



India Governance Watch

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



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India Governance Watch

Viksit Bharat's Policy And Administrative Developments

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

Executive Summary

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

I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

- A. **ECLGS 5.0 Approved For MSMEs And Airlines:** The Union Cabinet has approved ECLGS 5.0 to provide **guaranteed credit support to MSMEs, non-MSMEs, and scheduled passenger airlines** facing liquidity stress due to the West Asia situation. With targeted additional credit flow of ₹ 2.55 lakh crore, the scheme aims to stabilise working capital, protect employment, and sustain business continuity.
- B. **Stringent Monitoring Of Gold Imports Under Advance Authorisation:** DGFT has notified restrictive amendments to the Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) for the Gems and Jewellery sector imposing a **100 Kg maximum limit on gold imports per Advance Authorisation (AA)**. This move preserves the scheme's original purpose of supporting value-added exports, though smaller jewellery exporters may face working capital strain.
- C. **SEBI Proposes Municipal Bond Reforms To Strengthen Urban Infrastructure Financing:** SEBI released a consultation paper to strengthen municipal debt markets and improve capital access for urban local bodies. The proposed reforms introduce escrow based **pooled financing structures**, enhanced disclosure norms, ESG debt instruments, and lower investment thresholds to increase retail participation and deepen urban infrastructure financing ecosystem.

II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

- A. **Coal Gasification Scheme Approved To Strengthen Energy Security And Import Substitution:** The Union Cabinet approved the Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects with a financial outlay of ₹ 37,500 crore to accelerate the national target of gasifying 100 Million Tonnes of coal by 2030. The policy will strengthen energy security, reduce exposure to global supply disruptions.
- B. **Semiconductor Manufacturing Expansion Under India Semiconductor Mission:** The Union Cabinet approved two semiconductor manufacturing projects in Gujarat under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) with a cumulative investment of ₹ 3,936 crore. The projects include advanced Gallium Nitride (GaN) based Mini/Micro LED fabrication and semiconductor packaging facilities. The expansion strengthens high value semiconductor manufacturing while reducing import dependence in critical electronics supply chains.



Executive Summary

C. **Mission For Cotton Productivity Approved To Strengthen Textile Competitiveness:**

The Union Cabinet approved the Mission for Cotton Productivity (2026–31) with an outlay of ₹ 5,659 crore to improve cotton productivity, quality, and traceability across 140 districts. The mission targets higher lint productivity from 440 kg/ha to 755 kg/ha. The mission is expected to benefit 32 lakh farmers and strengthen India's textile value chain through better seed systems, modern ginning, and quality assurance.

III. **Human Development And Social Welfare**

A. **BIS Issues New Accessibility Standards Under NLEAP Initiative:** The Bureau of Indian Standards notified six new standards for assistive products under the National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP) initiative covering mobility aids, tactile guide systems, and accessibility infrastructure. The standards establish safety, ergonomic, and performance benchmarks aimed at improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and elderly populations.

B. **Mizoram Ginger Mission:** The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in collaboration with the Government of Mizoram has launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission to develop an end-to-end value chain for Mizoram's GI-certified native ginger cultivars. It positions the produce for export to South-East Asian, Middle Eastern, and European markets and addresses a stark value capture gap for local farmers.

IV. **National Security And Foreign Policy**

A. **Commencement Of Digital Houselisting Operations For Census 2027:** The Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated digital houselisting operations and self-enumeration facilities for Census 2027 across multiple states using mobile-based data collection systems. The framework is expected to improve data accuracy, reduce processing delays, and strengthen evidence-based development planning and resource allocation.

B. **Successful Flight Trial Of Advanced Agni Missile With MIRV Technology :** The Ministry of Defence successfully conducted a flight trial of an Advanced Agni missile integrated with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. The system deployed multiple payloads across targets in the Indian Ocean Region, strengthening strategic deterrence capabilities and indigenous aerospace technology base.

C. **Hypersonic Missile Scramjet Combustor Test Milestone:** The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) successfully tested an Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor with a runtime exceeding 1,200 seconds. The breakthrough strengthens the **foundation for Hypersonic Cruise Missile Development Programme** and advances indigenous capabilities in next-generation aerospace and missile technologies.



Executive Summary

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. **Transition From MGNREGA To VB-GRAM Mission:** The Ministry of Rural Development has notified 1st July 2026 as the commencement date for the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G) Act, 2025, passed by Parliament, simultaneously repealing MGNREGA 2005 and all associated rules. This marks a major restructuring of India's rural employment architecture by shifting from a wage employment framework to a broader mission-based livelihood model.



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I. Economic Growth And Structural Reforms

A. Policy Updates

1. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 Approved For MSMEs - Union Cabinet

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

The ECLGS 5.0 has been approved by the Union Cabinet, which provides additional credit support to eligible MSMEs, non-MSMEs, and scheduled passenger airlines facing short-term liquidity pressures due to the West Asia situation. The scheme introduces **100% guarantee coverage for MSMEs and 90% coverage for non-MSMEs and airlines**, with additional credit up to 20% of peak working capital utilised during Q4 FY 2025-26 (capped at ₹ 100 crore) and up to 100% for airlines (capped at ₹ 1,500 crore per borrower), applicable to loans sanctioned up to 31st March 2027. By targeting an additional credit flow of ₹ 2.55 lakh crore, the scheme builds on the pandemic-era ECLGS 1.0 - 4.0 model, which provided over ₹ 3.68 lakh crore in guarantees and helped stabilise MSMEs.¹

2. Empowerment Of The GSTAT Principal Bench As National Appellate Authority For Advance Rulings - Ministry of Finance

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

The Ministry of Finance has empowered the Principal Bench of the **Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)** in New Delhi to function as the National Appellate Authority for Advance Rulings. This will allow the Principal Bench to hear appeals on advance ruling matters and provide a centralised mechanism for resolving specifically in cases where Appellate Authorities for Advance Rulings (APAARs) in two or more states have issued conflicting rulings on the same question of law or fact. A centralised, binding appellate layer would harmonise advance-ruling interpretations across states, eliminating contradictory tax positions for national businesses and cutting the litigation and compliance uncertainty.

3. FEMA Rules Amended To Tighten FDI Norms For Land-Bordering Country Investments - Ministry of Finance

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

The Ministry of Finance has notified the Foreign Exchange Management Non debt Instruments Amendment Rules 2026 to strengthen investment screening protocols for entities linked to **countries sharing land border with India**. The amendment mandates that investments involving beneficial ownership from such jurisdictions must proceed through the Government route and requires prior approval for ownership transfers resulting in beneficial control shifting to these entities. The amendment strengthens economic security by tightening scrutiny of land-bordering country-linked beneficial ownership while easing unintended

¹ [Department of Financial Services](#)



compliance burdens on diversified Private Equity (PE) and Venture Capital (VC) funds through a targeted automatic-route carve-out for non-controlling exposure of up to 10% and a 60-day processing timeline for priority manufacturing sectors to ensure that security objectives do not crowd out strategic investment.

4. **Stringent Monitoring Of Gold Imports Under Advance Authorisation – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

Status: Initiated | **Impact Level:** High | **Source:** [Ministry of Commerce and Industry](#)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified restrictive amendments to the Standard Input Output Norms (SIONs) for the Gems and Jewellery sector. The new regulations impose a **100-kilogram maximum limit on gold imports per Advance Authorisation (AA)** and mandate physical inspections of manufacturing facilities for first-time applicants. Furthermore, subsequent authorisations will only be granted upon the 50% fulfilment of export obligations from previous licences, supported by fortnightly performance reports certified by a Chartered Accountant. These measures are designed to curb the potential misuse of duty-free import schemes and ensure that the imported bullion is strictly utilised for value-added exports. This move preserves the scheme's original purpose of supporting value-added exports, though smaller jewellery exporters may face working capital strain.

5. **Government Operationalises Major Labour Code Reforms Through New Central Rules Framework - Ministry of Labour and Employment**

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

The Ministry of Labour & Employment notified the central rules under the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, and Code on Social Security, completing the operational implementation of labour code reforms. The rules cover wage administration, collective bargaining and dispute resolution, workplace safety across mining, construction, and contract labour, and social security including gig worker registration and the Worker Re-skilling Fund. The reforms will simplify labour regulation, improve ease of doing business, however, full enforcement remains contingent on state Governments notifying their own parallel rules.

6. **Insurance Sector Opened To 100% FDI Under Automatic Route - Ministry of Finance**

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

The Ministry of Finance has notified the Foreign Exchange Management Non-debt Instruments Second Amendment Rules 2026 permitting 100% FDI under the automatic route in Indian insurance companies and all categories of insurance intermediaries, including brokers, corporate agents while capping Life Insurance Corporation of India investment at 20%. These rules mandate that at least one key



official such as the Chairperson of the Board or Managing Director must be a Resident Indian Citizen and banks operating as insurance intermediaries must derive over 50% of revenue from non-insurance activities. The amendment **aligns the FEMA framework with the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha Act, 2025**, which raised the FDI ceiling from 74% to 100%. This will help to accelerate capital inflows, product innovation, and distribution reach and global technical integration.

7. **Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026 – Ministry of Finance**

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

RBI has issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Authorised Persons) Regulations, 2026, to rationalise the framework for the authorisation and renewal of authorised persons in the forex market. The regulations extend the principal-agent model for delivering foreign exchange facilities, aiming to broaden accessibility while maintaining necessary checks and balances. It streamlines operational requirements for forex entities, moving from the draft framework initially shared in late 2023 to a finalised, stakeholder-informed policy. The regulations reduce compliance friction for intermediaries and widen distribution reach, particularly relevant for Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities where retail forex access remains thin, supporting cross-border remittances and travel forex demand at scale.

8. **Amendment To Export Policy For Wheat – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

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

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued a notification regarding the export policy for **Durum** and other wheat varieties. Although the general export of these commodities remains prohibited the administration has permitted an additional quota of 25 lakh metric tonnes to be exported under specific modalities. This volume is granted in addition to the existing policy that allows for exports to other nations **to support their food security needs** based on official requests and specific Government permission. Such measures allow for the regulation of domestic reserves while maintaining India's role as a reliable global trade partner during food supply fluctuations.

9. **Amendment To Quality Control Order For Air Conditioners And Hermetic Compressors – Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

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

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified the Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026. It introduces a time bound exemption from the principal 2019 order for manufacturers importing specified compressor categories for their own manufacturing purposes until 31st March 2027. Manufacturers availing the



exemption must maintain monthly records and submit formal indigenisation plans to the Central Government. With India's Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) market projected to grow from \$ 12.14 billion in 2025 to \$ 17.41 billion by 2030, the policy balances short term production continuity with the Government's broader localisation strategy for developing a globally competitive domestic cooling component ecosystem.

B. Announcements

1. Consultation Paper On Reviewing Regulatory Frameworks For Municipal Debt Securities - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Source: [SEBI](#)

SEBI has released a consultation on paper to reform municipal debt regulations and expand capital access for urban local bodies, based on a working group established in August 2024. Key proposals include permitting debt refinancing via bond issuances with mandatory disclosures, capping working capital use of proceeds at 25%, enabling pooled Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) financing with a two-step escrow and state/DFI credit enhancements. Additionally, the paper aligns municipal text with non convertible security rules by permitting electronic advertisements, introducing an Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) debt architecture, and lowering **private placement face values to ₹ 1 Lakh or ₹ 10,000 as deemed appropriate**, to boost retail individual participation. The reforms target structural barriers around refinancing rigidity, fragmented small-ULB borrowing, and retail exclusion. The pooled financing framework, mirroring the US municipal bond market, can aggregate creditworthy smaller municipalities and reduce borrowing costs.

2. Strengthening Debt Recovery Framework Through Digital And Procedural Reforms - Ministry of Finance

Source: [PIB](#), [The Tribune](#)

The Department of Financial Services convened a colloquium of Chairpersons of Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) and Presiding officers of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) to strengthen the debt recovery framework through procedural and digital reforms. The discussions focused on reducing pendency through mandatory e filing, hybrid hearings, e DRT 2.0 upgrades, mediation mechanisms, and improved monitoring of high value recovery cases. As of December 2025, DRTs across India were handling nearly 2.48 lakh pending cases involving around ₹ 16.13 lakh crore, highlighting stress in the debt recovery ecosystem and the need for faster, technology driven adjudication systems.



3. **Consultation Paper On Extending Early Pay In Benefits To Options Contracts - Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**

Source: [SEBI](#)

SEBI has issued a consultation paper, proposing to extend early pay in benefits, currently limited to futures, to options contracts within the commodity derivatives segment. This mechanism allows market participants to deposit certified goods into accredited warehouses against short positions to receive exemptions on multiple margin categories based on risk perceptions. Recommended by a specialised working group and the Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee, the draft circular shifts administrative oversight to clearing corporations while maintaining the mandatory collection of mark to market margins.

4. **Approval Of The Draft Regulatory Framework For Managing General Agents - International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**

Source: [IFSCA](#)

IFSCA has approved the draft **IFSCA Managing General Agents Regulations 2026** to establish a regulatory framework for entities exercising delegated underwriting or claim settlement authority from foreign insurers. The framework permits registered agents to conduct direct insurance business in specified foreign currencies from GIFT City and outside India, subject to eligibility requirements including valid home country registration, minimum A credit rating, and foreign insurer net worth of at least \$ 100 million. It also mandates a minimum capital requirement of \$ 500,000 in an IFSC Banking Unit and a net worth benchmark of \$ 250,000 or 50% of minimum capital, whichever is higher. The framework introduces fiduciary account segregation, premium safeguards, professional indemnity insurance, independent annual audits, and a structured code of conduct to improve transparency and protect policyholder interests.

5. **Consolidation Of Regulatory Frameworks For Market Intermediaries Through A Comprehensive Master Circular - International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**

Source: [IFSCA](#)

IFSCA has issued a unified Master Circular to consolidate the regulatory architecture for broker dealers and clearing members in GIFT IFSC. This single reference point compiles various operational directives from the past five years and supersedes all historical Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines issued prior to 1st October 2020. Organised across eleven chapters, the framework covers the full intermediary lifecycle from **SWITS portal registration** to final surrender. Key highlights include elevated governance standards, a risk based supervisory model, a tiered system audit mechanism, and robust protocols for client asset protection, technical glitches, business continuity, and vendor risk management.



II. Infrastructure, Technology And Sustainability

A. Policy Updates

1. Surface Coal Gasification Scheme Approved To Reduce Import Dependency And Advance Energy Security - Union Cabinet

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

The Union Cabinet has approved the Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal and Lignite Gasification Projects with a ₹ 37,500 crore outlay, offering financial incentives capped at 20% of plant and machinery cost per project (ceiling - ₹ 5,000 crore) and extending coal linkage tenures up to 30 years to provide investment certainty. The scheme targets gasification of ~75 million tonnes of coal and lignite, contributing to the national goal of gasifying 100 MT by 2030. The domestic coal gasification substitutes imports by producing syngas for fertilisers, chemicals, and synthetic fuels, while leveraging coal reserve base to build an indigenous clean energy technology ecosystem.

2. Semiconductor Manufacturing Expansion - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

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

The Union Cabinet approved two semiconductor manufacturing projects in Gujarat under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), involving a cumulative investment of ₹ 3,936 crore. Crystal Matrix Limited will establish a Gallium Nitride (GaN) based Mini/Micro LED fabrication and ATMP facility in Dholera, while Suchi Semicon will set up an OSAT facility in Surat focused on discrete semiconductors. The projects are expected to generate 2,230 jobs and raise cumulative approved investments under ISM to ₹ 1.64 lakh crore. The Dholera facility is significant as **GaN based Mini/Micro LED technology** is emerging as a next generation display standard for automotive, defence, XR devices, and advanced consumer electronics, strengthening India's position in high value semiconductor manufacturing and reducing import dependence in critical electronics supply chains.

3. Mission For Cotton Productivity (2026-31) Approved - Union Cabinet

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

The Union Cabinet has approved the Mission for Cotton Productivity with a ₹5,659.22 crore outlay to **achieve self-sufficiency** and improve competitiveness in global textile markets by 2030-31. It targets increasing lint productivity from 440 kg per hectare to 755 kg per hectare and raising cotton production to 498 lakh bales by 2031. Key interventions include climate resilient HYV seeds, High Density Planting Systems, Extra Long Staple cotton, Kasturi Cotton Bharat branding, traceability, and natural fibre diversification. The mission will benefit 32 lakh farmers across 140 districts by improving productivity, price discovery, cotton quality, and traceability,



while modernised ginning infrastructure and the target of reducing trash content below 2% will strengthen the raw material base for higher value textile exports.

4. **Amendment To Royalty Rates For Petroleum And Natural Gas - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

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

The Ministry has notified amendments to the Oilfields Regulation and Development Act, 1948 to revise the royalty framework for crude oil, condensate and natural gas production. The updated schedule defines differentiated royalty rates across nomination and Discovered Small Field regimes, with rates calibrated by geography such as onland, shallow water, deep water and ultra deep water blocks. The revised framework provides royalty relief for deep and ultra deep water production, including a 0% royalty window for the first seven years under select HELP and DSF blocks. The changes will improve investment viability in frontier exploration, lower early stage production costs, support domestic hydrocarbon output and strengthen India's long term energy security.

5. **Railway Multi-Tracking Project Approvals - Ministry of Railways**

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved three multi-tracking projects covering 901 km across six states with an estimated outlay of ₹ 23,437 crore. Slated for completion by 2030-31, the initiative adds lines to the **Nagda-Mathura, Guntakal-Wadi, and Burhwal-Sitapur routes**. These PM-Gati Shakti projects aim to increase freight capacity by 60 MTPA and reduce logistics costs while preventing 185 crore kg of carbon dioxide emissions.

6. **Central Motor Vehicles (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2026 - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**

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

The Ministry has notified the Central Motor Vehicles (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing significant technology-driven reforms to the vehicle fitness and registration regime. It mandates capturing and **uploading at least a 10-second geo-tagged video of the vehicle**, covering the chassis number, number plate, and all four sides via a Government developed mobile application during fitness tests. Additionally, the rules formalise the role of Automated Testing Stations (ATS) in the inspection process. These amendments leverage digital transparency to curb corruption in manual inspections and the accelerated phase out of unfit vehicles, supporting the broader Vehicle Scrappage Policy objectives.



7. **Natural Gas And Petroleum Products Distribution Amendment Order 2026 - Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

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

The Ministry has notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Amendment Order 2026 to modernise the expansion of pipeline facilities and mandates the use of an online portal for submitting applications and granting Right of Use, once the Government specifies the platform. This amendment expands the regulatory scope to include gram sabhas, nagar panchayats, and tribal area administrations, ensuring oversight across transitional and industrial zones. The amendment addresses the gap in gas pipeline expansion, coverage in peri-urban and tribal zones had remained outside formal oversight, and supports the Government's target of expanding the natural gas pipeline network.

8. **Digital Connectivity Rating Framework For Properties Refined With Granular Scale And Construction-Phase Certification – Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**

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

TRAI has amended the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, introducing a **nine-level half-star rating scale** (replacing the earlier five-star system), phased certifications for under-construction buildings ('Designed For' and 'Installation Completed'), and an optional pre-rating Digital Connectivity Audit to identify infrastructure gaps before formal assessment. The framework is aligned with the new National Building Construction Standards (NBCS), 2026. By embedding connectivity assessment at the blueprint stage, the amendment incentivises developers to integrate future-ready telecom infrastructure upfront, reducing costly retrofitting and ensuring non-discriminatory broadband access for occupants.

B. Announcements

1. **Power Infrastructure Upgrade Approved For Kolkata Metro's North South Corridor - Ministry of Railways**

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹ 671.72 crore for power system augmentation on Kolkata Metro's North South Corridor to address growing capacity constraints in its ageing 1980s era infrastructure. The project includes installation of 7 new traction substations and upgradation of the power network from 11 KV to 33 KV between Esplanade and Kavi Subhash. The Blue Line currently operates at around 5 minute peak headways, and the upgrade is expected to enable operations at 2.5 minute headways, significantly improving passenger carrying capacity and operational reliability while addressing systemic obsolescence risks linked to decades old electrical infrastructure.



2. Approval Of The Ahmedabad Dholera Semi High Speed Rail Project To Enhance Regional Connectivity - Ministry of Railways

Source: [PIB](#)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Ahmedabad Sarkhej Dholera Semi High Speed Double Line project at an estimated cost of ₹ 20,667 crore. The 134 km corridor will connect Ahmedabad, Dholera Special Investment Region, the upcoming Dholera Airport, and the Lothal National Maritime Heritage Complex, with completion targeted by 2030 to 31. Aligned with PM Gati Shakti, the project is expected to improve regional connectivity, lower logistics costs, reduce oil imports by 0.48 crore litres, and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 2 crore kg. It will also support industrial integration, employment generation, and future semi high speed rail development in India.

3. Strategic Maritime Expansion Through The Thoothukudi Mega Greenfield Shipyard Framework - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced a tripartite MoU to develop India's first Mega Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. The project will establish a world class facility with an annual capacity of 2.5 million gross tonnage and act as an anchor for a wider shipbuilding cluster. It is projected to generate 15,000 direct jobs and support the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 goal of positioning India among the top five shipbuilding nations globally.

4. India Assumes Leadership Of Global IT Security Standards - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has announced that India has assumed the Chair of the Common Criteria Development Board from April 2026 to April 2028. As a certificate authorising nation since 2013 the Government through the STQC Directorate manages the technical core of global IT security evaluations for 38 participating nations. By leading the board the Government effectively positions India at the forefront of defining international security methodologies which ensures that emerging technologies are adequately addressed in global standards frameworks.

5. IP Catalyst Initiative Launched To Accelerate Intellectual Property Commercialisation - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry has launched the IP Catalyst initiative and unified platform cipie.in to support intellectual property commercialisation in electronics and IT. Implemented by CDAC Pune, the platform will support international patent filing, prior art search, and technology transfer for startups and innovators. With India recording **1.43 lakh patent** applications in FY 2025–26, driven by a sharp rise in electronics and IT



filings, the initiative aims to move publicly funded research from laboratories to market ready products.

III. Human Development and Social Welfare

A. Policy Updates

1. BIS Publishes New Standards For Assistive Products Under NLEAP Initiative - Ministry Of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

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

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has notified six new standards for priority assistive products under the **National List of Essential Assistive Products (NLEAP)** initiative, aimed at strengthening accessibility and quality benchmarks. The standards cover mobility and accessibility aids such as elbow crutches, walking sticks, portable ramps, tactile guide maps, and braille-based signage, prescribing requirements related to safety, ergonomics, performance, and design. These standards are expected to enhance product quality, promote domestic manufacturing aligned with global benchmarks, and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, elderly populations, and individuals with mobility impairments.

2. Cabinet Approves Increase In Supreme Court Strength From 33 To 37 Judges - Union Cabinet

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

The Union Cabinet has approved the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026, to increase the sanctioned strength of judges from 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India), the first expansion of the bench since 2019. The increase will enhance the overall operational efficiency of the apex court, strengthening the rule of law and ensuring a more responsive legal framework for citizens.

B. Announcements

1. Launching The Mizoram Ginger Mission To Establish A High Value Agro Processing Ecosystem - Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry in collaboration with the Government of Mizoram has launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission with a \$ 22.8 million outlay to develop an end-to-end value chain for Mizoram's GI-certified native ginger cultivars, which carry an exceptional 6-8% oleoresin content against the global average of 3%. The mission deploys 1 integrated Processing Hub and 3 Spoke Centres to enable commercial-scale processing and positions the produce for export to South-East Asian, Middle Eastern, and European markets. The intervention addresses a stark value capture gap, local farmers currently receive only ₹ 8-15/kg despite international prices



exceeding ₹ 500/kg and builds on the PM-DevINE framework for North East industrialisation.

IV. National Security and Foreign Policy

A. Policy Updates

1. Commencement Of Houselisting Operations And Digital Self-Enumeration For Census 2027 - Ministry of Home Affairs

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

The Ministry of Home Affairs has officially initiated the field operations for Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) and the Self-Enumeration (SE) facility as part of Phase 1 of Census 2027, marking a significant transition toward a **digital-first** census framework. Field operations have commenced in states including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh until 30th May 2026, while the SE portal has opened for Maharashtra and Rajasthan until 15th May 2026. By utilising a dedicated mobile application to collect data on 33 notified questions concerning housing conditions and assets, the Government aims to enhance data accuracy and reduce processing lag, providing a precise statistical foundation for future development planning and targeted resource allocation.

2. Artificial Intelligence Driven Cyber Fraud Detection And Mule Account Eradication Framework - Ministry Of Home Affairs

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

The Ministry through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre signed a MoU with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to strengthen national collaboration in combating cyber enabled financial frauds and curtailing mule accounts across the banking and digital payments ecosystem. The data and suspect identifiers from the Suspect Registry will be fed directly into artificial intelligence driven fraud detection systems. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub will utilise these comprehensive datasets for training and upgrading automated fraud risk assessment models like **MuleHunter.ai**. By swiftly detecting and culling hidden mule accounts that represent major hurdles in curbing cyber crimes, this initiative provides a next gen shield to safeguard citizens while reinforcing platforms like the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal to secure a digitally resilient Bharat.

3. Flight Trial Of Advanced Agni Missile With MIRV Technology - Ministry of Defence

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

The Ministry of Defence successfully conducted a flight trial of an Advanced Agni missile integrated with **Multiple Independently Targeted Re Entry Vehicle (MIRV)** technology. Launched from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, the missile deployed multiple payloads across targets in the Indian Ocean Region, with mission data



confirming that all objectives were met. Developed by **DRDO with domestic industry participation**, the system was monitored by ship based and ground based telemetry stations from lift off to impact. The deployment of MIRV technology provides a counter measure against sophisticated defense networks, ensuring long term strategic stability and technological sovereignty of the indigenous aerospace sector globally.

4. Hypersonic Missile Scramjet Combustor Test Milestone - Ministry of Defence

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

The Ministry of Defence, through the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), achieved a path breaking milestone by successfully conducting an extensive test of its Actively Cooled Full Scale Scramjet Combustor. Operating at the state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad, the engine achieved a runtime exceeding 1,200 seconds, effectively validating the performance of indigenously developed liquid hydrocarbon endothermic fuel and high-temperature thermal barrier coatings. This technical breakthrough provides the solid foundation required for the National Hypersonic Cruise Missile Development Programme while positioning the nation at the global forefront of advanced aerospace capabilities.

5. MoD Signs Contract With BEL For Ground Based Mobile Electronic Systems - Ministry of Defence

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

The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹ 1,476 crore contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited** for procuring five Ground Based Mobile Electronic Systems for the Indian Army. The contract has been awarded under the Buy Indian Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured category, with a minimum 72% indigenous content. The procurement is expected to improve the Army's field-level electronic warfare and surveillance readiness while strengthening domestic capability in high-value defence electronics and creating sustained demand for Indian suppliers within the strategic defence manufacturing chain.

B. Announcements

1. Delivery of The Sixth Project 17A Indigenous Stealth Frigate 'Mahendragiri' - Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Defence has completed the delivery of Mahendragiri, the sixth **Project 17A Nilgiri class stealth frigate**, to the Indian Navy through Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL). The frigate has **75% indigenous content**, advanced weapon and sensor systems, CODOG propulsion, and was delivered within 17 months of the lead Project 17A ship. The delivery strengthens India's naval modernisation and defence indigenisation by expanding domestic shipbuilding capability, supporting over 200 MSMEs, generating nearly 4,000 direct and 10,000



indirect jobs, and adding a stealth combat platform for anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine operations.

2. Deepening Bilateral Trade And Investment Through India-Chile Economic Cooperation - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry held high level bilateral discussions and organised an India-Chile Business Roundtable to strengthen commercial ties and accelerate the early conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The interactions focused on expanding market access, trade facilitation, and investment promotion across critical sectors. The dialogue targeted collaborative opportunities in critical minerals, renewable energy, agri business, pharmaceuticals, and digital services to foster greater private sector participation. This proactive economic diplomacy strategically enhances the geopolitical footprint of India in Latin America while securing essential resource corridors for the domestic energy transition and expanding global market integration for key knowledge sectors.

3. Inaugural India-Algeria Joint Commission Meeting - Ministry of Defence

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry hosted the first India-Algeria Joint Commission meeting to institutionalise bilateral security ties. The delegations signed official Rules of Procedure to govern the implementation of the 2024 Defence MoU. The discussions spanned military training, joint exercises, and industrial collaboration, involving key representatives from DRDO and the Department of Defence Production. The meeting marked the formalisation of the security footprint in North Africa, transitioning to a structured framework for military-industrial exchange. It also created a stable gateway for domestic defence **exports into the Mediterranean region** while diversifying strategic partnerships in the African continent.

V. Rural And Agricultural Transformation

A. Policy Updates

1. VB-G RAM G Act To Come Into Force From 1st July 2026 - Ministry Of Rural Development

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

The Ministry notified 1st July 2026 as the commencement date for the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, passed by Parliament, simultaneously repealing MGNREGA 2005 and all associated rules. The new framework raises the employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days per rural household annually, and shifts to a 60:40 Centre-State cost-sharing model. By aligning rural employment with the Viksit Bharat mission objectives, the Government is institutionalising a modernised and multi dimensional approach to poverty alleviation and rural economic transformation.



B. Announcements

1. Launch Of The Country Strategic Opportunities Programme For Rural Prosperity - Ministry Of Finance

Source: [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, launched an eight year Country Strategic Opportunities Programme for 2026–2033 to strengthen the rural economy and align with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The framework focuses on enhancing rural incomes, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihood opportunities through institutions such as Self Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, and cooperatives. The initiative will improve access to finance, technology, and markets for smallholders while promoting market oriented rural development and inclusive agricultural growth.



Annexure - I: Miscellaneous Policy Updates

A. Policy Updates

1. Vadinar Ship Repair Facility - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

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

The CCEA has approved a state-of-the-art Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar, Gujarat, with a ₹ 1,570 crore investment by **Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard**. The project establishes a brownfield facility with two floating dry docks and a 650 m jetty, extending domestic repair capability to vessels up to 300 m in length. This addresses a critical infrastructure gap, reducing reliance on foreign shipyards and curbing foreign exchange outflow. Expected to **create 1,390 jobs** and catalyse a local maritime industrial ecosystem, the project aligns with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

2. Upgradation And Modernisation Of Nagpur International Airport Through Public Private Partnership - Union Cabinet

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

The Union Cabinet approved the extension of the lease period for the land of the Airports Authority of India leased to MIHAN India Limited beyond 6th August 2039 to enable the long term licensing and modernisation of Nagpur International Airport under a Public Private Partnership model. This administrative clearance makes the lease co terminus with a 30 year concession period awarded to **GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited**. This development enhances regional connectivity within the Vidarbha area and expands cargo handling capabilities, which provides the necessary economic infrastructure to attract industrial investments and accelerate supply chain efficiency across the domestic market.

3. Statistical Data Dissemination Guidelines Revised With Tiered Open Access Framework- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

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

The Ministry has notified the Revised Guidelines for Statistical Data Dissemination 2026 in supersession of the previous 2019 rules. The update intends to grant seamless **access to official statistics for researchers and the general public** while maintaining strict confidentiality standards in line with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023. Datasets have been classified into tiers such as open access, registered access and restricted access to determine the level of authorisation required for retrieval. The revision aligns India with the IMF's Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS) and international open data norms.



4. **Amendment To Export Policy For Baryte - Ministry Of Commerce And Industry**

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

DGFT has notified an amendment to the export policy for Baryte, transitioning Grade A lumps and Grade B powder from a free category to a restricted category based on specific gravity thresholds. The export of these specific grades now requires formal authorisation or licensing from the DGFT. In practice Grade CDW baryte with a specific gravity below 4.0 remains freely exportable under the existing trade framework. This policy adjustment serves to **regulate the international trade of high density barium sulphate** while ensuring continued access for lower grade mineral variants.

5. **Feather Exports Made Subject To Veterinary Certification To Comply With EU And UK Import Requirements - Ministry of Commerce and Industry**

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

DGFT has notified an amendment to the export policy for feathers and related parts, inserting a new condition for specific codes including feathers used for stuffing and skins to align with existing regulations in the European Union and United Kingdom. Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) is designated to issue a Veterinary Certificate or Shipment Clearance Certificate for each consignment detailing exporter and plant information. In practice, exporters must provide a Production Process Certificate or a Veterinary Health Certificate to buyers detailing product origins and vessel information after shipment occurs. The export status remains Free -this is a procedural compliance adjustment to meet EU and UK sanitary import requirements, preempting port-of-entry rejections.

6. **Legal Metrology Government Approved Test Centre Amendment Rules 2026 - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

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

The Ministry has notified the Legal Metrology Government Approved Test Centre (GATC) Amendment Rules 2026 to expand and modernise verification of measuring instruments. The amendment authorises GATCs to verify 23 categories, including water and energy meters, petrol, diesel, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and hydrogen dispensers, while standardising verification fees at ₹ 5,000 per nozzle for petrol and diesel dispensers and ₹ 10,000 for CNG, LPG, LNG, and hydrogen dispensers. It decentralises verification services, improves compliance efficiency, and strengthens measurement accuracy across retail energy and consumer sectors.



7. **Scaling Indigenous Solar Manufacturing Through Central Electronics Limited - Ministry of Science and Technology**

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

The Ministry has dedicated a 200 MW Solar Module Manufacturing Line of Central Electronics Limited to the nation to facilitate the national goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070. This manufacturing facility became operational in less than one year after the project tender was floated in April 2025 and signifies the transformation of the entity into a revenue generating Mini Ratna enterprise that is now expanding into vertical axis wind turbines and advanced defence electronics. By prioritising indigenous manufacturing and technology transfer from national laboratories the Government effectively reduces reliance on imported energy components and strengthens the strategic technological preparedness of India.

8. **Consolidation Of Regulatory Frameworks For Market Intermediaries Through A Comprehensive Master Circular - International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**

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

IFSCA has issued a unified Master Circular to consolidate the regulatory architecture for broker dealers and clearing members operating in GIFT IFSC. This single reference instrument compiles various compliance circulars introduced over the past five years and formally supersedes all historical Securities and Exchange Board of India circulars issued prior to 1st October 2020 for these intermediaries. Organised across eleven chapters, the framework spans the lifecycle of market participants from registration to surrender. Key highlights include streamlined registration via the SWITS portal, enhanced governance standards, a risk based supervisory framework, and strengthened protocols for client asset protection, business continuity, disaster recovery, vendor risk, and periodic compliance audits.

9. **Extension Of Minimum Export Price For Natural Honey - Ministry Of Commerce And Industry**

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

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has extended the Minimum Export Price (MEP) condition on natural honey exports until 31st December 2026. Under the revised framework, exports of natural honey will continue to remain subject to a minimum export price of \$ 1400 FOB (Free On Board) per metric ton, replacing the earlier validity deadline of 31st March 2026. The extension aims to maintain export value realisation, prevent underpricing in international markets, and support stability within the domestic honey export value chain.



10. Recruitment Rules For Scientists And Technical Posts At Cert-In – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

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

MeitY has notified the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Scientist and Technical Post, Recruitment Rules, 2026. These rules establish a structured hierarchy from Scientist 'B' (Level 10) to Scientist 'G' (Level 14), outlining direct recruitment, promotion via a Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS), and short-term contract protocols. The framework formalises the intake of specialists in emerging domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Blockchain, and Cyber Forensics. This institutionalises a robust technical career path within India's premier cyber defence agency, ensuring that national cyber resilience is led by high-calibre professionals.

B. Announcements

1. Realignment Of Gross Domestic Product Data Release Calendars To Enhance National Accounts Quality - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Source: [PIB](#)

MoSPI has announced a revised release calendar for the Provisional Estimates of Annual GDP and Fourth Quarter GDP estimates. The revised schedule gives the National Statistics Office more time to incorporate audited corporate financial results and finalised Central Government Accounts data on expenditure, tax receipts, subsidies, and interest payments. This reform aims to improve the coverage, robustness, and reliability of national accounts data while aligning statistical compilation with international best practices.

2. ₹ 2000 Banknote Withdrawal Completion Status – Reserve Bank of India

Source: [RBI](#)

RBI has reported that 98.47% of the withdrawn ₹ 2,000 banknotes were successfully returned to the banking system as of 30th April 2026. Total circulation witnessed a sharp decline from ₹ 3.56 lakh crore in May 2023 to a residual ₹ 5,451 crore, as exchange facilities are now centralised at 19 RBI Issue Offices and available through India Post deposits. Hence, by validating a phased approach to monetary life cycle management, the administration has maintained economic stability while modernising the national currency structure.

3. India Aircraft Leasing And Financing Summit 2.0 - Ministry of Civil Aviation

Source: [IFSCA](#), [PIB](#)

The Ministry of Civil Aviation in collaboration with IFSCA and FICCI organised the India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 on 8th May 2026 at GIFT City to position India as a premier global aviation financing jurisdiction. Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu highlighted a \$ 50 billion leasing opportunity over the coming



decade as the commercial fleet is projected to expand to 1,100 aircraft by 2027 and over 2,250 by 2035. This growth is supported by significant fiscal and legal interventions including the ₹ 5,000 crore Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for airlines and the landmark Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Act 2025 which aligns India with the Cape Town Convention.

4. Breakthrough In Quantum Measurement Through Antiparallel Spin States - Ministry Of Science And Technology

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

The Ministry of Science and Technology through scientists at the S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and partner institutions have reported a quantum measurement breakthrough showing that antiparallel spin states can provide more information than identical spin pairs. The study finds that oppositely prepared qubit pairs can enable simultaneous prediction of three incompatible spin components, improving the characterisation of unknown quantum devices. The research has potential applications in quantum technology development and cryptography, where extracting reliable information from limited quantum systems is critical.



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