecological and spiritual development**. Its members will elect a Chairperson from among themselves, while the Secretary to the Auroville Foundation will serve as the ex-officio Secretary. The reconstitution restores a formal advisory body for providing guidance on Auroville's development and institutional direction. Its members' backgrounds in education, yoga, Vedic studies and international business bring different perspectives to discussions on cultural and educational programmes, ecological priorities and community development. The four-year term provides continuity for advisory work, although implementation of its recommendations will depend on decisions by the Central Government and the Auroville Foundation's Governing Board.



7. MoSPI Releases Draft Guidelines For Compiling Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) Estimates – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has released draft guidelines for compiling Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) using the expenditure approach, with a **revised base year of 2022-23**. Open for feedback until 28th October, 2026, the guidelines set out common methods for estimating household and government consumption, investment, inventory changes and net exports. They are intended to complement the existing production-side estimates compiled by State Directorates of Economics and Statistics. A **common expenditure-based method** will allow states to compare how much of their economies is driven by household spending, government expenditure and investment, rather than relying only on estimates of production across sectors. This will help state governments identify whether growth is being supported by consumption or capital formation and make better-informed spending decisions. Standardised methods and proxy indicators for data gaps will also improve comparability between states, although the quality of the estimates will depend on the data and technical capacity available to each state's statistical department.

8. MoRTH Revises Guidelines For Issuance Of Exempted FASTags For Divyangjan And PwD Vehicles, Linking Validity To Disability Percentage – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has revised the guidelines for issuing and renewing toll-exempted FASTags for eligible Divyangjan and Persons with Disabilities (PwD), replacing the earlier annual renewal requirement with longer validity periods. FASTag validity will be linked to the disability percentage recorded in the Disability Certificate or UDID card; **five years for 70-100% disability** and **three years for 40% to below 70% disability**. The exemption remains limited to specially adapted vehicles or vehicles registered under the “Divyangjan” ownership category. Eligible beneficiaries will no longer need to go through the exemption renewal process every year, reducing paperwork and repeated verification. The longer validity also gives vehicle owners greater certainty over toll-free travel, while linking the validity period to the recorded disability percentage keeps the exemption tied to verified eligibility.

9. MoSPI Releases Strategic Roadmap 'Strategy For Environmental Economic Accounts In India 2026-2030' – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has released Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts in India: 2026-2030, succeeding the 2022-2026 roadmap. It is aligned with the UN **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** and the **System of National Accounts**



(SNA) 2025, which aims to expand natural resource accounting through physical and monetary valuations of forests, minerals, soil, land use, water, carbon stocks, oceans and urban natural assets. It also seeks to address data gaps, strengthen coordination across agencies and track nine clusters of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. More comprehensive environmental accounts will help policymakers identify natural resource depletion that conventional GDP figures do not capture, improving decisions on resource management and sustainable investment. Common methodologies and inter-agency data systems will make environmental trends more comparable across sectors and over time. The monetary and ecosystem valuations will help integrate the economic costs of environmental degradation into public planning and policy evaluation.

10. Government Hands Over 3 Lakh Houses Worth ₹ 3,600 Crore To Andhra Pradesh And Launches India's First 3D Concrete-Printed Rural Housing Project – Ministry of Rural Development

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry handed over 3 lakh rural houses worth ₹ 3,600 crore to beneficiaries in Andhra Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY-G) and announced that another 3 lakh houses will be sanctioned as ongoing construction reaches the required milestones. It also laid the foundation for a ₹ 14-crore pilot project to construct 177 houses using 3D concrete printing in Burripalem and Obulnayudupalem, with completion targeted within six months. Policy implications: The housing handover expands access to permanent rural housing, while the pilot will assess whether automated construction can reduce building time, material wastage and dependence on manual labour. The technology could offer Governments an additional method to accelerate construction under large-scale rural housing programmes.

11. NCSC Mandate Leads To Scheme-Wise And Bank-Wise Reporting Of Scheduled Caste Beneficiaries – Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Source: [PIB](#)

Following the intervention of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, directed SLBCs and UTLBCs to report the number and percentage of Scheduled Caste (SC) beneficiaries under major credit schemes, including PM Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, PMEGP, PM SVANidhi, CGTMSE and broader MSME lending. The directive requires bank-wise and scheme-wise data, along with action-taken reports and details of challenges in data compilation. This measure will strengthen monitoring of SC participation in formal credit programmes, help identify gaps in access to institutional finance, and support more targeted corrective action by banks and authorities. It will also provide evidence to assess whether credit schemes are



translating into greater entrepreneurial participation and economic empowerment among SC communities.

12. Government Constitutes High-Level Committee To Review Sugarcane Farmer Issues And Sugar Sector Pricing – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution

Source: [PIB](#)

The Government constituted a high-level committee to examine sugarcane farmers' grievances and pricing issues in the sugar sector. The committee will review cane production costs, the **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)**, sugar mill realisations, weighing and sugar recovery practices, ethanol diversion incentives, and delays in paying cane arrears. It will consult farmer organisations, sugar mill associations and state governments before recommending policy changes. The review will inform future changes to cane pricing by examining whether statutory prices reflect production costs and mill economics. Scrutiny of weighing and sugar recovery measurements will help address disputes over payments to farmers, while examining arrears and mill liquidity will identify ways to improve payment timeliness. Any changes to FRP or related regulations will depend on the committee's recommendations and subsequent government decisions.

D. Technology, Innovation And Partnerships

1. MoSPI Releases Key Findings Of India's First-Ever National Household Travel Survey (July 2025 – June 2026) – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Source: [PIB](#)

The National Statistical Office has released key findings from India's first National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), covering July 2025–June 2026 and 4,92,023 households and 20,34,371 individuals across all States and Union Territories. The survey provides data on travel modes, commuting time, expenditure and travel purposes. Two-wheelers account for 42.6% of workers' commutes, while average monthly commuting expenditure is ₹ 785 per worker, ₹ 1,044 in urban areas and ₹ 612 in rural areas. 83.4% of workers reach their workplace within 30 minutes, while buses and railways account for 55.8% and 17.7% of overnight household trips, respectively. The findings provide a stronger evidence base for transport planning, particularly last-mile connectivity and public transport, while expenditure and travel-time data can help identify where improved bus and other public transport services could reduce commuting costs and time.



2. NHAI to Install Retrofit Emission Control Devices (RECDs) On 25 DG Sets Along Dwarka Expressway In Delhi-NCR – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Source: [PIB](#)

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), will install **Retrofit Emission Control Devices (RECDs) on 25 diesel generator sets** along an 8.7 km stretch of the Dwarka Expressway in Delhi-NCR. The generators power expressway lighting and related utilities. The installation follows directions from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to reduce emissions from diesel generators ahead of the winter pollution season. The devices will reduce particulate emissions from generators that operate regularly for highway lighting, lowering pollution from this infrastructure without requiring the generators to be replaced. GPS-tagged photographic records will help NHAI track installations and demonstrate compliance during inspections. It will also provide a practical model for controlling emissions from Diesel Generator (DG) sets used at other highway facilities across NCR.

3. MoSPI Partners With Pahle India Foundation To Strengthen Official Statistics, Research, And Data Analysis – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has signed an MoU with Pahle India Foundation (PIF) to collaborate on official statistics, economic research and data analytics. The partnership will focus on econometric modelling, alternative data sources and emerging areas such as gig work, digital services and regional economic trends. It will also provide training to central and state statistical officials and field enumerators, while MoSPI retains control over official data releases. Using administrative data alongside surveys will help statisticians capture changes in digital services and gig work that conventional surveys may take longer to reflect. Training state statistical teams and field enumerators will also improve data quality and make local-level estimates more reliable. Better estimates of emerging economic activity will help governments identify gaps in existing data and make policy decisions using a more current picture of regional economies.

4. Four AI-Enabled Short Films Unveiled Under IICT-YouTube 'Create with AI' Collaborative Programme – Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry unveiled four AI-enabled short films developed under the Create with AI programme, jointly designed by the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) and YouTube. The initiative combines training and mentorship with generative AI tools for visual generation, sound design, rendering and content localisation. IICT, operating from its transit campus at the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) complex in Mumbai, offers 18 specialised programmes in collaboration with



global media and technology companies. Integrating AI tools into filmmaking training will help creators reduce the time and cost involved in visual effects, sound design and localisation, making production more accessible to independent filmmakers and smaller studios. Industry-led training can also help build a workforce with skills relevant to AI-assisted media production. The wider adoption of these tools will support the growth of India's AVGC-XR sector and increase domestic digital content production.

5. NHAI Releases Framework Document On 'Wildlife Mitigation Measures & Structures' Highlighting ₹ 19,700 Crore Green Safeguards - Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has released Wildlife Mitigation Measures & Structures, outlining wildlife-protection measures incorporated into national highway projects. The document covers over **₹ 19,700 crore invested in more than 2,150 structures** over five years, including animal underpasses, overpasses, eco-tunnels and elevated viaducts. It also details measures such as guide fencing, noise barriers and speed controls along wildlife-sensitive stretches. Standardised designs will help highway planners include animal crossings at the project-design stage rather than adding them after construction, when modifications are more expensive. Properly placed crossings and guide fencing will reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and allow animals to move between habitats separated by highways. This is particularly important near forests and protected areas, where poorly designed roads can disrupt migration routes and increase risks for both wildlife and motorists.

6. MeitY Launches World Bank's World Development Report 2026 On Artificial Intelligence - Ministry of Electronics & IT

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry launched the World Bank Group's **World Development Report 2026: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence** in New Delhi. The report outlines a three-part approach for developing economies to leverage AI: adoption, adaptation and advancement. The launch also highlighted applications such as AI-enabled education delivery in Meghalaya and AI-based cervical cancer screening. India's ₹ 10,372-crore **IndiaAI Mission** was discussed, with emphasis on expanding access to computing infrastructure, developing indigenous datasets and supporting open AI models integrated with Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Wider access to computing resources and locally relevant datasets will reduce the entry barriers faced by Indian startups, researchers and public institutions developing AI applications. Integration with DPI would support the deployment of AI tools in healthcare, education and agriculture, while multilingual systems may extend services to populations underserved by existing digital platforms. This approach could strengthen domestic



AI capabilities and help developing countries build solutions suited to their own languages, data and public service needs.

7. ICMR Establishes High-Altitude Medicine And Public Health Research Centre In Keylong – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Source: [PIB](#)

The Union Health Minister laid the foundation stone for the **ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research (ICMR-CHAMP)** in Keylong, Himachal Pradesh. The centre, developed in collaboration with the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and AIIMS Bilaspur, will study altitude-related illnesses, acclimatisation, maternal and child health, and disease patterns across Himalayan regions. It will also explore technologies such as drone-based medical delivery, digital health monitoring and AI diagnostics. The centre will help develop medical protocols suited to high-altitude conditions, benefiting both local communities and security personnel deployed in remote areas. Research on maternal and child health will guide healthcare services in Himalayan districts where access to specialised care is difficult, while testing drone delivery and remote monitoring will help medical teams reach patients faster when terrain and weather delay conventional transport.

8. National Biodiversity Authority Disburses ₹ 2.02 Crore In Seed-Sector ABS Funds Across 30 States And UTs – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has disbursed ₹2.02 crore in Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) funds to 27 State Biodiversity Boards and three Union Territory Biodiversity Councils. Collected from seed companies accessing biological resources, the funds will support biodiversity conservation, updating People's Biodiversity Registers, preserving indigenous crop varieties and community welfare, particularly where individual benefit-claimers could not be identified. The disbursement strengthens local conservation efforts and helps channel benefits from the commercial use of biological resources towards biodiversity-rich regions and communities, linking regulatory benefit-sharing obligations with conservation and community development.

9. Department of Posts Partners With Blue Dart Express Limited To Expand India Post Parcel Services Nationwide – Ministry of Communications

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has signed a commercial agreement with Blue Dart Express Limited to expand parcel delivery by combining Blue Dart's express logistics network with India Post's network of over **1.64 lakh post offices**. The partnership aims to extend delivery coverage to underserved rural and semi-urban areas while increasing parcel volumes handled by India Post. Blue Dart can use India Post's extensive last-mile network to reach smaller towns and remote pin codes without building an entirely



separate delivery infrastructure. For India Post, additional parcel volumes will improve the use of its existing sorting and transit facilities and strengthen its role in e-commerce logistics. This will make deliveries more accessible for rural sellers and customers who are currently harder or more expensive to serve through private courier networks alone.

10. TDB-DST Signs ₹ 86 Crore Agreement With Peptris Under RDI Fund To Accelerate AI-Driven Drug Discovery – Ministry of Science & Technology

Source: [PIB](#)

The Technology Development Board (TDB), has signed a ₹ 86 crore funding agreement with Bengaluru-based Peptris Technologies under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme. The funding supports Project VIGOR, a ₹ 172 crore initiative using AI to advance **four drug candidates targeting cancer and rare diseases** from experimental validation to early-stage clinical trial readiness. The project will receive support through optionally convertible debt, with the government and project financing structured on a 50:50 basis. The funding will help Peptris move AI-identified drug candidates beyond computational discovery into experimental testing and preclinical development, a stage that often requires substantial investment before clinical trials become possible. If successful, the project will expand India's pipeline of domestically developed drug candidates and create opportunities for Indian researchers and biotech firms to build proprietary pharmaceutical technologies rather than relying primarily on licensing discoveries from abroad.

11. DoT And Maharashtra Government Sign Agreement For ₹ 10,520 Crore Rollout Of Amended BharatNet Program – Ministry of Communications

Source: [PIB](#)

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Maharashtra Government, BSNL, MahaIT and MDIL have signed an agreement to implement the Amended BharatNet Programme across Maharashtra. The project has ₹ 10,520 crore in financial support from the Digital Bharat Nidhi and will cover **28,237 Gram Panchayats**, with the aim of providing on-demand, high-speed broadband connectivity in rural areas. This will give rural administrations more reliable access to e-governance and digital public services, while also improving the connectivity available to households and local businesses. The large-scale rollout will also make it easier to extend other digital services into underserved areas, particularly in rural and remote parts of Maharashtra.



12. India And Ghana Sign 5-Year MoU To Advance Agricultural Research, Education, And Technology Transfer – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Source: [PIB](#)

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ghana's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research–Crops Research Institute (CSIR-CRI). The agreement provides for scientific exchanges, sharing of germplasm and breeding materials, and joint research projects. Initial cooperation will focus on developing high-yielding, climate-resilient tomato varieties and improving post-harvest management and processing of cassava and yam. Private-sector participation through Ghana's Arima Farms Ltd. will support cold-chain infrastructure, refrigerated transport and automated produce grading. An ICAR–CSIR-CRI Joint Working Group will oversee implementation. Joint crop research will help develop varieties better suited to climate stresses and local growing conditions, while improved storage, transport and grading can reduce post-harvest losses of perishable produce. Better processing and cold-chain facilities will increase the marketable share of farmers' harvests, improve returns and strengthen food supply chains.

13. TDB-DST Signs Agreement With BigEndian Semiconductors For ₹ 130 Crore RDI Support To Develop Indigenous AI Vision SoC – Ministry of Science & Technology

Source: [PIB](#)

The Technology Development Board (TDB) has agreed to provide ₹ 130 crore under the RDI Fund to Bengaluru-based BigEndian Semiconductors for Project VeerAI, a ₹260-crore semiconductor project. The project aims to take its AI Vision System-on-Chip from **TRL-5 to TRL-9**, covering validation and commercial deployment. Designed for real-time, secure, on-device AI video processing without cloud dependence, the chip initially targets **CCTV and critical monitoring**, with potential applications in defence, automotive ADAS, industrial automation, robotics and medical imaging. The funding, structured as **Optional Convertible Debt**, will support tape-out, integration, packaging and hardware testing, helping bridge the gap between prototype and commercial production. Successful deployment could strengthen domestic AI-chip availability and create demand across India's semiconductor design, packaging, testing and hardware ecosystem.

14. Indian Army Launches 'Bharat Rice' For Troops And Signs MoU With FCI To Strengthen Operational Logistics – Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Indian Army launched Bharat Rice to improve the quality of rations supplied to military personnel, particularly those stationed in remote and forward areas, including Ladakh and the Northeast. The rice will be procured through NAFED during FY 2026-27, milled to prescribed defence specifications and subjected to



quality-control checks. It will be supplied in 10 kg and 30 kg bags for easier handling and transportation. The Army also signed a five-year MoU with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), enabling it to use identified FCI warehouses, manpower and material-handling equipment during operational contingencies. The initiative will improve ration quality, strengthen supply-chain resilience and facilitate faster mobilisation of essential supplies during prolonged or sudden military operations.

15. MSDE, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh And AM/NS India Sign Shareholders' Agreements For ₹ 440 Crore ITI Upgradation – Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry, the governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) have signed agreements to upgrade **nine Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs)** under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation (PM-SETU) scheme. The ₹ 440 crore investment covers five ITIs in Surat with ₹ 240 crore and four ITIs in Visakhapatnam with ₹ 200 crore. Industry-led SPVs will oversee modernisation, with AM/NS India holding a 51% stake. The upgraded machinery and industry-aligned curricula will give trainees more practical experience with the equipment and processes used in manufacturing jobs. Along with that, on-the-job apprenticeships and instructor training will help reduce the gap between ITI qualifications and the skills employers need, making graduates more job-ready for industrial roles. This also gives AM/NS India a direct role in shaping training, thus potentially improving the availability of skilled workers in the two manufacturing clusters.

16. IMD Launches Indigenous Decision Support System For Cyclone Warnings And Marine Weather – Ministry of Earth Sciences

Source: [PIB](#)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), has dedicated its **indigenously developed Cyclone Warning and Marine Weather Services Decision Support System (DSS)** to the nation. The Web-GIS platform combines satellite, radar, ocean buoy and weather forecast data to track cyclones and assess marine hazards. Its Impact-Based Forecasting module provides location-specific risk information for coastal districts and ports, while alerts can be disseminated through SMS, APIs and the SACHET emergency network. Port operators and shipping companies can use more localised storm-risk information to plan vessel movements, cargo operations and temporary shutdowns before severe weather hits. Coastal authorities will identify areas exposed to storm surges, flooding and high winds, allowing evacuations and emergency resources to be targeted more precisely. Faster, coordinated alerts will also give fishing communities and offshore workers more time to return to safety or suspend operations.



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