

ALL IN ONE

CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

INCLUDING

GA ESI FINANCE SCHEMES

REPORTS RBI NOTIFICATIONS

September 2026 – 1st to 7th



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1. GA IN NEWS

PIB IN NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	First non-medical woman officer in the Indian Defence Forces to attain a two-star rank (Air Vice Marshal or equivalent) 	- Name: Air Vice Marshal (AVM) Shakti Sharma. - She assumed charge as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters. - She was also the first woman officer from the three services to lead a Sainik School.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

S.No	Initiative	Key Facts
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1.	<u>Hub & Spoke International Flight Operations</u>	- Launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International (SVPI) Airport, Gujarat. - It became the third spoke airport under India's International Aviation Hub Strategy, after Varanasi and Amritsar. - Earlier launched at Varanasi and Amritsar. - The initiative aims to make India the preferred aviation hub for Indian travellers by 2030 and a leading global aviation hub by 2047. - Expected to improve international connectivity from Tier-II and Tier-III cities and reduce dependence on overseas transit hubs. - The government plans to extend Hub & Spoke connectivity to 22 more airports, including Surat in Gujarat, in the next phase. - The Hub-and-Spoke model is a key component of the Government's International Aviation Hub Strategy, aimed at positioning India as the preferred aviation hub for Indian travellers by 2030 and a leading global aviation hub by 2047.
2.	<u>One Nation, One Time – Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026</u>	- Notified by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Objective: To establish Indian Standard Time (IST) as the single legally recognised time reference in India. - Part of the Government's vision of "One Nation, One Time" to ensure uniform and accurate time synchronisation across the country. - The Legal Metrology Department will act as the regulatory and enforcement authority. CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) is India's National Metrology Institute (NMI) and the custodian of Indian Standard Time (IST). - IST is based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) with a +5:30 hour offset and is maintained by CSIR-NPL. CSIR-NPL, ISRO and the Department of Legal Metrology have established secondary time scales at five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs) in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Faridabad and Guwahati. - IST can be disseminated through Network Time Protocol (NTP), Precision Time Protocol (PTP), NavIC satellite system & White Rabbit Technology-based optical fibre systems. Additional Information - In July 2026, India commissioned a White Rabbit Technology-based IST Dissemination Demonstration Network at Regional Reference Standard Laboratory, Bengaluru.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	Summit/Conference	Key Outcomes
1.	<u>4th Indo-German Environment Forum (IGEF)</u>	- Held in New Delhi with the theme "Together For More Resilience." IGEF is the highest-level bilateral forum between India and Germany on environmental policy and has been held since 2008.

		India and Germany signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands of International Importance.
		Additional Information India and Germany are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2026. India's circular economy has the potential to generate a market value of over USD 2 trillion and create nearly 10 million jobs by 2050.
2.	Aero India- 16th edition	- To be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka in February 2027. Asia's largest air show and one of the world's premier aerospace and defence exhibitions. - Organised by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
3.	National Leadership Dialogue on "Preparing the Future Workforce for the Agentic AI Era"	- Organized in New Delhi by The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), under MeitY, in collaboration with Intel India. - A key outcome of the dialogue was the launch of the NIELIT-Intel India Agentic AI Skilling Initiative. - The initiative aims to provide industry-aligned Agentic AI learning opportunities and build a future-ready AI talent ecosystem in India.

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and Rajyoga Education Research Foundation (RERF)	- The MoU was signed to launch the Divyang Samanata, Sanrakshan evam Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (DISSSA). - DISSSA is a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting equality, inclusion and empowerment of Divyangjan. - The campaign focuses on both physical and educational support as well as mental and emotional well-being of persons with disabilities.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	BHASHINI SANGAM	- The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) organised BHASHINI SANGAM: International Engagement Workshop (Nepal) in Kathmandu in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Kathmandu and Kathmandu University. - Focused on strengthening India-Nepal collaboration in multilingual and voice-first Artificial Intelligence (AI). - builds on the MoU between DIBD and Kathmandu University for cooperation in language technology and Digital Public Infrastructure.

		BHASHINI SANGAM is an international engagement initiative that brings together governments, academia, researchers, developers, startups, language experts and communities for Language AI collaboration.
		Additional Information - BHASHINI is India's national platform for AI-powered multilingual digital inclusion. - BHASHINI currently supports 36 Indian text languages, 23 Indian voice languages and 35 international languages.
2.	<u>BIO-NIVESH (Nurturing Innovations and Ventures through Engagement with Investors)</u>	- A strategic platform to strengthen engagement between biotechnology innovators and investors. - Jointly driven by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). - Aims to catalyse private investment into biotechnology innovations and support their scale-up and commercialisation.
		Additional Information - The Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund has an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore to support technology development and innovation. BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) has been designated as a Second-Level Fund Manager under the RDI Fund for biotechnology and allied sectors.

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	<u>'RAKSHA' document on Defence Diplomacy</u>	- Released by the Ministry of Defence. - Provides India's 10-year strategic roadmap and vision for global defence partnerships. Key Pillars: Strategic Partnerships, Capacity Building, Indigenous Exports and Maritime security.

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	<u>Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh</u>	Re-elected as the Secretary-General of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) for a second consecutive four-year term (2027- 2030). - APPU is an intergovernmental organisation comprising 32 member countries and is headquartered in Bangkok. - APPU functions as a Regional Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the United Nations specialised agency for the postal sector.

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	Adoption Awareness 2026	- Launched by Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. - A year-round, nationwide campaign that ensures child-centric transparency and roots out illegal trafficking masquerading as adoption. Theme: Legal Adoption. Safe Childhood. Secure Future. Say No to Illegal Adoption!

OTHER NEWS

FIRST IN NEWS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	India's first dedicated Earth observation imaging satellite designed for geosynchronous orbit	Name: EOS-05. - Launched by ISRO aboard the GSLV-F17 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. - The satellite has a mass of around 2,367 kg, making it the heaviest Earth observation satellite launched by ISRO so far. - Designed for near real-time Earth imaging. - Dubbed as the "Eye in the Sky." - It is the 19th mission of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). - The satellite will use its onboard thrusters over the coming weeks to reach its permanent slot 36,000 kilometres above the Earth.
2.	First major Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) to extend UPI payment services feature phone users in India	PhonePe launched "PhonePe UPI 123Pay" to enable UPI payments on feature phones without requiring a smartphone or internet connection. - Built on a specialised technology stack with SMS-based architecture, enabling transactions even in areas with limited 2G connectivity. - The service enables Peer-to-Peer (P2P) money transfers through mobile numbers or UPI IDs. - It also supports Peer-to-Merchant (P2M) payments through UPI IDs and QR code scanning on supported feature phones.
3.	London Launches First Public Robotaxi Service	- Launched through a partnership between Uber and UK-based autonomous driving company Wayve. The first autonomous ride-hailing service in the United Kingdom.
4.	ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027- First Edition	India will host the event, replacing the originally planned host Sri Lanka. - Venues: Cricket Club of India (CCI), Mumbai & Vadodara International Cricket Stadium, Vadodara.

		The tournament will feature six teams.
5.	Europe's first commercial orbital rocket launch from European soil	Isar Aerospace, a German space startup, successfully launched its Spectrum rocket into orbit from Andøya Space Centre in Norway - The mission was named "Onward and Upward". Spectrum became the first privately developed European launch vehicle to successfully reach orbit. - Spectrum is a two-stage launch vehicle designed to carry small and medium-sized satellites into orbit. - The mission was supported by the European Space Agency (ESA) through its Boost! Programme.
6.	First appearance of King Charles III on Canadian currency	Bank of Canada unveiled a new vertical \$20 polymer banknote featuring the portrait of King Charles III. - Represents the first change of monarch on Canadian banknotes in more than 70 years after Queen Elizabeth II. Canada became the first Commonwealth country outside the United Kingdom to feature King Charles III on its banknotes.
7.	First CEO of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust	Air Marshal (Retd.) Jeetendra Mishra has been appointed the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
8.	France's first traditional Hindu mandir	BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir inaugurated in Bussy-Saint-Georges, near Paris.
9.	First time in nearly a century that a living US president has appeared on a US coin 	- The US Mint launched a \$1 commemorative coin featuring the portrait of President Donald Trump to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's independence. - The previous instance of a living US president appearing on currency was Calvin Coolidge, whose portrait appeared on a half-dollar issued in 1926 during the 150th anniversary of American independence.

MOUs AND AGREEMENTS

S.No	Signing Entities	Key Facts
1.	Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and the Javelin Joint Venture (JJV)	Objective: To explore the co-production of the Javelin All Up Round (AUR) missile in India. - The Javelin Joint Venture (JJV) is a partnership between Raytheon (an RTX company) and Lockheed Martin of the United States.

BANKING AND FINANCE

S.No	Program/Initiative	Key Facts
1.	InsuranceDekho-RenewBuy Merger	InsuranceDekho and RenewBuy announced the consolidation of their businesses to create India's largest AI-enabled insurance

		distribution platform based on Point of Sales Person (PoSP)-generated premium for FY 2025-26. The merged entity will operate under the InsuranceDekho brand and will be led by Ankit Agrawal as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
2.	LIC Launches Two New Insurance Plans	LIC launched two new insurance plans — LIC's Bima Platinum and LIC's Jeevan Raksha on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary. Bima Platinum - A Non-Participating (Non-Par), Non-Linked, Individual Life Insurance Plan combining savings and protection. - A limited premium payment plan. Jeevan Raksha - A Non-Participating, Non-Linked, Pure Risk Life Insurance Plan. - Provides financial protection to the family in case of death of the insured during the policy term.
3.	WhatsApp Launches Bill Payments in India	WhatsApp launched its native bill payments feature in India to allow users to find, manage and pay household and utility bills directly within the app. - The bill payment feature is powered by the Bharat Connect (Bharat Bill Payments System - BBPS) network. Additional Information - Whatsapp has over 850 million users in India alone; its largest market in the world.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Technology in News	Key Facts
1.	Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope	- Launched by NASA aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida. - A \$4 billion flagship astronomical observatory designed to study major mysteries of the universe surrounding dark energy, dark matter, and exoplanets Originally developed as a spy satellite platform by the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) before being converted into a space telescope by NASA. - Named after Dr. Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first Chief Astronomer and a key figure behind the development of the Hubble Space Telescope.
2.	Artemis Accords	Türkiye became the 71st country to sign the US-led Artemis Accords. About Artemis Accords - Set of non-binding international agreements that establish principles for safe, transparent and responsible exploration of outer space. - Launched in 2020 by Nasa and the US Department of State.

		- Based on the 1967 Outer Space Treaty. - Focus mainly on cooperation in the exploration and use of the Moon, Mars, comets and asteroids. - Associated with NASA's Artemis Programme, which aims to return humans to the Moon and establish a sustainable lunar presence. India became the 27th country to sign the Artemis Accords in 2023.
		Additional Information Alper Gezeravci - first Turkish citizen to travel to space. AYAP-1- First uncrewed lunar mission of Turkey.
3.	New York City Pauses AI Tools in Schools	New York City announced a one-year moratorium on student-facing Generative AI tools in public schools for the 2026–27 academic year. - Applies mainly to students from pre-kindergarten through Grade 8. - The objective is to evaluate the impact of AI on student learning, safety, critical thinking and human interaction.
4.	RAY	A conversational AI Account Manager on WhatsApp for businesses. - Launched by Razorpay, in partnership with IndusInd Bank. - Bajaj Finance was among the first businesses to go live with the RAY platform.
5.	GPT-6 Astra	OpenAI's latest frontier Artificial Intelligence model. 'World's Most Intelligent' AI Model. State-of-the-art on computer use, browsing, software engineering, cybersecurity, science, and professional work.

DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

S.No	Exercise/Technology	Key Facts
1.	Khagantak-243	The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted the drop trial of the indigenously designed and developed Khagantak-243 Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB). An air-launched, long-range, stand-off precision-guided glide bomb. Jointly developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and JSR Dynamics.
2.	Ahuti Mk-II	An indigenous interceptor drone. - Developed by Hyderabad-based defence-tech startup Apollyon Dynamics, achieved a record speed of 498 kmph. - The achievement earned recognition in the India Book of Records for the maximum speed achieved by a multirotor UAV in India. - Ahuti Mk-II is an electric multirotor interceptor drone designed specifically for counter-drone warfare.

ENVIRONMENT

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	World's Heaviest Parrot Records Biggest Breeding Success	Kākāpō, the world's heaviest parrot species, achieved a record-breaking breeding season in New Zealand. - The 2026 breeding season added 90 new chicks to the official population after they reached the survival milestone of 150 days of age
2.	Adani Energy Solutions Achieves Highest ESG Rating	Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL) has secured the highest ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) score globally in the utilities sector, achieving a score of 90 out of 100 in S&P Global's latest evaluation. - The industry average score is 41. - AESL is India's largest private transmission and distribution company.

SPORTS

S.No	Sport Event and Venue	Key Facts
1.	International Tennis Hall of Fame	Roger Federer was inducted in the Player Category as part of the Class of 2026. - The induction ceremony was held at Newport, Rhode Island, USA. Roger Federer is a Swiss professional tennis player. - Along with Federer, renowned broadcaster Mary Carillo was also inducted in the Contributor Category. Career Milestones of Roger Federer - Federer won 20 Grand Slam singles titles, becoming the first male player to win 20 major singles titles. - He achieved a Career Grand Slam in singles by winning all four major tournaments — Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open. Federer won a record 8 Wimbledon singles titles, the highest in men's singles history. Additional Information Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj were inducted as part of the Class of 2024, the first Asian men ever to receive tennis's ultimate honor & India the 28th nation represented in the Hall of Fame.
2.	U-18 Pickleball World Cup 2026 Venue: Da Nang, Vietnam	India's U-18 pickleball team secured a fourth-place finish. - India won 41 medals (7 Gold, 17 Silver, 17 Bronze).
3.	AFC (Asian Football Confederation) U20 Asian Cup 2027	India qualified for the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 after a gap of 20 years. India secured qualification by defeating Bangladesh.

- **India's last appearance** in the AFC U20 Asian Cup was in **2006**.
- The **AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027** will be held in **China**.

APPOINTMENT

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	John Ternus 	• Took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Apple, succeeding Tim Cook after his 15-year tenure. • This historic leadership change marks only the second time the CEO reins have changed hands since Steve Jobs stepped down in 2011. • Tim Cook has moved to the role of Executive Chairman of Apple after stepping down as CEO.
2.	Suman Ray	• Appointed as the Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India. • He will look after the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) and Premises Department of RBI.
3.	Anil Chakravarthi	• Appointed as the next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adobe. • He will succeed Shantanu Narayen. • Shantanu Narayen will transition to the role of Executive Chair.
4.	Ülle Madise	• Elected as the next President of Estonia.

PERSONS IN NEWS

S.No	Person in News	Key Facts
1.	Lionel Messi	• Announced his retirement from international football, ending his career with the Argentina national team after nearly two decades. • Messi led Argentina to major international titles including the FIFA World Cup 2022, Copa América 2021 and 2024, and the FIFA World Cup 2022. • Argentina's leading goal scorer and most-capped player- 207 appearances and 125 goals. • He is the only player to win the Golden Ball award for the Best Player of the Tournament twice, at the 2014 and 2022 World Cups. • The number of World Cups in which Messi played (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2026) is tied for the most with longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo. • Holds the record for the most goals scored from penalties in World Cups, most assists in the World Cup, most appearances at World Cups & most appearances in Copa America. • He holds the record for the most goals by a South American.
2.	Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 	• He became the youngest player to score a half-century in Duleep Trophy history at the age of 15 years and 157 days. • He achieved this milestone while playing for East Zone against Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy 2026 semi-final in Bengaluru. • He broke the 57-year-old Duleep Trophy record previously held by Laxman Singh, who scored a fifty at 16 years and 23 days in 1969.

		Piyush Chawla had also registered a Duleep Trophy half-century at 16 years and 307 days in 2005. - The record for the youngest Duleep Trophy centurion remains with Sachin Tendulkar, who achieved the feat at 17 years and 262 days during the 1990–91 season.
3.	Shafali Verma 	- Became the youngest and fastest batter to score 3,000 runs in Women's T20 Internationals (T20Is) during India's Women's Asia Cup 2026 match against Pakistan at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, UAE. - Shafali reached the landmark at the age of 22 years and 220 days, surpassing Ireland's Gaby Lewis. - She became the fastest player to reach 3,000 Women's T20I runs in terms of balls faced, achieving the feat in just 2,182 balls. - The previous fastest record was held by Australia's Alyssa Healy, who reached 3,000 runs in 2,321 balls. - She became the third Indian woman cricketer to cross 3,000 runs in Women's T20Is after Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana.
4.	Giorgia Meloni	Giorgia Meloni's government became Italy's longest-serving uninterrupted government since World War II, completing 1,413 days in power. - Surpassed the previous record held by Silvio Berlusconi's government. - Giorgia Meloni became the first woman Prime Minister of Italy in 2022.

PLACES IN NEWS

S.No	Place in News	Key Facts
1.	Gollala Gudi Temple	- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has notified the Gollala Gudi Temple at Palampet in Mulugu district, Telangana, as a Monument of National Importance. - The temple is located near the UNESCO-listed Ramappa Temple and is known for its exquisite carvings and architectural heritage. - Monuments of National Importance are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.
2.	Kharg Island	- Iran accused the United States of striking an Iranian oil tanker near Kharg Island. Kharg Island is located in the Persian Gulf and belongs to Iran. - It is home to Iran's largest oil export terminal.

DAYS IN NEWS

S.No	Day in News	Key Facts
1.	National Nutrition Week 2026 (1 to 7 September) 	--

2.	World Coconut Day 2026 (September 2)	Theme: 'Coconuts in times of uncertainty: Securing food, energy, and livelihoods.'
3.	International Day for Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage	- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution declaring 27 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. - Adopted by the 193-member UN General Assembly through consensus. - Resolution led by Sierra Leone, with India among the co-sponsors along with around 70 other countries. - The date 27 November holds special significance for India as it marks the launch of the "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat" (Child Marriage Free India) campaign in 2024. - The initiative is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3, which aims to eliminate harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage by 2030.

MISCELLANEOUS

S.No	News	Key Facts
1.	Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)	India rejected the Hague-based Court of Arbitration's ruling on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), stating that the tribunal has "no jurisdiction" over India's sovereign decisions. - The Court of Arbitration had ruled that India cannot suspend or terminate the Indus Waters Treaty on the grounds cited by it and that the Treaty remains in force. India placed the IWT in abeyance in 2025, following the Pahalgam terror attack. - India has maintained that the Treaty will remain in abeyance until Pakistan takes verifiable and irreversible action against cross-border terrorism. About IWT - A landmark water-sharing agreement signed between India and Pakistan in 1960. - Signed in Karachi, Pakistan. - The World Bank acted as a mediator and signatory to the Treaty. Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej)- Allocated to India. Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab)- Allocated to Pakistan.

2. GA + ESI

PIB IN NEWS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

2.1 India's Path to Blue Skies: India's Efforts Towards Cleaner Air

Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** highlighted India's progress towards cleaner air on the occasion of the **International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**, observed on **7 September every year**.
- India observes this day as "**Swachh Vayu Diwas**" to create awareness about air pollution and promote actions for improving air quality.

India's Major Initiative to control Air Pollution

1. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

2. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

3. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

4. National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)

- The **National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)** is a nationwide air quality monitoring programme.
- Implemented by **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**.
- Ministry- **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**

Objectives of NAMP

- Measure concentration levels of important air pollutants across India.
- Identify Pollution Trends
- Generate Scientific Data
- Help identify cities where air quality standards are not being achieved.

Frequency of Monitoring

- Monitoring is generally carried out **twice a week**.
- Each monitoring location is observed for **104 days in a year**.

5. Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS)

- **Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS)** is a technology-based system used to **continuously monitor and record emissions released from industries**.
- It measures the concentration of pollutants being discharged from industrial plants and sends real-time data to regulatory authorities.

Implementing Agencies

- **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**- Develops guidelines and monitors national-level compliance
- **State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)**-Monitor industries within states
- **Pollution Control Committees (PCCs)**-Monitor Union Territories

6. PRANA Portal

- Full Form- **Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment Cities**
- Track implementation of NCAP.

7. Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan

- Annual ranking of cities based on their efforts to improve air quality under NCAP.

2026 Top Performing Cities

- **Population above 10 lakh- Lucknow**
- **Population 3–10 lakh-Rourkela**
- **Population below 3 lakh- Kalinganagar**

8. SAFAR System

- Full Form: **System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research**
- Developed by: **Ministry of Earth Sciences**
- **Provides:** air quality forecasts, pollution alerts and health advisories.

10. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- Applicable: **Delhi-NCR**
- A set of emergency measures activated according to pollution severity.

Note- We have cover NCAP, NAAQS, CAQM in detail in the 23rd to 31st July Magazine article- 2.13. Kindly refer from there.

2.2 PACT & ZET Marketplace: Strategic Electrification of India's Freight Sector

Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has launched the **Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT)** at the **5th e-FAST India Summit 2026**.
- The summit also introduced the **Zero Emission Truck (ZET) Marketplace**.

Platform for Aggregating Clean Transport (PACT)

- It is designed as a coordinated platform for **electric freight projectization**.
- Primary focus: Deployment of **electric medium- and heavy-duty trucks (e-MHDTs)**.
- **Lead/Nodal institution: NITI Aayog**
- **Parent platform: e-FAST India**
- **Three major functions are:**
 - **Demand aggregation** - Bring together demand from shippers and logistics service providers.

- **Projectization** - Convert aggregated demand into actual, commercially viable freight projects.
- **Ecosystem coordination** - Bring together various stakeholders like OEMs, Logistics Service Providers, Shippers, Charge Point Operators, Financiers, and Government agencies.

Zero Emission Truck (ZET) Marketplace

- **Lead/Nodal institution:** NITI Aayog
- **Parent platform:** e-FAST India
- **Objective:** To provide an **interactive business-engagement platform** for to facilitate partnerships related to Zero-emission trucks, Financing, Charging infrastructure, Logistics operations.

Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport – India (e-FAST India)

- It is a **NITI Aayog-led national electric freight platform**.
- **Launched in:** September 2022.
- Developed in collaboration with **World Resources Institute (WRI)** India and supported by several knowledge and industry partners.

Aim: To speed up the transition to zero-emission freight vehicles.

Key Focus Area:

- Technology & Innovation,
- Market Acceleration, and
- Public Policy Support.

EXPORT IMPORT POLICY

2.3 DGFT Introduces Automated Issuance of Free Sale and Commerce Certificate (FSC)

Why in News?

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** has introduced an automated system for issuance of **Free Sale and Commerce Certificates (FSCs)** through the DGFT portal.
- The reform aims to **simplify export-related procedures, reduce compliance burden and improve Ease of Doing Business** for exporters.

Free Sale and Commerce Certificate (FSC)

Export Documentation

Enabling Global Trade with Trusted Documentation



What is FSC?

- FSC is an export-related certificate issued by DGFT confirming that a product **sold and commercially available in India**.
- It is generally required by importing countries before allowing entry of certain products into their markets.

Products Covered Under FSC



FSC is issued for products that:

- Are manufactured in India.
- Are freely available for sale in the Indian market.
- Are not regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

About Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

- DGFT is the main government agency responsible for **implementing India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)**.
- It regulates and facilitates **India's export and import activities**.
- DGFT works towards promoting exports, improving ease of doing business and integrating India with global trade.
 - Established- 1992**
 - Ministry- Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
 - Headquarters- New Delhi**
 - Governing Framework- Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992**

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

2.4 Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) Initiative

Why in News?

- District as Export Hubs were recently seen in news.
 - It aims to transform districts into centres of export planning by identifying locally produced goods and services with export potential and connecting them with international markets.
 - It is built on success of **One District One Product (ODOP) programme**.

District as Export Hubs (DEH)

Launched : 2019

Nodal Department & Agency: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- **DEH was institutionalised under Foreign Trade Policy 2023.**
- **Export Target:** Achieve exports worth **US\$ 2 Trillion by 2030.**
- **Institutional Architecture:**
 -
 - **DGFT anchors implementation**, facilitates stakeholder coordination and monitors progress.
 - At the State level, **State Export Promotion Committees (SEPCs)** guide implementation and ensure **convergence across departments.**
 - At the district level, **District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs)**, identify **export opportunities**, resolve local challenges and coordinate with industry, exporters and other stakeholders. It is also responsible preparing **District Export Action Plans (DEAPs).**
- **Key Initiatives undertaken under DEH:**
 - **DGFT** has partnered with **EXIM Bank** to strengthen export ecosystems in selected districts.
 - As part of the collaboration, six districts - **Anantapur, Raipur, Solan, Tiruppur, Kanpur and Kolhapur**-have been selected for support **under EXIM Bank's Grassroots Initiatives for Development (GRID)** programme.
 - The **Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra (DNK)** portal is an initiative of **India Post (Department of Posts)** and **Indian Customs (ICEGATE / ICES)**, alongside the **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** and the **Reserve Bank of India's Export Data Processing & Monitoring System (EDPMS).**
 - Aim is to help small businesses, artisans, and MSMEs send commercial exports worldwide directly through local post offices.

One District One Product (ODOP)

- ODOP Programme aims to select, brand and promote **one distinctive product from each district.**
- **Launched : 2018**, by **Uttar Pradesh government.** (It was built around **Moradabad's brass industry**, before it was scaled nationally).
- **Inspired by: One Village One Product** movement of **Japan.**
- **Nodal Ministry & Department:** **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **Facilitation Agency:** **Invest India** (National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency).

Funding Pattern: There is no separate allocation under this scheme. It converges with the ongoing Central/State schemes.

OTHER NEWS

GLOBALIZATION

2.5 26th SCO Summit 2026: Bishkek Declaration

Why in News?

- The 26th **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State Summit** was concluded in **Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic** by adopting the **Bishkek Declaration**.
- Pakistan will host the SCO summit in 2027.

Key Highlights of Bishkek Declaration

- **English** has been **added as an official language** in the **SCO Charter**.
- **Lahore** named **SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2026–27**.
 - Cities that previously held the title include **Varanasi in India (2022-23)**, **Almaty in Kazakhstan (2023-24)**, **Qingdao in China (2024-25)** and **Cholpon-Ata in Kyrgyzstan (2025-26)**.

India's Proposals under the Summit

1. **SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum** to promote cultural exchange - First edition to be hosted by India.
2. **SCO Young Scientist Forum** to encourage scientific cooperation among youth.
3. **SCO Young Author's Conclave** to promote literary and cultural cooperation.

Note- About SCO has been covered in the August Magazine. Kindly refer from there.

3. GA + FINANCE

PIB IN NEWS

Recent Development in Financial Sector

3.1 NFRA Constitutes Advisory Committee on Audit Quality Assurance and Technology

Why in News?

- The **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)** has constituted an **Advisory Committee on Audit Quality, Assurance and Technology** to provide expert inputs on issues affecting audit quality and the evolving role of technology in auditing.

About National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

- Established- **1 October 2018**

- It is an **independent statutory regulatory body** established to oversee the quality of **financial reporting and auditing** in India.
 - Before NFRA, audit regulation was primarily handled by **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)**, however, concerns over audit failures, lack of independent oversight and self-regulation conflicts, especially after the Satyam scandal (2009), led to the creation of an independent audit regulator.
- Established under- **Section 132 of Companies Act, 2013**
- Ministry- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**
- Headquarters- **New Delhi**

Jurisdiction of NFRA

NFRA regulates auditors of specified entities such as:

- **Listed Companies**- Companies whose securities are listed in India or outside India.
- **Large Unlisted Public Companies**- Unlisted public companies meeting prescribed thresholds such as: Paid-up capital, Turnover, Outstanding loans, debentures and deposits
- **Specific Sectors**- NFRA also covers:
 - Banking companies
 - Insurance companies
 - Electricity companies
 - Companies governed by special Acts
- **Entities referred by the Central Government in public interest.**

OTHER NEWS

FinTech

3.2 Demat 2.0 Pilot for Tokenised Corporate Bonds

Why in News?

- **RBI** and **SEBI** has announced "**Demat 2.0**".

Demat 2.0

- It is a pilot project to introduce **tokenisation of corporate bonds** using **Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**.

- Tokenisation of Corporate Bonds**- Tokenisation means converting a financial asset into a **digital token recorded on a blockchain/distributed ledger**.
 - Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)**- A shared digital record maintained simultaneously by authorised participants.

- Aim:** To create a next-generation market infrastructure for **issuance, holding, trading and settlement of corporate bonds** using **blockchain-based technology** and **RBI's wholesale CBDC (e₹)**.
- Implementing Agency** - **SEBI**

Aspect	Current System	Demat 2.0
 Security & Payment System	Security record and payment system are separate	 Security and payment systems are linked through digital infrastructure
 Reconciliation Process	Separate reconciliation is required	 Shared ledger reduces reconciliation
 Settlement Process	Settlement may take longer	 Faster settlement is possible
 Corporate Actions	Manual processing of corporate actions	 Smart contracts can automate actions

Recent Development in Financial Sector

3.3 India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Marks 9th Foundation Day

Why in News?

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has celebrated its **9th Foundation Day** on 1 September 2026 and launched new digital platforms to expand access to digital payments, insurance products and investment products.
- To simplify digital payment acceptance for merchants **DakPay Sound Box** has been launched.

About India Post Payments Bank

- IPPB is a **Government-owned Payments Bank** established to provide **accessible, affordable and reliable banking services**, especially to the **unbanked and underbanked population**.
- It leverages the extensive network of **India Post** to provide last-mile banking services across rural and remote areas.
- Launch Date- **1 September 2018**
- Ownership- **100% Government of India equity**
- Parent Organisation- **Department of Posts**
- Ministry- **Ministry of Communications**

- Headquarters- **New Delhi**
- Regulatory Framework- **Payments Bank Model**
- IPPB operates under the **Payments Bank guidelines issued by RBI.**
- Deposit Limit- **₹2 lakh (Maximum balance allowed per customer)**

3.4 SEBI Reviews Methodology for Settlement Price of Derivative Contracts After CAS Rollout

Why in News?

- **SEBI is reviewing the methodology used for determining settlement prices of derivative contracts on expiry** after receiving feedback from market participants following the **introduction of the Closing Auction Session (CAS) mechanism.**
- Market participants raised concerns about **sharp price movements and divergence from prices seen during normal trading**, particularly on derivative expiry days.

About Closing Auction Session (CAS)

Closing Auction Session (CAS) is a special auction conducted near the end of the trading day to determine **the official closing price of a security.**

Objectives-

- Make the closing price more **transparent and market-driven.**
- Pool buy and sell orders at one place.
- Facilitate execution of **large institutional orders.**
- Help **index funds and ETFs** transact near the official closing price.
- Reduce **tracking error** of passive funds.
- Bring India's closing-price mechanism closer to practices followed in several major global markets.

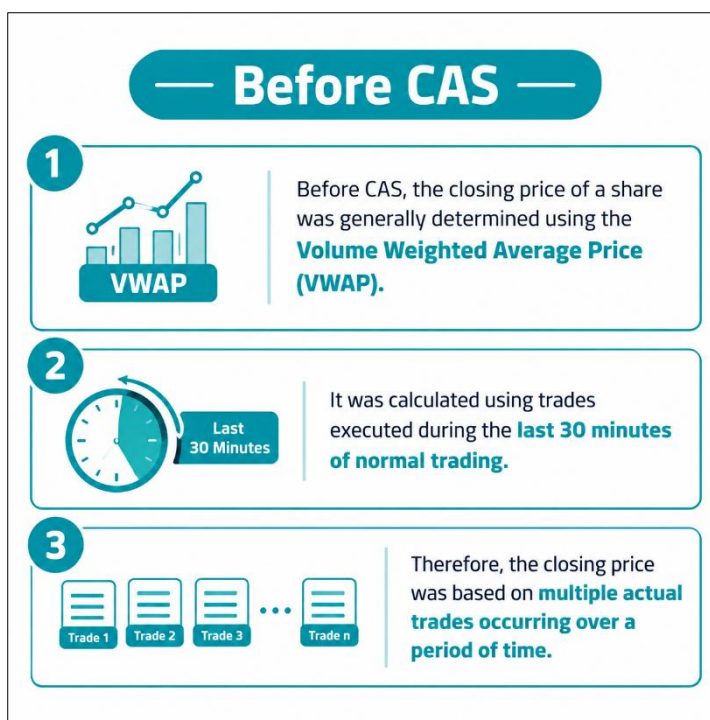
Working of CAS-

Step 1: Reference Price is Determined

- The reference price is generally based on the VWAP between **3:00 PM and 3:15 PM**
- If no trade occurs during this period:
 - **Last Traded Price (LTP)** may be used.
 - If there was no trade during the day, the previous day's closing price may be used.

Step 2: Investors Place Orders

Step 3: Equilibrium Price is Found



- The stock exchange selects the price at which the **maximum quantity of shares can be bought and sold**. This is known as the **Equilibrium Price**. This price becomes the **official closing price**.

Why the Price Difference is a Concern?

SEBI is reviewing the method used to determine the settlement price of derivative contracts after the rollout of the **Closing Auction Session (CAS)** because the price used for settlement **differs from the price seen in the market** during the extra trading time.

Earlier (Before CAS)



Now (After CAS)



The Price Difference Issue



Why is this a concern?

- Creates uncertainty for derivative traders (they don't know the final price yet).
- Can lead to **lower participation** and liquidity.
- May increase volatility, especially on expiry days.

In Simple Words



The problem is not just the price itself, but the gap between the CAS price and the price in the market during the additional 10 minutes of trading.

This gap can disrupt trading, reduce liquidity and increase risk in the derivatives market.

4. RBI NOTIFICATIONS

NOTE

Please note that there will be no **RBI NewsTap File** for the period from **1st to 7th September 2026**, as there were **no exam – relevant developments** during this time. We encourage you to utilize this period to revise the previously shared content.

Thank you.

5. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Modified UDAN Scheme

- **Launch Year:** UDAN was launched in **2016**. Following completion of its initial multi-phase lifecycle, the Union Cabinet approved its next-decade version as the **Regional Connectivity Scheme – Modified UDAN on March 25, 2026**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Civil Aviation
- **Implementing Agency:** Airports Authority of India (AAI)
- **Financial Allocation & Support Structure:** The financial allocation has been increased from the original **₹4,500 crore to ₹28,840 crore**, backed entirely by **Budgetary Support of the Government of India**.
- **Type of Scheme:** Central Sector Scheme umbrella framework.
- **Tenure:** 10 years, from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36**.
- **Objective and aim**
 - **To democratize aviation**, make air travel affordable and enhance regional connectivity.
 - To promote **balanced economic development** by connecting **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**.
 - To revive and optimally utilize **dormant or underutilized aviation infrastructure**.

- **Components**

The Modified UDAN framework provides funding for the following major aviation development initiatives:

1. Development of Aerodromes – ₹12,159 Crore

- **Target:** Develop **100 airports** from existing **unserved airstrips over 8 years**.
- **Method:** Allocation will be decided through a competitive **“Challenge Mode”** evaluation.
- The evaluation will be based on:
 - Availability of land
 - Speed of implementation
 - Sustainability

2. Viability Gap Funding – ₹10,043 Crore

- **Duration:** The route subsidy/VGF support period has been **extended up to 5 years** to help low-density regional routes mature.
- **Funding Source:** VGF will now be **100% funded directly by the Central Government exchequer**.
- This replaces dependence on **passenger ticket levies** for funding the subsidy.

3. Development of Modern Helipads – ₹3,661 Crore

- **Target:** Construct **200 state-of-the-art helipads**.
- These will primarily be developed in:
 - Remote areas
 - Hilly regions
 - Priority districts
- **Cost Benchmark:** Expenditure has been strictly benchmarked at **₹15 crore per helipad**.

4. Operations & Maintenance – ₹2,577 Crore

- **Target:** Subsidize the operational costs of approximately **441 small and low-traffic aerodromes**.
- **Annual Assistance Caps:**
 - Maximum **₹3.06 crore per regional airport per year**
 - Maximum **₹0.90 crore per heliport/water aerodrome per year**
- **OPERATIONAL FEATURES**
 - **Market-Driven Approach:** Airline operators assess demand on regional routes and submit bids competitively.
 - **Airfare Capping:** A prescribed number of seats on RCS routes are offered at affordable capped fares. The historical baseline fare has been **₹2,500 for a one-hour flight or a 30-minute helicopter journey**.
- **SEAT CAPACITY ALLOCATION**
 - **Fixed-Wing Aircraft**
 - **50% of the flight's seat capacity** is covered under the RCS airfare framework.
 - Under the earlier UDAN framework, RCS seats were generally subject to a **minimum of 9 and maximum of 40 seats**.
 - Under **Modified UDAN**, the earlier **40-seat maximum ceiling has been removed for larger aircraft having more than 80 seats**.
 - **Helicopters**
 - For helicopters with **passenger capacity of 13 or less, 100% of seats** can be covered as RCS seats.
 - For helicopters with **capacity above 13 passengers**, a maximum of **13 seats** can be covered as RCS seats.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL INITIATIVES**
 - **100 airports** are proposed to be developed from existing unserved airstrips.
 - **200 modern helipads** will strengthen last-mile connectivity in difficult and remote regions.
 - The **Challenge Mode** approach will encourage timely execution, better infrastructure quality and efficient use of resources.
 - **HeliSewa Portal:** A single-window digital platform designed to facilitate approvals and coordination for helicopter operations.
 - Indigenous aircraft procurement supports the broader **Atmanirbhar Bharat** objective.

Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

- **Launch Year:** Originally launched as the **National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) in 2008** by merging two Centrally Sponsored Schemes:
 - **Computerisation of Land Records (CLR)**
 - **Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR)**
- **Revamped:** Renamed/revamped as the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) from April 1, 2016**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Land Resources (DoLR)

- **Type of Scheme: Central Sector Scheme**
- **Tenure:** Extended for **5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26** during the 15th Finance Commission period.
- **Financial Allocation: ₹2,428 crore** allocated since 2008-09.
- **OBJECTIVE AND AIM**
 - **Aim:** To digitally transform India's land records and make them **accurate, accessible, transparent, tamper-proof and legally reliable**, thereby reducing land/property disputes and improving land governance.
 - **Objectives:** To develop a **modern, comprehensive and transparent Integrated Land Information Management System** that:
 - enables **sharing of land information** with different organisations and agencies;
 - helps check **fraudulent and benami transactions**;
 - reduces the need for physical visits to registration offices;
 - assists in **policy formulation and planning**;
 - benefits both **landowners and prospective buyers/users**;
 - facilitates optimum utilization of land resources; and
 - provides **real-time land-related information**.
- **KEY FEATURES**
 - **Digital Governance Components:** DILRMP integrates multiple land administration activities, including:
 - **Computerisation of land records**
 - **Survey/Re-survey of land**
 - **Computerisation of the registration process**
 - **Modernisation of Record Rooms**
 - **Capacity building**
 - **Integrated Land Information Management System**
 - Provides **single-window online access** to land-related information.
 - Integrates land records with systems such as **banks, courts, registration offices, circle rates and Aadhaar with consent**.
 - A mandatory **Gender Column** has been introduced in the **Record of Rights (RoR)** to help track and promote women's land ownership.
 - **District as Unit of Implementation:** Various DILRMP activities converge and are implemented at the **district level**.
 - **DILRMP-MIS:** An online **Management Information System** used to monitor the real-time progress of DILRMP implementation.
 - **Cadastral Maps – Bhu Naksha:**
 - Digitises cadastral maps showing individual land parcels.
 - Provides details such as the **size, boundaries and location/position** of each land parcel.
 - **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN):**
 - ULPIN, also known as **“Bhu-Aadhaar”**, is a **14-digit alphanumeric identification number** assigned to individual land parcels using their **geo-coordinates**.
 - It provides a unique identity to each land parcel and helps prevent duplication of land records.
 - It facilitates **dispute resolution and simplified land transactions**.
 - ULPIN has been implemented across **29 States/UTs**.

- As of early 2026, ULPIN had been assigned to **more than 36 crore land parcels across 29 States/UTs**.
 - It also helps in checking **fraudulent and benami transactions**.
- **Bhoomi Samman:**
 - Recognises districts achieving high levels of digitisation and computerisation of land records.
 - **Platinum Grading** is awarded to districts achieving **more than 99% computerisation/digitisation of land records**.
 - **168 districts** have received Platinum Grading under the recognition programme.
- **DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM & INTEGRATION**
 - **NGDRS – National Generic Document Registration System**
 - Facilitates online registration of land/property documents.
 - Supports facilities such as **online data entry, payments, appointments and document searches**.
 - Adopted by **18 States/UTs**, while another **12 States/UTs share registration-related data**.
 - **e-Court Integration**
 - Integrates land records with courts to facilitate faster dispute resolution and improve access to relevant land information.
 - Implemented across **26 States/UTs**.
 - **Transliteration of Land Records**
 - Enables land records to be converted/transliterated into **22 Indian languages**.
 - Helps overcome language barriers in accessing land records.
 - Implemented in **17 States/UTs**.
 - These surveys covered approximately **5,915 sq. km** using **high-resolution imagery**.

6. Reports

Democracy Report, 2026

- **Released by:** Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem)
- **India** is classified as **Electoral Autocracy**.

Important Rankings:

Top 5 countries on the Liberal Democracy Index (LDI) & Electoral Democracy Index (EDI)

Country	LDI – Rank/Score	Country	EDI – Rank/ Score
Denmark	1/0.88	Denmark	1/0.91
Sweden	2	Norway	2
Norway	3	Belgium	3



Switzerland	4	Sweden	4
Estonia	5	Estonia	5
India	105/0.26	India	106/0.38