

# INDIA GOVERNANCE WATCH

*Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments*



**1<sup>st</sup> September– 15<sup>th</sup> September**

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## Contributors



**Veer Patil**

*Lead Editor*

**veerabhadra.patil@nationfirstpolicy.org**



**Shankarjeet**

*Editor*

**shankarjeet.panda@nation  
firstpolicy.org**



**Kriti Mutreja**

*Consultant*

**kriti.mutreja@nationfirstpolicy.org**

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

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[newsletters@nationfirstpolicy.org](mailto:newsletters@nationfirstpolicy.org)



## India Governance Watch

### Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

(1<sup>st</sup> September, 2026 - 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2026)

#### Executive Summary

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

#### I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

- A. Tiered MDR Introduced for UPI Merchant Transactions:** From 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026, UPI merchant transactions above ₹ 2,000 will attract 0.4% MDR, capped at ₹ 300 for transactions of ₹ 75,000 or more. Small merchants receiving up to ₹ 1 lakh per month will remain exempt, while consumers will not be charged and merchants cannot pass the MDR on to them.
- B. Inventory Based E-Commerce Permitted For Indian Exports:** The Ministry of Finance amended the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to allow e-commerce entities with foreign investment to hold Indian made goods as inventory and sell them directly to overseas customers. Platforms can now buy Indian products in bulk and fulfil international orders directly.
- C. IFSCA Notifies Market Abuse Regulations:** IFSCA notified regulations prohibiting insider trading, spoofing, wash sales, circular trading, front running and mis-selling in IFSC securities markets. Listed entities must put internal controls in place, and the earlier SEBI regulations no longer apply to the IFSC.
- D. Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 To Take Effect From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026:** The Ministry of Finance notified the commencement date of the Act, which replaces the 1891 law and sets out rules for using electronic records, transaction logs and digitally stored accounts as evidence.
- E. SEBI And RBI Launch Demat 2.0 Pilot For Tokenised Corporate Bonds:** SEBI and RBI launched a pilot to issue, hold, trade and settle corporate bonds as digital tokens on a distributed ledger, connected to the RBI's wholesale CBDC (e₹) for atomic settlement and automated interest and redemption payments. REC, L&T and IIFL issued tokenised bonds aggregating ₹ 1,025 crore in the first phase; later stages will extend trading to RFQ platforms and retail investors.

#### II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

- A. ₹ 20,804 Crore Railway Multitracking Projects Approved:** The Cabinet approved eight railway multitracking projects covering 1,196 km across nine states. The additional capacity will reduce congestion on high density routes, improve freight movement and strengthen connectivity to industrial, mining and agricultural regions.



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**B. Domestic Manufacturing Requirements Tightened For E-Buses And E-Trucks:** The Ministry of Heavy Industries amended the Phased Manufacturing Programme under PM E-DRIVE, requiring domestic fitment of traction motor components from 1st September 2026 and component-level domestic manufacturing of e-truck powertrains from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027.

**C. PNGRB Notifies Databank And Information System Regulations, 2026:** Companies across refining, processing, storage, transport, distribution and marketing of petroleum and natural gas must report gas sales, pipeline throughput, tariffs, safety incidents and consumer complaints, integrate pipeline and depot data with NHIMS on a D+1 basis and report major accidents within 4 hours. Repeated reporting failures attract penalties of up to ₹ 1 crore per contravention.

### III. Human Development And Social Welfare

**A. E-Commerce Rules Strengthened Against Dark Patterns and Misleading Discounts:** The Government amended the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules to require disclosure of search-ranking parameters, identification of sponsored listings and display of the lowest price offered during the preceding 30 days when advertising discounts. Annual dark-pattern audits and clearer seller disclosures will make deceptive pricing and undisclosed preferential rankings harder to use.

**B. Allied and Healthcare Degree Standards Revised:** The UGC notified 33 new and 21 restructured undergraduate and postgraduate degrees under the NCAHP framework, specifying common nomenclature, duration and entry qualifications. The changes will reduce variation across institutions and provide students and employers with clearer, nationally recognised qualifications.

**C. National HPV Vaccination Campaign Crosses 80 Lakh Doses:** More than 80 lakh HPV vaccine doses have been administered to 14-year-old girls under the national campaign. Expanded coverage and U-WIN-based monitoring will help identify missed beneficiaries and reduce the long term incidence of HPV related cervical cancer.

### IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

**A. DAC Approves ₹1.10 Lakh Crore of Defence Acquisitions:** The Defence Acquisition Council granted in-principle approval for equipment including CBRN reconnaissance vehicles, advanced helicopters, mine laying systems, naval radars, marine gas turbines and electronic jammers. Approximately 98% of the procurement will be sourced from Indian industry, strengthening operational capability and domestic defence manufacturing.

**B. Ten-Year Defence Diplomacy Roadmap Unveiled:** The Ministry of Defence introduced the RAKSHA roadmap for 2026 to 2036, covering strategic partnerships, military capacity building, defence exports and maritime security. The framework will support longer term cooperation with partner countries, improve military interoperability and



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create sustained export opportunities for Indian defence companies.

**C. BRICS Adopts New Delhi Declaration:** The 18<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration, supporting UN Security Council reform and greater Global South representation, and advancing cooperation on cross-border payments, local currency trade settlement, resilient supply chains, critical minerals, digital technologies and AI.

### V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

**A. DILRMP 3.0 Launched for Integrated Digital Land Records:** The Government launched the next phase of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme to integrate land records, registration, cadastral maps and revenue court information. A unified system will make ownership verification easier and reduce delays and disputes in land transactions.

**B. Pension Sakhi Initiative Launched for Rural Pension Access:** The Ministry of Rural Development and PFRDA signed an agreement to train women from self help groups as Pension Sakhis. They will support enrolment, awareness and servicing under pension schemes, improving access for rural workers who may have limited contact with formal financial institutions.



## भारत शासन वॉच

### विकसित भारत के नीतिगत और प्रशासनिक विकास

(1 सितंबर, 2026 - 15 सितंबर, 2026)

#### कार्यकारी सारांश

यह लेख 1 सितंबर 2026 से 15 सितंबर 2026 के बीच केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लिए गए प्रमुख आर्थिक और नीतिगत निर्णयों का विवरण प्रस्तुत करता है। इनमें से कुछ प्रमुख घोषणाएं और नीतिगत अपडेट निम्नलिखित हैं:

#### I. आर्थिक विकास एवं संरचनात्मक सुधार

- A. यू.पी.आई व्यापारी (मर्चेन्ट) लेन-देन के लिए चरणबद्ध एम.डी.आर (MDR) व्यवस्था लागू:** 15 अक्टूबर 2026 से, ₹ 2,000 से अधिक के यू.पी.आई व्यापारी लेन-देन पर 0.4% एम.डी.आर लागू होगा। जिसकी अधिकतम सीमा ₹75,000 या उससे अधिक के लेन-देन के लिए ₹300 निर्धारित की गई है। प्रतिमाह ₹1 लाख तक प्राप्त करने वाले छोटे व्यापारियों को इससे मुक्त रखा जाएगा, जबकि उपभोक्ताओं से कोई शुल्क नहीं लिया जाएगा और व्यापारी इस शुल्क को ग्राहकों पर स्थानांतरित नहीं कर सकेंगे।
- B. भारतीय निर्यात के लिए इन्वेंट्री आधारित ई-कॉमर्स की अनुमति:** वित्त मंत्रालय ने विदेशी मुद्रा प्रबंधन (गैर-ऋण साधन) नियम, 2019 में संशोधन किया है, जिससे विदेशी निवेश वाली ई-कॉमर्स संस्थाओं को भारत में बने सामान को इन्वेंट्री के रूप में रखने और उन्हें सीधे विदेशी ग्राहकों को बेचने की अनुमति मिल गई है। अब डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म भारतीय उत्पादों को बड़ी मात्रा में खरीद सकते हैं और अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऑर्डर को सीधे पूरा कर सकते हैं।
- C. IFSCA ने बाजार दुरुपयोग नियमों को अधिसूचित किया:** IFSCA ने IFSC प्रतिभूति बाजारों में इनसाइडर ट्रेडिंग, स्पूफिंग, वॉश सेल्स, सर्कुलर ट्रेडिंग, फ्रंट रनिंग और गलत बिक्री को प्रतिबंधित करने वाले नियमों को अधिसूचित किया है। सूचीबद्ध संस्थाओं को आंतरिक नियंत्रण व्यवस्था लागू करनी होगी, और अब सेबी (SEBI) के पुराने नियम IFSC पर लागू नहीं होंगे।
- D. 1 अक्टूबर 2026 से लागू होगा बैंकर्स बुक्स साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 2026:** वित्त मंत्रालय ने इस अधिनियम के लागू होने की तिथि अधिसूचित की है, जो 1891 के पुराने कानून का स्थान लेता है तथा साक्ष्य के रूप में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक रिकॉर्ड, लेन-देन लॉग और डिजिटल रूप से सुरक्षित खातों के उपयोग के नियम निर्धारित करता है।
- E. सेबी और आर.बी.आई ने टोकनयुक्त कॉर्पोरेट बांड के लिए डिमैट 2.0 पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया:** सेबी और आर.बी.आई ने डिस्ट्रीब्यूटेड लेजर पर डिजिटल टोकन के रूप में कॉर्पोरेट बांड जारी करने, रखने, व्यापार करने और निपटान के लिए एक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया है। यह त्वरित निपटान और स्वचालित ब्याज तथा मोचन (रिडेम्पशन) भुगतानों के लिए आर.बी.आई के थोक सी.बी.डी.सी (e₹) से जुड़ा है। पहले चरण में आर.ई.सी, एलएंडटी और



## कार्यकारी सारांश

आई.आई.एफ.एल ने कुल ₹1,025 करोड़ के टोकनयुक्त बांड जारी किए; अगले चरणों में इसका विस्तार आर.एफ.क्यू (RFQ) प्लेटफॉर्म और खुदरा निवेशकों तक किया जाएगा।

## II. बुनियादी ढांचा, प्रौद्योगिकी और सतत विकास

- A. ₹20,804 करोड़ की रेलवे मल्टीट्रैकिंग परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी:** मंत्रिमंडल ने नौ राज्यों में 1,196 किलोमीटर की दूरी को कवर करने वाली आठ रेलवे मल्टीट्रैकिंग परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी है। इस अतिरिक्त क्षमता से अधिक यातायात वाले मार्गों पर भीड़भाड़ कम होगी, माल ढुलाई में सुधार होगा तथा औद्योगिक, खनन और कृषि क्षेत्रों से कनेक्टिविटी मजबूत होगी।
- B. ई-बसों और ई-ट्रकों के लिए घरेलू निर्माण नियमों में सख्ती:** भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय ने 'पीएम ई-ड्राइव' (PM E-DRIVE) के अंतर्गत चरणबद्ध निर्माण कार्यक्रम में संशोधन किया है, जिसके अनुसार 1 सितंबर 2026 से ट्रैक्शन मोटर घटकों की घरेलू फिटिंग और 1 अप्रैल 2027 से ई-ट्रक पावरट्रेन के घटक-स्तरीय घरेलू निर्माण को अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है।
- C. PNGRB ने डेटाबैंक और सूचना प्रणाली विनियम, 2026 अधिसूचित किए:** पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस के शोधन, प्रसंस्करण, भंडारण, परिवहन, वितरण और विपणन से जुड़ी कंपनियों को अब गैस बिक्री, पाइपलाइन क्षमता उपयोग (श्रूपुट), शुल्क (टैरिफ), सुरक्षा घटनाओं और उपभोक्ता शिकायतों की रिपोर्ट देनी होगी। कंपनियों को D+1 आधार पर NHIMS के साथ अपने पाइपलाइन और डिपो डेटा का एकीकरण करना होगा तथा किसी भी बड़ी दुर्घटना की सूचना 4 घंटे के भीतर देनी होगी। रिपोर्टिंग में बार-बार विफल रहने पर प्रति उल्लंघन ₹1 करोड़ तक का जुर्माना लगाया जा सकता है।

## III. मानव विकास एवं समाज कल्याण

- A. डार्क पैटर्न और भ्रामक छूट के खिलाफ ई-कॉमर्स नियम सख्त किए गए:** सरकार ने उपभोक्ता संरक्षण (ई-कॉमर्स) नियमों में संशोधन किया है, जिसके अंतर्गत खोज-रैंकिंग (सर्च-रैंकिंग) मापदंडों का खुलासा, प्रायोजित लिस्टिंग की पहचान और छूट का विज्ञापन करते समय पिछले 30 दिनों में दी गई न्यूनतम कीमत को प्रदर्शित करना अनिवार्य कर दिया गया है। वार्षिक डार्क-पैटर्न ऑडिट और विक्रेताओं के स्पष्ट खुलासे से भ्रामक मूल्य निर्धारण और अधोषित प्राथमिक रैंकिंग का उपयोग करना कठिन होगा।
- B. एलाइड और हेल्थकेयर डिग्री मानकों में संशोधन:** यू.जी.सी (UGC) ने एन.सी.ए.एच.पी (NCAHP) ढांचे के अंतर्गत 33 नई और 21 पुनर्गठित स्नातक तथा स्नातकोत्तर डिग्रियों को अधिसूचित किया है, जिनमें समान नामकरण, अवधि और प्रवेश योग्यताएं तय की गई हैं। इन बदलावों से संस्थानों के बीच अंतर कम होगा और छात्रों तथा नियोक्ताओं को स्पष्ट, राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त योग्यताएं मिलेंगी।



## कार्यकारी सारांश

**C. राष्ट्रीय एच.पी.वी टीकाकरण अभियान 80 लाख खुराक के पार:** राष्ट्रीय अभियान के अंतर्गत 14 वर्ष की बालिकाओं को एच.पी.वी टीके की 80 लाख से अधिक खुराकें दी जा चुकी हैं। विस्तारित कवरेज और यू-विन (U-WIN) आधारित निगरानी से छूटे हुए लाभार्थियों की पहचान करने और एच.पी.वी से जुड़े सर्वाइकल कैंसर के दीर्घकालिक मामलों में कमी लाने में मदद मिलेगी।

## IV. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और विदेश नीति

**A. डी.ए.सी ने ₹1.10 लाख करोड़ के रक्षा अधिग्रहण को स्वीकृति दी:** रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद ने सी.बी.आर.एन (CBRN) टोही वाहनों, उन्नत हेलीकॉप्टरों, बारूदी सुरंग बिछाने प्रणालियों, नौसेना रडार, मरीन गैस टर्बाइन और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक जैमर सहित उपकरणों के लिए सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति दे दी है। लगभग 98% खरीद भारतीय उद्योग से की जाएगी, जिससे परिचालन क्षमता और घरेलू रक्षा विनिर्माण मजबूत होगा।

**B. दस-वर्षीय रक्षा कूटनीति रोडमैप का अनावरण:** रक्षा मंत्रालय ने 2026 से 2036 के लिए 'रक्षा' (RAKSHA) रोडमैप प्रस्तुत किया है, जिसमें रणनीतिक साझेदारी, सैन्य क्षमता निर्माण, रक्षा निर्यात और समुद्री सुरक्षा शामिल हैं। यह ढांचा भागीदार देशों के साथ दीर्घकालिक सहयोग का समर्थन करेगा, सैन्य अंतर-संचालनीयता में सुधार करेगा और भारतीय रक्षा कंपनियों के लिए निरंतर निर्यात अवसर पैदा करेगा।

**C. ब्रिक्स ने नई दिल्ली घोषणा को अपनाया:** 18वें ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में सुधार और अधिक 'ग्लोबल साउथ' प्रतिनिधित्व का समर्थन करते हुए नई दिल्ली घोषणा को अपनाया, तथा सीमा पार भुगतानों, स्थानीय मुद्रा में व्यापार निपटान, लचीली आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं, महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों, डिजिटल तकनीकों और ए.आई पर सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाया।

## V. ग्रामीण एवं कृषि रूपांतरण

**A. एकीकृत डिजिटल भू-रिकॉर्ड के लिए DILRMP 3.0 का शुभारंभ:** सरकार ने भू-अभिलेखों, पंजीकरण, कैडस्ट्रल मानचित्रों और राजस्व न्यायालय की जानकारी को एकीकृत करने के लिए डिजिटल इंडिया भूमि अभिलेख आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम (DILRMP) के अगले चरण की शुरुआत की है। एक एकीकृत प्रणाली से स्वामित्व का सत्यापन आसान होगा तथा भूमि के लेन-देन में देरी और विवाद कम होंगे।

**B. ग्रामीण पेंशन पहुंच के लिए 'पेंशन सखी' पहल की शुरुआत:** ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय और पी.एफ.आर.डी.ए (PFRDA) ने स्वयं सहायता समूहों की महिलाओं को 'पेंशन सखी' के रूप में प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। वे पेंशन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत नामांकन, जागरूकता और सेवाएं प्रदान करने में सहायता करेंगी, जिससे औपचारिक वित्तीय संस्थानों तक सीमित पहुंच वाले ग्रामीण श्रमिकों के लिए पेंशन सुविधाओं की पहुंच बेहतर होगी।



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## I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. NPCI Introduces Tiered MDR Framework For Select UPI Merchant Transactions - National Payments Corporation of India

**Status:** Announced | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

NPCI has introduced a tiered MDR framework for UPI merchant payments, effective 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026. Transactions above ₹ 2,000 will attract 0.4% MDR, capped at ₹ 300 for payments of ₹ 75,000 or more, with concessional rates for essential services and capital-market transactions. Small merchants receiving up to ₹ 1 lakh per month will remain exempt. Separately, RuPay debit card payments and UPI transactions up to ₹ 2,000 have been notified under Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, prohibiting direct or indirect charges on payers and recipients. The framework protects consumers and micro-businesses while generating revenue for payment infrastructure and cybersecurity.

#### 2. Government Amends FEMA Non Debt Instruments Rules To Permit Inventory Based E-Commerce Exclusively For Indian Exports – Ministry of Finance

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

The Ministry has amended the Foreign Exchange Management (Non debt Instruments) Rules, 2019 to allow e-commerce entities with foreign investment to use an inventory based model specifically for exporting goods made or produced in India. The new provision allows such entities to purchase and hold Indian products as inventory and sell them directly to customers overseas, subject to the Foreign Trade Policy and applicable FEMA export rules. Existing restrictions that apply to **inventory ownership** and **B2C operations** will not apply to these export transactions. The reform will make it easier for e-commerce platforms to buy Indian products in bulk, hold them in inventory and fulfil international orders directly, rather than operating only as a marketplace connecting overseas buyers with Indian sellers.

#### 3. DGFT Modifies Processing Timeline And Invites Daily Batch Applications For Balance Raw Sugar TRQ Quota – Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has changed the conditions for importing raw sugar under the **10 lakh MT duty free TRQ**. Importers must now process the imported raw sugar into white/refined sugar and sell it in India within **two months of filing the bill of entry**, instead of following the earlier fixed 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2026 deadline. DGFT has also opened applications for the remaining **2.02 lakh MT** of the quota after 7.97 lakh MT was already allocated. Applications will be processed in daily batches, with the remaining quota distributed on a pro rata basis



when demand exceeds the available quantity. The two month processing window will bring imported sugar into the domestic market faster and prevent quota holders from holding imported stocks for longer periods.

**4. Government Reduces Nationwide Sugar Stockholding Limits For Dealers - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

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

The Department of Food and Public Distribution has reduced the maximum sugar stock that dealers can hold from 4,000 quintals to 2,000 quintals, effective 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2026. Kolkata and its extended metropolitan areas will continue to have the higher 4,000 quintal limit. Dealers must also continue to clear stocks within 30 days and report their holdings on the Food Stock Monitoring Portal. The lower limit will push dealers to release sugar into the market more frequently instead of building large inventories, increasing near term supply during the festive demand period. This will help contain sudden price increases, although dealers may need to purchase and replenish stocks more frequently to operate within the lower ceiling.

**5. India And MERCOSUR Launch PTA Expansion Negotiations And Sign Protocol For Electronic Certificates Of Origin - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

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

India and MERCOSUR have launched negotiations to expand the existing **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** to cover additional areas of mutual interest and deepen economic relations. Both sides are currently finalising the Terms of Reference, which will determine the scope and structure of the expanded agreement. Separately, India and MERCOSUR signed the First Additional Protocol to the PTA to facilitate the acceptance of electronic Certificates of Origin. The Protocol provides that electronically issued and signed Certificates of Origin will have the same legal validity as paper certificates, subject to the respective domestic legislation of the parties. The measure is intended to facilitate paperless trade, reduce documentation and processing time, and improve the efficiency of preferential trade. The Protocol will come into force after completion of the respective internal procedures and notification between the parties.

**6. IFSCA Notifies Prohibition Of Market Abuse In Securities Markets Regulations, 2026 - International Financial Services Centres Authority**

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

IFSCA has introduced a new framework to prevent insider trading, market manipulation and other unfair practices in securities markets in the IFSC. The regulations prohibit trading using unpublished price sensitive or other material non public information and cover practices such as spoofing, wash sales, circular trading, front running and mis-selling. They also require listed entities to put internal controls in place and require designated persons and their immediate relatives to



disclose trades above **\$ 25,000 in a quarter**. With these rules, the earlier SEBI insider trading and unfair trade practice regulations no longer apply to the IFSC, with ongoing proceedings preserved. The rules strengthen the detection of insider trading and market manipulation in IFSC markets, improving investor protection and confidence.

#### 7. **SEBI Eases Compliance Requirements For FPIs Investing Exclusively In Government Securities - Securities and Exchange Board of India**

**Status:** Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI

SEBI has removed the requirement for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) investing only in Central Government Securities, State Development Loans (SDLs) and Treasury Bills to report investor group details. The relaxation applies to both the General Route and the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). The change follows the removal of concentration limits for FPI investments in government securities under the General Route by RBI in June 2026. SEBI has also asked depositories, custodians and designated depository participants to update their systems to implement the change. The exemption reduces the documentation and onboarding work for FPIs that invest only in sovereign debt. It will make India's G-Sec market easier for large foreign investors to access, particularly those with complex group structures that previously had to provide consolidated investor information.

#### 8. **Government Amends Pattern Of Investment For EPFO Exempted Establishments To Include Rupee Bonds Of Multilateral Development Banks - Ministry of Labour and Employment**

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

The Ministry has amended the investment pattern for provident fund trusts of exempted establishments, allowing them to invest in rupee-denominated bonds issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the New Development Bank (NDB). The change gives provident fund trusts another relatively high credit quality debt instrument for investing long term retirement savings, reducing the need to concentrate their debt portfolio in existing instruments. Since the bonds are **rupee denominated**, trusts can gain exposure to multilateral development institutions without taking direct foreign currency risk. Thus, greater access to such bonds could also channel a larger pool of provident fund savings towards **long term development and infrastructure financing** through multilateral institutions.



### 9. SEBI Revises Position Limits And Penalty Provisions For Commodity Derivatives - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

**Status:** Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI, The Economic Times

SEBI has revised the framework governing client level position limits and penalties for breaches in the commodity derivatives segment, with immediate effect. The revised framework links penalties for position limit violations to the extent and duration of the breach, with monetary penalties of up to ₹ 2 lakh for violations exceeding 2% of the prescribed limit. Repeated breaches may attract additional penalties and one-day square-off action. SEBI has also revised the classification of agricultural commodities and prescribed client level position limits based on the deliverable supply of the underlying commodity. The changes update the position limit and penalty framework introduced in 2017 and require commodity exchanges to implement the revised provisions.

### 10. IFSCA Amends Fund Management Regulations Governing Investment, Disclosure And Sponsor Contributions - IFSCA

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

IFSCA has amended its Fund Management Regulations with immediate effect. The amendments revise minimum contribution requirements for Fund Management Entities, exempt relocated and specified passive schemes from mandatory contributions, and permit venture capital schemes to participate in later funding rounds of companies older than ten years, subject to safeguards. They also prescribe disclosure frequencies for NAV and portfolios, regulate differential rights through senior and subordinate units, and require pre-launch investor funds to be held in liquid, capital preserving instruments. The changes give fund managers greater flexibility in structuring and relocating schemes to the IFSC while strengthening valuation, disclosure and investor protection requirements.

### 11. RBI Aligns Local Area Bank CRR And SLR Framework With Scheduled Bank Requirements – Reserve Bank of India

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

The Reserve Bank of India has amended the Local Area Banks Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio Directions, 2025 following the inclusion of Coastal Local Area Bank Limited in the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934. The revised framework introduces requirements applicable to scheduled Local Area Banks, including incremental CRR provisions and minimum daily CRR maintenance of **90% of the prescribed requirement** during a reporting fortnight. It also specifies the treatment of eligible liabilities for CRR purposes and revises the penalty framework for CRR and SLR shortfalls. The amendments take effect from 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026.



## **12. RBI Shortens Exemption Window For Advances Against FCNR(B) And NRE Deposits Under Priority Sector Lending Framework – Reserve Bank of India**

**Status:** Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has amended the Priority Sector Lending Targets and Classification Directions, 2025 to revise the period for which certain advances against fresh FCNR(B) and NRE deposits are excluded from the calculation of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) for priority-sector lending targets. The eligibility cut-off has been brought forward from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026. The exemption covers advances against fresh FCNR(B) deposits of three to five years mobilised between 8<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 and advances against NRE term deposits of three years or more mobilised between 19<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026, including deposits renewed upon maturity. The amendment takes effect immediately.

### **B. Announcements**

#### **1. India's Sovereign Credit Rating Upgraded To 'A-' With Stable Outlook By Japan Credit Rating Agency – Ministry of Finance**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry welcomed the **Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR)** upgrading India's long term foreign and local currency issuer ratings by one notch from '**BBB+**' to '**A-**', with a Stable Outlook. JCR also raised India's country ceiling to 'A'. The upgrade reflects strong economic growth, with real GDP growing by 7.8% in Q1 of FY 2026-27, along with higher public investment and an improvement in the Central Government's fiscal deficit from 4.7% of GDP in FY 2024-25 to 4.4% in FY 2025-26. JCR also cited stronger banking sector asset quality, a contained current account deficit and adequate foreign exchange reserves. The higher rating will reduce the risk premium attached to Indian government and corporate borrowing in international markets, potentially lowering financing costs for future foreign currency debt. It will also make Indian bonds and other assets more attractive to investors whose mandates require a minimum credit rating, potentially widening the pool of foreign capital available to Indian borrowers.

#### **2. Government Notifies 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2026 As Effective Date For The Enforcement Of The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 – Ministry of Finance**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has notified 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2026 as the date on which the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 will come into force, replacing the 1891 law. The new framework updates the rules for using banking records as evidence in legal proceedings, including electronically generated records, transaction logs, printouts and digitally stored accounting records. It also provides clearer certification procedures and reduces the need for witnesses for routine verification of bank records. The new



rules will make bank records easier to produce and verify in financial and commercial disputes, particularly where evidence exists primarily in digital form. This will reduce delays in disputes involving loans, payments and account transactions, particularly where records are stored electronically rather than on paper. This will reduce the cost and time of financial litigation for banks and customers, while encouraging banks to maintain stronger, standardised digital record systems because those records can be directly used as court evidence.

### **3. Government Constitutes 31-Member Joint Parliamentary Committee To Examine FCRA Amendment Bill - Ministry of Home Affairs**

**Source:** All India Radio

The Government has constituted a 31-Member Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. The committee comprises 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha and is chaired by Lok Sabha MP Shri Sanjay Jaiswal. The Bill, introduced in March 2026, proposes amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, governing the receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions in India. The Bill was referred to the JPC by Parliament on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2026 for further scrutiny. The committee is expected to examine the proposed changes before submitting its report ahead of the Winter Session.

### **4. High Level Committee On Aircraft Leasing And Financing Holds First Meeting To Develop A Globally Competitive Aircraft Leasing Ecosystem - Ministry of Civil Aviation**

**Source:** PIB

The High Level Committee on Aircraft Leasing and Financing held its first meeting to examine measures for developing a globally competitive leasing ecosystem in India. It discussed greater bank credit for aircraft financing, rupee denominated financing, clarity on the applicability of General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR), possible changes to the tax treaty framework with Ireland and partnerships for technical skills. The Committee agreed that the proposals would be examined with the concerned ministries, regulators and industry stakeholders through a coordinated and time bound process. Addressing these issues could lower financing uncertainty for airlines and lessors and enable more aircraft leasing activity to be conducted through GIFT IFSC.

### **5. RBI Announces ₹ 1 Lakh Crore Open Market Sales Of Government Securities To Absorb Surplus - Reserve Bank of India**

**Source:** RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced open market sale auctions of Government of India securities worth ₹ 1 lakh crore to manage prevailing and evolving liquidity conditions in the financial system. The sales will be conducted in



three tranches of ₹ 50,000 crore on 17<sup>th</sup> September, ₹ 25,000 crore on 21<sup>st</sup> September and ₹ 25,000 crore on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2026, using a multi-security auction with the multiple price method. The first tranche will comprise six government securities maturing between 2029 and 2032. The operation will withdraw durable rupee liquidity from the banking system by selling government securities and follows a period of substantial surplus liquidity. The scheduled auctions will provide the RBI with a direct instrument for absorbing excess liquidity while also affecting the supply of government securities available to the market.

## II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. Ministry Of Railways Approves ₹ 800 Crore Modernisation Package Spanning Kavach 4.0, Electronic Interlocking, Freight Bypasses, And Yard Remodelling Across Four Railway Zones – Ministry of Railways

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

The Ministry has approved four projects worth ₹ 800 crore across Northern, South Eastern, East Central and Western Railways. The package includes ₹ 170 crore for **Kavach 4.0** across the remaining 712 Route Kilometres (Rkm) of Moradabad Division, ₹ 233 crore for electronic interlocking at 21 stations in Samastipur Division, an ₹ 272 crore 11 km freight bypass between Adra and Joychandipahar, and ₹ 125 crore for remodelling Bhavnagar Para yard. Wider Kavach coverage can reduce the risk of Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD) related collisions and unsafe train movements, while modern electronic interlocking can detect signalling faults faster and support safer route setting. The freight bypass can separate mineral and freight traffic from congested sections, allowing additional freight rakes and potentially reducing delays to passenger services. At Bhavnagar Para, shifting stabling and maintenance activities away from the main terminus will reduce rake detention and turnaround time, freeing platform and yard capacity for passenger operations.

#### 2. Ministry Of Heavy Industries Amends Phased Manufacturing Programme For E-Buses And E-Trucks Under PM E-DRIVE Scheme – Ministry of Heavy Industries

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

The Ministry has amended the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) for electric buses and trucks under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme. The amendments introduce progressively stricter domestic manufacturing requirements for key powertrain components. For e-buses, traction motors must include domestic rotor, stator, bearing, enclosure, connector and cable fitment from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2026, with domestic magnet and shaft fitment added from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2027. For e-trucks, traction motors, transmission units and motor controllers must move to more extensive component level domestic manufacturing and assembly from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2027. The tighter localisation requirements will push manufacturers to source more critical



components from Indian suppliers, encouraging investment in domestic production of magnets, motor components, PCBs, high voltage connectors and power electronics, while increasing compliance and transition costs for manufacturers seeking PM E-DRIVE incentives.

### 3. PNGRB Notifies Databank And Information System Regulations, 2026 Mandating Comprehensive Reporting Across Gas Networks And NHIMS Integration – Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board

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

PNGRB has introduced a common reporting framework for companies involved in refining, processing, storage, transport, distribution and marketing of petroleum and natural gas. The rules require regular reporting on areas such as gas sales, pipeline throughput, infrastructure, LNG terminal utilisation, tariffs, safety incidents and consumer complaints. They also require pipeline and depot data to be integrated with the **National Hydrocarbon Information Management System (NHIMS)** through APIs on a D+1 basis. Major accidents must be reported to PNGRB within **4 hours**, followed by an investigation report within **48 hours**. Real time and standardised data will allow PNGRB to identify unusual changes in pipeline flows, gas quality or petroleum dispatches sooner and compare performance across networks.

### 4. Cabinet Approves ₹ 20,804 Crore For 1,196 Km Of Railway Multitracking Projects Across Nine States – Ministry of Railways

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved eight railway multitracking projects worth ₹ 20,804 crore, covering approximately **1,196 km** across **9 states** and 31 districts. The projects comprise five works across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, and three works across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Planned for completion by 2029–30, the projects are aligned with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan and will augment existing railway capacity, ease congestion and improve multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency. The projects will enhance connectivity to around 6,911 villages with a population of approximately 1.08 crore and are expected to generate an additional 74 MTPA of freight capacity. The capacity expansion will support the movement of coal, cement, iron and steel, containers, automobiles, foodgrains, petroleum products and fertilisers, while reducing logistics costs and contributing to lower oil imports and carbon emissions.



## B. Announcements

### 1. ISRO Successfully Places EOS-05 In Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit - Department of Space

**Source:** ISRO

ISRO has successfully launched the GSLV-F17 mission and placed the 2,367 kg EOS-05 into its designated Sub-GTO. The spacecraft will be moved to a geosynchronous orbit about 36,000 km above Earth, making it India's first dedicated Earth imaging satellite in this type of orbit. Its near continuous view of India and surrounding ocean areas will support disaster management, flood and cyclone tracking, weather forecasting, environmental monitoring, agriculture, water resources and border surveillance. Continuous imaging will provide more frequent updates during fast moving events such as **cyclones, floods and other disasters**, reducing the gaps between observations that occur with satellites making periodic passes. Earlier and more persistent information will help agencies track the movement of weather systems, identify affected areas and direct response resources faster. The same capability will support near **real time monitoring of border areas and maritime zones**, allowing unusual activity or changes on the ground and at sea to be detected sooner.

### 2. UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Face Authentication SDK And Sandbox To Expand Digital Authentication Ecosystem - Ministry of Electronics & IT

**Source:** PIB

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched an Aadhaar Face Authentication Software Development Kit (SDK) and Sandbox to enable Government departments, banks, fintech companies and other ecosystem partners to integrate and test face authentication within their applications. The SDK incorporates AI/ML based liveness detection and anti spoofing capabilities, while the Sandbox provides a controlled environment for entities to test authentication workflows before production deployment. Aadhaar Face Authentication has already recorded over 500 crore transactions and is being used by nearly 200 entities. The new developer tools are intended to simplify integration and expand the use of consent based, contactless Aadhaar authentication across public and private digital services.

### 3. Civil Aviation Ministry Directs Time Bound Action To Simplify And Automate Building Height NOC Process - Ministry of Civil Aviation

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has directed the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and concerned officials to work out modalities within **15 days** to simplify, automate and decentralise the process for aviation-related building-height No Objection Certificates (NOCs). The proposed measures include providing permissible building-height information to applicants at the initial stage, particularly in **Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad**,



reducing physical verification and documentation requirements for Aeronautical Studies, and exploring issuance of NOCs at the **Urban Local Body (ULB) level**. The review also covers the existing **NOCAS coverage of 20 km for VFR and 56 km for IFR operations**. The proposed changes are intended to make clearances more predictable and time-bound while retaining aviation-safety requirements.

### III. Human Development And Social Welfare

#### A. Policy Updates

1. **Government Notifies Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) (Amendment) Rules, 2026 To Curb Dark Patterns, Mandate Price History Transparency, And Regulate Algorithmic Search Rankings – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

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

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027, the amended rules require e-commerce marketplaces to disclose search ranking parameters, label sponsored listings and display the lowest price offered during the previous 30 days when advertising discounts. Platforms must also conduct annual dark pattern audits, disclose additional charges and strengthen seller, product, return and grievance information. These requirements will make misleading discounts and undisclosed paid rankings harder to use, while requiring platforms to revise their pricing, advertising and search ranking practices.

2. **Allied And Healthcare Education Standards Strengthened Under NCAHP Framework – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**

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

The UGC has notified **33 new and 21 restructured/updated** undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Allied and Healthcare Professions under the regulatory framework of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP). The reform, through the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Specification of Degrees, standardises degree nomenclature, duration and entry qualifications under the “**One Nation, One Curriculum**” framework, covering disciplines including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, optometry, medical laboratory sciences, radiology, respiratory technology and dialysis therapy. NCAHP has also released 18 competency based curricula covering 28 professions, with mandatory implementation of the released curricula from the 2026–27 academic year, including greater emphasis on clinical training and internships.



### 3. Government Invokes Removal Of Difficulties Clause To Constitute National Sports Election Panel – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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

The Ministry has issued the National Sports Governance (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2026 to overcome the gap created by the non constitution of the National Sports Board. The order temporarily allows the Central Government to notify the National Sports Election Panel directly, instead of waiting for recommendations from the Board. The Ministry subsequently constituted a **20-member panel** of former senior election officials to serve as independent Electoral Officers for **elections to National Sports Bodies**. This will reduce disputes over who is eligible to vote or contest and limit repeated challenges to election results. Thus, more **predictable elections** will also make sports federations less vulnerable to prolonged leadership disputes that disrupt recognition, funding or participation in international sporting bodies.

### 4. NHAI Issues Guidelines For Issuance Of Provisional Completion Certificates On National Highways – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

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

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has made plantation compliance a condition for issuing provisional completion certificates and commercial operation dates for highway projects. Contractors must complete plantations on **at least 80%** of the earmarked Right of Way and maintain a **90% sapling survival rate**. Non compliance can result in withheld O&M and annuity payments. Linking payments to survival rates will incentivise contractors to maintain and replace saplings after construction, improving lasting green cover rather than only the number planted.

### 5. Government Notifies CCS (Pension) Amendment Rules Protecting Service Conditions Of Non Absorbed OFB Employees In DPSUs – Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

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

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has amended the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 to protect the service conditions of employees of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) who did not opt for permanent absorption into the seven corporatised Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). These employees will continue on **deemed deputation until superannuation** to the concerned DPSUs, on foreign service terms and without deputation allowance. The amendment prevents non absorbed OFB employees from facing a break or uncertainty in their Central Government service status following OFB's corporatisation. Their continued CCS coverage preserves their existing pensionary position until retirement, while the DPSUs can retain these experienced employees without requiring them to permanently shift out of the Central Government service framework.



## B. Announcements

### 1. Government Expands Calibrated Release Of Onion Buffer Stocks To Ensure Adequate Availability And Price Moderation – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has expanded the release of onion buffer stocks under the **Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)** to maintain supply and control seasonal price increases. NAFED and NCCF are using both rail and road transport, including the dedicated “**Kanda Express**” trains, to move onions to major consumption centres. After 450 MT was sent to Delhi-NCR and 840 MT reached Chennai, around **1,000 MT** has also been moved by road to 19 major consumption centres. Onions are being sold at a subsidised ₹ **35/kg** through NCCF, NAFED, Kendriya Bhandar outlets and mobile vans, while Tamil Nadu plans to distribute its allocation through the PDS. By releasing stocks in high consumption markets during the seasonal supply gap will reduce the scope for sharp retail price increases and limit incentives for traders to hold onions in anticipation of higher prices. Using rail alongside road transport will also allow larger quantities to reach distant markets more quickly, reducing the risk of temporary shortages caused by regional supply imbalances.

### 2. Government Constitutes Task Force To Revive Formula One And Develop Motorsports Ecosystem – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

**Source:** News18

The Government has constituted a high level Task Force, chaired by the Programme Director (YAS), NITI Aayog, to draw up a roadmap for reviving Formula One and the wider motorsports ecosystem. The panel will examine the taxation and other barriers that have held back motorsport events, recommend a policy framework including possible **Public-Private Partnership models**, and assess the feasibility of hosting a Formula One Grand Prix in India in 2028. India last hosted an F1 race at the Buddh International Circuit in 2013, before it was dropped amid taxation, regulatory and financial challenges. A structured framework addressing those obstacles could restore India's place on the F1 calendar and develop motorsports as a driver of tourism, investment and sporting infrastructure.

## IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. BRICS IP Offices Adopt Updated 3 Guidelines To Strengthen Cooperation - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Head of Intellectual Property Offices of BRICS countries have adopted Updated Guidelines to strengthen result oriented cooperation, promote cross border innovation, and support joint efforts in shaping Global IP Standards. The meeting



also noted progress on reinforced patent examination cooperation aimed at reducing backlogs and improving the exchange of patent search results. Other initiatives include patent analytics and landscape studies, cooperation on Geographical Indications and new projects covering IP awareness, FinTech innovation, industrial property commercialisation and best practice sharing.

## **2. India Unveils 10 Year Roadmap For Defence Diplomacy And Global Partnership - Ministry of Defence**

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

The Ministry has unveiled RAKSHA, a defence diplomacy roadmap for 2026–2036 covering strategic partnerships, military capacity building, defence manufacturing and exports, and maritime security. It provides a coordinated framework for the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs and armed forces to expand joint exercises, training, defence exports and maritime cooperation. This will improve interoperability with partner militaries, create longer term export and maintenance opportunities for Indian defence companies, and strengthen coordinated responses to security threats and emergencies in the Indian Ocean Region.

## **3. DAC Approves ₹ 1.10 Lakh Crore Capital Acquisition Proposals For The Defence Forces – Ministry of Defence**

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

The Defence Acquisition Council has granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), an in principle administrative approval, to defence acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹ 1.10 lakh crore. The proposals cover Army mobility, mine laying, bridging, CBRN reconnaissance and helicopter requirements; naval surveillance radars and indigenous marine gas turbines; and Air Force electronic warfare and secure access systems. Indigenous marine gas turbine development will reduce dependence on foreign suppliers for warship propulsion. With ~98% of the proposed procurement intended from Indian industry, the approvals could generate substantial domestic orders and strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing capacity, subject to completion of subsequent procurement and contracting stages.

## **4. India And Belgium Strengthen Defence, Investment And Renewable Energy Cooperation – Ministry of External Affairs**

**Status:** Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** PIB

India and Belgium strengthened bilateral cooperation through the signing of a Letter of Intent on Defence Cooperation, the launch of an Investment Fast-Track Mechanism, and a renewed MoU on Renewable Energy Cooperation. The Defence LoI establishes a framework for regular exchanges, staff talks, education and training, research cooperation and defence-industrial partnerships. The Investment Fast-Track Mechanism will facilitate Belgian investments in India and Indian investments in Belgium, support businesses and address investment bottlenecks.



The renewed Renewable Energy MoU expands cooperation across green hydrogen, solar energy, energy storage, offshore wind, bio energy, small hydropower and pumped storage. Both sides also expressed the objective of doubling bilateral trade over the next five years.

## **B. Announcements**

### **1. BRICS Adopts New Delhi Declaration To Advance Global Governance Reform, Economic Cooperation And Strategic Coordination – Prime Minister’s Office**

**Source:** PIB

The 18<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration, reaffirming cooperation across political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people to people pillars. The declaration supports reform of the UN Security Council and greater representation of the Global South, with China and Russia reiterating support for India and Brazil to play a greater role in the UN, including the Security Council. It also advances cooperation on cross border payments and local currency trade settlements, resilient supply chains, customs cooperation, taxation, critical minerals, digital technologies and AI, while welcoming progress towards the BRICS Economic Partnership 2030. The declaration further strengthens cooperation on climate resilience, urbanisation, health, intellectual property and sustainable development.

### **2. National HPV Vaccination Campaign Administers 80 Lakh Doses To Adolescent Girls – Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**

**Source:** PIB

India has administered more than 80 lakh HPV vaccine doses under the National HPV Vaccination Campaign launched in February 2026. The campaign provides free, voluntary, single dose vaccination to 14-year-old girls, with parental consent, at Government health facilities. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram have achieved full coverage of their identified target populations. District level monitoring through U-WIN will help identify coverage gaps and missed beneficiaries, while expanding vaccination will reduce the long term incidence of HPV related cervical cancer.

## **V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation**

### **A. Policy Updates**

#### **1. Government Notifies Eighth And Ninth Amendments To Plant Quarantine Order, 2003 To Regulate Fresh Produce Imports From Uzbekistan – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

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

The Ministry has amended the Plant Quarantine Order, 2003 to allow commercial imports of **fresh pomegranates and chillies from Uzbekistan**. Pomegranates must



be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate confirming they are free from four specified quarantine pests and diseases, while chillies must be certified free from Tomato russet mite and Tomato brown rugose fruit virus. Both commodities must also be free from soil, plant debris and weed seeds. The new import route will increase the availability of Uzbek pomegranates and chillies in Indian markets and give importers an additional source of supply. The pest specific certification requirements create an early screening barrier against **quarantine pests and plant viruses entering India**, reducing the risk of their spread to domestic farms and the potential crop losses and control costs that could follow.

## 2. Government Launches DILRMP 3.0 To Build Integrated Digital Land Records Infrastructure - Ministry of Rural Development

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

The Ministry has launched the Operational Guidelines for the **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) 3.0**, marking a shift from standalone digitisation towards an integrated digital land administration framework. The programme introduces a GIS enabled Land Stack integrating cadastral maps, Records of Rights, property registrations and relevant court records, while Universal Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN) will provide a 14 digit unique identifier for land parcels. The guidelines also provide for digitisation of legacy records, Registration Repositories, paperless revenue courts and accelerated GIS based urban land mapping under NAKSHA. DILRMP 3.0 will be implemented across all States and Union Territories through 100% central funding under a phased, performance linked mechanism. The initiative improves land record accuracy, interoperability, property verification and access to institutional credit.

### B. Announcements

#### 1. Pension Sakhis To Strengthen Last Mile Pension Access In Rural India - Ministry of Rural Development

**Source:** PIB

The **Department of Rural Development** and the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** have signed an MoU to establish 'Pension Sakhis' as a community-based mechanism for expanding pension awareness and access among rural households under the DAY-NRLM framework. The initiative will leverage the Mission's community network to support awareness, enrolment and post-enrolment assistance for pension schemes, particularly among underserved rural communities. The partnership is aimed at strengthening last-mile delivery of pension services and improving rural financial inclusion through community-based outreach.



## **Annexure-I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates**

### **A. Finance, Taxation And Trade**

#### **1. Government Extends Anti-Dumping Duty On Calcined Gypsum Powder Imports - Ministry of Finance**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Government has extended the anti-dumping duty on calcined gypsum powder and gypsum plaster imported from **Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE** until **16th March 2027**, unless withdrawn or amended earlier. The duty, first imposed in 2021, is calculated where the landed value falls below the prescribed producer and country-specific reference price. The extension will continue protecting domestic gypsum manufacturers from dumped imports, while maintaining higher import costs for construction-material businesses dependent on overseas supplies. The existing duty structure remains unchanged.

#### **2. APEDA Facilitates Flag-Off Of 18 MT Of NPOP-Certified Ethnic Rice From Tripura For Export To Austria And The Netherlands – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

**Source:** PIB

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), has facilitated the export of **18 MT of NPOP certified ethnic rice from Tripura to Austria and the Netherlands**. The consignment includes four traditional rice varieties; Aromatic Kali Khasa, Aromatic Harinarayan, Biron Rice and Maimi Hanga Rice and has been sourced directly from local Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). The initiative uses organic certification, digital traceability and aggregation through FPCs to connect Tripura's small farmers with international buyers. Direct links between FPCs and overseas buyers will give small rice producers access to premium markets that would otherwise be difficult to reach individually. If such exports are scaled up, demand for certified traditional varieties will encourage farmers to maintain these indigenous crops while creating higher value market opportunities for producers in the North East.

#### **3. RBI Recognises Unified Fintech Forum As Self-Regulatory Organisation In FinTech Sector – Reserve Bank of India**

**Source:** RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has recognised the Unified Fintech Forum (UFF) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation in the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT), following its assessment against the eligibility and recognition requirements under RBI's SRO-FT framework. The recognition establishes UFF as a formal industry self-regulatory body with responsibilities relating to professional and ethical standards, regulatory compliance, governance and member oversight within the fintech sector. As an SRO-FT, UFF will be expected to develop and promote industry standards and best practices, facilitate communication between fintech entities and the Reserve Bank,



and support compliance with applicable regulatory requirements. RBI's recognition also places the organisation within the broader regulatory architecture for fintech entities, while the Reserve Bank retains its statutory regulatory and supervisory powers. UFF is the second SRO-FT recognised by RBI, following the recognition of the FinTech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) in August 2024.

#### 4. **Reserve Bank Of India Issues Draft KYC Amendment Directions To Institutionalise Standard Operating Procedure On Money Mule Accounts And Temporary Debit Holds – Reserve Bank of India**

**Source:** RBI

The RBI has proposed amendments to its KYC Directions introducing a standard procedure for dealing with suspected money mule accounts linked to cyber fraud. Banks would be able to place **temporary debit holds** on suspicious transactions, with transaction level holds preferred over freezing an entire account. Customers would be informed of the hold and given 20 days to provide an explanation, while banks would have to review the response within 10 days and remove the hold if no lawful continuation order is received within the prescribed period. The SOP will allow banks to stop suspected fraud proceeds from being withdrawn or moved further while an investigation is still underway. The fixed review and automatic release timelines will further reduce prolonged account freezes, while giving law enforcement agencies a defined window to seek continuation of the hold when there is evidence of criminal activity.

#### 5. **SEBI And RBI Launch Demat 2.0 Pilot For Tokenised Corporates Bonds – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

**Source:** SEBI

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have launched the '**Demat 2.0**' pilot to test the issuance, holding, trading and settlement of corporate bonds as digital tokens on a distributed ledger. The infrastructure connects with the RBI's wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency (e₹) through its Unified Market Interface, enabling atomic settlement and automated interest and redemption payments through smart contracts. Three companies REC Limited, L&T Limited and IIFL have issued tokenised bonds aggregating **₹ 1,025 crore** during the first phase. The pilot is being implemented in phases, with subsequent stages planned to extend trading through existing Request for Quote (RFQ) platforms and access to retail investors. The experience from the pilot will inform any wider rollout of tokenised corporate bonds.



## 6. SEBI Extends Accredited Investor Compliance Timeline For Angel Funds By One Year – Securities and Exchange Board of India

**Source:** SEBI

SEBI has extended by **one year** the timeline for Angel Funds to comply with the requirement relating to **Accredited Investors (AIs)**. The extension applies to the mandate requiring Angel Funds to ensure that their investors meet the prescribed Accredited Investor criteria, providing existing Angel Funds additional time to transition to the revised requirement. The measure modifies the implementation timeline without removing the underlying Accredited Investor requirement.

## 7. IFSCA Allows Extension Of Validity Of Expired Placement Memorandums For IFSC Funds – International Financial Services Centres Authority

**Source:** IFSCA

IFSCA has allowed Fund Management Entities (FMEs) in the IFSC to seek an extension of an expired placement memorandum. Under the Fund Management Regulations, 2025, the placement memorandum of a Venture Capital Scheme or Restricted Scheme is valid for 12 months and may be extended in six month blocks. Post expiry extensions are subject to an extension fee equal to 50% of the fresh scheme filing fee per block, plus a late fee equal to 50% of the extension fee. No material changes may be made to the scheme's name, objective, strategy, structure, category or nature. The FME must bear the late fee and cannot pass it on to the scheme or its investors. This allows funds that miss the first close deadline to regularise the memorandum without re-filing, while maintaining regulatory discipline.

## 8. IFSCA Amends Capital Market Intermediaries Regulations To Expand Policy Flexibility For Credit Rating Agencies – International Financial Services Centres Authority

**Source:** Gazette of India

The IFSCA has amended its rules for Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) operating in the IFSC. The change allows CRAs to use situations covered under their **own board approved policies** when deciding whether a credit rating on an existing debt instrument should be withdrawn, suspended or reviewed. This gives CRAs more room to deal with situations that may not be specifically listed in the regulations. CRAs will respond more easily when an issuer or debt instrument faces an unusual situation that requires a rating to be reconsidered. Over time, this will reduce delays in handling such cases and give issuers and investors clearer expectations about how rating changes will be dealt with.



## 9. IFSCA Amends Payment And Receipt Of Premium Regulations To Align Statutory Definition Of Insurance And Reinsurance Consideration – International Financial Services Centres Authority

**Source:** Gazette of India

The IFSCA has amended its rules on the payment and receipt of insurance premiums to clarify what counts as a **“premium” for reinsurance business**. The amendment links the definition to the Insurance Act, 1938 and specifically clarifies that, for reinsurance, premium means the amount paid or payable under a reinsurance contract to cover the underlying risk. This brings the IFSC rules in line with the statutory definition used under the Insurance Act. The clearer definition will reduce uncertainty when insurers, reinsurers and IFSC insurance offices structure reinsurance contracts and settle premium payments. This will make cross border reinsurance transactions easier to process because there is less scope for disagreement over which payments fall within the premium rules.

## 10. CERC Adopts Tariffs For 1,200 MW Solar Projects With Energy Storage – Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

**Source:** CERC

CERC has adopted tariffs of **₹ 3.12 to ₹ 3.13 per kWh** for 1,200 MW of interstate solar projects supported by **600 MW/3,600 MWh of energy storage** under SECI's Tranche XXI procurement. The capacity has been awarded to Engie Energy India, NLC India Renewables, RPIL Power Three and Oriana Power. Tariff adoption enables the projects to proceed to power purchase and sale agreements, providing distribution companies with firm renewable electricity beyond daylight hours. The storage requirement will improve the reliability of solar supply and support the integration of additional renewable capacity into the grid.

## B. Ease Of Doing Business And Regulatory Affairs

### 1. Ministry Of Coal Launches First Sector Wide CSR Framework For Indian Coal Companies – Ministry of Coal

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has launched the **first sector wide CSR Framework for Indian Coal Companies**, prepared by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA). The framework provides common guidelines for Coal India Limited (CIL), its subsidiaries and NLC India, replacing fragmented CSR activities at the individual subsidiary level with a more coordinated and outcome focused approach. It aims to direct CSR spending towards sustainable socio economic development in **mining affected areas** and establish clearer standards for planning and assessing CSR projects. A common framework will help coal companies pool their efforts around larger, longer term projects instead of running small and disconnected initiatives across different subsidiaries. This will make CSR spending more responsive to the specific needs of



communities affected by mining and make it easier for the Government to compare outcomes and identify which types of projects are producing measurable benefits.

**2. CCPA Imposes ₹ 10 Lakh Penalty On E-Commerce Platform For Unsafe Ammonium Nitrate Listings - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

**Source:** PIB

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a ₹ 10 lakh penalty on **Dial4Trade Technologies Private Limited** for allowing the online listing, advertising and sale of ammonium nitrate without the required regulatory safeguards. The CCPA found that the platform had not verified sellers' licences, checked buyer eligibility, obtained end use information or displayed the required safety warnings. The action puts online marketplaces on notice that simply operating as a B2B platform does not remove their responsibility when regulated substances are traded through their platforms. This will push marketplaces to introduce stronger seller and buyer verification for hazardous products, making unauthorised purchases more difficult and reducing the risk of regulated chemicals reaching ineligible buyers.

**3. CCI Directs Debenture Trustees To Cease Anti Competitive Fee Setting - Competition Commission of India**

**Source:** PIB

The Competition Commission of India has directed the Trustees' Association of India, IDBI Trusteeship Services, Axis Trustee Services and SBI CAP Trustee Company to cease anti competitive conduct. CCI found that the entities collectively fixed a benchmark minimum fee for debenture trusteeship services during FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 and discouraged members and non members from offering services below this rate. The arrangement restricted independent commercial decision making and amounted to price fixing and market limitation under the Competition Act, 2002. Although no monetary penalty was imposed due to mitigating factors, the cease and desist order requires trustees to determine their fees independently. This can increase price competition among service providers and reduce trusteeship costs for companies raising funds through debenture issuances.

**4. NSO Releases First Ever District Level Estimates For Unincorporated Non Agricultural Sector - Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation**

**Source:** PIB

The National Statistics Office has released district level estimates for India's unincorporated non agricultural sector for the first time, based on data from the **Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2025**. The estimates cover 757 of 770 districts and provide detailed information on establishments,



employment, women's participation, registration status and Gross Value Added (GVA) across manufacturing, trade and other services. This will expand India's sub-state statistical base and provide a more granular evidence base for regional productivity analysis, targeted policy interventions and geographically differentiated support for unincorporated enterprises.

**5. TRAI Repeals 12 Minute Advertising Cap For Television Channel - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**

**Source:** TRAI

TRAI has repealed the Standards of Quality of Service (Duration of Advertisements in Television Channels) Regulations, 2012, which prescribed a ceiling of 12 minutes of advertisements in a clock hour. The repeal, through the 2026 Repealing Regulations, also withdraws all orders and directions issued under the earlier framework and will take effect upon notification in the Official Gazette. The move follows the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's omission of Rule 7(11) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, which removed the underlying statutory advertising duration ceiling in August 2026. TRAI stated that retaining its corresponding regulations would no longer be consistent with the amended Rules. The regulatory change is intended to provide greater flexibility to television broadcasters and support fair competition and ease of doing business in the broadcasting sector.

**6. NHAI And NPCI Launch 'One-Tag' To Enable NETC FASTAG Issuer Bank Portability - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

**Source:** PIB

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched '**OneTag**', a portability framework that allows NETC FASTag users to switch their issuer bank without replacing the physical tag affixed to their vehicle. Following portability, the existing **Tag ID and vehicle registration number remain unchanged**, while the new issuer bank completes onboarding and the previous issuer manages the existing wallet, refunds and pending transactions. The service will be facilitated through NHAI's **Rajmargyatra** mobile application, with NPCI providing the central technology framework and updating issuer details within the NETC system.

**7. FIU-IND Issues Non Compliance And Takedown Notices To 15 Virtual Asset Service Providers - Ministry of Finance**

**Source:** PIB

The Financial Intelligence Unit India has issued notices under Section 13 of the PMLA to 15 virtual asset service providers for operating in India without meeting applicable compliance requirements. FIU-IND has also directed the removal of their applications and URLs from public access. The action does not introduce a new



regulatory framework but enforces the existing requirement that domestic and offshore platforms serving Indian users register with FIU-IND and comply with reporting, record keeping and anti money laundering obligations. The takedown action may restrict Indian users' access to the identified platforms and signals that offshore providers cannot avoid Indian compliance requirements merely because they lack a physical presence in the country.

#### **8. NFRA Constitutes Advisory Committee On Audit Quality, Assurance and Technology – Ministry of Corporate Affairs**

**Source:** PIB

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has constituted an Advisory Committee on Audit Quality, Assurance and Technology to advise on audit standards, assurance practices and the risks arising from the use of technologies such as AI, machine learning, automated workflows and data analytics. The committee brings together chartered accountants, CFOs, audit committee members, independent directors, technology experts, regulators and industry representatives. As companies and auditors use more automated systems and AI for financial reporting and audit work, the committee will help identify new ways in which errors or manipulation may enter the audit process. Its recommendations will lead to updated audit practices and controls for technology driven financial reporting, making it harder for significant errors to pass through automated systems without detection.

#### **9. BIS Increases Hallmarking Fees For Gold Articles – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Bureau of Indian Standards has amended the Hallmarking Regulations, 2018 to increase the fee payable by jewellers for hallmarking gold articles from ₹ 45 to ₹ 75 per article. The fee collected by BIS from Assaying and Hallmarking Centres has also increased from ₹ 4.50 to ₹ 7.50 per article. Minimum consignment charges and hallmarking fees for silver articles remain unchanged. The revision increases per-article compliance costs for jewellers and hallmarking centres by approximately 67%, which may be reflected in the certification charges included in retail gold jewellery prices.

#### **10. Six States Sign Agreement To Advance Kishau Multipurpose Project – Ministry of Jal Shakti**

**Source:** PIB

Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana have signed an agreement for the Kishau Multipurpose Project on the Tons River. The project involves a 232.6 metre dam with storage capacity of 1,562 million cubic



metres, with the Centre bearing approximately 90% of the cost. It is expected to irrigate 97,000 hectares, generate 1,476 million units of clean hydropower and improve water availability across the participating states, with Delhi identified as the largest beneficiary. Additional water flows could also support environmental restoration of the Yamuna.

#### **11. DGFT Launches Open API Facility For Certificate Of Origin On Trade Connect E-Platform To Automate Export Workflows – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

**Source:** PIB

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), has introduced an Open API facility for electronic Certificates of Origin (e-CoO) on the Trade Connect e-Platform. Exporters can now connect their ERP, accounting or supply chain systems directly with the DGFT platform, allowing shipment and production data to be transferred automatically instead of being entered manually. The facility covers both preferential and non preferential Certificates of Origin under several of India's trade agreements and uses automated checks based on the selected trade agreement and applicable rules of origin. Direct system to system data transfer will reduce repeated data entry and errors in export documentation, particularly for businesses handling large volumes of shipments. Faster certificate processing will also help exporters obtain origin documents sooner when claiming preferential tariffs in overseas markets, reducing the risk of documentation delays holding up shipments or tariff benefits.

#### **12. DGFT Enables Automated Issuance Of Free Sale And Commerce Certificates To Promote Ease Of Doing Business – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

**Source:** PIB

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has introduced an automated system on its portal for issuing **Free Sale and Commerce Certificates (FSCs)**. These certificates are issued to exporters for products that are not covered under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. Earlier, applications were manually checked and verified by DGFT Regional Authorities. Under the new system, eligible applications will be approved automatically, while applications that do not meet the system's criteria or are flagged as higher risk will continue to undergo manual verification. The automated process will shorten the time exporters spend waiting for FSCs, particularly for routine applications, helping them meet overseas buyers' documentation requirements faster. The risk based routing will also allow DGFT officers to focus manual checks on applications that actually require scrutiny rather than processing every application individually.



### **13. CBIC Extends Transitional Compliance Timeline Under Sea Cargo Manifest And Transshipment Regulations – Ministry of Finance**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has extended the transitional compliance period under the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2026. The extension gives shipping lines, freight forwarders, sea carriers, customs brokers and terminal operators more time to integrate their IT systems and test the new electronic requirements for cargo manifests, arrival/departure declarations and transshipment filings. The additional time reduces the risk of system failures or incorrect filings disrupting cargo clearance and transshipment operations during the transition. It also gives smaller freight and logistics operators more time to upgrade systems and train staff, reducing the likelihood that compliance gaps will slow shipments or create additional costs. Greater use of electronic cargo declarations will also allow customs authorities to receive shipment information earlier and identify discrepancies before cargo reaches clearance or transshipment stages.

### **14. NITI Aayog Launches PACT And ZET Marketplace To Accelerate Zero Emission Freight Electrification Across India – NITI Aayog**

**Source:** PIB

NITI Aayog has launched the **Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT)** and the **Zero Emission Truck (ZET) Marketplace** at the 5<sup>th</sup> e-FAST India Summit 2026 to support the wider adoption of electric trucks in India. PACT will bring together freight demand and coordinate charging infrastructure along major highway corridors, while the ZET Marketplace will connect fleet operators with vehicle manufacturers, charging providers and financing partners. The initiatives target the financial and infrastructure challenges that currently make electric trucks more difficult to deploy at scale. This will give manufacturers and charging companies greater certainty about where electric trucks will be deployed, making investment in vehicles and corridor charging infrastructure more commercially viable. Financing and leasing options through the marketplace will also reduce the upfront cost barrier for fleet operators, potentially accelerating the shift from diesel trucks on high volume freight routes.

## **C. Governance And Administrative Affairs**

### **1. Ministry Of Cooperation Restores CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal To Resume Processing Of Pending Depositor Claims – Ministry of Cooperation**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry of Cooperation has restored the **CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal**, enabling verification and processing of approximately 20 lakh pending applications for eligible depositors of the Sahara cooperative societies. The Ministry stated that ₹ 9,267 crore has already been refunded to **41,56,711 depositors** through Aadhaar seeded bank



accounts. The restoration followed resolution of operational, IT infrastructure, licensing and administrative issues that had disrupted the refund mechanism. Claims continue to be processed through Aadhaar e-KYC and document verification under the prescribed SOP.

## **2. Election Commission Of India Issues Comprehensive Statutory Directives For Multi-State Bye-Elections – Election Commission of India**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Election Commission has issued directions for bye-elections in six constituencies across Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Voting will use EVMs with (Voter-verified paper audit trail) VVPAT, while electors without an EPIC may use any of 12 alternative photo identification documents. Postal ballot access is also available to voters above 85 years, persons with benchmark disabilities and eligible COVID-19 affected electors. These measures standardise polling procedures across constituencies, reduce identity related exclusion and improve voting access for elderly and disabled electors.

## **3. 9<sup>th</sup> Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 To Strengthen Community Accountability And Nutrition Delivery – Ministry of Women and Child Development**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has launched the **9<sup>th</sup> Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026** on 9<sup>th</sup> September under the theme “Hamari Anganwadi Hamari Jimmedari”, focusing on community ownership of Anganwadi Centres and nutrition and early childhood development. The campaign builds on the revised Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) Guidelines, which define Hot Cooked Meals, mandate SNP Menu Boards, and provide for the establishment of Anganwadi Management Committees (AMCs). During the month, every Anganwadi Centre will hold at least one AMC meeting, display daily menus and entitlements, and involve AMCs and Mothers’ Committees in monitoring meal quality and menu adherence. The campaign will also include a drive to record developmental milestones of children aged 0-3 years and a 100% saturation drive under PMMVY for eligible pregnant and lactating women.

## **4. NHAI Initiates Technology Upgrade Of 1033 National Highway Helpline – Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

**Source:** PIB

NHAI’s Indian Highways Management Company Limited has invited industry proposals to develop and operate a next generation 1033 highway helpline. The proposed platform will add **AI-assisted multilingual call handling**, real time caller location, intelligent dispatch of ambulances, cranes and patrol vehicles, proactive alerts and better coordination with highway operations teams. The upgrade could **reduce emergency response times** and improve assistance across more than **1.46**



**lakh km of national highways.** However, the initiative remains at the Expression of Interest stage, with its technical requirements yet to be finalised.

**5. EPFO Introduces Six Month Amnesty Window Under EPF Scheme, 2026 To Regularise Unexempted Private Provident Fund Trusts – Ministry of Labour and Employment**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has introduced a **one time six month amnesty window until 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2026** for private Provident Fund trusts that were operating without a formal statutory exemption under Section 17 of the EPF Act or the Code on Social Security. The scheme waives certain eligibility conditions, including the minimum employee requirement and the three year clean compliance requirement, to allow these trusts to obtain formal recognition and come under the EPFO exemption framework. The amnesty will bring previously unrecognised private PF trusts into a **formal regulatory framework**, giving EPFO greater visibility over how employees' provident fund savings are managed and invested. The regularisation will reduce uncertainty for employees around the legal status and oversight of their accumulated PF savings. The one time window provides employers a route to correct legacy compliance gaps without the immediate burden of meeting conditions designed for newly established exemptions, potentially increasing formal compliance among older private PF trusts.

**6. Government Exempts IOC Members From IOA Executive Committee Size Limit – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Government has exempted the Indian Olympic Association from the executive committee composition limit under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, to the extent required to accommodate IOC members in India. Such members may serve as ex-officio voting members in addition to the IOA's 15 member Executive Committee. The exemption aligns the IOA's structure with the Olympic Charter without relaxing its other statutory governance obligations, preventing a conflict between domestic law and IOC requirements.

**7. Government Notifies Indian Railway Health Service Rules, 2026 – Ministry of Railways**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has notified the Indian Railway Health Service Rules, 2026, replacing the Railway Medical Service Recruitment Rules, 1999 and establishing a **2,533 post Group A medical cadre**. The rules prescribe direct recruitment and promotion routes, formalise vacancy independent career progression up to Senior Administrative Grade and prohibit private practice while providing non practising



allowances. Officers will ordinarily retire at 62 but may opt to continue in clinical positions until 65. The framework will support specialist recruitment and career progression while allowing the Railways to retain experienced doctors in patient care roles for an additional three years.

#### **8. India Approves Export Up To 654 MW Of Power To Nepal To Support Post Flood Energy Security - Ministry of Power**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry of Power has approved export of up to **654 MW** of electricity to Nepal for 18 hours a day from **13<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026**, following disruptions to Nepal's hydropower generation caused by flash floods. The approved supply comprises 600 MW through the Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line and 54 MW through the Tanakpur-Mahendranagar line. The arrangement will provide temporary support to Nepal's electricity requirements while damaged hydropower infrastructure is restored, with the supply arrangement subject to review in December.

#### **9. Government Strengthens Institutional Framework For Disaster Management Through NIDM-NDMA Coordination - Ministry of Home Affairs**

**Source:** PIB

The Government has directed stakeholders to strengthen disaster management preparedness through a whole of Government institutional framework centred on risk reduction, early warning systems and the **'Zero Casualty' approach**. The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have been directed to jointly develop nationwide guidelines specifying preparedness and response measures for different types of disasters, while NIDM will lead training and NDRF, SDRFs and other agencies will support implementation. All Government departments have also been directed to establish dedicated disaster management cells, with departmental heads required to review their functioning at least once every three months. The framework further calls for systematic research into disaster causes, joint post disaster assessments and strengthened digital disaster databases. The directions seek to move disaster management further towards prevention, preparedness, institutional coordination and resilience rather than a predominantly relief based approach.

#### **10. Centre Approves Over 29,000 Additional Houses Under PMAY-U 2.0 - Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has approved over **29,000 additional houses** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**, taking the total number of houses sanctioned under the scheme to 18.77 lakh. The approvals were made at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) and cover Assam, Bihar,



Gujarat, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh under the Beneficiary Led Construction and Affordable Housing in Partnership components. The Ministry has also decided to convene CSMC meetings every second week of the month to strengthen regular monitoring and accelerate implementation. States and UTs have been directed to submit duly approved projects by the end of each month for consideration in subsequent CSMC meetings. Of the 18.77 lakh houses sanctioned under PMAY-U 2.0, 17.19 lakh (92%) have been allotted to women, with allocations also covering senior citizens and SC, ST and OBC beneficiaries.

#### **11. Government Issues Draft Petroleum (Amendment) Rules, 2026 To Overhaul ISO Tank Transport And Fire NOC Protocols – Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

**Source:** [Gazette of India](#)

The Ministry has proposed changes to the Petroleum Rules for petroleum transported in ISO tank containers. The draft moves import and transit permissions to the online PESO portal and extends their validity from **one year to up to three years**. It also introduces a seven working day deemed approval provision and new safety requirements for tank vehicles, including two person crews, fire extinguishers and electrical bonding cables. The draft also gives **District Fire Officers** direct responsibility for petroleum storage fire NOCs, with decisions required within one month. The NOC would remain valid for three years for PESO licensing. Longer permits and deemed approval could reduce administrative delays for petroleum transporters. The stricter vehicle safety requirements will require operators to upgrade equipment and operating procedures, while the fixed one month NOC timeline could make approval of new or renewed petroleum storage facilities more predictable.

#### **12. IFSCA Notifies Comprehensive Employees' Service Regulations, 2026 Superseding 2020 Framework – International Financial Services Centres Authority**

**Source:** Gazette of India

IFSCA has notified new service regulations covering recruitment, probation, retirement, conduct and disciplinary proceedings, replacing the 2020 framework. The rules apply to direct recruits and employees joining through deputation or absorption from other financial regulators. They introduce insider trading restrictions and require prior approval before retired employees can join an IFSCA regulated entity during a one year cooling off period. This will reduce conflicts of interest arising from employees moving directly from regulatory roles to supervised firms, while creating a uniform framework for staffing and disciplinary matters.



### **13. Department Of Biotechnology Notifies Recruitment Rules For Scientific Cadre Across 13 BRIC Institutions – Ministry of Science and Technology**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has notified common recruitment rules for the scientific cadre across 13 institutions under Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), covering 115 sanctioned scientific positions from Pay Level 10 to 15. The rules standardise recruitment, probation, confirmation and promotion procedures, while allowing lateral induction and separate selection processes for senior and junior scientific positions. The recruitment is to be completed within six months of notification, and promotions within the cadre will follow the Revised Flexible Complementing Scheme. A common recruitment system across the 13 institutions will make it easier for BRIC to move scientific talent between institutions and fill specialised positions through a common process, rather than relying on different recruitment practices at each institute. The lateral entry provisions will also bring experienced researchers into senior positions without requiring them to enter at the bottom of the scientific hierarchy. A faster and more predictable recruitment could reduce vacancies in specialised research posts and improve the continuity of long term biotechnology projects.

### **14. Government Extends Tenure Of Two NCLAT Technical Members - Ministry of Corporate Affairs**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Ministry has extended the tenure of NCLAT Technical Members Barun Mitra and Naresh Salecha from **9<sup>th</sup> September 2026 to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2027**, or until they attain 67 years of age, whichever is earlier. Issued under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2026, the extension preserves continuity in the Tribunal's technical bench and prevents vacancies from affecting the adjudication of company law and insolvency appeals.

### **15. CBDT Authorises Income-Tax Information Sharing For Andhra Pradesh Welfare Schemes - Ministry of Finance**

**Source:** Gazette of India

The Central Government has designated the Secretary, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Government of Andhra Pradesh, to receive income-tax payer information under the Income-tax Act, 2025. The information will be used to identify eligible beneficiaries of the State Government's welfare schemes. Linking tax information with beneficiary selection can improve income based verification and reduce benefits reaching ineligible applicants, but will require careful handling of taxpayer data.



## D. Technology, Innovation And Partnerships

### 1. Bharat Tex Trade Federation And Première Vision SA Sign Strategic MoU To Expand Indian Textiles In Global Luxury And Creative Fashion – Ministry of Textiles

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has supported a multi year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) and Première Vision SA to expand Indian textiles in international luxury and high end fashion markets. The partnership will include joint export promotion programmes, buyer seller meetings and exchange of market intelligence. It will also launch the “**Eternal Crafts Collaboration**”, in January 2027, to showcase Indian handlooms, embroidery and other traditional crafts alongside French textile traditions to global buyers. Access to Première Vision’s luxury buyer network and trend information will help Indian textile producers move into higher value orders rather than competing mainly on price in bulk markets. Greater exposure to international designers and buyers will also encourage Indian manufacturers and artisans to invest in design, quality and sustainable production, potentially increasing the value earned per export rather than simply increasing export volumes.

### 2. GeM And Textiles Committee Partner To Institutionalise Public Procurement Of Recycled And Upcycled Textiles – Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Source:** PIB

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and the Textiles Committee have signed an MoU to promote Government procurement of **recycled and upcycled textile products** made from textile waste, industrial scrap and used clothing. The Textiles Committee will identify and certify eligible recyclers and upcyclers and develop common product specifications, while GeM will create dedicated categories for these certified products and simplify vendor onboarding. The partnership will also support women entrepreneurs, MSMEs, artisans and community recycling units through training and capacity building. Creating a Government market for certified recycled textile products will give small recyclers and upcycling businesses a more reliable source of demand, making it easier for them to scale beyond local markets. Over time, regular Government orders will also encourage more textile waste to be collected and converted into saleable products instead of being discarded, while giving businesses an incentive to invest in recycling and upcycling capacity.



### **3. India Launches ₹ 840 Crore Indigenous Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) Sagar Manthan To Drive Deep Ocean Exploration And Replace Legacy Fleets – Ministry of Earth Sciences**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has launched ORV Sagar Manthan, an ocean research vessel built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata. The vessel will replace the 43 year old ORV Sagar Kanya and is expected to be commissioned for NCPOR in 2028. It is designed for deep sea research, including seafloor mapping, marine geophysical surveys, mineral exploration, water column studies and environmental monitoring under the Deep Ocean Mission. The vessel will allow India to conduct **more regular and detailed surveys of the Indian Ocean without depending on older or foreign built research platforms**, improving the data available for mineral, climate and marine resource assessments. Its seafloor and geophysical mapping capabilities will also help identify potential deep sea mineral areas while establishing environmental baselines before any future resource extraction. This data will feed into **tsunami modelling, climate research and marine spatial planning**, supporting decisions on how and where to develop activities in its ocean economy.

### **4. BIO-NIVESH Platform Launched To Connect Biotechnology Innovation With Private Capital – Department of Biotechnology**

**Source:** PIB

The Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC have launched BIO-NIVESH, a recurring platform designed to connect biotechnology innovators with investors and accelerate the movement of technologies from research to commercialisation. The inaugural edition brought together 20 biotechnology and deep tech startups and around 50 investors. The platform is structured as a two way engagement mechanism, allowing startups to understand investor requirements while giving investors greater visibility into the scientific, regulatory and development pathways of biotechnology ventures. Future editions are planned across different cities to broaden participation.

### **5. Ahmedabad Integrated Into International Aviation Hub And Spoke Network – Ministry of Civil Aviation**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has launched international hub and spoke operations from Ahmedabad, making it the third participating airport after Varanasi and Amritsar. Passengers can complete check in, immigration and customs at Ahmedabad before connecting through Delhi, with baggage transferred directly to their international destination. The initial services provide connections to overseas destinations. This will simplify international travel from Gujarat, reduce dependence on foreign transit hubs and strengthen regional access to global trade and tourism markets.



## 6. Prime Minister Lays Foundation Stones And Dedicates Over ₹ 35,000 Crore Infrastructure Projects In Vadodara – Prime Minister's Office

Source: PIB

The Prime Minister has inaugurated, dedicated and laid the foundation stones for infrastructure projects worth over **₹ 35,000 crore** in Vadodara, with major investments in railways and highways. The key milestone is the completion of the **2,800 km Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) network**, covering the Eastern and Western DFCs. The completed network separates freight trains from passenger traffic and will allow more than **430 freight trains to operate daily at higher speeds**. Double stack container trains are already carrying cargo between JNPT and Vadodara, with a single train able to carry the equivalent of more than 250 heavy road trailers. The completed DFC will shift a larger share of long distance freight from roads to rail, reducing pressure on major highways and lowering the time taken to move cargo between ports and inland markets. Higher capacity freight trains will also reduce the number of truck trips needed for the same volume of goods, which will lower logistics costs for industries dependent on bulk and containerised transport and improve the movement of exports from ports to production centres.

## 7. PM-SETU Approves ₹ 735.70 Crore Investment Plans For Three ITI Clusters - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Source: PIB

The National Steering Committee of PM-SETU has approved Strategic Investment Plans worth ₹ 735.70 crore for ITI clusters in Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, raising total sanctioned investment under the scheme to ₹ 2,171 crore across nine clusters. The approved plans cover infrastructure modernisation, upgradation of existing trades, introduction of future ready courses and stronger operational capacity through an industry led **Hub-and-Spoke model**. Rajasthan also became the first state to sign a Shareholders' Agreement under the scheme, formally commencing implementation of the Bhiwadi cluster. The investments will enable participating ITIs to align courses, equipment and training with industry requirements, improving students' access to practical skills relevant to emerging technologies and local employment opportunities.

## 8. ASEAN-INDIA Advance Cooperation On Climate Resilient Agriculture, Digital Innovation And Food Security - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Source: PIB

India and ASEAN have advanced a **Medium Term Plan of Action** for cooperation in agriculture and forestry for 2026–2030. The proposed framework covers food security, resilient value chains, digital agriculture, climate resilient crops, technology exchange, joint research and farmer capacity building. Senior officials will convert it into a rolling work programme with designated agencies, outputs and timelines.



Once adopted, it could improve access to **regional research, agricultural technologies** and markets while **strengthening climate resilience** and food security.

#### 9. Government And Jharkhand Sign Multi Party Agreement To Roll Out ₹ 1,684-Crore Amended BharatNet Programme Across 4,395 Gram Panchayats – Ministry of Communications

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has signed a multi-party agreement with the Government of Jharkhand, DBN, JDICL, BSNL and JCNL to implement the **Amended BharatNet Programme** in 4,395 Gram Panchayats with ₹ 1,684 crore in central support. The project will convert 4,387 existing panchayats from linear fibre networks to more resilient optical fibre ring networks and extend on demand connectivity to **26,777 villages**. It will also provide the backhaul needed for more than **4 lakh subsidised rural home fibre connections**. Ring based networks reduce the effect of a single fibre cut or equipment failure, hence fewer prolonged connectivity outages in rural areas. The additional home connections will also bring more rural households into digital payments and online Government services, increasing actual last mile usage of the BharatNet network rather than leaving connectivity concentrated at panchayat offices.

#### 10. Cochin Shipyard And Drydocks World Form 50:50 Joint Venture To Strengthen India's Ship Repair Industry - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has announced the formation of a 50:50 joint venture between **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** and **Drydocks World, Dubai** to operate and expand the **International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) at Kochi**. The partnership formalises the collaboration initiated through an **MoU** signed during India Maritime Week 2025 and will create additional capacity to service Indian, regional and international vessels. The JV combines CSL's domestic shipbuilding, repair and engineering capabilities with Drydocks World's expertise in high end vessel repair, maintenance, conversions and offshore engineering. The facility is expected to strengthen Kochi's position as a maritime services hub and generate opportunities across ship repair, engineering, fabrication and allied services. The partnership is also intended to attract international fleets and investment, create skilled employment and support India's objective of emerging as a global hub for shipbuilding and ship repair under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

#### 11. India Endorses International Call To Action For 6G Leadership And Security - Ministry of Communications

**Source:** PIB

India has endorsed the international Call to Action for 6G Leadership and Security, joining participating Governments in promoting open, interoperable, secure and



resilient 6G networks. The Department of Telecommunications will coordinate implementation with Government agencies, industry and academia. The framework requires India to designate expert contacts within one month, assess the 6G ecosystem and barriers within three months, develop strategies for secure supply chains within six months and participate in a progress review in 2027. It will strengthen India's role in **shaping global 6G standards**, improve coordination on **cybersecurity** and **supply chain risks**, and support the international deployment of secure Indian telecom technologies. However, the framework is non-binding, so its impact will depend on subsequent domestic measures and industry participation.

## **12. Union Minister Launches 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Of 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026' - Ministry of Earth Sciences**

**Source:** PIB

The Ministry has launched the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar 2026' campaign to increase public participation in protecting India's coastline. The week-long campaign will run from **12<sup>th</sup> September to 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2026**, bringing together citizens, students, coastal communities and volunteer organisations. Activities include beach clean ups, cycling rallies, marathons, Ozone Day events, an **Ocean Olympiad** and an online Ocean Conservation Pledge. The campaign will help turn beach and marine waste management into a more regular community activity rather than limiting it to one time clean up drives. Greater participation by schools and coastal communities will also improve local monitoring of litter and encourage changes in disposal practices that contribute to marine pollution.

## **13. DRDO Unveils Policy Initiatives To Strengthen MSME And Start-UP Participation In Defence Innovation - Ministry of Defence**

**Source:** PIB

At the '**VIMARSH**' **DRDO-Industry Synergy Meet** in New Delhi, the Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh unveiled policy initiatives to lower technical and financial entry barriers for MSMEs and deeptech start-ups in defence R&D, including direct funding, incubation support and dedicated access to DRDO testing facilities. DRDO also launched a standardised framework for sharing DRDO developed software source codes with licensee industries to support customisation and obsolescence management of software defined defence systems. At the event, **nine Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToTs)** were also handed over to 13 manufacturing partners to enable commercial production of advanced defence systems.



**14. DFPD And FCI Sign Annual MoU For FY 2026-27 To Strengthen Efficiency, Technology, And Accountability In Foodgrain Management - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**

**Source:** PIB

The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have signed an MoU for **FY 2026-27** to set annual performance targets for foodgrain procurement, storage, transport and distribution. The agreement focuses on reducing storage and transit losses, improving the use of covered storage capacity, strengthening quality checks and making supply chain operations more efficient. It also pushes greater use of digital systems for monitoring FCI's operations, including depot level performance tracking through the **Depot Darpan Portal**, along with training and skill development for FCI staff. Better tracking of depot performance and losses will help identify where grain is being damaged, wasted or handled inefficiently, allowing FCI to address these losses before they increase procurement and storage costs. More efficient movement and storage of foodgrains will also reduce the amount of public money required to maintain the food subsidy system while improving the reliability of supplies reaching states for the public distribution system.

**15. SEBI And ESMA Sign MoU To Strengthen Cooperation And Information Exchange On Central Counterparties - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

**Source:** SEBI

SEBI and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) signed an MoU on **4<sup>th</sup> September 2026** covering cooperation and exchange of information relating to Central Counterparties (CCPs) regulated and supervised by SEBI. The agreement establishes a framework for regulatory cooperation and enables ESMA to place reliance on SEBI's regulatory and supervisory activities concerning Indian CCPs, while taking into account EU financial-stability requirements. It **replaces the earlier SEBI-ESMA MoU signed on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017** and provides an updated framework for cross-border clearing and supervisory cooperation.



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[nfprcfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/nfprcfoundation)



[samparka@nationfirstpolicy.org](mailto:samparka@nationfirstpolicy.org)

