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Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

1st April - 15th April

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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

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

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. **Government Notifies Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 With ₹ 10,000 Crore Corpus:** The Government has notified Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a total corpus of ₹ 10,000 crore to **mobilise venture capital for startups** through SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds. The scheme expands targeted support for deep tech, early-stage micro VCs, and technology-driven manufacturing, strengthening startup funding access.

B. **Government Tightens Import Controls On Select Precious Metal And Jewellery Items:** The Government has shifted several precious metal and jewellery items from the **free to the restricted import category**, requiring an import licence with immediate effect. The move tightens control over sensitive imports while preserving flexibility for select industrial and export-oriented uses.

C. **RBI Tightens Rupee Derivatives Rules And Discontinues Non-Deliverable Contracts:** The RBI has tightened the regulatory framework for rupee-linked foreign exchange derivatives by directing authorised dealers to **discontinue non-deliverable contracts** and reinforcing that deliverable contracts must be used only for genuine hedging requirements. The revised framework strengthens discipline in the rupee derivatives market and seeks to reduce speculative positioning amid external uncertainty.

D. **Government Restores Full RoDTEP Rates And Value Caps For Eligible Export Products:** The Government has **restored RoDTEP rates and value caps for eligible export products** to the levels applicable prior to the February 2026 restriction. The notification withdraws the earlier 50% cap and restores full benefit availability across eligible products. The revision supports exporter margins, improves trade competitiveness, and provides greater policy certainty in the duty remission regime.

E. **Digital Payment Authentication Norms Tighten Across UPI And Other Online Transactions:** Digital payment authentication norms have tightened across UPI and other online channels, with participants to ensure compliance with two-factor authentication requirements and additional verification measures. The development reflects a security-focused approach to digital payments amid rising fraud concerns, strengthening consumer protection and trust in payment platforms.

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II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. **MoHUA Notifies Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme Under Urban Challenge Fund:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has notified the Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme to **provide guarantee cover for term loans raised by eligible Urban Local Bodies** under the Urban Challenge Fund. The scheme sets out the outlay, coverage limits, eligible borrower and lender categories, and claim invocation process. The framework improves financing access for eligible urban local bodies and strengthens credit enhancement for urban projects.

B. **CERC Revises Renewable Energy Certificate Framework And Enables REC Treatment Under Virtual PPAs:** The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has amended the REC Regulations, 2022 by introducing new definitions such as Virtual Power Purchase Agreement and Renewable Consumption Obligation and **enabling REC issuance for VPPA-based transactions**. The amendment expands the applicability of the REC mechanism and strengthens flexibility across renewable procurement pathways.

C. **Government Allows UPI Toll Payments For Vehicles Without Valid FASTag At 1.25 Times User Fee:** The Government has amended the National Highways Fee Rules to allow vehicles without a FASTag, or with an invalid or non-functional FASTag, to pay tolls **through UPI at 1.25 times the applicable user fee.** The change introduces an immediate digital payment route while retaining a surcharge to preserve incentives for FASTag compliance. The measure reduces transaction friction and supports the broader shift towards seamless electronic toll collection.

D. **DGFT Mandates Electronic Platform-Only Issuance Of Certificates Of Origin:** DGFT has amended the Handbook of Procedures 2023 to require all authorised agencies issuing Certificates of Origin to accept applications and **issue certificates only through designated electronic platforms.** Manual issuance outside the designated system will no longer be permitted. The change strengthens digital control over a key export documentation process and improves transparency and reliability in trade compliance.

E. **Amendment To National Highways Fee Rules Introduces Revised Overloading Charges:** The Government has revised the overloading fee framework for vehicles using national highways by **introducing a slab-based structure** with no fee up to 10% excess load, higher charges for 10 to 40% excess load, and more for beyond 40%. The amendment strengthens enforcement against overloading and can improve compliance, road safety, and protection of highway assets.

F. **Government Advances ₹ 7,280 Crore Scheme To Build Domestic Rare Earth Magnet Manufacturing Capacity:** The Government has operationalised the bidding process for the scheme to promote domestic manufacturing of sintered rare earth permanent

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magnets, with a targeted capacity of 6,000 MTPA and selection of up to five entities. The scheme addresses strategic import dependence in high-value and technology-intensive industries.

III. Human Development And Social Welfare

A. **Government Launches CBSE Curriculum On Computational Thinking And AI For Classes III To VIII:** The Ministry of Education has launched a new CBSE curriculum on Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence for students of Classes III to VIII from the 2026-27 academic session. It will **strengthen logical thinking** and ensure digital literacy.

IV. National Security And Foreign Policy

A. **Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 Receives Assent:** The CAPF General Administration Act, 2026 has received Presidential assent, creating an umbrella statutory framework for recruitment and service conditions of **Group A General Duty officers and other officers in the CAPFs.** It strengthens administrative clarity and establishes a unified governance framework across CAPFs while preserving operational distinctiveness.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. **Cabinet Approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy Rates For Kharif 2026:** The Union Cabinet has approved the Nutrient-Based Subsidy rates for the Kharif 2026 season **for phosphatic and potassic fertilisers.** The subsidy will ensure continued availability of fertilisers at subsidised and affordable prices amid fluctuations in global fertiliser input costs.

इंडिया गवर्नेंस वॉच

विकसित भारत के नीति और प्रशासनिक विकास
(1 अप्रैल, 2026 – 15 अप्रैल, 2026)

कार्यकारी सारांश

यह दस्तावेज केंद्र सरकार द्वारा 1 अप्रैल 2026 से 15 अप्रैल 2026 के बीच लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख आर्थिक और नीतिगत निर्णयों का विवरण प्रस्तुत करता है। कुछ महत्वपूर्ण घोषणाएँ और नीतिगत अद्यतन निम्नलिखित हैं:

I. आर्थिक विकास और संरचनात्मक सुधार

A. **सरकार ने ₹10,000 करोड़ रुपये के कोष के साथ स्टार्टअप इंडिया फंड ऑफ फंड्स 2.0 की अधिसूचना जारी की:** सरकार ने स्टार्टअप्स के लिए उद्यम पूंजी जुटाने हेतु सेबी-पंजीकृत वैकल्पिक निवेश फंडों के माध्यम से ₹10,000 करोड़ रुपये के कुल कोष के साथ स्टार्टअप इंडिया फंड ऑफ फंड्स 2.0 की अधिसूचना जारी की है। यह योजना डीप टेक, प्रारंभिक चरण के माइक्रो वेंचर कैपिटलिस्ट और प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित विनिर्माण के लिए लक्षित समर्थन का विस्तार करती है, जिससे स्टार्टअप्स के लिए फंडिंग की पहुंच मजबूत होती है।

B. **सरकार ने चुनिंदा कीमती धातुओं और आभूषणों पर आयात नियंत्रण कड़ा किया:** सरकार ने कई कीमती धातुओं और आभूषणों को मुक्त आयात श्रेणी से प्रतिबंधित आयात श्रेणी में डाल दिया है, जिसके लिए तत्काल प्रभाव से आयात लाइसेंस की आवश्यकता होगी। यह कदम संवेदनशील आयातों पर नियंत्रण को कड़ा करता है, जबकि चुनिंदा औद्योगिक और निर्यात-उन्मुख उपयोगों के लिए लचीलापन बनाए रखता है।

C. **आर.बी.आई ने रुपये से जुड़े विदेशी मुद्रा डेरिवेटिव नियमों को सख्त किया और गैर-वितरणीय अनुबंधों को बंद किया:** आर.बी.आई ने रुपये से जुड़े विदेशी मुद्रा डेरिवेटिव के लिए नियामक ढांचे को सख्त करते हुए अधिकृत डीलरों को गैर-वितरणीय अनुबंधों को बंद करने का निर्देश दिया है और यह स्पष्ट किया है कि वितरणीय अनुबंधों का उपयोग केवल वास्तविक हेजिंग आवश्यकताओं के लिए ही किया जाना चाहिए। संशोधित ढांचा रुपये डेरिवेटिव बाजार में अनुशासन को मजबूत करता है और बाहरी अनिश्चितता के बीच सट्टेबाजी को कम करने का प्रयास करता है।

D. **सरकार ने पात्र निर्यात उत्पादों के लिए पूर्ण आर.ओ.डी.टी.ई.पी दरें और मूल्य सीमाएं बहाल कीं:** सरकार ने पात्र निर्यात उत्पादों के लिए आर.ओ.डी.टी.ई.पी दरें और मूल्य सीमाएं फरवरी 2026 के प्रतिबंध से पहले के स्तर पर बहाल कर दी हैं। अधिसूचना ने पूर्व की 50% सीमा को हटा दिया है और पात्र उत्पादों पर पूर्ण लाभ की उपलब्धता बहाल कर दी है। यह संशोधन निर्यातकों के मार्जिन को बढ़ाता है, व्यापार प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में सुधार करता है और शुल्क छूट व्यवस्था में अधिक नीतिगत निश्चितता प्रदान करता है।

E. **यू.पी.आई और अन्य ऑनलाइन लेनदेन में डिजिटल भुगतान प्रमाणीकरण के नियम सख्त किए गए:**

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यू.पी.आई और अन्य ऑनलाइन चैनलों में डिजिटल भुगतान प्रमाणीकरण के नियम सख्त कर दिए गए हैं, जिसमें प्रतिभागियों को दो-कारक प्रमाणीकरण आवश्यकताओं और अतिरिक्त सत्यापन उपायों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना होगा। यह कदम धोखाधड़ी की बढ़ती चिंताओं के बीच डिजिटल भुगतान के प्रति सुरक्षा-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है, जिससे उपभोक्ता संरक्षण और भुगतान प्लेटफार्मों में विश्वास मजबूत होता है।

II. अवसंरचना, प्रौद्योगिकी और स्थिरता

A. **शहरी चुनौती निधि के अंतर्गत आवास एवं शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय (MoHUA) ने ऋण पुनर्भुगतान गारंटी उप-योजना अधिसूचित:** आवास एवं शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय ने शहरी चुनौती निधि के अंतर्गत पात्र शहरी स्थानीय निकायों द्वारा लिए गए सावधि ऋणों के लिए गारंटी कवर प्रदान करने हेतु ऋण पुनर्भुगतान गारंटी उप-योजना अधिसूचित की है। योजना में परिव्यय, कवरेज सीमा, पात्र उधारकर्ता और ऋणदाता श्रेणियां तथा दावा प्रक्रिया निर्धारित की गई है। यह ढांचा पात्र शहरी स्थानीय निकायों के लिए वित्तपोषण तक पहुंच में सुधार करता है और शहरी परियोजनाओं के लिए ऋण संवर्धन को मजबूत बनाता है।

B. **CERC ने नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रमाणपत्र ढांचे में संशोधन किया और आभासी पी.पी.ए के अंतर्गत आर.ई.सी उपचार को सक्षम बनाया:** केंद्रीय विद्युत नियामक आयोग (CERC) ने आर.ई.सी विनियम, 2022 में संशोधन करते हुए आभासी विद्युत क्रय समझौता (VPPA) और नवीकरणीय उपभोग दायित्व जैसी नई परिभाषाएं प्रस्तुत की हैं तथा VPPA-आधारित लेनदेन के लिए आर.ई.सी जारी करने को सक्षम बनाया है। यह संशोधन आर.ई.सी तंत्र की प्रयोज्यता का विस्तार करता है और नवीकरणीय खरीद मार्गों में लचीलापन बढ़ाता है।

C. **सरकार ने वैध फास्टैग (FASTag) के बिना वाहनों के लिए यू.पी.आई टोल भुगतान की अनुमति (उपयोगकर्ता शुल्क का 1.25 गुना):** सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग शुल्क नियमों में संशोधन किया है, जिसके तहत FASTag के बिना या अमान्य या निष्क्रिय FASTag वाले वाहन भी लागू उपयोगकर्ता शुल्क के 1.25 गुना दर पर **यू.पी.आई** के माध्यम से टोल का भुगतान कर सकेंगे। इस बदलाव से तत्काल डिजिटल भुगतान का विकल्प उपलब्ध हो गया है, साथ ही FASTag अनुपालन को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए अधिभार भी बरकरार रखा गया है। यह उपाय लेनदेन में आने वाली बाधाओं को कम करता है और निर्बाध इलेक्ट्रॉनिक टोल संग्रह की दिशा में व्यापक बदलाव का समर्थन करता है।

D. **डी.जी.एफ.टी (DGFT) ने मूल प्रमाण पत्र जारी करने के लिए केवल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्लेटफॉर्म अनिवार्य किया:** DGFT ने प्रक्रिया पुस्तिका 2023 में संशोधन किया है, जिसके तहत मूल प्रमाण पत्र जारी करने वाली सभी अधिकृत एजेंसियों को आवेदन स्वीकार करने और प्रमाण पत्र जारी करने के लिए केवल निर्दिष्ट इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग करना अनिवार्य होगा। निर्दिष्ट प्रणाली के बाहर मैन्युअल रूप से प्रमाण पत्र जारी करना अब मान्य नहीं

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होगा। यह बदलाव एक महत्वपूर्ण निर्यात दस्तावेज़ीकरण प्रक्रिया पर डिजिटल नियंत्रण को मजबूत करता है और व्यापार अनुपालन में पारदर्शिता और विश्वसनीयता में सुधार करता है।

E. **राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग शुल्क नियमों में संशोधन से ओवरलोडिंग शुल्क में संशोधन लागू:** सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों पर चलने वाले वाहनों के लिए ओवरलोडिंग शुल्क ढांचे में संशोधन किया है। अब स्लैब-आधारित संरचना लागू की गई है, जिसके तहत 10% तक अतिरिक्त भार पर कोई शुल्क नहीं है, 10 से 40% तक अतिरिक्त भार पर अधिक शुल्क लगेगा, और 40% से अधिक भार पर और भी अधिक शुल्क लगेगा। यह संशोधन ओवरलोडिंग के खिलाफ प्रवर्तन को मजबूत करेगा और अनुपालन, सड़क सुरक्षा और राजमार्ग संपत्तियों की सुरक्षा में सुधार ला सकता है।

F. **सरकार ने घरेलू स्तर पर दुर्लभ पृथ्वी चुंबक निर्माण क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए ₹7,280 करोड़ की योजना को आगे बढ़ाया:** सरकार ने 6,000 मीट्रिक टन प्रति वर्ष की लक्षित क्षमता और अधिकतम पांच संस्थाओं के चयन के साथ, सिंटर किए गए दुर्लभ पृथ्वी स्थायी चुंबकों (rare earth permanent magnets) के घरेलू निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने की योजना के लिए बोली प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। यह योजना उच्च मूल्य और प्रौद्योगिकी-प्रधान उद्योगों में रणनीतिक आयात निर्भरता को कम करती है।

III. मानव विकास और सामाजिक कल्याण

A. **सरकार ने तीसरी से आठवीं कक्षा के छात्रों के लिए कम्प्यूटेशनल थिंकिंग और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस पर आधारित सी.बी.एस.ई का नया पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किया:** शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने 2026-27 के शैक्षणिक सत्र से तीसरी से आठवीं कक्षा के छात्रों के लिए कम्प्यूटेशनल थिंकिंग और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस पर आधारित एक नया सीबीएसई पाठ्यक्रम शुरू किया है। इससे **तार्किक सोच मजबूत** होगी और डिजिटल साक्षरता सुनिश्चित होगी।

IV. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और विदेश नीति

A. **केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बल (सामान्य प्रशासन) अधिनियम, 2026 को राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी:** सी.ए.पी.एफ सामान्य प्रशासन अधिनियम, 2026 को राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी प्राप्त हो गई है, जिससे **सी.ए.पी.एफ में ग्रुप ए जनरल ड्यूटी अधिकारियों और अन्य अधिकारियों की भर्ती और सेवा शर्तों के लिए एक व्यापक वैधानिक ढांचा तैयार** हो गया है। यह प्रशासनिक स्पष्टता को मजबूत करता है और परिचालन विशिष्टता को बनाए रखते हुए सी.ए.पी.एफ में एक एकीकृत शासन ढांचा स्थापित करता है।

V. ग्रामीण और कृषि परिवर्तन

A. **मंत्रिमंडल ने खरीफ 2026 के लिए पोषक तत्व आधारित सब्सिडी दरों को मंजूरी दी:** केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने **खरीफ 2026 सीजन के लिए फॉस्फेटिक (P) और पोटाशिक (K) उर्वरकों पर सब्सिडी दरों को मंजूरी दी**

कार्यकारी सारांश
है। यह सब्सिडी वैश्विक उर्वरक लागत में उतार-चढ़ाव के बीच **रियायती और किफायती कीमतों पर उर्वरकों की निरंतर उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करेगी**।

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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. Government Notifies Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 With ₹ 10,000 Crore Corpus - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Government has notified Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a total corpus of ₹ 10,000 crore to mobilise venture capital for startups through **SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds**. The scheme expands the earlier fund-of-funds framework by introducing targeted support for **deep tech, early-stage micro VCs, technology-driven manufacturing**, and other startup segments, while also providing for multiple implementation agencies, DPIIT-issued operational guidelines, and an empowered committee for oversight. The notification represents a scheme-level financing and governance intervention to strengthen startup funding access and support priority innovation segments.

2. Government Notifies Conditional Concessional Customs Duty For SEZ Sales To Domestic Market - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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

The Government has notified a conditional concessional customs duty framework for goods manufactured in Special Economic Zones and cleared into the Domestic Tariff Area from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. The measure allows eligible SEZ manufacturing units to sell into the domestic market at lower duty incidence, subject to conditions such as a **30% cap linked to past export performance**, **minimum 20% value addition**, and certification by the Development Commissioner. By easing the duty burden in a calibrated manner, the policy can improve capacity utilisation and production economics for export-oriented manufacturers affected by global trade disruption, while limiting misuse through sector exclusions, audit requirements, and denial of overlapping export benefits.

3. RBI Tightens Rupee Derivatives Rules And Discontinues Non-Deliverable Contracts - Reserve Bank of India

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** RBI, Indian Express

The Reserve Bank of India has tightened the framework for rupee-linked foreign exchange derivatives by directing authorised dealers to **discontinue non-deliverable derivative contracts involving the Indian rupee** and reinforcing that deliverable derivative contracts must be used only for genuine hedging requirements. The revised framework also restricts offsetting non-deliverable positions, rebooking of cancelled contracts, and derivative dealings with related parties. The development is significant as it reflects an interventionist regulatory stance in the foreign exchange market at a time of pressure on the rupee and elevated external uncertainty. By narrowing the space for speculative positioning and tightening documentation and

conduct norms for authorised dealers, the move can increase discipline in the rupee derivatives market, though it may also reduce flexibility for some market participants.

4. **Government Restores Full RoDTEP Rates And Value Caps For Eligible Export Products - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified the restoration of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) rates and value caps for all eligible export products to the levels applicable on **22nd February 2026**, with effect from **23rd March 2026**. The notification supersedes the earlier February notification and withdraws the **50 per cent restriction** that had been imposed on RoDTEP benefits. The revision strengthens the export remission framework by restoring full benefit availability across eligible products, which can support exporter margins, improve trade competitiveness, and provide greater policy certainty in the duty remission regime.

5. **Government Tightens Import Controls On Select Precious Metal And Jewellery Items - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued an amendment selected precious-metal and jewellery-related items, shifting several gold- and silver-fabricated articles, platinum-based catalysts, lab/industrial wares, and coin-type items from the **free to the restricted category,** thereby requiring import authorisations for general importers. The notification introduces a change in administrative process by removing transitional provisions, making the revised restrictions applicable immediately, irrespective of prior contracts or shipments. In parallel, the policy includes a selective revision, moving certain forms of unwrought platinum and platinum powder to the free category, while retaining restrictions on specific alloys. The notification represents a tangible regulatory action to tighten import controls on sensitive items while maintaining flexibility for select industrial inputs.

6. **Mines Ministry Amends Concession Rules To Notify ASP Methodology For Low-Grade Haematite Iron Ore - Ministry Of Mines**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India, PIB
   The Ministry of Mines has notified the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, providing a **formal methodology for publication of average sale price (ASP)** for haematite iron ore below the threshold value, including BHQ and BHJ. The amendment also clarifies that where processing lowers the economic value of run-of-mine ore, royalty will be

charged on lumps and fines after initial screening of unprocessed run-of-mine. TThe change improves pricing clarity for lower-grade ore and can support beneficiation and mineral conservation.

7. **Extension of RoSCTL Scheme For Apparel And Made-ups Exports – Ministry of Textiles**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry of Textiles has **extended the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme** for exports of apparel and made-ups till 30th September 2026 or until approval for the next Finance Commission cycle, without any change in existing guidelines. The scheme enables rebate of embedded State and Central taxes and levies not refunded under other mechanisms, ensuring continued support to exporters in labour-intensive segments, while the RoDTEP scheme continues in parallel for other textile products. The extension provides policy continuity and certainty to exporters, helping sustain order flows and price competitiveness in global markets, particularly for MSMEs that form a significant share of beneficiaries.

8. **Income-tax Act, 2025 Comes Into Force Replacing The 1961 Law - Ministry of Finance**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Income-tax Act, 2025 has come into force from 1st April 2026, replacing the six-decade-old Income-tax Act, 1961 with a simplified and more structured legal framework for direct taxation. The reform is intended to improve clarity, ease of compliance, and usability through simpler language, streamlined drafting, and updated rules and forms. The Government has stated that the reform **does not alter the underlying tax policy.** The corresponding new Forms have also been notified, and they have been simplified, standardised, and process-reengineered to make compliance easier. Together, the new law and forms improve filing usability, improve administrative efficiency by reducing ambiguity in compliance.

9. **Amendment To UNNATI, 2024 Scheme For North Eastern Region – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified amendments to the **Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI), 2024**, extending the application deadline for registration till 30th September 2026 and the timeline for grant of registration till 31st March 2027. The amendment also introduces provisions for substantial expansion of manufacturing units within the North Eastern Region, modifies the list of eligible service sectors by adding areas such as data centres and tourism-linked services while removing select sectors, and allows eligible units to access additional support from State Governments alongside scheme benefits. The changes enhance operational flexibility and extend the incentive window under the

scheme, supporting continued industrial investment and expansion in the North Eastern Region.

10. **Centre Revises Excise Duty Structure On High Speed Diesel - Ministry of Finance**
    Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Government has issued a set of Central Excise notifications revising the tax structure on high speed diesel with immediate effect. The package **increases the Special Additional Excise Duty on high speed diesel** to ₹ 24 per litre and the Road and Infrastructure Cess to ₹ 36 per litre. It also amends related exemption notifications to align the effective duty structure, including revised rates of ₹ 24 per litre, ₹ 42 per litre, and ₹ 31.5 per litre in linked excise notifications. The notifications represent a tangible fiscal and tax administration action in petroleum taxation, with implications for diesel duty calibration and revenue collection.

11. **Indian Potash Limited Retains Urea Import Role Till March 2027 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has amended the import policy condition for urea to extend the State Trading Enterprise status of Indian Potash Limited (IPL) for imports on Government account till 31st March 2027. This **keeps urea imports centrally managed through IPL** rather than opening the channel to multiple importers. The decision ensures continuity in how urea is procured and supplied, helping the Government maintain control over availability and reduces uncertainty for import planning, supporting stable supply for agriculture.

12. **DGFT Grants One-Time 30-Day Deadline Relief For Gems And Jewellery Trade Transactions - Ministry of Trade and Commerce**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has introduced a one-time relaxation for the gems and jewellery sector by **extending certain export, re-export, and re-import timelines by 30 days** where deadlines fall within a specified window. The relief was issued in response to geopolitical disruption affecting logistics and trade flows in West Asia, and it does not require separate applications or fees. The measure reduces procedural friction and supports continuity in a time-sensitive export segment.

13. **Government Temporarily Suspends Morpholine Quality Control Requirement Till July 2026 - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
    The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has amended the Morpholine (Quality Control) Order, 2020 to temporarily suspend the requirement from 1st April 2026 to 1st July 2026. The relaxation was introduced in public interest to address global

supply disruptions and ensure continued availability of the chemical for downstream users. The order provides short-term supply relief, although it temporarily eases standard enforcement for a limited period.

14. **Mechanism for Lock-in of Pledged Shares under ICDR Regulations – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
    Status: Implemented | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** SEBI
    The Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued a circular operationalising the mechanism for lock-in of pledged shares under the **SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018**. The circular provides that specified securities on which lock-in cannot be created may be recorded as **non-transferable** by depositories for the applicable lock-in period, and requires issuers, stock exchanges, depositories and merchant bankers to comply with the framework prescribed for implementation. The measure strengthens clarity in treatment of pledged shares during lock-in periods and improves execution consistency in capital market transactions involving locked-in securities.

15. **IFSCA Notifies Pension Fund Regulations For IFSC-Based Retirement Savings Products - International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**
    Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Low | **Source:** Gazette of India
    IFSCA has notified the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Pension Fund) Regulations, 2026. (Pension Fund) Regulations, 2026 to **establish a framework for pension products in IFSC**s, enabling structured retirement savings offerings. The regulations allow flexible investment options such as active and auto (life-cycle) choices, along with portability across funds. A key feature is the introduction of a Healthcare Benefit Option, allowing subscribers to allocate up to 10% of contributions to a dedicated healthcare sub-account. The framework also prescribes minimum net worth, registration, governance and risk management norms for pension fund managers. Overall, the regulations create a new avenue for long-term savings products within IFSCs, combining investment flexibility with investor protection and basic healthcare-linked provisioning.

B. Announcements

1. **Digital Payment Authentication Norms Tighten Across UPI And Other Online Transactions - Reserve Bank of India**
   Source: NDTV
   Digital payment authentication norms have been tightened across Unified Payment Interface (**UPI) and other online transaction channels**, with payment system participants required to ensure compliance with **two-factor authentication** requirements. Under the updated implementation approach, transactions are expected to require an additional layer of verification beyond the usual payment

authorisation step, with the stated objective of reducing fraud and strengthening safeguards for digital transactions. The development is significant because it points to a more security-focused approach in the digital payments ecosystem at a time of rising concern around online fraud. While the move may add a small amount of friction to transaction flow, it is expected to strengthen consumer protection and improve trust in high-volume digital payment platforms.

2. **Discussion Paper On Additional Measures To Counter Digital Payment Frauds – Reserve Bank of India**
   Source: RBI
   The Reserve Bank of India has released a discussion paper proposing safeguards to address rising **authorised push-payment frauds** in digital transactions. The paper outlines four possible regulatory options, including a one-hour lag for select high-value transactions above **₹ 10,000**, additional authentication through a trusted person for vulnerable users for transactions above **₹ 50,000**, limits on annual aggregate credits in certain bank accounts, and customer-induced controls such as account-level transaction switches and a kill-switch. The proposals signal a possible tightening of digital payment safeguards and could reshape fraud-risk management standards across banks and payment systems while seeking to balance security with transaction convenience.

3. **Monetary Policy Committee Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged At 5.25% – Reserve Bank of India**
   Source: RBI
   The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** of the Reserve Bank of India, in its April 2026 meeting, decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility unchanged at **5.25%** and to continue with the **neutral stance**. The decision keeps the standing deposit facility rate at 5.00% and the marginal standing facility rate and Bank Rate at 5.50%. The decision reflects a calibrated wait-and-watch approach in response to rising external risks from the West Asia conflict, while preserving policy flexibility to manage inflation and support growth under uncertain global conditions.

4. **SEBI–DoT Sign MoU For Data Sharing To Combat Financial Frauds – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
   Source: SEBI
   The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to **enable data sharing for addressing financial frauds** in the securities market. The arrangement will utilise DoT's Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), which facilitates real-time intelligence sharing to detect misuse of telecom resources in cyber and

financial frauds. The MoU provides for regular exchange of information between SEBI and DoT, strengthening inter-agency coordination in monitoring fraud-related activities in the digital financial ecosystem.

5. **SEBI Launches IT Platforms To Enhance Communication, Adjudication and Cyber Supervision – Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
   Source: SEBI
   SEBI has launched a set of IT platforms to improve regulatory processes and ease of doing business for market participants. These include the **Single Universal Platform for Communications (SUPCOMS)** to streamline and centralise interactions with external entities, an e-adjudication portal to digitally enable quasi-judicial proceedings and facilitate submissions and hearings, and the Cyber-Sec Audit Compliance (C-SAC) platform to support automated analysis of cyber audit reports and strengthen cybersecurity supervision. The platforms aim to enhance efficiency, transparency and monitoring across SEBI-regulated entities through increased use of digital infrastructure.

6. **SEBI Grants One-Time Relaxation On Validity of Observation Letters For Public Issues – Securities and Exchange Board of India**
   Source: SEBI
   The Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued a circular granting a **one-time relaxation in the validity of observation letters** for public issues under the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018. Observation letters expiring between 1st April 2026 and 30th September 2026 have been extended till 30th September 2026, subject to submission of updated offer documents and compliance confirmation by the lead manager. The measure has been introduced in response to prevailing market conditions and delays in capital raising due to geopolitical uncertainties, with the objective of reducing procedural duplication and facilitating access to capital markets for issuers.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. **MoHUA Notifies Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme Under Urban Challenge Fund - Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has notified the Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme (CRGSS) under the Urban Challenge Fund to provide **guarantee cover for term loans raised by eligible Urban Local Bodies** for projects under the fund. The scheme provides a total outlay of ₹ 5,000 crore, covers loans for selected project verticals, and offers guarantee cover of up to 70% of the loan amount or ₹ 7 crore for the first project, with revised coverage for subsequent

projects. It also sets out the eligible borrower and lender categories, claim invocation process, and trust-based management structure through NCGTC. The notification represents a scheme-level financing and credit enhancement mechanism to improve market access for smaller and eligible urban local bodies.

2. **CERC Revises Renewable Energy Certificate Framework And Enables REC Treatment Under Virtual PPAs - Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued the first amendment to the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Regulations, 2022, revising the framework for certificate issuance and compliance. The amendment introduces new definitions, including Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (VPPA) and Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO), and **enables REC issuance for VPPA-based transactions.** It also revises the REC multiplier framework, linking it to technology characteristics and system value, with differentiated multipliers across renewable technologies. The reform expands the scope of market-based renewable compliance and can improve demand for advanced clean energy assets.

3. **Government Allows UPI Toll Payments For Vehicles Without Valid FASTag At 1.25 Times User Fee - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008 to allow vehicles entering a toll plaza without a FASTag or with an invalid or non-functional FASTag to pay through Unified Payment Interface (UPI). The amended rule, which comes into force on 10thApril 2026, sets the payable amount at **1.25 times the applicable user fee for that class of vehicle**. The amendment can reduce transaction friction at toll plazas by offering an immediate digital payment route for non-FASTag users instead of relying only on punitive handling. At the same time, the 25% surcharge preserves an incentive for motorists to maintain a valid and functional FASTag, which supports the broader shift towards seamless electronic toll collection.

4. **DGFT Mandates Electronic Platform-Only Issuance Of Certificates Of Origin - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has amended the Handbook of Procedures 2023 to require all authorised agencies issuing Certificates of Origin to accept applications and issue certificates **only through trade.gov.in or any other electronic platform designated by DGFT.** The notice also makes clear that manual issuance outside the designated platform will not be permitted and may lead to revocation of authorisation. The change is significant because it standardises a key export documentation process and strengthens digital control over the issuance of origin

certificates. This can improve transparency, reduce procedural inconsistency, and support more reliable trade compliance in both preferential and non-preferential export transactions.

5. **Amendment To National Highways Fee Rules Introduces Revised Overloading Charges - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Government has notified the **National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2026**, revising the framework for charging fees on overloaded vehicles using national highways. The amendment introduces a slab-based structure under which no overload fee will apply up to 10 per cent excess load, while fees will be charged at 2x the base rate for excess load between 10 and 40 per cent and 4x the base rate beyond 40%. It also mandates digital payment modes, including FASTag and UPI, and provides for reporting of overloaded vehicles to the VAHAN registry. The amendment improves deterrence while creating a more proportionate and technology-based enforcement framework.

B. Announcements

1. **Government Advances ₹ 7,280 Crore Scheme To Build Domestic Rare Earth Magnet Manufacturing Capacity - Ministry of Heavy Industries**
   Source: PIB
   The Ministry of Heavy Industries has invited global bids to operationalise the Cabinet-approved scheme for **manufacturing sintered rare earth permanent magnets**, with a total outlay of ₹ 7,280 crore. The scheme combines **capital subsidy and sales-linked incentives** to build 6,000 MTPA of domestic magnet capacity through integrated facilities, with selected beneficiaries to be awarded capacity in the 600–1,200 MTPA range. Rare earth permanent magnets are critical inputs for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electronics, aerospace, and defence, and currently face strategic import dependence in this segment. The scheme will strengthen domestic advanced manufacturing capability and supply-chain resilience in a high-value, technology-intensive sector.

2. **CERC Notifies Transmission Escalation And Discount Rates For April–September 2026 - Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** has notified the annual escalation rate for payment under the Transmission Service Agreement at 3.59% for the period from 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026. It has also notified the discount rate for determining relief under Force Majeure Event and Change in Law during the construction period at 9.17% for the same period. The notification represents a periodic operational rate-setting action under the existing transmission contracting framework.

3. **DGFT Extends Special Drive To Fast-Track Export Obligation Discharge Certificates - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
   Source: PIB
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has completed a time-bound special campaign to **accelerate the issuance of Export Obligation Discharge Certificates** (EODC) under the Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) schemes, and has extended the drive for a further two months till 31th May 2026. The campaign has significantly reduced the pending EODC pipeline and improved disposal rates through focused administrative review. Since EODCs are needed to formally close export obligations and release bank guarantees, the drive provides direct compliance relief to exporters. The extension should help prevent backlog from rebuilding in the system.

III. Human Development and Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. **Government Launches CBSE Curriculum On Computational Thinking And AI For Classes III To VIII - Ministry of Education**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** PIB
   The Ministry of Education has launched a new CBSE curriculum on Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence for students of Classes III to VIII, to be implemented from the 2026-27 academic session. The curriculum is designed to **build early capabilities in logical thinking,** problem-solving, pattern recognition, digital literacy, and responsible use of technology, with structured modules, teacher handbooks, and assessment frameworks. The development is significant because it formalises early exposure to AI-linked learning within the school system and aligns technology education with the broader goals of NEP 2020 and NCF 2023. By embedding these competencies at the foundational and middle-school stages, the initiative can strengthen future-readiness in education and support the creation of a wider pipeline of digitally capable learners.

B. Announcements

1. **NHA Launches AB PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon 2026 – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
   Source: PIB
   The National Health Authority (NHA) has launched the **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Auto-Adjudication Hackathon 2026** to invite digital solutions aimed at improving claims processing under the Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). The initiative seeks to develop scalable solutions that integrate with existing systems to reduce manual intervention, enhance processing speed and enable automated adjudication of health insurance claims. The hackathon has received over 2,600 registrations and will include a series of masterclasses and a

final evaluation round, with the objective of strengthening efficiency and transparency in the scheme's claims management framework.

IV. National Security and Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 Receives Assent, Creating Umbrella Service Framework

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

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 has received Presidential assent, creating an umbrella statutory framework for the **recruitment and conditions of service of Group A General Duty Officers and other officers** in the CAPFs. The Act empowers the **Government** to make rules on recruitment, promotion, deputation, and service conditions, and provides that these rules will prevail over inconsistent rules, orders, or court directions. The law is significant because it gives legislative backing to a unified administrative approach across CAPFs while preserving their operational distinctiveness. It also formalises senior-level deputation norms by providing for 50% deputation at the Inspector General level, a minimum of 67% at Additional Director General level, and deputation-only appointments for Special Director General and Director General posts.

B. Announcement

1. Indian Navy Commissions INS Taragiri – Ministry of Defence

Source: PIB

The Indian Navy has commissioned **INS Taragiri**, the fourth stealth frigate under **Project 17A**, at Visakhapatnam. Designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited with over **75% indigenous content**, the warship is equipped for multi-role operations and includes advanced radar, sonar and missile systems, including **BrahMos** and surface-to-air missiles. The commissioning strengthens naval capability in the Indian Ocean region and reinforces the country's push towards indigenous defence manufacturing and maritime security preparedness.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. Cabinet Approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for Kharif 2026 – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

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

The Union Cabinet has approved the **Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates** for the Kharif 2026 season (1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026) for **phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers**, including DAP and NPKS grades. The decision entails a **tentative**

budgetary outlay of ₹41,533.81 crore, higher than the previous Kharif season, to ensure the continued availability of fertilisers at subsidised and affordable prices for farmers. The subsidy will be provided to fertiliser companies based on notified nutrient rates under the NBS scheme, supporting price stability amid fluctuations in global fertiliser input costs and ensuring timely supply for the agricultural season.

B. Announcements

1. ICAR Sets Up Special Task Force To Strengthen Agricultural Resilience Amid Global Geopolitical Risks - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Source: PIB

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has constituted a Special Task Force to formulate strategies for strengthening agricultural resilience in response to emerging global geopolitical risks. In its first meeting, the task force outlined priority areas including expanded farmer outreach in **100 aspirational districts**, more balanced fertiliser use, crop diversification, mechanical interventions such as **direct seeding of rice**, and stronger monitoring through designated nodal officers. The announcement is significant because it reflects an early institutional effort to connect external geopolitical risk with domestic agricultural planning. While no new scheme has yet been announced, the task force framework points to a more coordinated approach towards protecting food security, input availability, and farm-level resilience under uncertain global conditions.

2. Government To Hold Regional Agriculture Conferences Across India To Review Scheme Implementation And Set Priorities - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Source: PIB

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has announced a **nationwide series of regional agriculture conferences** during April-May 2026 to **strengthen Centre-State coordination and review the implementation of key schemes**. The conferences will cover major priorities such as pulses, edible oils, natural farming, and digital agriculture, while bringing together Government officials, scientists, farmers, startups, and private sector participants. The initiative is significant because it creates a formal platform for implementation review, stakeholder feedback, and cross-state learning. While it does not by itself alter policy, it can shape how agricultural priorities are executed on the ground and inform the next round of policy and programme decisions.

Annexure - I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Policy Updates

1. **Mandatory Star Labelling For Countertop Induction Hobs Deferred To January 2027 - Ministry of Power**

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

   The Ministry of Power has issued an amendment under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to revise the implementation timeline for the mandatory **star labelling regime for countertop induction hobs**. The amendment shifts the date of mandatory compliance from 1st July 2026 to 1stJanuary 2027, giving manufacturers, importers, and sellers an additional six months to complete testing, certification, labelling changes, and inventory adjustment. The underlying obligation to bring these products under the star labelling framework remains unchanged. The revision lowers immediate compliance pressure on industry and reduces the risk of disruption from rushed implementation. However, it also delays the point at which consumers will be able to rely on mandatory energy efficiency labels while comparing induction hobs in the market.

2. **FSSAI Introduces Fee Payment Flexibility In Food Import Clearance Process - Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**

   Status: Implemented | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** FSSAI

   The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced **fee payment flexibility** in the **Food Import Clearance System (FICS)** to streamline the processing of imported food consignments. Under the revised process, importers can now make the requisite fee payment **after visual inspection** but before issuance of the final clearance outcome, instead of paying upfront before inspection. The change represents an administrative process reform in food import clearance, which can reduce dwell time for consignments, improve workflow efficiency, and ease compliance for importers.

3. **Government Announces Temporary Cost Escalation Relief For National Highway Projects - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

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

   The Government has announced a **temporary cost escalation compensation mechanism** for National Highway projects for the period from 1st April to 30th June 2026 in response to higher fuel, material, and logistics costs. The measures allow monthly payments to contractors, and revise the price adjustment method to use a more recent cost reference in order to better reflect prevailing market conditions. The development is significant because it directly addresses liquidity and execution stress in highway projects at a time of elevated input cost volatility.

B. Announcements

1. **Draft Tar-balls Management Rules, 2026 Issued For Public Consultation - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

   Source: Gazette of India

   The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued the draft Tar-balls Management Rules, 2026 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, proposing a **regulatory framework for handling tar-balls from oil spills and coastal contamination.** The draft assigns responsibilities across state authorities, pollution control bodies, Coast Guard, port authorities and authorised handlers for collection, storage, transport, treatment and disposal. It introduces authorisation requirements, tracking systems, reporting obligations and disposal mechanisms, including use of TSDFs and co-processing. The framework incorporates the polluter pays principle through environmental compensation provisions.

2. **TRAI Issues Draft Amendment To Expand Availability Of Voice-And-SMS-Only Telecom Packs**

   Source: PIB

   TRAI has issued the Draft Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulation, 2026, proposing that telecom service providers must offer a corresponding **voice-and-SMS-only Special Tariff Voucher** for every validity period under which they currently offer bundled voice, SMS and data Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs). The draft also proposes that such vouchers should reflect a largely proportionate reduction in tariff and has been released for stakeholder comments till 28thApril 2026. The proposal is significant because it addresses a consumer protection concern arising from the limited availability of short-duration voice-and-SMS-only recharge options. If finalised, it will improve tariff choice and affordability for users who have low data requirements, while nudging operators towards more transparent and differentiated prepaid offerings.

3. **FIU-IND And I4C Sign MoU To Strengthen Coordination Against Cyber Fraud And Financial Crime**

   Source: PIB

   The Financial Intelligence Unit-India and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen coordination, information sharing, and **operational support in tackling cyber fraud and financial crime**. The arrangement is intended to help both agencies generate actionable intelligence, support investigative agencies, improve fraud detection protocols, and strengthen efforts around digital transaction security and asset recovery. The development is significant because it reflects a more coordinated institutional response to rising financial fraud risks in an increasingly digital payments ecosystem. By linking financial intelligence with cybercrime coordination, the MoU

can improve early warning, investigative follow-through, and prevention capacity across agencies and financial institutions.

4. **NSO Launches First Annual Survey Of Incorporated Services Enterprises To Strengthen Economic Data Systems - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**
   Source: PIB
   The National Statistics Office has launched the first Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) from April 2026 to create a regular **official database for the incorporated services sector.** The survey will cover companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) across States and Union Territories, use the GSTN database as the sampling frame, and survey more than 1.21 lakh enterprises through a web-based system. The development is significant because it fills an important data gap in the statistical system by creating a dedicated annual instrument for the incorporated services sector, which accounts for a large share of output and employment. By improving the quality and regularity of official data on services, the survey can strengthen economic analysis, policy design, and sector-level planning.

5. **Ministry of Steel Notifies New Recruitment Rules For Technical Wing Posts - Ministry of Steel**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Central Government has notified the **Ministry of Steel (Technical Wing) Recruitment Rules, 2026**, superseding the earlier **2002 rules** for the posts of Assistant Industrial Adviser, Deputy Industrial Adviser and Joint Industrial Adviser. The new rules revise the recruitment framework for these posts, including qualifications, experience requirements, promotion and deputation provisions, and consultation requirements with the UPSC. The notification represents an administrative change in recruitment and service conditions for technical posts in the Ministry of Steel.

6. **Government Announces Pilot To Upskill 10,000 Tourist Guides Across 20 Iconic Sites**
   Source: PIB
   The Government has announced a pilot scheme to upskill 10,000 tourist guides across 20 iconic tourist sites through a 12-week structured training programme aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework and National Credit Framework. The initiative is intended to improve service quality in tourism by developing a more professional and certified guide workforce.

7. **Free Import Policy For Tur Extended Till March 2027 - Ministry of Trade and Commerce**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has extended the **free import policy** for **tur (pigeon peas)** and **urad** till **31st March 2027**. The notifications continue the existing import treatment for both pulses rather than changing their trade classification. The extension is significant because it preserves supply flexibility in two key pulse categories and gives the Government additional room to manage domestic availability and food inflation risks. It also provides clearer policy visibility to traders and importers over the next procurement cycle.

8. **Free Import Window For Yellow Peas Extended Till March 2027 - Ministry of Trade and Commerce**
   Source: Gazette of India
   The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade** has extended the existing import policy condition for yellow peas till 31st March 2027. The notification continues the current import arrangement for yellow peas for another year and keeps all other conditions unchanged. Under the revised condition, imports of yellow peas will remain free, without a minimum import price requirement and without port restrictions, subject to registration under the online Import Monitoring System for consignments with a bill of lading dated on or before 31st March 2027. The extension gives the Government continued flexibility to augment domestic pulse availability without price or port-based import constraints. It can help moderate supply-side pressure in the pulses market while giving traders clearer import visibility over the next year.

9. **Earlier Transmission Scheme For Luhri Stage-I Power Evacuation De-notified Pending Modified Approval - Central Electricity Authority**
   Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** Gazette of India
   The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued a regulatory notification de-notifying the earlier transmission system planned for evacuation of power from Luhri Stage-I HEP, which was to be implemented through tariff-based competitive bidding under the Electricity Act, 2003. The action reflects a change in implementation approach, following recommendations from the National Committee on Transmission to adopt a modified transmission scheme. As a result, the previously approved scope and configuration of the transmission system stand withdrawn. This represents a tangible regulatory action in transmission planning, enabling the adoption of a revised design or bidding structure aligned with current project requirements.

10. **India Notifies Tax Collection Assistance Arrangement Under Tax Treaty Framework With Japan - Ministry of Finance**

Source: Gazette of India

The **Ministry of Finance** has notified the coming into effect of a **Memorandum of Understanding with Japan** for assistance in collection of taxes as a mode of applying Article 26A of the India-Japan tax convention on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion. The notification gives legal effect in India to the memorandum, which was signed in Tokyo on 30th June 2025 and in New Delhi on 8thJuly 2025. The move strengthens cross-border tax administration between India and Japan by adding an operational mechanism for tax recovery and collection assistance. This can improve the enforceability of tax claims in cases involving taxpayers or dues spread across both jurisdictions and adds a more practical enforcement layer to bilateral tax cooperation.

11. **DGFT Allows Export Of Essential Commodities To Maldives Under FY 2026-27 Bilateral Quota - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

Source: DGFT

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified the export of specified essential commodities to the Republic of Maldives during FY 2026-27 under the bilateral trade agreement between the two countries. The permitted basket includes eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, dal, stone aggregate, and river sand, each subject to notified quantity limits, and these exports will remain exempt from any existing or future export restrictions during the year. It preserves a structured bilateral supply channel for essential goods while carving these exports out from India's wider restriction framework. It also keeps tighter compliance conditions for sensitive categories, including Export Health Certificates for eggs and environmental clearances and designated customs routing for river sand and stone aggregate, balancing bilateral trade facilitation with regulatory control.

12. **Minimum Import Price On Virgin Multi-layer Paper Board Extended Till April 2026 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

Source: Gazette of India

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has extended the **minimum import price (MIP) condition on specified Virgin Multi-layer Paper Board** (VPB) imports for a further one month, from 31st March 2026 to 30th April 2026. All other terms and conditions of the earlier notification remain unchanged. The notification continues the existing MIP of ₹ 67,220 per metric tonne on CIF value for these paper board imports. This move keeps short-term import price discipline in place for a sensitive industrial input category and may help contain under-priced imports in the domestic paper board market. At the same time, the one-month extension suggests continued policy monitoring rather than a longer-term trade reset.

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