



# INDIA GOVERNANCE WATCH

*Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments*



16<sup>th</sup> May - 31<sup>st</sup> May

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**India Governance Watch**  
**Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments**  
**(16<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 - 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2026)**

**Executive Summary**

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

**I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms**

- A. **Nomination Rules Simplified for Demat Accounts and Mutual Fund Folios:** SEBI has notified a revised nomination framework for demat accounts and mutual fund folios, making nomination the default option for new single-holder accounts while simplifying nomination procedures and digital authentication requirements. The framework is aimed at improving investor convenience and reducing unclaimed financial assets.
- B. **Capital Adequacy Norms Revised for Commercial Banks:** The Reserve Bank of India has notified the Sixth Amendment to the Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy for commercial banks. The amendment aligns capital adequacy requirements with the revised investment portfolio valuation framework, promoting greater consistency in risk assessment, capital computation, and regulatory reporting across the banking sector.
- C. **Silver Bars Reclassified as Restricted Imports:** The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has reclassified specified categories of silver bars from the Free to the Restricted import category. Imports of these products will now require prior Government authorisation. The measure strengthens oversight of bullion import, curbs regulatory arbitrage, improves traceability within the silver supply chain, and supports domestic refining and processing activities.
- D. **Investment Fluctuation Reserve Norms Rationalised Across Banking Sector:** The Reserve Bank of India has revised the Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) framework for banks, aligning compliance requirements across different categories of regulated entities. The amendments simplify reserve management and promote greater consistency in capital planning, accounting, and regulatory reporting practices.

**II. Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability**

- A. **LPG Supply Rules Amended for Consumers Shifting to Piped Gas:** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has amended the LPG supply framework to provide greater flexibility for consumers transitioning to Piped Natural Gas (PNG). The revised rules allow eligible consumers to retain future access to LPG connections through a transfer voucher mechanism, improving consumer convenience while supporting the expansion of city gas distribution networks.

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- B. **National Cybersecurity Compliance Framework Rolled Out for States and UTs:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the next phase of its state cybersecurity initiative, requiring States and Union Territories to establish core cybersecurity governance mechanisms, including dedicated security leadership, monitoring systems, and incident response frameworks. The initiative is aimed at strengthening protection of Government-held citizen data and supporting compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.
- C. **ALMM List-II Requirement for Solar Cells Enforced:** The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has confirmed that the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) List-II requirement for solar PV cells will come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, with no blanket extension. A case-by-case relief mechanism has been provided for eligible delayed projects. The measure is expected to strengthen domestic solar cell manufacturing, provide demand certainty for approved manufacturers, and advance localisation across the solar value chain.
- D. **BIS Revises Standards for DME-Blended LPG:** The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has revised the standard for DME-blended LPG, replacing the earlier framework with a more flexible blending regime. The revised standard supports the wider adoption of alternative fuel blends while facilitating the gradual transition from the existing specifications.

### III. Human Development And Social Welfare

- A. **National Sports Board and Sports Tribunal Rules Notified:** The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has notified rules establishing the National Sports Board and the National Sports Tribunal under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The framework creates statutory institutions for federation oversight, governance compliance, and resolution of sports-related disputes through a dedicated adjudicatory mechanism.
- B. **Cabinet Approves SARTHAK-PDS Scheme for Public Distribution System Modernisation:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the SARTHAK-PDS umbrella scheme to modernise the Public Distribution System through a unified framework combining foodgrain distribution support and technology-driven reforms. The scheme will improve transparency in foodgrain movement, strengthen last-mile delivery under the National Food Security Act, and enhance operational support for Fair Price Shop dealers.
- C. **Pregabalin Moved to Schedule H1 Category:** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has reclassified Pregabalin from Schedule H to Schedule H1 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The change introduces stricter prescription and record-keeping requirements to strengthen regulatory control over its sale and distribution.
- D. **Definition of 'Acid Attack Victim' Expanded Under RPwD Act:** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has amended the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to broaden the definition of an acid attack victim. The revised definition expands

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eligibility for disability-related protections and benefits to a wider range of individuals affected by acid and corrosive substance injuries.

### IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

- A. **Citizenship Rules Amended To Mandate Passport Disclosure Requirement:** The Ministry of Home Affairs has notified amendments to the Citizenship Rules, 2009 requiring certain citizenship applicants to disclose details of foreign passports held and surrender such documents within a prescribed period after the grant of Indian citizenship. The amendment introduces a formal verification and passport surrender mechanism as part of the citizenship process.

### V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

- A. **Mission Queen Pineapple Launched To Strengthen Northeastern Horticulture Value Chains:** The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has launched Mission Queen Pineapple, an integrated programme to strengthen pineapple production, processing, logistics, and market access across the Northeast. The initiative seeks to improve value addition, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance export opportunities for growers.
- B. **Ten New Crop Species Added To Plant Variety Protection Registry:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has expanded the list of crop species eligible for registration under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. The addition enables breeders, researchers, and farmers to register new varieties of these crops and access intellectual property and benefit-sharing protections under the Act.

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## I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. Nomination Rules For Demat Accounts And Mutual Fund Folios Simplified – Securities and Exchange Board of India

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

SEBI has notified a revised nomination framework for demat accounts and mutual fund folios, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026. The framework makes nominations the default option for new single-holder accounts and folios, while allowing investors to formally opt out, thereby simplifying account management and improving **ease of living for investors** and their families. It also reduces the maximum number of nominees from ten to four, and enables digital authentication for nomination-related requests. The changes are intended to reduce unclaimed financial assets, streamline asset transmission to legal heirs, and align securities market practices with banking sector norms.

#### 2. Capital Adequacy Norms For Commercial Banks Amended To Align With Revised Portfolio Valuation Framework – Reserve Bank of India

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

The Reserve Bank of India has issued the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Prudential Norms on Capital Adequacy) Sixth Amendment Directions, 2026, deemed effective from the date of issuance, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026, amending the principal Capital Adequacy Directions, 2025. The amendment, notified alongside the Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio (Second Amendment) Directions, 2026, removes the detailed provisions to align risk-weighted capital requirements for commercial banks with the newly revised portfolio valuation guidelines. By eliminating the potential double counting of capital between the two frameworks, the change clarifies balance-sheet compliance and tightens the risk-weighted asset structure of scheduled commercial banks.

#### 3. Silver Bars Reclassified From Free To Restricted Import Category - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended the import policy for certain categories of silver bars by changing their classification from Free to Restricted with immediate effect. As a result, imports of these silver bars will now require prior authorisation from the Government rather than being permitted automatically. The policy change is intended to strengthen regulatory oversight of silver imports, address loopholes in the existing import framework, and improve monitoring of the bullion supply chain while encouraging greater reliance on domestic refining and processing capacities.

**4. Customs Duty On Cotton Imports Temporarily Waived To Ease Textile Sector Input Costs – Ministry of Finance**

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

The Government has exempted raw cotton imports from the full 11% combined levy, Basic Customs Duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. The exemption covers the five-month period between the end of the 2025-26 kharif crop season and the arrival of the 2026-27 crop, when domestic cotton supplies are tightest and spinning mill inventories are drawn down. The duty relief directly lowers input costs, particularly in spinning and weaving clusters in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, improving India's export competitiveness ahead of the peak festive and export order season.

**5. Investment Fluctuation Reserve Norms Harmonised Across Bank Categories – Reserve Bank of India**

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

The Reserve Bank of India has issued a set of final Amendment Directions revising the **Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR)** norms applicable to different categories of banks. For banks that hold capital against market risk and follow the revised investment portfolio guidelines, the use of IFR as a capital buffer has been relaxed, while for all other regulated entities IFR compliance is now required strictly on balance-sheet dates rather than on a continuous basis. The change applies across Commercial, Small Finance, Payments, Regional Rural, Local Area and Co-operative banks, with corresponding effects on portfolio classification, capital adequacy and disclosure practices. By fixing compliance to a defined reporting date and linking market-risk capital requirements directly to each bank's position, the amendment removes long-standing inconsistencies in IFR treatment across the sector and streamlines bank accounting and capital-planning processes.

**6. CSR Framework Extended To Cover Social Stock Exchange Instruments – Ministry of Corporate Affairs**

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

The Ministry has allowed companies to deploy a portion of their mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending through instruments listed on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE). The move creates a new funding channel for eligible non-profit organisations, improves transparency and traceability of CSR spending, and strengthens the link between corporate philanthropy and regulated capital-market mechanisms. The reform is also expected to support the growth of the Social Stock Exchange, which has seen limited participation since its launch, by expanding the pool of potential institutional funding available to social-sector project inclusive development priorities.

**7. Updated Framework For Ship Leasing Notified For GIFT IFSC Vessel-Leasing Entities – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**

**Status:** Completed | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** [IFSCA](#)

IFSCA has issued an updated Framework for Ship Leasing (effective 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026), consolidating and revising the regulatory regime for vessel-leasing entities registered at GIFT City. The framework specifies the permissible activities, registration conditions and transaction structures for **ship-leasing units**, covering operating and finance leases, ownership and chartering of vessels, and ancillary financing arrangements, and builds on the combined aircraft and ship leasing vertical that has been a priority growth segment since the IFSC framework's inception. By offering a defined and predictable regulatory pathway for ship financing and leasing, the measure seeks to migrate vessel-leasing activity currently routed through foreign jurisdictions such as Singapore and the Gulf into an Indian regulatory perimeter, advancing domestic tonnage capacity, maritime financing depth and the larger objective of positioning GIFT IFSC as a regional leasing centre.

**8. Health Security se National Security Cess (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026 Notified – Ministry of Finance**

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

The Ministry of Finance, through the Department of Revenue, has notified the Health Security se National Security Cess (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, removing a sub-rule and replacing a multi-tier approval chain, involving the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, CBIC, and CAG, with a single accounting authority, the Chief Controller of Accounts (Finance). The change is confined to internal cess fund administration, creating a cleaner line of operational accountability and faster processing of the cess corpus, with no change to the levy rate or coverage.

**B. Announcements**

**1. e-KYC Setu Platform Access Extended To Regulated Entities In GIFT IFSC – International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**

**Source:** [IFSCA](#)

IFSCA extended access to the **e-KYC Setu platform** to regulated entities in GIFT IFSC, integrating the Centre into India's centralized digital identity verification architecture. The platform uses a regulated intermediary model for Aadhaar-based authentication, enabling IFSC entities to complete paperless, real-time customer onboarding while restricting direct handling of sensitive identity data. Connecting GIFT City entities to the same digital KYC rails as domestic financial institutions lowers onboarding time and per-client compliance cost, reduces due-diligence duplication, and makes the IFSC competitive with offshore hubs like Singapore and Dubai for fund managers, banking units, and other regulated participants.

## 2. Operational Guidelines Notified For ₹ 33,660 Crore BHAVYA Industrial Parks Scheme - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released the operational guidelines for the BHAVYA Scheme, a ₹ 33,660 crore programme to develop 100 investment-ready industrial parks over six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32. The first phase uses a challenge-based competitive selection process to shortlist up to 50 parks, with assistance routed as direct equity into project-specific **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV)** registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and released against land transfer and project milestones. Private developers may co-invest in these SPVs, supported by GIS-based monitoring, a DPIIT led National Level Steering Committee, plug and play utilities and digital single window clearances. By tying disbursement to milestones rather than upfront grants, the scheme shifts industrial-park funding toward measurable delivery and gives states a structured route to compete for large manufacturing investments.

## 3. Conclusion Of The Twelfth Round Of India-Korea Trade Agreement Upgrade Negotiations - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has concluded the 12<sup>th</sup> round to upgrade the **India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IK CEPA)**. Pursuant to a bilateral Joint Declaration accelerated in April 2026, the current round evaluated framework parameters for Trade in Goods (TiG), Trade in Services (TiS), Rules of Origin (RoO), and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards while addressing India's growing \$ 15.35 billion bilateral trade deficit. To modernise systemic economic cooperation, both nations formally constituted dedicated technical sub-groups to govern digital trade, supply chain cooperation, and strategic industrial cooperation, laying down early-stage institutional mechanisms to flatten delivery gaps and balance long-term cross-border manufacturing value lines.

## II. Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. LPG Supply Order Amended To Allow Transfer Vouchers For Consumers Shifting To Piped Gas - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

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

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has notified the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Amendment Order, 2026, easing the conditions under which households move from LPG to Piped Natural Gas (PNG). Consumers are no longer required to surrender an LPG connection immediately on receiving a PNG line, they may either close the LPG connection within 30 days or opt for a Transfer Voucher that restores a cylinder-based connection if they later

relocate to a non-PNG area. The relief is aimed at mobile groups such as Government and corporate employees, tenants, students and migrant households who face delays in securing fresh connections after moving. The amendment recalibrates the restriction notified in the first March fortnight, which had barred PNG households from retaining LPG connections, shifting that position toward consumer convenience while continuing to push city gas adoption.

## 2. **National Framework For State-Level Cybersecurity Compliance Under DPDP Act - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**

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

MeitY has launched Stage II of its national push on state data security, mandating that every State and Union Territory establish four baseline measures, which are a notified **Cyber Security Policy**, an empowered **Chief Information Security Officer**, an operational Security Operations Centre, and a Cyber Crisis Management Plan. This framework commits states to a fixed milestone schedule across six compliance themes, requiring Secure-by-Design procurement, adoption of Zero Trust Architectures, and the establishment of state-level CSIRTs linked to CERT-In. Citizen datasets concerning health, land records, and welfare delivery are now formally within its scope. The overall intervention is structured to ensure state-held personal data complies with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 ahead of phased enforcement, thereby closing the historical data protection gap in state systems.

## 3. **ALMM List-II Mandate For Solar Cells Enforced Without Blanket Extension - Ministry of New and Renewable Energy**

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

The Ministry has issued a directive confirming that no blanket extension will be granted for the applicability of the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) List-II for solar PV cells beyond 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026. To safeguard projects already under development, the framework allows case-by-case relief for delayed power projects through a dedicated verification portal operated by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE). By holding the enforcement date firm while providing a structured exception route, the directive removes the uncertainty created by repeated extension expectations and gives domestic cell manufacturers a stable demand horizon. The measure advances self-reliance in solar cell manufacturing by ensuring that grid-connected and Government-supported projects source cells from approved domestic models, deepening the localisation of the solar value chain beyond modules to upstream cell production.

**4. BIS Revises DME-Blended LPG Standard To Allow Variable Blending Ratios – Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food And Public Distribution**

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

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued a notice for **Dimethyl Ether (DME)-blended LPG**, superseding the 2024 standard. The revision removes the earlier fixed 20% blending cap, allowing the energy sector to incrementally increase DME mixing ratios as distribution infrastructure develops. The previous 2024 standard will remain operative for a transitional period of six months before being withdrawn on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2026, ensuring continuity of supply during the switchover. The revision provides regulatory flexibility for DME-LPG blending pathways, supporting LPG import substitution objective given that the country imports approximately 60% of its LPG demand, and aligns with MoPNG's broader domestic alternative fuel development programme.

**5. Fuel Dispenser Verification Extended To CNG, LNG And Hydrogen Under Legal Metrology Rules - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

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

The Department of Consumer Affairs has announced has amended the Legal Metrology (Government Approved Test Centre) Rules, 2013 to bring five fuel dispensing systems which is petrol/diesel, CNG, LPG, LNG and hydrogen, within within the scope of Government Approved Test Centres, raising the verifiable instrument categories from 18 to 23. Verification fees are fixed at ₹ 5,000 per nozzle for petrol and diesel and ₹ 10,000 per nozzle for CNG, LPG, LNG and hydrogen; states may notify additional local categories, and officers of Joint Secretary rank and above may now clear GATC approvals to cut delays. By routing dispenser calibration through accredited private test centres, the amendment expands metering-accuracy infrastructure ahead of the CNG and green-hydrogen refuelling build-out, while freeing state legal-metrology staff for enforcement and grievance redressal.

**6. Revised PM-WANI Guidelines Issued To Simplify Public Wi-Fi Access And Interoperability – Ministry of Communications**

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

The Department of Telecommunications issued revised guidelines for the PM-WANI (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) ecosystem on 22nd May 2026, aimed at easing access and improving interoperability across hotspot providers. The guidelines introduce **QR-based authentication for secondary devices** such as laptops via an authenticated smartphone app, advise operators to offer **short-duration plans** (15, 30, and 60 minutes) for high-footfall locations, and mandate a standardised SSID naming convention to identify genuine public hotspots. Stakeholders are directed to implement the changes within eight weeks,

with full rollout expected by July 2026. By addressing complex login processes and the lack of affordable brief-access plans, the revised framework leverages existing public Data Office infrastructure to widen low-cost connectivity and deepen India's digital public infrastructure.

## 7. **Merchant Shipping (Radiocommunication) Rules, 2026 Notified, Replacing 1995 Framework – Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**

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

The Ministry notified the Merchant Shipping (Radiocommunication) Rules, 2026 under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, superseding the 1995 framework. The rules apply to passenger ships, high-speed craft, mobile offshore drilling units, and cargo ships of 300 GT and above, mandating compliance with Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) functions, including dual-track ship-to-shore distress alerting, automated position reporting, and Digital Selective Calling radio watch; warships and non-commercial state vessels are exempt. Equipment servicing and testing are restricted to stations approved by the Nautical Advisor, with penalties up to ₹ 50,000 for non-compliance. Aligning India's fleet with International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions and the SOLAS Chapter IV regime, the rules strengthen safety standards, improve search-and-rescue readiness, and tighten regulatory oversight.

## B. **Announcements**

### 1. **Tata Electronics And ASML Sign Agreement For India's First Front-End Semiconductor Fab – Prime Minister's Office**

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

Tata Electronics and ASML have signed an agreement for India's first front-end semiconductor fabrication facility at Dholera, Gujarat, under the India Semiconductor Mission. ASML, the global leader in advanced lithography systems essential for semiconductor manufacturing, will supply critical equipment for the Tata fab approved in 2024. As lithography equipment represents a significant share of fab investment and is central to advanced-node chip production, the agreement marks an important step in establishing India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem. ASML, as the sole supplier of **Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) lithography machines**, is a critical technology partner for India's first commercial front-end fab. The deal strengthens India's semiconductor ecosystem by cutting import dependence, supporting the automobile and electronics sectors, creating high-value jobs, and expanding capacity in fabrication, design, packaging, and research.

**2. BEE Invites Stakeholder Inputs On Draft Emission Reduction Methodologies Under CCTS Offset Mechanism - Ministry of Power**

**Source:** [BEE](#)

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has put out three draft methods under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) Offset Mechanism** for public review: Shore-Side Electricity for shipping, Mass Rapid Transit Systems, and Recycling from End-of-Life Vehicles. These schemes define the technical parameters and mathematical formulas needed to accurately quantify greenhouse gas emission savings in the maritime, transport, and waste sectors. This would introduce a uniform way for project developers to produce carbon certificates that are tradable which will not only discourage greenwashing but also enable the market to be more transparent and will provide a definite and scalable road map that can reduce the risk of private investment in environmentally friendly infrastructure. The move is a crucial step in climate governance for launching India's single carbon market and fast-tracking net-zero goals.

**3. Cold Water Fisheries Model Guidelines Released To Standardise High-Altitude Aquaculture-Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**

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

The Ministry highlighted the release of the Model Guidelines for Cold Water Fisheries Development, 2026, standardising biosecurity protocols, hatchery certifications, disease containment and e-trading norms for high-altitude trout and mahseer aquaculture across Himalayan and Northeastern states. The framework sits alongside the ₹5,638.76 crore sanctioned for cold-water hill states under PMMSY and four established integrated aqua at Anantnag, Udham Singh Nagar, Ziro, Mokokochung. By codifying production and quality standards, the guidelines aim to convert subsistence mountain fishing into a traceable, export-oriented segment of the blue economy.

**4. Government Of Odisha, Intel, And 3DGS Sign Landmark MOU For Advanced Semiconductor Substrate Manufacturing Facility - Ministry Of Electronics & IT (MeitY)**

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

The Government of Odisha, Intel Corporation and 3DGS Inc. USA have together signed an MoU to build an **Advanced Packaging Glass Core Substrate Manufacturing Facility** in the Bhubaneswar-Khurda region. The facility will be engaged mainly in producing advanced packaging glass core substrates, high-density interconnect substrates and other semiconductor technologies, supported by Intel's highly technical and process expertise. The project will introduce advanced deep-tech skills in the local manufacturing environment, creating more than 1,800 highly skilled jobs and indirectly through secondary supply

chains thousands of other opportunities. It is in line with the India Semiconductor Mission and attracting the best global tech with Odisha being turned into a new international hub for semiconductor fabrication and high-value, export-oriented electronics manufacturing.

### III. Human Development and Social Welfare

#### A. Policy Updates

##### 1. National Sports Board And Sports Tribunal Rules Notified Under Sports Governance Act – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026 and the National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026 under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The National Sports Board has been empowered as apex body to grant recognition to National Sports Federations and to monitor their compliance with governance, financial-accountability and transparency standards, while the National Sports Tribunal establishes a dedicated forum for resolving sports disputes through a fully digital process of online filing, notices and virtual hearings. Together the two bodies replace a fragmented, litigation-prone administrative set-up with a single recognition-and-adjudication framework. Concentrating federation oversight and dispute resolution in statutory institutions has direct bearing on the long-running contests over federation elections and recognition that have repeatedly reached the courts.

##### 2. Cabinet Approves SARTHAK-PDS Umbrella Scheme To Modernise Public Distribution System – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved SARTHAK-PDS, an umbrella scheme to modernise the Public Distribution System, with a total outlay of ₹ 25,530 crore over five years. The scheme consolidates two existing programmes, namely assistance to State agencies for intra-State movement of foodgrains and Fair Price Shop dealers' margins under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), and the SMART-PDS technology modernisation scheme, into a single framework. By unifying funding streams and embedding technology-led supply-chain tracking, the scheme is expected to reduce leakage, improve transparency in foodgrain movement and revise central assistance to provide higher and more sustainable commissions for Fair Price Shop dealers, strengthening last-mile delivery under the food security framework.

### **3. Pregabalin Recategorised To Schedule H1 To Curtail Non-Medical Abuse - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

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

The Ministry has notified the reclassification of Pregabalin, indicated for neuropathic pain and fibromyalgia, from Schedule H to Schedule H1 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, in response to documented enforcement reports of illicit stockpiling and non-medical abuse for euphoric and sedative effects among youth populations. Under the revised classification, Pregabalin may only be dispensed against a valid Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) prescription, pharmacists must maintain a dedicated transaction register recording patient and prescriber details, and manufacturers must stamp Schedule H1 warning labels on all packaging. The reclassification eliminates over-the-counter access and the mandatory register enables enforcement agencies to reconstruct retail distribution patterns in abuse proceedings.

### **4. Disability Law's Acid Attack Victim Definition Expanded To Cover Internal And Administered Injuries - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

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

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has amended the Schedule under **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** expanding the definition of an "acid attack victim" for the purposes of disability certification and benefits. The latest provision in the law states that a victim of an acid attack is any person who is physically disfigured either externally or internally due to a violent attack, infliction of injury on oneself, or involvement in an accident where acid or similar corrosive substances are thrown, administered, spilled, or dropped. This change in law removes rigid bureaucratic barriers that had allowed disability certifications only to those that were victims of external criminal violence. Besides external disfigurement, the explicit mention of "internal disfigurement, "self-infliction, " or "accidental" in the amendment is a clear indication that persons with internal esophageal or respiratory corrosion or those who have suffered industrial chemical accidents are also covered by the act.

### **5. First Strategic Investment Plan Cleared Under ₹ 60,000 Crore PM-SETU ITI Upgradation Scheme - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**

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

The National Steering Committee approved the first Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) under the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme, transitioning the ₹ 60,000 crore programme to execution. The plan, submitted by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) for the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster, makes Andhra Pradesh the first state with an

anchor-industry partnership with 32 States and Union Territories have constituted Steering Committees, and 12 have issued Requests for Proposals. The scheme restructures Industrial Training Institutes into jointly governed, demand-driven hubs where anchor industries co-design curricula, targeting the mismatch between vocational training and industry requirements. This state-industry convergence sets a benchmark for scaling an industry-ready workforce across priority industrial corridors.

## **6. Clarification Issued On Exemptions Under School Management Committee Guidelines, 2026 – Ministry of Education**

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

The Ministry of Education has issued an administrative clarification to all States and Union Territories on the scope of the School Management Committee (SMC) Guidelines, 2026. The directive confirms that schools classified under Section 2(n)(iv) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 are exempt from mandatory enforcement of the guidelines, provided they maintain independent management frameworks, while encouraging such institutions to voluntarily constitute parallel committees to strengthen decentralised oversight and parent-teacher collaboration. By delineating which categories of schools fall within the binding scope of the guidelines, the clarification resolves ambiguity in implementation across States and reduces the compliance burden on exempt institutions. The measure reinforces the SMC framework's core objective of community participation in school governance while preserving operational autonomy for institutions already governed by separate management structures.

## **B. Announcements**

### **1. Digital Portal And Mobile App Launched To Streamline PM-AJAY Scheme Delivery – Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

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

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a centralised PM-AJAY portal and mobile application to digitise field implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)**. The platform moves village-level processes such as household surveys and Village Development Plans online and covers all three scheme components such as Adarsh Gram model-village development, the Grant-in-Aid skilling and livelihoods component, and hostel administration, linking fund release to milestone and plan approvals through national dashboards. By tying disbursement to digital approvals, the tool is intended to reduce fund parking and reporting delays in a scheme that delivers to Scheduled Caste habitations across states.

## 2. **Framework Released To Reintegrate Out-Of-School Children Through Open And Distance Learning Pathways – Ministry of Education**

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

The Ministry's Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL) has released a national framework to mainstream out-of-school children, premised on Government data showing only 62 of every 100 children enrolling in Class I reach Class XII, with the framework shifting integration to a decentralised model leveraging the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), State Open Schools, and district administrations as primary implementation nodes. The framework provides flexible Open and Distance Learning (ODL) pathways for children unable to attend regular schools due to economic compulsions or domestic responsibilities, with districts designated as the nodal interface for data sharing and guideline refinement before nationwide scale-up. Finalisation of state-level operational protocols remains pending, after which the framework is to cover an estimated 1.1 crore out-of-school children identified in recent surveys.

## IV. **National Security and Foreign Policy**

### A. **Policy Updates**

#### 1. **Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Notified Mandating Passport Disclosure Requirements – Ministry of Home Affairs**

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

The Ministry of Home Affairs notified the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending Schedule IC of the Citizenship Rules, 2009. Paragraph (iiiA) requires applicants for Indian citizenship to declare whether they hold a passport from Pakistan, Afghanistan, or Bangladesh, provide details in the application, and surrender the document to a Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Post within 15 days of citizenship approval. This replaces discretionary tracing with a time-bound protocol via the postal network, creating a record of nationality document disposal. The measure tightens verification and prevents dual-passport retention after naturalisation.

### B. **Announcements**

#### 1. **High-Level Committee Constituted To Study Demographic And Migration-Linked Population Change – Ministry of Home Affairs**

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

The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted a **High-Level Committee on Demographic Change**, chaired by a retired judge, to operationalise the demography-focused mission announced by the Prime Minister on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025. The committee has a one-year mandate to submit its report, extendable by up to six months, and is tasked with studying shifts in population and settlement patterns, including those linked to irregular cross-border migration, and with examining

variation across social and religious communities against broader demographic trends. As a study-and-recommend body, its near-term effect is analytical rather than regulatory, with its findings expected to inform subsequent policy on migration and population management.

## 2. **DRDO Completes Configuration Trials Of UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile V3 – Ministry Of Defence**

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

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has completed final configuration development trials of the **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3** at the Kurnool test range, Andhra Pradesh, with the system configured for dual-mode **Air-to-Ground** and **Air-to-Air** deployment and operated through an automated **Ground Control System (GCS)**. The trial incorporated a broad MSME manufacturing base, confirming domestic supply chain readiness for immediate serial production. The system is now eligible for induction, reducing India's dependence on imported precision-strike munitions for UAV-based force structures.

## 3. **Third India-Nordic Summit Elevates Multilateral Ties Into A Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership – Ministry of External Affairs**

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

During the Third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, India and the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) officially elevated their multilateral relations into a "**Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership**". As per the agreed structure, India partners with Iceland to expand technology transfers in geothermal energy and modern fisheries, collaborates with Norway on blue economy and polar research, and involves the entire Nordic group in maritime sustainability and digital innovation. Complementing **comprehensive Arctic Policy** ("India and the Arctic: building a partnership for sustainable development"), the joint partnership mobilises cutting-edge Nordic technical capabilities to help domestically invest in renewable energy, green hydrogen, and climate-resilient manufacturing in a systematic way, that is by lowering risks. The summit combines international deep-tech collaboration with local industrial growth to support India's green transformation and national net-zero objectives.

## 4. **India and Canada Issue Joint Statement Launching Trade and Investment Forum to Deepen Economic Ties – Ministry of Commerce & Industry**

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

During a high-level ministerial engagement, India and Canada officially launched the **Canada-India Trade and Investment Forum**. This bilateral platform is a great medium through which corporate leaders from the two countries can come together, discover new commercial partnerships, invest in high-quality long-term

projects, and at the same time, promote people-to-people connectivity and business mobility. The main articles of the agreement highlight the need to focus on cooperation in sectors that are complementary and high value, such as clean energy, critical minerals, and agri-food technology. To continue strengthening this economic relationship, Canada will send a special "**Team Canada Trade Mission**" to India later this year. The overall policy goal of this forum is to, on a systematic basis, speed up the development toward a comprehensive and globally beneficial Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

## V. Rural and Agricultural Transformation

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. MDoNER Launches ₹ 236 Crore 'Mission Queen Pineapple' To Build Integrated Horticultural Value Chains – Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

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

The Ministry, in collaboration with the Government of Tripura, has rolled out Mission Queen Pineapple, an integrated ₹ 236 crore convergence project spanning from Q2 FY 2025-26 to Q4 FY 2027-28. The policy framework operationalises a multi-ministerial partnership linking Agriculture, Food Processing, Commerce, and MSME with APEDA, TRIFED, and NERAMAC to deploy a standardized Hub & Spoke post-harvest logistics infrastructure across eight cultivation zones. By leveraging public-private partnership Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to revive dormant processing assets and extracting commercial sub-products like Pineapple Leaf Fiber (PALF), the intervention reduces regional supply chain losses while capturing premium export market access for smallholders.

#### 2. Ten New Crop Species Added To Plant Variety Protection Registry – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

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

The Ministry, through the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, has notified an expansion of the genera and species eligible for registration under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. The notification adds **ten crops to the protected database**, namely Knol Khol, Turnip, Avocado, Dragon Fruit, Aranda Orchid, Kale, Sapota, Lettuce, Adenium and Bambara Groundnut, several of which were previously outside the scope of formal variety ownership. Registration now allows plant breeders, agricultural researchers and farmers to claim intellectual property rights over distinct varieties of these crops and to access the benefit-sharing provisions of the Act. By extending protection to high-value and ornamental horticulture, the measure reduces the exposure of domestic breeders to infringement and improves the commercial case for private investment in climate-resilient seed development, supporting shift toward higher-margin horticultural cultivation.

## **B. Announcements**

### **1. Productivity And Climate Roadmaps Set Out At National Kharif Campaign Conference – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

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

The Ministry has set out an agricultural blueprint at the two-day National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2026 in New Delhi. The technical guidelines establish grassroots targets to expand pulses and oilseeds cultivation through dedicated domestic missions, improve regional seed replacement rates and intensify the use of digital farming registries, while directing regional extension networks toward **soil health management and balanced fertiliser application** to mitigate climate-related risks. By translating existing agricultural frameworks into season-specific targets ahead of the kharif sowing cycle, the conference functions as an implementation-planning exercise rather than a new policy instrument. Its effect on **import dependence in edible oils and pulses** and on climate resilience will depend on the extent to which these targets are operationalised through State-level extension and procurement systems.

### **2. Letter Of Intent Signed With Netherlands For Cooperation On The Kalpasar Project - Ministry of Jal Shakti**

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

During the Prime Minister's visit to the Afsluitdijk closure dam in the Netherlands, the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management signed a Letter of Intent for technical cooperation on Gujarat's **Kalpasar Project**, a long-pending proposal for a multi-purpose dam across the Gulf of Khambhat. The cooperation will draw on Dutch expertise in tidal power generation, mega-scale flood defence, and marine land reclamation, areas where the Netherlands operates reference infrastructure under its delta works programme. If the LoI translates into project movement, Kalpasar could deliver a sizable freshwater reservoir, reclaimed land for Saurashtra and South Gujarat, and tidal generation capacity, though the project has remained on the drawing board since the 1990s pending environmental clearance and financing closure.

## Annexure - I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

### A. Policy Updates

#### 1. Election Commission of India Commences Enumeration Phase For Special Intensive Revision In Four States – Election Commission of India

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

The Election Commission of India has commenced the Enumeration Phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of **electoral rolls in Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur**, with the first statutory order issued on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026. The exercise tasks Booth Level Officers with door-to-door verification of existing records, distribution of enumeration forms to current electors, and enrolment of newly eligible citizens who have attained 18 years and all data collected through field and online verification on or before 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026 will form the basis of the Draft Electoral Roll. By pairing physical enumeration with defined verification windows and subsequent claims-and-objections periods, the revision is intended to remove ineligible and duplicate entries, correct regional registration imbalances and reinforce the integrity of the rolls ahead of forthcoming elections in these states.

#### 2. Electricity Act Violations Decriminalised And Penalties Rationalised Under Jan Vishwas Framework – Ministry of Power

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

The Ministry of Power has notified the implementation of the decriminalisation provisions introduced through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026. The changes amend the Electricity Act, 2003 by replacing criminal penalties for specified procedural and compliance-related violations with a civil penalty framework. The Ministry has directed states, electricity regulators, and power utilities to align their legal and regulatory frameworks accordingly. The reform aims to improve the ease of doing business in the power sector by reducing litigation risks and promoting a more compliance-oriented regulatory environment.

#### 3. Joint Secretary (Films) Designated As Authorised Officer For Content Takedown Notices To Intermediaries – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

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

The Ministry has notified the Joint Secretary (Films) as the authorised officer for legal notices to digital intermediaries under the Information Technology Act 2000. This designation empowers the officer to issue removal demands for unlawful information as per the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The update strengthens regulatory enforcement over digital intermediaries, content delivery networks, and streaming platforms, bridging the governance gap between traditional film censorship and digital distribution. Consequently, digital platforms must align grievance and

moderation workflows to comply with notices from this authority within statutory timelines while retaining safe-harbor protections.

## **B. Announcements**

### **1. Setting Of Merchandise Export Target At One Trillion Dollars Within Five Years - Ministry Of Commerce And Industry**

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

The Ministry announced a long-term strategic timeline targeting \$ 1 trillion in merchandise exports for the current fiscal year and a cumulative \$ 2 trillion within five years. The operational roadmap focuses on accelerating international trade partnerships through Next-Generation Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and enhancing regional industrial productivity cooperation. This trade push leverages close public-private coordination to turn global supply chain uncertainties into domestic competitive advantages without requiring legislative intervention or complex administrative restructuring.

### **2. Revision Of Base Year For Index Of Industrial Production To 2022-23 - Ministry Of Statistics And Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**

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

MoSPI has finalised the technical framework to revise the All-India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) **base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23**. The new series, providing index values from April 2023 onwards, is scheduled for release on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026. The revised series widens sectoral coverage to include gas supply, water supply, sewerage, and waste management, and expands the mining layer to capture rare earth and minor minerals. The previous 2011-12 revision excluded emerging sectors like rare earths (critical to electric vehicles and electronics) and gas distribution, limiting the index's usefulness for supply-chain and investment analysis. Following corresponding base-year revisions of GDP and the Consumer Price Index earlier in 2026, the update aligns industrial-output tracking with India's other principal macroeconomic indicators, improving the accuracy and international comparability of data used by Government and private enterprises to assess industrial momentum.

### **3. Third Chief Of Defence Staff Assumes Charge With Focus On Tri-Service Integration - Ministry of Defence**

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

General NS Raja Subramani has assumed charge as the **third Chief of Defence Staff** and Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs, maintaining continuity in India's apex military leadership. The new command has set out a "**Whole-of-Nation**" **approach** to harmonise combat readiness across the Army, Navy and Air Force, with stated priorities of accelerating jointness and tri-service operational synergy and fast-tracking the procurement and integration of indigenous weapon systems.

**4. NHA Signs A Five-Year Bilateral MoU With Norwegian Geotechnical Institute for Advanced Geo-Engineering Support – Ministry of Road Transport & Highways**

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

The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) and Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) signed a five-year MoU to increase Indian highway safety using international standards. NGI will provide advanced geotechnical advisory services to NHA for complicated tunnel construction, site investigation, feasibility studies, and full safety audits on existing tunnels. To address geo hazards, the agreement includes analysing Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) data to identify potential slope failures and develop predictive warning systems for high-risk transit corridors. The initiative seeks to improve infrastructure sustainability by moving highway development toward climate-adaptive and technology-based disaster risk reduction.

**5. 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' And Six-Point Strategy Announced To Regulate Soil Health And Agricultural Input Quality – Ministry Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare**

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

The Ministry has announced the nationwide launch of "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Kharif Zonal Conference in Bhubaneswar, as part of a six-point strategy for balanced fertiliser usage and soil health restoration, with the campaign backed by a forthcoming **Seed Act** and **Pesticide Act** to curb substandard input supply. Accelerated issuance of **Farmer IDs** will link land-use data and soil health indicators directly to benefit transfers, enabling targeted input regulation at the farm level rather than through aggregated district directives. The campaign shifts agricultural governance from volume-oriented input distribution to a quality-controlled model, with fertiliser subsidy targeting efficiency contingent on the Seed and Pesticide Acts being enacted within the announced timeline.

**6. National Workshop On R&D In Water Launches MAHA-Water Mission, Citizen Conservation Portal And ISRO Geospatial Partnership – Ministry of Jal Shakti**

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

At the National Workshop on R&D in Water, the Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a set of research, technology, and community participation initiatives. The centrepiece is MAHA on Water (Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas for Water), a joint ANRF initiative directing competitive research grants toward water management, climate resilience, and efficiency, including an open call for startups/MSMEs via the BHARAT-WIN portal. The Ministry also launched the third phase of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB:CTR) portal, a digital platform targeting two crore community water-conservation structures (June 2026-May 2027), and signed a MoU with ISRO to apply satellite imagery and geospatial intelligence for water-resource planning. This shifts water-security delivery towards a data-driven,

convergence-led model leveraging research, space assets, private innovators, and citizen participation.

#### **7. Signing Of Five Strategic Science And Innovation Bilateral Bilateral Pacts - Ministry of Science and Technology**

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

The Ministry of Science and Technology has finalised five strategic bilateral agreements in Oslo between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and leading Norwegian academic and industrial organisations. The collaborative frameworks explicitly establish a capacity-building pact with the Research Council of Norway, a ₹ 3.41 crore floating offshore wind project agreement with Stiftelsen SINTEF, and a structural engineering "Green Shift" declaration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. By embedding specialised deepwater exploration advisory and data-modeling tracks between the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute and Emerald Geomodelling, the intervention directly advances India's continental shelf resource assessment targets while establishing long-term, scalable sustainable service delivery networks.

#### **8. India Post Signs Commercial Agreement With Flipkart To Expand Rural E-Commerce Delivery - Ministry of Communications**

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

The Department of Posts (DoP) has signed a commercial agreement with Flipkart India Private Limited to integrate the e-commerce platform with India Post's network of about **1.6 lakh post offices**, with a focus on semi-urban, remote and underserved rural markets. The tie-up provides a technology-enabled delivery chain covering real-time tracking, OTP-verified handover and handling of both prepaid and Cash-on-Delivery shipments. The arrangement positions India Post's legacy last-mile reach as commercial logistics infrastructure for private e-commerce and deepens the department's diversification beyond traditional mail revenue.

#### **9. Indian Railways Sanctions Safety Infrastructure And Asset Rehabilitation Works On Katra Section - Ministry of Railways**

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

The Ministry of Railways has approved ₹ **238 crore** for slope stabilisation, tunnel rehabilitation, and bridge protection works on the **Jammu-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra section** of Northern Railway, a corridor subject to recurring closures from tunnel seepage, weak hillside geology, and Himalayan terrain conditions. The works deploy climate-resilient civil engineering standards to address root-cause asset vulnerabilities that have driven unplanned track closures on a route carrying high passenger volumes and strategic operational importance. Completion will reduce

closure frequency on the Katra corridor and establish a civil engineering template for asset rehabilitation on other ecologically sensitive hill-section railways.



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