

ALL IN ONE

CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

INCLUDING

GA ESI FINANCE SCHEMES

REPORTS RBI NOTIFICATIONS

April 2026 – 1st to 7th



Contents

1. GA IN NEWS	4
PIB IN NEWS	4
FIRST IN NEWS	4
SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES	5
MOUs AND AGREEMENTS	6
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	6
DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY	8
BOOKS AND AUTHORS	8
DAYS IN NEWS	9
MISCELLANEOUS	9
OTHER NEWS	10
FIRST IN NEWS	10
MOUs AND AGREEMENTS	13
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	13
DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY	13
AWARDS	14
APPOINTMENT	15
PERSONS IN NEWS	16
BOOKS AND AUTHORS	16
PLACES IN NEWS	17
DAYS IN NEWS	17
MISCELLANEOUS	17
2. GA + ESI	18
PIB IN NEWS	18
SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION	18
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	19
SOCIAL JUSTICE	23
GENDER ISSUES	26
Why in News.....	26
GLOBALIZATION	26
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA	27
INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM	29

INDIAN MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS: LINKAGES WITH THE ECONOMY	30
Why in News.....	30
OTHER NEWS	31
SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION	31
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	32
SOCIAL JUSTICE	33
GENDER ISSUES	34
INDIAN MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS: LINKAGES WITH THE ECONOMY	34
3. GA + FINANCE	35
4. RBI NOTIFICATIONS	37
5. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES	40
6. REPORTS	47

1. GA IN NEWS

PIB IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Khelo India Tribal Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's first national multi-sport event for tribal athletes. Hosted in Chhattisgarh across Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja. Organized under Khelo India Scheme. Official Mascot: <i>Morveer</i>, Derived from the Chhattisgarhi words '<i>Mor</i>' (our own) and '<i>Veer</i>' (bravery). Karnataka emerged as the overall champion with 23 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals. Odisha finished second with 21 gold, 15 silver and 21 bronze medals. Jharkhand secured the third position with 16 gold, 8 silver and 11 bronze medals. Manikanta L. from Karnataka emerged as the most decorated athlete by winning a total of 9 medals in swimming (8 gold and 1 silver).
2.	bob SAMVAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched by Bank of Baroda. An industry-first AI-powered multilingual conversational platform. Enables real-time communication between bank staff and customers at branch counters using speech-to-speech and text-to-speech technology. The platform supports 22 Indian languages.
3.	Production and Dispatch in Captive and Commercial Mines for FY 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production and dispatch from captive/commercial blocks crossed 200 MT for the first time. Coal production from captive and commercial mines reached 210.46 MT, registering a robust year-on-year growth of 10.22% over 190.95 MT in the previous fiscal.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatches also witnessed a strong uptick, touching 204.61 MT and marking a 7.35% increase compared to 190.42 MT in FY 2024–25.
4.	First mining company in India to surpass the 50 MT annual production mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestone achieved by NMDC, India’s largest iron ore producer. • Achieved a historic landmark with the production of 53 MT of iron ore in FY26.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	Outcomes Finance Alliance (OFA) Summit 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: Cape Town, South Africa. • A leading global platform that brings together governments, philanthropies, investors, multilaterals, intermediaries, and delivery partners to advance the role of outcomes-based approaches in development finance.
2.	Bharat Tribes Fest 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue: New Delhi. • Organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) along with Ministry of Tribal Affairs. • A massive showcase of tribal excellence with stalls representing Van DhanVikasKendras (VDVKs) and master artisans from across India. <p>Key Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched “RISA: Timeless Tribal” - A Premium National Brand for tribal textiles, embroidery, and handicrafts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementing Agency: TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India). ○ Mission: To transform traditional tribal crafts into aspirational, global luxury products while ensuring fair profits return directly to the artisans. ○ Brand Name inspired by the Risa, a traditional handwoven stole from Tripura. • Bharat Tribes Business Conclave 2026 was organized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase I: covers 10 clusters including weaves, embroidery, and crafts across states.

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) & Mappls App	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To enable the display of authorised Aadhaar centres on their Mappls App.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	SPADEX-2 and SPADEX-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcoming advanced orbital docking experiments by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Follow the success of the initial SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) mission launched in 2024, which made India the fourth nation to master autonomous space docking after USA, Russia, and China. SPADEX-2: Designed to replicate docking in a highly elliptical orbit, a precursor for the Chandrayaan-4 lunar sample return mission, where a lander must dock with an orbiter to return samples to Earth. SPADEX-3: Focuses on docking in a circular orbit between two pressurized modules using Bharatiya Docking System (BDS), a precursor for the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS), testing the docking interfaces and procedures needed to assemble and operate India's planned space station.
2.	Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The indigenously designed and built PFBR at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu successfully attained its first criticality, marking the initiation of a sustained nuclear chain reaction. A 500 MWe (MegaWatt electrical) reactor built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) at the Kalpakkam Nuclear Complex. With this achievement, India has officially entered the second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme. Once fully operational, India will become only the second country in the world after Russia to operate a commercial fast breeder reactor.

		<p>About India's three-stage nuclear power programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First conceived by Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme. • Stage 1: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs): Natural uranium is used as fuel in PHWRs to generate power. The spent fuel from these reactors produces plutonium, which becomes the primary input for the next stage. • Stage 2: The plutonium obtained from Stage 1 is used as fuel in Fast Breeder Reactors, which generate more fuel than they consume. • Stage 3: Thorium-Based Reactors: This stage will harness India's vast thorium reserves at scale, using the Uranium-233 bred in Stage 2 as fuel.
<p>3.</p>	<p>YUva Vigyani KAryakram (YUVIKA)/ Young Scientist Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2019. • Annual two-week residential program, designed to "catch them young" by sparking interest in space science and technology among school students. • Target Audience: students who have completed Class 9. • Objective: To encourage students to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
<p>4.</p>	<p>India's space economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's space economy is projected to grow to approximately \$44 billion by 2033 (~8% of the global space economy) and \$100 billion by 2040 (~10% of the global space economy). <p>Initiatives by the Government of India for the Growth of Space Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Space Policy 2023: Designed to institutionalise private sector participation in the Indian space domain. • Liberalised Foreign Direct Investment policy governing space sector. • 1000 Crores Venture Capital Fund. • 500 Crores Technology Adoption Fund (TAF) for the development and commercialization of space technology.
<p>5.</p>	<p>India's Space Vision for 2047</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes establishing Bharatiya Antariksh Station and Indian Moon landing by 2040. • Other Projects approved:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gaganyaan follow-on mission & 1st module of BAS. ○ Chandrayaan-4 /Lunar Sample Return Mission. ○ Chandrayaan-5 / LuPex Mission ○ Next generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) ○ Venus Orbiter Mission
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DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	<u>INS Taragiri</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth ship of the <i>Nilgiri</i>-class (Project 17A) stealth frigates. • Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. • Formally commissioned into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
2.	<u>INS Sudarshini</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Navy's sail training ship. • Arrived at the historic port city of Sète in France as part of the ongoing landmark transoceanic expedition Lokayan-26. • Also participated in '<i>Escale à Sète</i>', one of the most celebrated gatherings in Europe of traditional tall ships and seafaring communities. <p>About Lokayan-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 10-month, transoceanic sail training expedition by the Indian Navy. • Led by INS Sudarshini. • Showcases India's prominence in global maritime activities and Indian Navy's commitment to professional training and excellence in ocean sailing expedition.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Key Facts
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1.	'Tides of Time: India's History through Murals in Parliament'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Author: Sudha Murty, noted writer, philanthropist, and Rajya Sabha MP .
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DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	8th Foundation Day of National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) (April 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Serves as the central nodal agency for managing Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).
2.	63rd National Maritime Day (April 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Maritime India – Empowering Progress". Commemorates the maiden voyage of the SS Loyalty, the first Indian-owned merchant vessel, which sailed from Mumbai to London in 1919.

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts										
1.	Rare Earth Reserves in India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India holds world's third largest rare earth resources (USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, January, 2025). <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Mineral</th> <th style="width: 50%;">States</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monazite (Beach & Red Sands)</td> <td>Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monazite (Inland Alluvium)</td> <td>Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rare Earth Oxides (Hard Rock)</td> <td>Ambadungar area, Chhota Udepur district, Gujarat and Bhatikhera and Dantala area, Balotra district, Rajasthan.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Xenotime (Riverine Deposits)</td> <td>Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Mineral	States	Monazite (Beach & Red Sands)	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat	Monazite (Inland Alluvium)	Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu	Rare Earth Oxides (Hard Rock)	Ambadungar area, Chhota Udepur district, Gujarat and Bhatikhera and Dantala area, Balotra district, Rajasthan.	Xenotime (Riverine Deposits)	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
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Xenotime (Riverine Deposits)	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand											

2.	Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officially designates Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh.
3.	IndiaSkills National Competition 2025–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and supported by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Odisha topped the medal tally with 57 medals (15 Gold, 12 Silver, 14 Bronze, and 16 Medallions for Excellence). Tamil Nadu and Karnataka came 2nd and 3rd respectively.

OTHER NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	OpenAI's first Managing Director for the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Kiran Mani He recently served as the CEO – Digital at JioStar.
2.	First woman Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Ashwini Bhide. Known widely as the "Metro Woman of Mumbai". Succeeds Bhushan Gagrani. She is credited with driving the execution of the Mumbai's first underground metro corridor, the Aqua Line (Metro Line 3). BMC in Maharashtra is India's richest and one of the oldest civic bodies.
3.	First pace bowler and only the second player overall to reach 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milestone achieved by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (RCB). Achieved the milestone by taking the wicket of Ayush Mhatre (CSK). The first person to reach the milestone of 200 wickets in IPL history was the leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in 2024. As of April 2026, Chahal and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are the only two bowlers in the history of the tournament to have crossed the 200-wicket threshold.

4.	First-ever brand ambassador for Jindal Stainless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Ranveer Singh.
5.	First Indian woman to reach Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) on a bicycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Divya Singh. She is from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first woman in the world to reach Everest Base Camp (EBC) on a bicycle is Tammat Bil Khoar from Bangladesh.
6.	Indian Army's first comprehensive Technology Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Loitering Munitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roadmap lists 30 distinct types of UAS and loitering munitions, translating into nearly 80 variants tailored for different terrains and roles.
7.	Mission MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched as a part of Gaganyaan mission. A first- team behavioral study designed by ISRO and the India Air Force's (IAF) Institute of Aerospace Medicine. India's first large-scale analog space mission designed to test the mental and physical endurance of astronauts. Held in Leh, Ladakh. Analyzes how astronauts (Gaganyatris) and ground control teams interact and make decisions under operational stress. <p>About Gaganyaan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's flagship human spaceflight programme. Aimed at sending a crew of three into a 400-km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for a three-day mission and returning them safely to Earth via a splashdown in Indian waters. Four Indian Air Force pilots have been selected and trained for the mission: Prashant Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap and Shubhanshu Shukla.
8.	World's first dedicated freight-only Shinkansen service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in Japan by East Japan Railway Company The train is a repurposed E3 series passenger bullet train.

9.	India's first hydrogen train	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully completed its oscillation trial runs in Jind, Haryana. • Often referred to as the "Namo Green Rail." • Part of the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative, which aims to modernize rail travel with zero-emission technology. • Designed and manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. • A dedicated green hydrogen production plant has been established at Jind • The pilot service will operate on the Jind-Sonipat section of the Northern Railway in Haryana. • India will join an elite global league of countries including Germany, Sweden, Japan and China – that operate hydrogen-powered trains.
10.	1st National Indoor Athletics Championships 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held at the Kalinga Athletics Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. • Men's 60m: Gurindervir Singh clocked 6.60s to break the 8-year-old record of 6.67s. • Men's 800m: Mohammed Afsal set a new national record of 1:47.86, becoming the first Indian to hold the "Double Crown" (both indoor and outdoor national records) in the 800m.
11.	Prahar Light Machine Guns (LMGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Army received 2,000 'Prahar' LMGs from Adani Defence and Aerospace. • Produced by PLR Systems, a joint venture between Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) and the Adani Group. • Part of a larger contract for 41,000 units signed in 2024 to replace the Indian Army's ageing 5.56mm INSAS LMGs. • Adani Group became the first private company in India to manufacture small arms and ammunition. • Prahar LMG is known as Negev NG7 in Israel. • Manufactured in India under the 'Make in India' programme.
12.	India's first integrated quantum technology park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: Amaravati Quantum Valley. • Currently under development in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. • Aligns with National Quantum Mission.

13.	First asset management company to be headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Lakshya Asset Management Company (Lakshya AMC). Wealth First Portfolio Managers Limited received final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to launch its mutual fund business. The new business will operate through a subsidiary called Lakshya Asset Management Company (Lakshya AMC).
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MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	Government of Meghalaya & Starlink India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: To pilot satellite-based high-speed internet in its most remote and geographically challenging regions. Meghalaya is the third Indian state to formally partner with Starlink, following similar agreements in Maharashtra and Gujarat
2.	NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) & Dhruva Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: to collaborate on space-grade solar panels.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	MAI-Transcribe-1, MAI-Voice-1, and MAI-Image-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three new first-party AI models of Microsoft.
2.	BA.3.2 (Cicada)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new COVID-19 variant spreading rapidly in the U.S. A sub-lineage of the Omicron variant (emerged in 2021). First identified in 2024 in Africa.

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	India's defence exports in 2025-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touched an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in the financial year 2025-26, marking a sharp increase of ₹14,802 crore (62.66%) over the previous fiscal's figure of ₹23,622 crore.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) led the growth with a massive 151% increase, contributing ₹21,071 crore (54.84%). The private sector contributed ₹17,353 crore (45.16%), a 14% rise from the previous year.
2.	INS Aridhaman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's third indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). Officially commissioned into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam. <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first and second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) in India are INS Arihant and INS Arighaat.

AWARDS

S.No	Award/Milestone	Key Facts
1.	2026 Skytrax World Airport Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore's Changi Airport has topped the list of world's best airports for the fourteenth time since 2000. Indian airports among world's top 100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi: Retained its title as the Best Airport in India & South Asia for the eighth consecutive year and rose to 28th globally. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru: took the 41st spot, and was also recognised as the 'Best Regional Airport in India & South Asia' for third consecutive year. Manohar International Airport, Goa: Ranked 64th. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai: 66th spot.
2.	35th Saraswati Samman (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded to Bengali author Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay. Awarded for his Bengali novel "Hara Parbati Katha." <p>About the Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991. Awarded annually to outstanding literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published during the last 10 years.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash Prize: ₹15 lakh.
3.	Chetak Screen Awards 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhurandar won a record 14 awards. <p>Key Winners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Film: Homebound (Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan). • Best Actor (Male): Ranveer Singh (Dhurandar). • Best Actor (Female): Yami Gautam Dhar (Haq).
4.	Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Nanaji Deshmukh Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three institutions from Tripura have been recognized for excellence in grassroots governance. • Sepahijala District Panchayat: Ranked 1st in the Best District Panchayat category. • Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat (Unakoti District): Ranked 1st in the Healthy Panchayat category. • Baikunthapur Gram Panchayat (West Tripura District): Ranked 3rd in the Women-Friendly Panchayat category.
5.	2025 Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Girls' Player of the Year (Hassan Musa Award): Anahat Singh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His honors follow a standout season that included winning his maiden Indian Open title and securing India's first-ever World Cup mixed team gold. • Men's Player of the Year (Dato Alex Lee Award): Abhay Singh. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His honors follow a standout season that included winning his maiden Indian Open title and securing India's first-ever World Cup mixed team gold. • India also won the ASF Men's Team Award.
6.	Hockey India Annual Awards 2025- Eight Edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year 2025: Navneet Kaur (Women) & Hardik Singh (Men). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hardik Singh secured his third consecutive title. • Lifetime Achievement Award (Major Dhyan Chand Award): Zafar Iqbal.

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
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1.	Ravindra Jadeja	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the primary Brand Ambassador of City Union Bank.
2.	Matt Brittin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the new Director- General of BBC; replaces Tim Davie. Matt Brittin is the former President of Google for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA).
3.	Vir Vikram Yadav	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Succeeds Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.
4.	William Walsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo). Predecessor: Pieter Elbers. William Walsh is presently serving as the Director General of International Air Transport Association (IATA).
5.	Min Aung Hlaing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected as the President of Myanmar.
6.	Uchral Nyam-Osor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected as the Prime Minister of Mongolia.
7.	Blanka Vlašić	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed as the International Event Ambassador for the 18th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2026. She is a legendary Croatian high jumper and double Olympic medallist.
8.	To Lam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected as the President of Vietnam.

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Atanu Chakraborty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resigned as the Part-time Chairman and Independent Director of HDFC Bank. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Keki Mistry to serve as the interim Part-time Chairman.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

S.No	Book Title	Key Facts
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1.	A Road Well Travelled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autobiography of Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director R.K. Raghavan.
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PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place in News	Key Facts
1.	Lipulekh Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. India and China are scheduled to resume border trade via the Lipulekh Pass in June 2026, ending a six-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions. The decision follows a high-level diplomatic agreement reached to reopen three Himalayan trade routes: Lipulekh (Uttarakhand), Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh), and Nathu La (Sikkim).

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	International Day of Zero Waste (March 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: Food Waste.
2.	World Autism Awareness Day 2026 (April 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value".
3.	World Health Day 2026 (April 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Together for health. Stand with science."

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Argentina withdraws from World Health Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina has formally withdrawn from the World Health Organization (WHO).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States was the first country to withdraw from the WHO in January 2026.
2.	Jones Act (Merchant Marine Act of 1920)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A landmark United States federal law that regulates domestic maritime commerce. • It mandates that all goods transported by water between U.S. ports be carried on ships that are built, owned, and flagged in the U.S. and crewed by U.S. citizens. • The President of the United States issued a 60-day waiver of the act in response to the economic shocks caused by the ongoing 2026 Iran-United States War.
3.	Highest-value work of modern Indian art ever sold at auction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: "Yashoda and Krishna". • Painted by 19th-century artist Raja Ravi Varma. • Fetched a record-breaking ₹167.2 crore (approximately \$17.9 million) at Saffronart's Spring Live Auction in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

2. GA + ESI

PIB IN NEWS

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.1 [Computational Thinking and AI Curriculum for Classes 3–8](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the Ministry of Education launched a new curriculum on **Computational Thinking (CT)** and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** for Classes 3 to 8.

Computational Thinking (CT)

CT is a **structured problem-solving approach** that involves breaking down complex challenges into smaller, logical steps that a human or a machine can follow.

It involves **Decomposition** (breaking problems down), **Pattern Recognition**, **Abstraction**

- It was developed by a panel constituted in October 2025, chaired by Dr. Karthik Raman (IIT Madras) and is aligned with NEP 2020 Vision and National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, aimed at making India a global leader in emerging domains like AI by integrating them into school education.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL

CBSE: Building AI-Ready Learners (Classes III-VIII)



AI for Education, AI in Education

THE RELEVANCE OF CT AND AI

Intellectual Backbone of Innovation

Computational thinking serves as the cognitive framework required to understand and eventually create AI-driven solutions.

Beyond Coding: Cognitive Development

The curriculum fosters essential human capacities such as logical thinking, systematic problem-solving, and pattern recognition.

Holistic & Interdisciplinary Growth

By connecting Mathematics, Science, and Humanities, the curriculum helps students see that knowledge is interconnected rather than compartmentalized.

Future-Ready Digital Citizenship

Early exposure ensures students can use data effectively and apply technology ethically in the modern world of work.



MAPPING TO NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS (NEP/NCF)

NEP 2020 Vision Realized

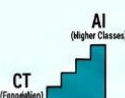
Integrates AI and Machine Learning into schools to fulfill the goal of making India a global leader in emerging domains.



NCF-SE 2023 Alignment



Learning standards—including Goals, Competencies, and Outcomes—are derived directly from the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023.



Phased Implementation Strategy

Following NCF recommendations, CT is introduced first as a critical basis for learning AI in higher classes.



PEDAGOGY (How it is Taught)

Playful and Experiential Learning

Education is driven by "fun" math games, puzzles, and hands-on exercises using specialized worksheets.



Problem-Solving Focus

Students are taught to break large, complex problems into smaller, manageable parts and interpret visual data like charts.



Collaborative Environment

Peer discussions and group tasks are prioritized to encourage students to solve problems collectively.



ASSESSMENT METHODS



Shift from Rote to Competency

MEMORIZATION : Applying knowledge

Evaluation moves away from memorization toward continuous methods that assess a student's ability to apply knowledge.



Qualitative Progress Tracking

Teachers use Observation Journals to track creative thinking and progress over time.



Interactive Assessment Tools

Evaluation includes written tests featuring CT puzzles and interactive group activities.

ROLLOUT DETAILS

Target Grades: Classes III to VIII

Implementation Session: 2026-2027

Core Focus Area: Computational Thinking (CT) as a foundation for AI

Key Support Material: Structured modules and comprehensive teacher handbooks

ISSUES

2.2 [Prakriti 2026](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the Union Minister for Power & Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the international conference Prakriti 2026 and launched the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) Portal in New Delhi to accelerate India's transition to a low-carbon economy.
- ICM portal acts as a centralized digital platform designed to administer and operationalize India's national carbon trading framework.

About Prakriti 2026

- **Organized by:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Power and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- **Theme:** “Unlocking Carbon Finance for NDC Implementation through Global Partnerships and Digital Pathways.”
- **Aim:** To provide a high-level platform for experts to deliberate on the evolving dynamics of carbon markets.
- To mobilize finance and leverage digital innovation for India’s green growth.
- To reinforce India's climate commitments and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Features:

- Operates under the broader **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) 2023**.

2.3 [NPC Appointed as Environment Audit Designated Agency \(EADA\)](#)

Why in news

- Recently, the **National Productivity Council (NPC)** signed a landmark agreement with the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to act as the **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)**, operationalizing the newly notified **Environment Audit Rules, 2025**.
- NPC is mandated to develop **digital systems** for managing audit processes and maintaining a **publicly accessible online register** of all certified and registered auditors.
- The NPC will now oversee environmental compliance across major Indian legislations such as:

Legislation / Act	Year	Core Focus & Audit Verification Areas
1. Environment (Protection) Act	1986	Umbrella Framework: Provides the overarching legal basis for the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, and the EADA's authority.
2. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act	1974	Water Compliance: Verifies wastewater discharge standards and regulatory approvals like CTE (Consent to Establish) and CTO (Consent to Operate).
3. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act	1981	Air Compliance: Monitors industrial emissions, adherence to air quality standards, and the functioning of pollution control equipment.

4. Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam	1980	Forest Conservation: Regulates diversion of forest land and audits compliance with clearance conditions (e.g., compensatory afforestation).
5. Wildlife (Protection) Act	1972	Wildlife & Habitat: Ensures activities do not infringe upon protected areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries) or eco-sensitive zones.

ENVIRONMENT AUDIT DESIGNATED AGENCY (EADA)

UNIFIED OVERSIGHT & STANDARDIZED ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING IN INDIA

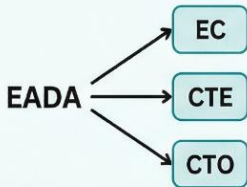
THE FOUNDATION

WHAT IS EADA?



Central regulatory authority (currently National Productivity Council) under Environment Audit Rules, 2025.

Manages third-party framework to verify industrial compliance.



VERIFIED APPROVALS

MANDATORY APPROVALS VERIFIED



Environmental Clearance (EC): Mandatory risk-assessment *before* starting high-impact projects.



Consent to Establish (CTE): Initial regulatory permission *before* setting up an industrial plant.



Consent to Operate (CTO): Final operational clearance granted *after* setup, verifying systems before production begins.

CORE FUNCTIONS (I)

COMPLIANCE & AUDITORS



Compliance Verification: Audits industries to ensure strict adherence to their granted EC, CTE, CTO conditions.



Certify & License Auditors: Conducts National Certification Exam (NCE) to qualify and register Certified (CEA) / Registered (REA) Environmental Auditors.



Registry Management: Maintains official public registry of certified/registered auditors.

CORE FUNCTIONS (II)

PROCESS & OVERSIGHT



Transparent Assignment: Uses EADA Portal to randomly allocate auditors to industrial units, preventing relationship-based auditing biases.



Oversight & Discipline: Monitors audit quality, maintains registry, and executes disciplinary actions for professional misconduct.



Capacity Building: Standardizes nationwide environmental auditing practices through structured training programs.

2.4 [India SDG Dashboard](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** highlighted the role of the **India SDG Dashboard** as a centralized platform for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

About SDG Dashboard

- Ministry:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Partnering Agency:** United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO).

- **Aim:** To serve as a centralized data platform for monitoring SDG indicators and to act as an evidence-based guide for strategic planning and policymaking.

Features:

- The dashboard is aligned with the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)**, which is the backbone of SDG monitoring in India.
- Specifically designed for policymakers, stakeholders, analysts, and researchers for conducting sectoral research studies.

2.5 “Bhavasagara” National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna

Why in News

- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) officially designated the “**Bhavasagara**” Referral Centre at CMLRE, Kochi, as a **National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna**, under **Section 39** of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, making it a critical national facility for deep-sea biological heritage.

India’s Biological Diversity Act 2002: A Legal Framework for Conservation

THE LEGISLATIVE JOURNEY (1992–2004)



1992: UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

India signs the CBD, recognizing sovereign rights over biological resources and establishing the foundation for future national legislation.



1999: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

A civil society-led committee recommends a comprehensive strategy, leading to the drafting of the formal Biodiversity Bill.



2000–2002: Drafting and Parliamentary Approval

Following the 2000 draft, the Bill received Lok Sabha approval on December 2, 2002, and Rajya Sabha approval on December 11, 2002.



2003: Formal Enactment

The Act was officially enacted on February 5, 2003, after receiving Presidential assent.



2004: Implementation Rules

Specific legal rules were established to provide a clear framework for the practical application and enforcement of the Act.

CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE BDA 2002



Conservation & Sustainable Use

The Act mandates the active conservation of biological diversity and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure long-term availability.

Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing

Ensures that benefits arising from biological materials and associated knowledge are shared fairly with local communities.



Protection of Traditional Knowledge

Legal safeguards are established to protect the rights of local communities and their traditional biological expertise.

Access Regulation

The Act regulates how both foreign and national entities can access Indian biological resources to prevent exploitation.



KEY FEATURES AND ENFORCEMENT

NBA Approval for Resource Access

Any person or company, particularly foreign entities, must seek prior approval from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) before accessing biological resources.



Mandatory Benefit Sharing

The law mandates a fair exchange between resource users and the local communities providing those resources.



People’s Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)

Local bodies are tasked with documenting species and traditional knowledge in PBRs to ensure local ownership of biodiversity data.



Traditional Rights Safeguards

Local people, farmers, and artisans retain their traditional rights to use biological materials for their livelihoods.



PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE



Criminal Offenses and Imprisonment

Violations of the Act are treated as criminal offenses and can result in up to five years of imprisonment.



Financial Penalties

Fines for violations can reach 10 lakhs or more, depending on the extent of the environmental or resource damage.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.6 [BHASHINI for Seva / Sanchalan" program](#)

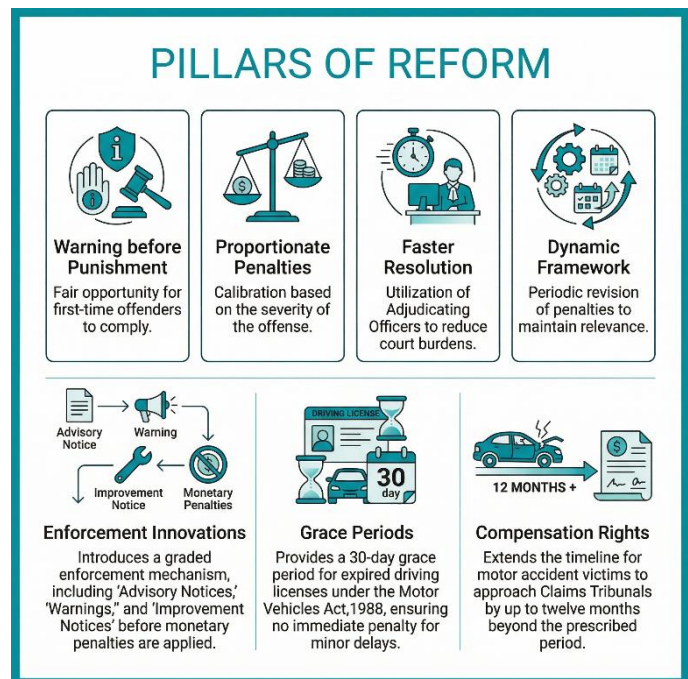
Why in News

- Recently, the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enable multilingual accessibility in pension services through the "BHASHINI for Seva / Sanchalan" program.
- The integration is designed to **overcome linguistic barriers for first-time savers and individuals currently outside formal retirement planning**, thereby strengthening financial inclusion.
- The initiative aims to provide access across all **22 languages** recognized under the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India**.

About BHASHINI

- **Launch Year:** July 2022
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- **Implementing Agency:** Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under the Digital India Corporation (DIC).
- **Aim/Objective:** To **bridge literacy and language divides** by enabling seamless multilingual access to digital services and empowering citizens to access digital initiatives in their own language.
- **Features:**

- **Framework:** Operates as India's National Language Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- **Associated Program:** Launched under the **National Language Translation Mission**.
- **Crowdsourcing Initiative:** Includes **Bhasha Daan**, a platform for citizens to contribute to building multilingual datasets.
- **Function:** Supports translation and voice-based interactions to help government and public sector initiatives reach a wider audience.



2.7 [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment of Provisions\) Bill, 2026](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026**, was passed by Parliament, to further decriminalize minor offences, and replace jail terms with civil penalties to boost ease of doing business, compliance, and governance.

Aim

- To reduce the legal and compliance burden on individuals and commercial entities by ensuring proportionate regulation.
- To create a more conducive ecosystem for business operations by removing the fear of imprisonment for minor technical lapses.

Decriminalising Governance: Key Features of the Jan Vishwas Bill 2026

CORE LEGISLATIVE SHIFTS



• **Decriminalising Minor Offences:** Replaces imprisonment with civil penalties for minor violations (e.g., Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940).



• **Removal of Imprisonment Terms:** Acts like Indian Succession Act (1925) and Electricity Act (2003) amended to remove jail terms, replacing them strictly with increased fines.



• **Omission of Outdated Laws:** Eliminates unnecessary offences like raising false fire alarms (Delhi Police Act, 1978) or failing to report births/deaths under specific municipal acts.



GRADED ENFORCEMENT & ADJUDICATION



• **The "Warning First" Approach:** Mandates an advisory for the first offence and a warning for the second before civil penalties are applied (e.g., Apprentices Act, 1961).



• **Improvement Notices:** First-time violators get time to correct issues before facing penalties (e.g., Legal Metrology Act, 2009 regarding non-standard weights).



• **Specialized Adjudication:** Appoints Adjudicating Officers for inquiries and Appellate Authorities for appeals, moving minor cases out of overburdened courts.



FINANCIAL & SPECIFIC REFORMS



• **Periodic Penalty Revision:** Fines and penalties automatically increase by 10% of the minimum amount every three years to maintain deterrent value.



• **Delhi Municipal Reforms:** Simplifies property tax by separating buildings and vacant land, creates a Hardship and Anomaly Committee, removes advertisement tax.



STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE



• **Economic & Business Ease:** Reduces fear of imprisonment for technical violations, creating a more predictable, investor-friendly environment.



• **Administrative Efficiency:** Enables faster resolution of cases and reduces judicial backlog by shifting minor offences to adjudicating officers.



• **Trust-Based Governance:** Promotes a shift toward encouraging compliance through guidance rather than immediate strict punishment.



2.8 [National Youth Policy \(NYP\) 2026](#)

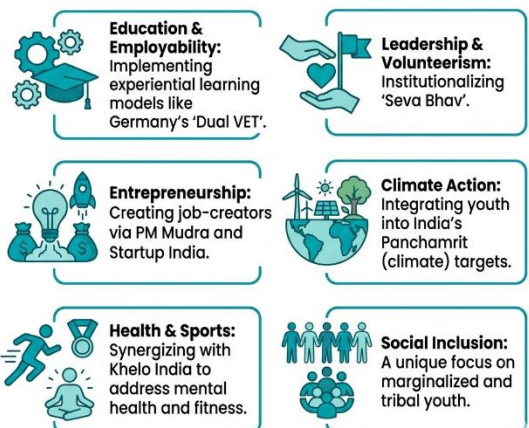
Why in News

- The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports discussed the **National Youth Policy (NYP) 2026** in the Rajya Sabha, marking a shift toward an outcome-driven framework to harness India's peak demographic window.

About National Youth Policy 2026

- Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Implementing Agency:** Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) platform (an autonomous phygital body).
- Aim:** To transform youth from passive beneficiaries into active "green agents" and stakeholders in governance and to bridge the 30-40% skill gap identified in the *India Skills Report 2024*.
- Monitoring:** Directly integrated with NITI Aayog's Output-Outcome Framework and the India Youth Development Index (YDI).

CORE PILLARS OF NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY



GENDER ISSUES

2.9 SHe-Box and Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013

Why in News

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has provided a comprehensive update on the onboarding progress and digital integration of the **SHe-Box portal under the PoSH Act, 2013**

About She Box

- **Launch Year:** August 2024 (Portal).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- **Implementing Agency:** State Governments and Union Territory Administrations (for grassroots mechanisms).
- **Aim/Objective:** To serve as a digital governance initiative for the effective implementation of the PoSH Act, 2013, and to streamline the redressal mechanism for sexual harassment at workplaces.
- **Features:**
 - **Multilingual Support:** Accessible in **23 languages** for inclusive reach.
 - **Repository:** Hosts a comprehensive collection of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including FAQs, handbooks, and training manuals.
 - **Coverage:** Covers public and private sectors, including remote and informal workplaces.

GLOBALIZATION

2.10 India Hosts 1st BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting 2026

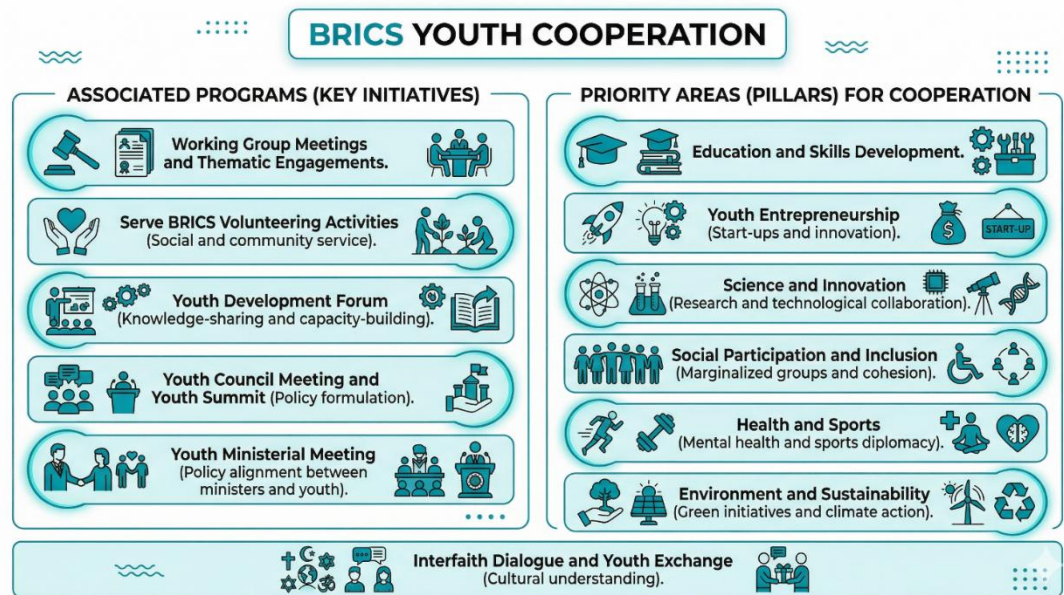
Why in News

- India formally commenced youth engagements under its 2026 BRICS Chairship by hosting the inaugural BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting virtually.

- India presented a structured roadmap for the **BRICS Youth Track 2026**, featuring several high-level engagements.

About BRICS Youth Co-ordination Meeting 2026

- Ministry:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Implementing Agency:** Department of Youth Affairs.



- Theme:** “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

2.11 [Special Economic Zones \(SEZs\)](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the Union Budget 2026–27 introduced strategic reforms and a **special one-time duty concession for Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**.
- This one-time measure allows eligible SEZ manufacturing units to sell a prescribed proportion of their output in **the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA)** at **concessional duty rates** instead of standard customs duties.

About Special Economic Zone

- Launch Year:** The SEZ Policy was announced in **2000**, followed by the SEZ Act in **2005** (effective from February 2006).
- Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry (implied via the role of Development Commissioners and trade policy).
- Aim/Objective:**
 - To generate additional economic activity and create employment opportunities.
 - To boost exports of goods and services and attract domestic/foreign investment.

- To develop world-class infrastructure and serve as engines of export-led growth.
- **Features:**
 - **Pillars/Incentives:** Duty-free import/domestic procurement of goods for development and operations.
 - Zero-rated supplies under the **IGST Act, 2017**.
 - **Single-window clearance** for Central and State level approvals.
 - **Priority Sectors:** Recent focus on high-tech manufacturing like semiconductors with relaxed land requirements and encumbrance norms.

2.12 [Udyam Registration Portal](#)

Why in News

- The Udyam Registration Portal (URP) has recorded a significant growth trend with over 7.83 crore enterprises registered by February.

About Udyam Registration Portal

- **Launch Year:** July 2020.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of MSME.
- **Aim/Objective:** To provide a process for the registration of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the revised classification criteria.

Features:

- **Associated Program:** Udyam Assist Platform (UAP), launched in January 2023, to formalize Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs).
- **Territorial Coverage:** Implemented across all States and Union Territories

2.13 [Government e Marketplace \(GeM\)](#)

Why in News

- Recently, **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** reached a historic cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of **₹18.4 lakh crore**, with the single financial year 2025–26 alone contributing over ₹5 lakh crore.

[Government e Marketplace \(GeM\)](#)

- **Launch Year:** 2016
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

- **Managed by: GeM SPV**, a Section 8 non-profit company.
- **Legal Mandate:** Procurement through GeM is authorized and made mandatory for government entities under **Rule 149** of the **General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017**.

Core Features:

- **Three Pillars:** Built on the foundation of **Inclusion, Usability, and Efficiency**.
- **Technological Edge:** Utilizes **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **Machine Learning (ML)** for catalogue validation, anomaly detection (e.g., collusive bidding), and Bid Health Scores.
- **End-to-End Solution:** Provides a unified portal for the procurement of common-use goods and services, ranging from office stationery to specialized human resource services.

INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

2.14 Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti Assumes Charge as Chairperson of NCBC

Why in News

- Recently, **Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti** officially assumed charge as the **Chairperson** of the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)** in New Delhi, following her appointment by the President of India.

National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)

- **Constitutional Status:** Established under **Article 338B** (inserted by the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018**).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Service Conditions:** The tenure (typically **3 years**) and conditions of service are determined by the President.

Key Functions & Powers:

- **Power of a Civil Court:** Has the legal authority to summon witnesses, require the discovery of documents, and receive evidence on affidavits during investigations.
- **Reporting:** Submits an **Annual Report** to the President, which is then tabled in Parliament.
- **Mandatory Consultation:** The Union and State governments must consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting SEBCs.

2.15 National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

Why in News

- **Dr. Partha Biswas** recently assumed charge as a **Member** of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC).

National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

- **Constitutional Status:** It is a **Constitutional Body** established under **Article 338** of the Indian Constitution.
- **Evolution:** Originally, Article 338 provided for a single Special Officer.
- **Tenure:** The conditions of service and tenure of office are determined by the President (currently **3 years** as per rules).

Functions:

- To present annual reports to the President upon the working of those safeguards.
- The Commission has the powers of a **Civil Court** while investigating any matter or inquiring into any complaint. It can summon people, require the discovery of documents, and receive evidence on affidavits.

INDIAN MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS: LINKAGES WITH THE ECONOMY

2.16 Export Obligation Discharge Certificates (EODC)

Why in News

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has concluded a time-bound special drive for the accelerated issuance of **Export Obligation Discharge Certificates (EODC)** in March.

Export Obligation Discharge Certificates

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Implementing Agency:** Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

- **Aim:** To formalize the completion of export obligations; to enable the issuance of bank guarantees and bonds; to reduce the burden of exporters' grievances; and to ensure effective compliance monitoring under India's trade facilitation framework.
- **Features:**
 - **Functions:** Serves as a vital tool for verifying the fulfillment of export requirements under specific trade schemes.
 - **Vision:** To promote an exporter-friendly ecosystem and enhance the ease of doing business in India.

OTHER NEWS

SOCIAL SECTORS IN INDIA – EDUCATION

2.17 NCERT Granted Deemed-to-be-University Status

Why in News

- Recently, the Central Government granted "**deemed-to-be-university**" status to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), empowering it to award degrees and design its own academic programmes.

Deemed-to-be-university status

This status, granted under **Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956**, fundamentally alters NCERT's mandate and operational structure. The key changes include:

- NCERT can now **design and award its own undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees** in education.
- The institution will now function **under the direct regulatory supervision of the University Grants Commission (UGC)**, requiring compliance with UGC norms for courses and quality.
- NCERT must now participate in the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** and get accreditation from bodies like the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**.
- It is now mandatory for NCERT to adopt the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) system**, allowing students flexible learning pathways.

NCERT

- Established on **September 1, 1961**.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Education
- **Features:** Operates through the **National Institute of Education (NIE)**, **Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET)**, and **Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs)** located in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysore, and Shillong.
- **Governance:** The Union Minister of Education serves as the ex-officio President of the General Body.
- **Core Functions:** Development of the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**, conducting the **National Achievement Survey (NAS)**, and managing the **National Talent Search Examination (NTSE)**.
- **Slogan/Motto:** Vidhyā'mrtamaśnute (Life eternal through learning).
- **Targets:** Enhancing the quality of school education and standardizing teacher training across India.
- **Territorial Coverage:** Headquartered in New Delhi, with its framework followed by CBSE and multiple State Boards nationwide.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.18 [India's Record Wind Energy Achievement in FY 2025–26](#)

Why in News

- Recently, India achieved its highest-ever annual wind energy capacity addition of 6.05 GW during the 2025–26 financial year and surpassed the previous landmark of 5.5 GW set in FY 2016–17.
- The sector recorded a nearly **46% increase** and India's total installed wind power capacity has officially crossed the **56 GW** mark.
- Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra emerged as the primary contributors to the capacity addition during this year.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2.19 [Uttarakhand Tops National Rankings in New Criminal Law Rollout](#)

Why in News

- **Uttarakhand** has been ranked **first in India** for the effective and timely implementation of the three new criminal laws such as **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**, and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)**.

New Criminal Laws

- **Effective Date:** July 1, 2024.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **The Three Laws:**
 1. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS):** Replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860. It prioritizes justice over punishment and introduces "Community Service" as a form of punishment.
 2. **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):** Replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. It mandates time-bound investigations and the use of technology in trials.
 3. **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA):** Replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. It expands the definition of "document" to include electronic and digital records.
- **Features:**
 1. **Zero FIR:** Allows a person to file an FIR at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction.
 2. **Digitization:** Mandates the videography of search and seizure operations.
 3. **Victim Rights:** Ensures that victims are informed of the progress of their case within 90 days.
 4. **Defined Timelines:** Judgments must be delivered within 30 days of the completion of arguments.

GENDER ISSUES

2.20 "TrueCyberSakhi" Digital Safety Initiative

Why in News

- Recently, the **National Commission for Women (NCW)** and **Truecaller** launched a nationwide digital safety initiative, featuring the "**TrueCyberSakhi: Digital Safety Toolkit**," to protect women from evolving online risks. like **phishing, harassment, and financial fraud.**

Did You Know?

Phishing: A type of digital fraud where attackers trick individuals into revealing sensitive information like passwords or financial details by pretending to be a trustworthy entity.

National Commission for Women (NCW)

An **autonomous statutory body** established under the **National Commission for Women Act, 1990.**

- Aim/Objective:** To protect and promote the rights of women by reviewing legal safeguards, recommending reforms, and advising the government on policy matters.
- Chairperson:** Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar.

INDIAN MONEY AND FINANCIAL MARKETS: LINKAGES WITH THE ECONOMY

2.21 Indian Rupee Hits Historic Low of 93.72 Against US Dollar

Why in News

- In March 2026, the Indian rupee fell to a record low of **93.72** against the US dollar, its sharpest one-day drop in four years.
- It is driven by high oil prices and a strong global demand for dollars.
- Record Decline:** The rupee dropped **1.15%** in a single day, hitting an intraday low of **93.77** before ending at **93.72.**

Dollar Index (DXY)

A measure of the USD's value against a basket of six major currencies: Euro (Eurozone), Yen (Japan), Pound (UK), Canadian Dollar (Canada), Krona (Sweden), and Franc (Switzerland)..

Effect:

- **Strong US Dollar:** The **Dollar Index (DXY)** rose to **99.58**, showing that the US dollar is strengthening against all major global currencies, which naturally pushes the rupee down.

2.22 [Lok Sabha Passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code \(Amendment\) Bill, 2025](#)

Why in News

- Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025** that **introduces 12 key amendments** to the original 2016 Code to accelerate the resolution of stressed assets and align Indian law with global best practices.

Key Highlights of the amendment

- **Admission Timeline:** Applications for initiating insolvency must now be admitted within **14 days** once a default is established.
- **Out-of-Court Settlement:** Replaces the fast-track process with a new **creditor-initiated framework**. This features a compressed **150-day timeline** and an "out-of-court" initiation mechanism.
- **Judicial Timelines:** The Adjudicating Authority must approve or reject resolution plans within **30 days** and appeals before the **NCLAT** must be decided within **three months**.
- **Global Alignment:** Enables a new framework for **cross-border insolvency** and **group insolvency** to boost investor confidence.
- **Deterrents for Delays:** Introduces penalties ranging from **₹1 lakh to ₹2 crore** for filing frivolous or vexatious proceedings intended to delay the process.
- **Management Model:** Adopts a "debtor-in-possession" and "creditor-in-control" model, where the existing Board continues management under specific safeguards.

3. GA + FINANCE

PIB IN NEWS

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

3.1 [Antariksh Venture Capital Fund](#)

- Recently, India launched its **first space-focused venture capital fund**.
- **About:**

- **Type:** Category II Alternate Investment Fund
- **Fund size:** ₹1,005 crore
- **Key investor:** IN-SPACE
- **Managed by:** SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd.
- **Objective:** To support Indian space startups with tested technologies (TRL-4 or above).

3.2 Indian Natural Gas Derivative Contracts

- The **National Stock Exchange** of India, with **Indian Gas Exchange**, will launch **India's first domestic natural gas futures contracts**, approved by Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- These contracts will be based on **Gas Index of India (GIXI)**, reflecting actual Indian gas prices (not global benchmarks).
- **Purpose:**
 - Helps users **lock future gas prices today**
 - **Protects against price fluctuations** (risk management)

3.3 Verified App Label Initiative

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** has launched **Verified App Label Initiative**
- **Objective:**
- SEBI-registered apps will get a **"Verified" badge** on the Play Store
- Helps investors identify genuine apps
- Prevents fraud and builds trust in trading platforms.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FINANCIAL SECTOR

3.4 Domestic Systemically Important Insurers

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India** released the **D-SII** list for 2025–26. Insurers that are **too big/important to fail (TBTF)** due to **size, importance, and interconnectedness**.
- **Identified Insurers:**
 - Life Insurance Corporation of India
 - New India Assurance Company Ltd.
 - General Insurance Corporation of India
- **Regulation:**
 - Subject to **enhanced regulatory supervision**.
- **Parameters for identification:**
 - Size (total revenue)
 - Global presence (multiple jurisdictions)
 - Lack of substitutes
 - Interconnectedness (counterparty & macro-economic exposure)
- **Global Level:** Framework set by **International Association of Insurance Supervisors**.

3.5 Kar Saathi

- The **Income Tax Department** launched **"Kar Saathi"** to make tax filing easier under the Income Tax Act, 2025.

- **Objectives:**
 - Guides users on tax rules and Income Tax Return filing step-by-step
 - Explains forms, deductions, and deadlines
 - Answers queries instantly
- **Note:** It only provides guidance; it does not file or calculate taxes.

3.6 [The Jan Vishwas \(Amendment of Provisions\) Bill, 2026](#)

- Passed by Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha; to **decriminalize minor offences**, reduce compliance burden, and make laws **simpler, proportionate, and citizen friendly**.
- Implemented by **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.
- **4 Pillars**
 - **Warning first:** Minor/first-time offences → warning, not penalty
 - **Proportionate penalties:** Based on severity of Crime
 - **Faster resolution:** Through adjudicating & appellate authorities
 - **Dynamic penalties:** Updated periodically
- **Key Features**
 - **Decriminalisation:** Minor offences → civil penalties
 - **No imprisonment** in select cases (only fines)
 - **Omission of minor offences**
 - **Fines revised with 10% increase every 3 years**
- **Warning System**
 - 1st → Advisory
 - 2nd → Warning
 - Later → Civil penalty
- **Other Provisions:** Improvement notice before penalty (esp. Legal Metrology Act)
- **NDMC reforms:**
 - Separate **tax for building & vacant land**
 - **Valuation & grievance committee**
 - **Removal of advertisement tax.**

4. RBI NOTIFICATIONS

Trade Relief Measures for Exporters

- Due to the West Asia crisis, the Reserve Bank of India gave relief to exporters. Export loan repayment time was increased from **270 to 450 days**, and time to bring export earnings back to India was extended from **9 to 15 months**.
- RBI has **extended these relief measures** as disruptions continue.
- The **450-day loan repayment benefit** now applies to loans given till **June 30, 2026** (earlier: March 31, 2026). The **15-month window** to bring export earnings from **goods, software, and services** continues unchanged.

- **Applicability:** Commercial Banks, Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks, State Co-operative Banks and Central Co-operative Banks, NBFC– Factors, & All-India Financial Institutions.

Overseas Investment – Submission of References to the Reserve Bank

- Earlier, if any Indian person or company wanted to invest money abroad, they had to send their request through an **Authorised Dealer (AD) bank** to the **Reserve Bank of India**.
- Such requests were processed under a **centralised system**, wherein all references were handled at **RBI’s Foreign Exchange Department, Central Office**.
- RBI has now shifted to a **decentralized system**; wherein **overseas investment references** will now be **processed by its Regional Offices** instead of a single central office.
- **AD banks** are required to **submit** such references to the designated **Regional Office** through the **PRAVAAH portal** of the RBI.
- The **Regional Office of RBI** to which the reference is to be sent shall be **decided on the basis of the prefix of the Unique Identification Number (UIN)** of the foreign entity.

Sr. No	UIN with prefix	Regional Office of RBI to which the reference to
1.	AH	Ahmedabad
2.	BG	Bengaluru
3.	BL or BY or PJ	Mumbai
4.	BN or CA or GA or GH	Kolkata
5.	CG or JM or JR or KA or ND or PT or WR	New Delhi
6.	HY	Hyderabad
7.	KO or MA	Chennai

- **Commencement of Direction -:** April 01, 2026

Memorandum of Instructions governing Money Changing Activities

- Earlier, forex counters in airport duty-free/security areas were **only for non-residents**.
- They could exchange Indian Rupees for foreign currency before departure.
- The Reserve Bank of India has now **allowed residents also** to use these counters.
- Now, **both residents and non-residents** can exchange Indian Rupees after crossing immigration/customs.

Limits for investment in debt and sale of Credit Default Swaps by FPI

- The RBI reviews limits for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) investment in Indian debt every year. RBI has updated these limits (General Route) for FY 2026–27.
- **G-Secs: 6%**
- **State Govt. Securities: 2%**
- **Corporate Bonds: 15%**
- Also, FPI exposure through **Credit Default Swaps** is capped at **5% of corporate bonds**.

Master Direction on Facility for Exchange of Notes and Coins

- RBI used to issue separate guidelines on exchange of notes and coins. RBI has now **combined all rules into one Master Direction**.
- **Key Points**
 - Banks must provide **exchange services to everyone, not just their customers**.
 - People can get fresh notes, coins, exchange damaged notes, and deposit coins at bank branches.
 - **Flexibility:**
 - **Small Finance Banks & Payment Banks** are not required to exchange mutilated/imperfect notes.
 - For **Small Finance Banks**, this applies **only for the first 2 years**.
 - **Coins:**
 - Coins of **50 paise, ₹1, ₹2, ₹5, ₹10, ₹20** must be accepted.
 - **25 paise and below** are not legal tender.
- **Right to refund:** Customers do not have a legal right to claim value of mutilated/imperfect notes.
- **Highly damaged notes:** Very brittle/charred/stuck notes must be **submitted to RBI Issue Offices**, not banks.
- **Exchange process:**
- **Soiled notes: Up to 20 notes / ₹5,000** → immediate exchange (free)
 - **Above this** → receipt given, value credited **within 7 days**

- **Mutilated/Imperfect notes:** Up to 10 notes / ₹5,000 → immediate exchange (free)
 - **Above this** → receipt given, value credited within 30 days
- **Stained/scribbled notes:** These remain **valid legal tender**.

5. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

- **Launch Year:** 2015
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Finance
- **Implementing Agency:** National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC)
- **Aim**
 - **Financing of small business enterprises in manufacturing, trading and service sectors** including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping etc by way of providing Term Loan and/or Working Capital
 - **To provide loans up to 20 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm, small/micro enterprises**
- **Components**
 - **Shishu:** covering loans upto ₹50,000
 - **Kishor:** covering loans above ₹50,000 and upto ₹5 lakhs
 - **Tarun:** covering loans above ₹5 lakh and up to 10 lakhs
 - **TarunPlus:** covering loans above ₹10 lakh and up to 20 lakhs
 - for Tarun category, who have previously availed and successfully repaid loans
- **Eligible Applicants**
 - **Any Indian Citizen** including women, proprietary concern, partnership firm, private limited company or any other entity
 - **who is eligible to avail of loan and has a business plan for income generating activity**
- **MUDRA**
 - Stands for **Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd**, is a **refinance agency** and not a direct lending institution, it provides refinance support to its intermediaries

- **Responsible for refinancing all Last Mile Financiers** such as Non-Banking Finance Companies, Micro Finance Institutions, Societies, Trusts, Section 8 Companies, Small Finance Banks and Regional Rural Banks
- **Refinancing agency also partners with State/Regional level financial intermediaries** to provide finance to Last Mile Financier of small/micro business enterprises
- **Target Clients**
 - **Non-Corporate Small Business Segment (NCSB)** comprising of proprietorship / partnership firms running as small manufacturing units, service sector units
 - Shopkeepers, fruits / vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, artisans, food processors and others, in rural and urban areas
- **Loans extended**
 - **By all Public Sector Banks** such as PSU banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions and Non-Banking Finance Companies
- **Key Features**
 - Loan proposal **should be for setting up of a new/upgrading an existing Micro business enterprises**
 - Loans available for purchase of Transport Vehicle / Tractors, tillers as well as two wheelers, in case applicant intends to use vehicle for commercial purposes
 - **Upfront fee/processing charges for Shishu loans are waived by most banks**
 - Banks to not insist **for collateral security for loans up to ₹20 lakh** extended to units in Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) sector
 - **Applicant should not be defaulter** of any Bank / Financial Institution to get benefit
 - **Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU)** created to mitigate issue of collateral
 - **MUDRA Card**
 - RuPay Debit card issued against the MUDRA loan account
 - Borrower can make use of MUDRA Card in multiple drawals and credits
 - To manage working capital limit in cost-efficient manner and keep interest burden minimum
 - **No subsidy** for loan given under PMMY

- However, if loan proposal is linked to some Government scheme, wherein the Govt. is providing capital subsidy, it will be eligible under PMMY also
 - **Life insurance is not mandatory** for loans under PMMY
 - Terms and conditions of lending based on lending policy of respective lending institution
 - **PAN card not compulsory** to avail loans
 - However, borrower may have to satisfy KYC requirements of financing institutions
 - **Interest rates deregulated** and banks advised to charge reasonable interest rates within overall RBI guidelines.
- PMMY has evolved into a powerful instrument of empowerment and aspiration, with **57 crore+ loans amounting to ₹40.07 lakh crore.**
- Among all states, **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the highest loan disbursement followed by **Bihar** while **Maharashtra** ranked third.
- **Women borrowers** accounted for 59.81% of the total number of loan accounts.
- **JanSamarth** is a national portal that covers 14 credit-linked government schemes, 7 loan categories (including PMMY for business activities) and 200+ lenders.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan (KUSUM) Scheme

- **Launch Year: 2019**
- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**
- **Objectives**
 - De-dieselisation of farm sector
 - Providing water and energy security to farmers
 - Increasing income of farmers
 - Curbing environmental pollution
- **Tenure: Till 31.3.2026**
- **Central Financial Support: ₹34,422 Crore**
- **Target: Solar capacity addition of 34,800 MW by March 2026**

- **Components**

- **Component A: Setting up of 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground/ Stilt Mounted Grid Connected Solar or other Renewable Energy based Power Plants by farmers on their land**
 - Solar or other Renewable Energy based Power Plants (REPP) of capacity of 500 kW to 2 MW will be setup by Renewable Power Generator (RPG)
 - REPP preferably installed within 5 km radius of sub-stations
 - **Eligibility**
 - REPP would be installed by farmers on his own land either directly by himself or in partnership with group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA)
 - or through a developer
 - farmer may provide (lease) his land to DISCOM
 - **Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) of 25 years to be executed** between RPG and Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)
 - Solar power generated will be purchased by DISCOMs at a feed-in-tariff (FiT) determined by respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC)
 - DISCOM would be eligible to get Procurement Based Incentive (PBI) @ ₹0.40 per unit purchased or ₹6.6 lakh per MW of capacity installed, whichever is less
 - for 5 years from Commercial Operation Date (COD)
- **Component B: Installation of 14 lakh standalone solar agricultural pumps**
 - Individual farmers supported to install standalone Solar Agriculture pumps (of capacity up to 7.5 HP) or replacement of existing diesel Agriculture pumps / irrigation systems
 - in off-grid areas, where grid supply is not available
 - Existing standalone diesel pumps to be covered provided they use micro irrigation techniques

- Priority given to **small and marginal farmers and farmers using micro irrigation**
- Pumps of capacity higher than 7.5 HP may be allowed, **but Central Financial Assistance (CFA) limited to CFA applicable for pump of 7.5 HP**
- For individual farmers in North-Eastern region (NER); Hilly region (Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) and Islands (Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep)
 - CFA will be available for pump capacity **up to 15 HP - restricted to 10% of total installations**
- Implementation in 2 modes
 - Central Government provides financial assistance of 30% (or 50% for North Eastern Region/Hilly region/Islands)
 - State Government provides subsidy of at least 30%; and remaining up to 40% is to be provided by bank loan/farmer
 - If State Govt is not giving its share of subsidy of 30% but farmers are willing to set up solar water pumping system with Central Financial Assistance only
 - Central share will remain 30% (or 50%), with remaining 70% in General category states and 50% in Hilly region/NER/Islands being borne by farmer
- Through **Universal Solar Pump Controller (USPC)**
 - farmers can use solar power for other activities like operating chaff cutter, floor mill, cold storage, drier, etc., and increase his income
- **New Solar Agriculture pumps** would not be covered under this component in Dark zones/black zones of water
- For solar pumps to be set up and used by Water User Associations (WUA)/Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO)/Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) or for clusterbased irrigation system
 - CFA will be allowed for solar pump capacity of higher than 7.5 HP considering up to 7.5 HP capacity for each individual in group

- **Component C: Solarisation of 35 Lakh Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps including Feeder Level Solarization**

- **Objective**

- To provide reliable day-time solar power to farmers
 - Enhancing farmers income by purchasing surplus solar power
 - thus incentivizing them for saving water

- **Individual Pump Solarization (IPS)**

- 2 Options
 - Pump to run on both Solar and Grid
 - Pump to run on solar power only
 - CFA - same as Component B

- **Feeder Level Solarization**

- applicable to farmers already connected to grid
 - **CFA of 30%** (50% in case of NE States, hilly states/UTs and Island UTs), balance will be met through loan from NABARD/PFC/REC
 - CFA of ₹1.05 Crore per MW
 - Can be implemented in CAPEX or RESCO mode

- **Key Features**

- Allows transfer of **quantities between Component-B and Component-C**
- **Solarization of pumps under Component B & C of Scheme included under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** to provide subsidized loans to farmers
- **Demand driven**, therefore capacities are allocated based on demand received from states/ UTs
- It will help in **stable and continuous source of income to rural land owners** for a period of 25 years by utilisation of their land
- **Solarisation of agriculture pumps - under priority sector lending of RBI**

- When a group of 5 farmers install a pump of 40 HP capacity then CFA up to 37.5 (5*7.5) HP will be given to group, remaining contribution to be arranged by group.

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

- **Launch Year:** 2024
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Heavy Industries
- **Objectives:** to expedite the adoption of EVs by providing upfront incentives for their purchase, as well as by facilitating the establishment of essential charging infrastructure for EVs
- **Coverage**
 - Subsidies for e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and other emerging EVs
 - Supports 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses
- **Financial Outlay**
 - Rs. 10,900 crore over **Four years until 31 March 2028**
- **Key Features**
 - **Incentives:**
 - **E-vouchers** for EV buyers to claim demand incentives at purchase
 - ₹3,679 crore allocated for demand incentives
 - **Additional ₹500 crore** for e-ambulance deployment
 - ₹4,391 crore for 14,028 e-buses in major cities
 - ₹500 crore to promote e-truck adoption with scrapping incentives
 - **Infrastructure:**
 - Installation of 22,100 fast chargers for e-4Ws, 1,800 for e-buses, and 48,400 for e-2W/3Ws.
 - ₹2,000 crore allocated for electric vehicle public charging stations (EVPCS)
 - **Modernization of test agencies** with an outlay of ₹780 crore
 - Procurement of 14,028 e-buses by public transport agencies - **demand aggregation will be done by CESL in the nine cities with more than 40 lakh population** namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.

- Priority for buses will be given to cities/states replacing old buses through authorized scrapping centers under MoRTH guidelines.
- The terminal date for registered e-2W is **July,2026** and for registered e-rickshaws & e-carts, and registered e-3W (L5) is extended upto **31 March 2028**.
- The **scheme is fund-limited, if funds are exhausted before 31 March 2028**, the scheme or its components will be closed and no further claims accepted.

6. REPORTS

World's Top 100 Airports 2026

- **Released by: Skytrax** (as World Airport Awards)

Important Rankings:

1. **Changi Airport (Singapore)**
2. **Incheon International Airport (South Korea)**
3. **Tokyo Haneda Airport (Japan)**
4. **Hong Kong International Airport (China)**
5. **Narita International Airport (Japan)**

Key Findings:

- **4 Indian airports** feature in SKYTRAX's **top 100** airports.
 - **At 28: Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi)** - up from 32 in 2025; also named Best Airport in India & South Asia.
 - **At 43: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Hyderabad)**; won Best Airport Staff Service in India & South Asia.
 - **At 64: Manohar International Airport (Goa).**
 - **At 66: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Mumbai)**

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