

India Governance Watch

*Viksit Bharat's Policy, Economic And
Administrative Developments*



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

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

- A. **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN Sub-Scheme for MSME Export Credit:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched two interventions, **interest subvention** and **collateral guarantee support**, under the Export Promotion Mission to improve MSME access to export credit, lower borrowing costs, and strengthen participation in global value chains.
- B. **PFRDA Framework for Bank-Sponsored Pension Funds:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) approved a new policy framework **allowing Scheduled Commercial Banks to sponsor and operate pension funds**, aimed at expanding competition and strengthening long-term growth of the National Pension System.
- C. **Withdrawal of Solder Wire Quality Control Order:** The Government has withdrawn the Flux Cored Solder Wire Quality Control Order, 2023, easing mandatory quality norms for a key input used in electronics manufacturing. The move reduces **active QCOs from 761 to 711** and is expected to **improve access to imports** and enable smoother production for electronics manufacturers and contract assemblers.
- D. **District-Centric Textile Export and Cluster Development:** The Ministry of Textiles has launched the District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative, with a target to develop **100 export-ready districts as Global Export Champions and 100 Aspirational Districts as self-reliant textile hubs** through focused infrastructure, technology, skilling, and a **Purvodaya-led focus on eastern and northeastern regions** to drive exports, jobs, and balanced regional growth.
- E. **IFSCA Insurance Registration (Amendment) Regulations, 2026:** IFSCA amended regulations to allow Lloyd's service companies to **register and operate in India's IFSCs**, enabling Managing Agents, group entities, and eligible Indian companies to participate. The move **enhances regulatory certainty** and simplifies company registration.

Executive Summary

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

- A. **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (Third Tranche Approvals):** The Government has approved **22 projects** under the third tranche of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), mobilising investments of ₹ 41,863 crore, enabling **production worth ₹ 2.58 lakh crore**, and creating nearly **34,000 direct jobs** across eight states. The scheme is expected to significantly strengthen the electronics component ecosystem and reduce import dependence.
- B. **Digital e-Bill System for Fertiliser Subsidy:** The Department of Fertilisers launched a fully digital e-Bill system to **streamline fertiliser subsidy processing**, enhance transparency, and improve payment efficiency.
- C. **Revised Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for Rabi 2025-26:** The Government notified **revised NBS rates for phosphatic and potassic fertilisers** to ensure affordability for farmers and stability in fertiliser supply during the Rabi season.

III. Human Development and Social Welfare

- A. **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026:** The Government notified statutory rules to ensure transparent, inclusive, and accountable governance of national sports bodies, with **mandated representation for women** and sportspersons of merit.
- B. **National Sports Board Selection Rules Notified:** The Rules establish a **transparent, expert-led Search-cum-Selection Committee** for appointing the National Sports Board's leadership. This strengthens the **credibility, independence, and regulatory oversight** of sports governance, improving **compliance and accountability** across National Sports Bodies.
- C. **PANKHUDI Digital Portal:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched PANKHUDI portal that will provide a **single-window digital platform** to enable partnerships and CSR participation for **women and child development** initiatives.

IV. National Security and Foreign Policy

- A. **ICGS Samudra Pratap Pollution Control Vessel:** The Ministry of Defence commissioned the first indigenous pollution control vessel for the Indian Coast Guard to **strengthen maritime environmental protection** and coastal security.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

- A. **Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025:** The Ministry of Agriculture released the draft Bill for public consultation to modernise pesticide regulation, curb spurious products, and improve farmer safety.

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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. Two Interventions Launched To Boost MSME Exports Under Export Promotion Mission - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#), [The Economic Times](#)

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, under the Export Promotion Mission, has launched two interventions under the **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN sub-scheme** to support MSME exporters. These include a **2.75% interest subvention on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit**, capped at ₹ 50 lakh per Importer Exporter Code (IEC) for FY 2025-26, and a **collateral guarantee facility** covering up to 85% for micro and small exporters and 65% for medium exporters, with exposure up to ₹ 10 crore per exporter. The measures are expected to **lower effective borrowing costs by up to 2.75 percentage points to approximately 75 % of India's tariff lines** and expand collateral-free export credit availability, improving liquidity and credit access for MSMEs.

2. PFRDA Issues Guidelines For NPS Vatsalya Scheme (Minor Pension Accounts)- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PFRDA](#), [Business Today](#)

The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has issued the **NPS Vatsalya Scheme Guidelines, 2025**, outlining eligibility, contribution, withdrawal, and transition provisions to promote **early pension savings for minors**. The scheme enables parents or legal guardians to open and operate an NPS account for children below 18 years, with a **minimum annual contribution of ₹ 250 and no maximum limit**. The Guidelines **permit partial withdrawals** of up to 25% for education and medical needs and offer multiple options on reaching 18 years of age, including continuation under NPS, transition to NPS Tier I, or exit, with full withdrawal allowed for corpus up to ₹ 8 lakh. A targeted incentive framework for **Anganwadi workers, ASHAs, and Bank Sakhis** has also been introduced to enhance outreach.

3. PFRDA Introduces Reforms To Promote Sustainable NPS Growth- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PFRDA](#), [Financial Express](#)

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), in principle, has approved a policy framework aimed at strengthening and expanding the National Pension System (NPS). The reforms allow **Scheduled Commercial Banks** to **independently sponsor and operate Pension Funds**, subject to eligibility criteria based on net worth, market capitalisation and prudential soundness aligned with RBI norms, removing earlier regulatory constraints on bank participation. In addition, PFRDA has **revised the Investment Management Fee structure** with differentiated

slabs for Government and non-Government subscribers, effective from 1st April, 2026. The reforms are expected to **expand competition and participation** in an NPS ecosystem that now covers **over 9 crore subscribers with assets exceeding ₹ 16 lakh crore**, by enabling banks to sponsor pension funds and introducing differentiated fee slabs.

4. **Withdrawal Of Quality Control Order On Flux-Cored Solder Wire - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

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

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has **withdrawn the Flux Cored Solder Wire (Quality Control) Order, 2023**, easing mandatory quality control norms on **flux-cored solder wire**, a critical input used in electronics manufacturing for joining components such as in TVs, mobiles, chargers and earphones. The rollback **reduces the number of active Quality Control Orders (QCOs) from 761 to 711** and reflects a broader review of QCOs to prevent unintended disruptions to manufacturing and exports. The withdrawal is expected to **improve access to imported flux-cored solder wire**, particularly benefiting electronics manufacturers and contract assemblers, and support smoother production and export activities in India's electronics sector.

5. **Amendment To Quality Control Norms For Electrical Accessories - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

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

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified the **Electrical Accessories (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026**, amending the existing Quality Control Order, 2023. The amendment **removes Indian Standard IS 7809 (Part 3/Sec 1): 1986**, which covers pressure-sensitive adhesive insulating tapes made of plasticised PVC with non-thermosetting adhesive, from the list of mandatory standards. The change rationalises quality control requirements for electrical accessories, **easing compliance** for manufacturers and importers while aligning regulatory standards with current industry needs.

6. **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Initiative - Ministry of Textiles**

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

The Ministry of Textiles has launched the District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative to promote inclusive growth in the textile sector through a district-centric approach. The plan targets **100 export-ready districts to be developed as Global Export Champions** and **100 Aspirational Districts** to be strengthened as self-reliant textile hubs, with interventions including Mega Common Facility Centres, Industry 4.0 adoption, export linkages, skilling and MSME support. Under the Purvodaya framework, there is emphasis on eastern and

northeastern regions, including support for GI-tagged handicrafts and tribal livelihoods. The DLTT initiative is expected to **enhance competitiveness and export potential** of district-level textile clusters, boost employment and MSME growth, modernise production ecosystems, and drive balanced regional development in textiles, particularly in under-served and aspirational districts.

7. Simplification Of Director KYC Compliance - Ministry of Corporate Affairs

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

The **Companies (Appointment & Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014** have been amended to replace the existing **annual Director KYC requirement** with an **abridged KYC intimation once every three years**, effective **31st March 2026**. Under the revised framework, directors can use a simplified KYC form for periodic filings as well as updating contact details, address, or reactivating their Director Identification Number (DIN), with fewer certification requirements. This reform substantially lowers compliance frequency and costs for directors while maintaining regulatory oversight through event and update-based disclosures. By streamlining DIN management, improving data accuracy, and shifting toward a **risk-based compliance model**, the amendment strengthens ease of doing business and aligns with the **High-Level Committee on Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms' recommendations** for more efficient corporate governance.

8. IFSCA Amends Insurance Registration Rules To Expand Lloyd's IFSC Service Company Eligibility - Ministry of Finance

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

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has notified the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Registration of Insurance Business) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, amending the Registration of Insurance Business Regulations, 2021. The amendment **revises the definition of "Service Companies of Lloyd's IFSC"** to explicitly **permit their registration in India** and allow promotion by Managing Agents of Lloyd's, permitted group entities of Managing Agents or Members of Lloyd's, and eligible Indian companies meeting the prescribed criteria. This clarification is expected to **enhance regulatory certainty** for Lloyd's-related insurance and reinsurance operations within IFSCs, **broaden participation by Indian companies**, and facilitate easier structuring and registration of service companies.

9. Notification Of Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026 - Reserve Bank of India

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has notified the **Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026** under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999**, superseding the earlier Guarantees Regulations from 2000. These regulations govern cross-border and foreign-related guarantee transactions involving persons resident in India and abroad by laying down conditions under which a resident may act as **surety, principal debtor or creditor** in relation to a guarantee. The rules aim to enhance regulatory oversight and transparency in guarantee transactions involving residents and non-residents, strengthen compliance under FEMA, and provide a clearer framework for entities engaging in international trade, financing, and credit support arrangements.

B. Announcements

1. Three-Year Public Private Partnership Project Pipeline - Ministry of Finance

Status: Announced | **Source:** [PIB](#), [Fortune India](#)

The Ministry of Finance has created a three-year Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project pipeline following the Union Budget 2025-26 announcement. The pipeline includes **852 potential PPP projects across Central Ministries and States/Union Territories**, with a combined estimated cost exceeding **₹ 17 lakh crore**. It provides early visibility of upcoming infrastructure projects to investors, developers, and stakeholders, with detailed listings available on the PPP India portal. With a **40% viability gap funding**, this is projected to attract **around ₹ 10 lakh crore in private investments** over the next three years.

2. Norms For Internal Ombudsman In Banks And NBFCs - Reserve Bank of India

Status: Initiated | **Source:** [RBI](#), [Economic Times](#)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued updated guidelines for the **appointment, functioning and escalation process of Internal Ombudsmen (IO)** within commercial banks, small finance banks, payments banks and eligible **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)**. The norms require regulated entities to set up **fully automated complaint management systems** that ensure unresolved or rejected customer complaints are **automatically escalated to the IO** for review. The directions also prescribe **clear timelines for internal review and final decision** (generally within 30 days), mandate independent appointment and reporting lines for the IO, and require regular board-level oversight and reporting of complaints. The new framework is expected to **enhance the effectiveness, transparency and accountability** of customer grievance resolution within banks and NBFCs.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. Government Approves 22 Proposals Under Third Tranche Of Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme - Ministry of Electronics & IT

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [PIB](#), [The Economic Times](#)

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved 22 proposals under the third tranche of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), involving a projected **investment of ₹ 41,863 crore**, estimated **production worth ₹ 2.58 lakh crore**, and the creation of **33,791 direct jobs**. The approvals cover **key electronic components**, including PCBs, capacitors, connectors, enclosures, Li-ion cells, and critical sub-assemblies and supply-chain items, strengthening India's domestic electronics production ecosystem across eight states. With this tranche, the **total ECMS approvals rise to 46 projects across 11 states, with cumulative investment of ₹ 54,567 crore** and around **51,000 direct jobs**. These approvals are expected to boost domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependence, and enhance regional industrial growth.

2. NHAI Discontinues KYV Requirement For Cars On New FASTag Issued After 1st February 2026 - Ministry Of Road Transport and Highways

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

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced that **Know Your Vehicle (KYV) verification will no longer be required** for cars, jeeps, and vans on **all new FASTags** issued from 1st February, 2026. For existing car FASTags, KYV will only be triggered in cases of incorrect issuance, loose tags, or misuse. To maintain system integrity, issuing banks will **conduct VAHAN-based pre-activation checks**, using RC verification only if VAHAN data is unavailable, including for online FASTag applications. The change is expected to **reduce activation delays and administrative burden** for millions of car owners, making FASTag issuance and usage more efficient and user-friendly, while strengthened pre-activation checks will maintain data accuracy, curb misuse, and **reduce grievances** across the FASTag ecosystem.

3. Extension Of GHG Emission Intensity Targets To Additional Sectors – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the **Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, expanding the scope of the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023**. The amendment extends **GHG emission intensity targets** to **four additional sectors: Second Aluminium, Petroleum Refinery, Petrochemical and Textile**. A new schedule has been inserted into the Rules to

operationalise sector-specific targets, supplementing the earlier notified sectors of Aluminium, Cement, Chlor-alkali and Pulp & Paper. The notification **broadens coverage of the compliance carbon market**, strengthens emissions accountability across energy- and industry-intensive sectors, and supports deeper participation in carbon credit trading.

4. Amendment To PLI-Auto Scheme On BEV Performance Criteria – Ministry of Heavy Industries

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

The Ministry of Heavy Industries has amended the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components (PLI-Auto) to revise **performance eligibility criteria for Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs)**. The earlier linkage to Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric (FAME) -II norms has been replaced with **category-specific criteria aligned to the PM E-DRIVE Scheme**, while FAME-II standards continue for select electric four-wheelers. The amendment specifies clear benchmarks for different BEV categories, including **range, energy efficiency, speed and acceleration**, with testing by notified agencies, and supersedes all earlier references to BEV performance criteria under PLI-Auto. Enhances regulatory clarity and alignment across EV incentive schemes, improving certainty for manufacturers and supporting faster, more efficient EV adoption under PLI-Auto.

B. Announcements

1. Launch Of Fully Digital e-Bill System For Fertilizer Subsidy Processing – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Status: Initiated | **Source:** [PIB](#), [Times of India](#)

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, through the Department of Fertilizers, has launched a **fully digital e-Bill System** to transform the processing of fertiliser subsidy claims worth approximately ₹ 2 lakh crore under Government programmes. The new system replaces manual, paper-based workflows with a **system-to-system, end-to-end digital platform** integrated with Integrated Financial Management System (iFMS) and **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)**. The digital e-Bill system is expected to accelerate subsidy processing and payments, reduce manual errors and administrative overhead, and enhance **transparency, accountability, and audit-readiness**.

2. Revised Nutrient-Based Subsidy Rates For Rabi 2025-26 – Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Status: Initiated | **Source:** [PIB](#), [Times of India](#)

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has announced the revised Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Rabi 2025-26 season, effective 1st October, 2025 to 31st March, 2026, covering Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers. The update specifies

per-kg nutrient subsidy rates and product-wise subsidy amounts for 28 fertilizer grades, with a tentative **budgetary outlay of ₹ 37,952 crore**. Compared with the previous Rabi season, this year's NBS subsidy is higher by about ₹ 14,000 crore, reflecting a substantial effort to ensure affordability amid rising global input prices. The revised rates aim to **shield farmers from price volatility**, ensure timely and affordable fertiliser supply, and support balanced nutrient use, while also stabilising domestic fertiliser markets and reducing input cost pressures for Rabi crops.

3. Indian Railways Announces Launch Of Vande Bharat Sleeper Train - Ministry Of Railways

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

The Ministry of Railways has announced the introduction of the **first-ever Vande Bharat Sleeper Train** between **Guwahati and Howrah**, scheduled to be flagged off in **January 2026**. Designed for overnight travel with a **top speed of up to 180 km/h**, the 16-coach train will offer **AC sleeper configurations** and modern safety features, including the **KAVACH system**, automatic doors, and onboard surveillance. The launch marks a significant upgrade in long-distance rail travel by combining higher speeds with improved comfort. It is expected to enhance regional connectivity, support tourism and economic linkages across northeast and eastern India, and reinforce Indian Railways' focus on passenger-centric modernisation.

4. MoU To Strengthen Rural Financial Inclusion And Services - Ministry of Communications

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

The Department of Posts (DoP) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) have **signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand financial, digital, and logistics services for rural households** and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), leveraging India Post's 1.5 lakh rural post offices, India Post Payments Bank, and 2.4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks. Under the partnership, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will provide doorstep banking (savings, payments, remittances), while **SHG members will receive tablets and Point of Sale (PoS) machines for digital transactions and record-keeping**. These measures are expected to broaden financial inclusion, enhance digital empowerment, create livelihood opportunities, improve market access, and promote inclusive rural development.

III. Human Development and Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. Notification Of National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Status: Completed | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [The Gazette of India](#), [PIB](#)

The Government has notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026** under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, creating a

statutory framework for transparent and accountable sports administration. The Rules define norms for **governing body composition, elections, disqualifications**, and the functioning of the **National Sports Election Panel**. They mandate inclusion of **at least four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit** in General Bodies, with **50% women representation**, and require **a minimum of four women members** in Executive Committees, supported by a 10-tier eligibility framework for athlete representation. The Rules also prescribe **fixed election timelines**, bar convicted individuals from office, cap electoral officer fees at ₹ 5 lakh, and require bye-law alignment within six months. The Rules standardise governance, enhance athlete and women representation, and strengthen accountability across national sports bodies.

2. Notification Of National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

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

The Government of India has notified the National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026 under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. These rules enable the Central Government to constitute a **Search-cum-Selection Committee**, chaired by the **Cabinet Secretary** and including the **Secretary (Sports)**, one expert in sports administration, and **two national sports award recipients**, to recommend a panel of names for the positions of **Chairperson and two Members of the National Sports Board**. The National Sports Board will serve as the central authority responsible for granting **board recognition to National Sports Bodies** and ensuring compliance with governance, financial and ethical standards. The Rules strengthen the credibility and independence of sports governance by ensuring a transparent, expert-led selection of the National Sports Board, improving regulatory oversight, accountability, and compliance across national sports bodies.

B. Announcements

1. PANKHUDI Portal Launched To Strengthen Partnerships For Women And Child Development - Ministry of Women and Child Development

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

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched **PANKHUDI**, an integrated digital portal which provides a single-window platform for individuals, non-resident Indians (NRIs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), corporate entities, and Government agencies to collaborate on programmes related to nutrition, health, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), child welfare, and women's empowerment. It enhances the **ease of doing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** by allowing contributors to register, submit proposals, and track the status of their contributions online through a **transparent and**

technology-enabled interface. The portal is expected to **improve convergence, transparency and accountability** in women and child development initiatives, support implementation of flagship missions such as Mission Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.

2. Launch Of Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima For CGHS Beneficiaries – Ministry of Finance

Status: Announced | **Impact Level:** Medium | **Source:** [PIB](#), [Business Line](#)

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), under the Ministry of Finance, has launched **Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima**, an **optional health insurance plan** for beneficiaries of the **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)**. The policy complements existing CGHS coverage by offering **indemnity-based in-patient hospitalisation insurance** with **sum insured options of ₹ 10 lakh or ₹ 20 lakh** and access to a wide hospital network with **cashless treatment** facilities. The scheme is expected to **enhance financial protection and healthcare access** for CGHS beneficiaries by expanding coverage options and facilitating broader specialist and hospital treatment choices beyond standard CGHS facilities.

IV. National Security and Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. Commissioning Of First Indigenous Pollution Control Vessel For Indian Coast Guard - Ministry Of Defence

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

The Ministry of Defence commissioned **ICGS Samudra Pratap**, the first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the Indian Coast Guard. With over **60% indigenous content**, the vessel is equipped with modern systems for marine pollution response, firefighting, surveillance, and aviation support, and will be **based at Kochi** under Coast Guard (West). The commissioning also marked the **first deployment of women officers on a frontline Coast Guard ship**. The induction of Samudra Pratap enhances **India's maritime environmental protection** and coastal security capabilities, strengthens indigenous defence shipbuilding, and improves readiness for pollution control, search and rescue, and surveillance operations along the coastline.

B. Announcements

1. DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) With Top-Attack Capability – Ministry of Defence

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

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the **third-generation Fire-and-Forget Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** with top-attack capability against a moving target at Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra. Developed indigenously by Defence Research &

Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, the missile features advanced technologies including an Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker, tandem warhead, all-electric actuation system, and high-performance sighting system, enabling day-and-night operations and defeat of modern main battle tanks. The successful test marks a major milestone towards induction into the Indian Army, strengthening Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence capabilities.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. Government Invites Comments On Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025 – Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

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

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released the Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025 for public consultation, aiming to **replace the Insecticides Act, 1968** and its rules with a modernised regulatory framework. The draft Bill includes provisions to enhance transparency and traceability, streamline processes using technology, enforce **stricter controls on spurious pesticides**, and introduce **mandatory accreditation for testing laboratories** to ensure availability of quality pesticides to farmers. The proposed Bill is expected to **improve pesticide quality standards**, enhance safety and compliance, promote ease of living for farmers, and balance administrative control with ease of doing business in the agriculture input sector.

B. Announcements

1. Establishment Of Turmeric Testing Laboratory In Erode - Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

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

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare announced the **establishment of a turmeric testing laboratory in Erode**, Tamil Nadu under the direction of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The facility will **provide quality testing and certification services** for turmeric produce, alongside support for a regional Turmeric Board office and cold-storage solutions, aimed at strengthening the spice's value chain from farm to market. The turmeric testing lab is expected to enhance quality assurance and grade certification, improve marketability and export potential of turmeric, and support better price realisation for farmers, while facilitating **development of the turmeric value chain** through scientific testing infrastructure.

Annexure - I : Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Policy Updates

1. Relaxation Of DSIR Startup Eligibility Norms To Boost Deep-Tech Innovation- Ministry of Science and Technology

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

The Ministry of Science & Technology has announced a **key relaxation in eligibility norms for deep-tech startups by removing the mandatory three-year existence requirement** for DSIR recognition under the Industrial Research and Development Promotion Programme. The move will allow early-stage deep-tech innovators to access DSIR recognition and benefits at a much earlier stage. The reform is expected to lower entry barriers, accelerate commercialisation, and expand India's deep-tech startup and R&D ecosystem, aligning with national goals of technology-led and inclusive growth.

B. Announcements

1. MoU To Expand Rural Financial And Digital Services - Ministry of Communications

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

The Department of Posts (DoP) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance financial inclusion, digital services, and livelihoods for rural households and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The collaboration will leverage 1.5 lakh rural post offices, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), and 2.4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks to provide **doorstep banking services** (savings, payments, remittances), equip SHG members with **tablets and Point-of-Sale devices** for digital transactions, and issue **certificates to recognise participation**. The MoU also supports Aadhaar enrollment/updates, expansion of Postal Life Insurance (PLI/RPLI) coverage, and trains SHG women as Business Correspondents. The initiative is expected to improve last-mile service delivery, increase digital adoption, strengthen SHG livelihoods, and boost rural economic opportunities across India.

2. Expansion Of Urban Automatic Weather Stations And IMD Infrastructure - Ministry of Earth Sciences

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

The Ministry of Earth Sciences announced a major expansion of **automatic weather observation infrastructure** under the India Meteorological Department (IMD), including the installation of 200 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in 2026, **50 each in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Pune** to strengthen hyper-local, real-time weather forecasting and disaster preparedness in these major urban centres. The expanded AWS network will provide **granular, high-resolution spatial data** to enhance

prediction accuracy for extreme weather events such as sudden downpours, thunderstorms, and heat waves, benefiting sectors such as agriculture, aviation, urban planning, and public safety.

3. Discussion Paper 2.0 On Adoption Of Chain-Based Index Of Industrial Production - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

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

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released **Discussion Paper 2.0** proposing the adoption of a **chain-based Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** as part of the ongoing base revision exercise. Moving away from the traditional **fixed-base Laspeyres method**, the proposed chain-linked approach allows **annual updating of weights**, enabling the IIP to better reflect structural shifts in production arising from changes in demand, technology, and policy, as well as the emergence or decline of industries. The paper outlines the proposed methodology and seeks stakeholder feedback to improve accuracy, relevance, and responsiveness of industrial growth measurement.

4. Technology Transfer Of Bio-Bitumen Via Pyrolysis For Sustainable Highways - Ministry of Science and Technology

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

An **indigenous bio-bitumen technology**, developed jointly by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), which converts farm residue (rice straw) into bio-bitumen through pyrolysis and blending with conventional bitumen, has been validated in the laboratory and successfully trialled on a 100-metre stretch of the Jorabat-Shillong Expressway (NH-40) in Meghalaya. A patent for the technology has been filed, and industry partners have been onboarded for commercial deployment. The technology promises to **reduce dependence on imported bitumen worth an estimated ₹ 25,000-30,000 crore annually**, lower construction costs, extend pavement lifespan, and minimise environmental pollution in road construction by replacing **20-30% of conventional bitumen** with bio-derived alternatives, supporting a clean, green and circular economy approach to highway infrastructure.



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