EduTap

# ALL IN ONE

# CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

INCLUDING

GA ESI FINANCE SCHEMES

REPORTS RBI NOTIFICATIONS

**October 2026 – 1st to 7th**









# All in One Booster 1st to 7th October 2026

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# 1. GA IN NEWS

## PIB IN NEWS

### FIRST IN NEWS

| S.No | News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | India's First Plastic-free Oil Terminal | • Milestone achieved by **Jawahar Dweep Marine Oil Terminal (also known as Butcher Island), operated by the Mumbai Port Authority.** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. | Historic Firsts Infrastructure Projects from Indian Railways | • **India's first Vande Bharat Express** — launched in on the **New Delhi–Kanpur–Prayagraj–Varanasi corridor.**<br>• **India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper** – launched between **Howrah–Guwahati in 2026.**<br>• **Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor** includes **India's first undersea rail tunnel beneath Thane Creek.** |
| 3. | India's First 5.56 km Free-Space Quantum Key Distribution Link | • **India's first free-space Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) link** over a **distance of 5.56 km** was successfully demonstrated by **QNu Lab**s, in collaboration with **Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) and IIT Gandhinagar**. |
| 4. | The first Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1) being built for the Indian Navy | • Name: **Surya.**<br>• Launched at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**<br>• **HSL is constructing five Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy.** |
| 5. | First-ever competitive e-auction of two mineral blocks in Jammu & Kashmir | • Two limestone blocks have been auctioned through the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, under the Central Government's mineral auction process.<br>  ○ **Koot–Kapran Limestone Block, Anantnag.**<br>  ○ **Wantrag Limestone Block, Anantnag.** |

# GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

<table>
<tr><th>S.No</th><th>Initiative</th><th>Key Facts</th></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td>Five Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages</td><td>• The Ministry of Education has approved the establishment of five Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for the study of Classical Assamese, Classical Bengali, Classical Marathi, Classical Pali and Classical Prakrit.
<table>
<tr><th>Classical Language</th><th>Centre of Excellence Location</th><th>State</th></tr>
<tr><td>Assamese</td><td>Tezpur University</td><td>Assam</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bengali</td><td>Visva-Bharati University</td><td>West Bengal</td></tr>
<tr><td>Marathi</td><td>Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune</td><td>Maharashtra</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pali</td><td>Central University of Odisha</td><td>Odisha</td></tr>
<tr><td>Prakrit</td><td>Central University of Gujarat</td><td>Gujarat</td></tr>
</table>
Additional Information<br>• India currently has 11 Classical Languages.<br>• The status is granted to languages with high antiquity, a rich body of ancient literature, knowledge texts/inscriptions, and a classical form that may be distinct from the modern form.<br>• Tamil was the first language to receive Classical Language status in India, in 2004.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td>Special Campaign 6.0</td><td>• Being undertaken from 2 October to 31 October 2026.<br>• Coordinated by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.</td></tr>
</table>

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | • Its twin focus is **Swachhata (cleanliness) and good governance/reduction of pendency in government offices.** |

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

| S.No | Summit/Conference | Key Outcomes |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 70th meeting of the International Whaling Commission | • Venue: **Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.**<br>• **The biennial summit** coincided with the **80th anniversary** of the **signing of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946).**<br>• Its membership includes **89 governments from all over the world.**<br>• **India has been a member of the International Whaling Commission since 1981** |
| | | **Additional Information**<br>• Its membership includes **89 governments from all over the world**.<br>• India has been a **member of the International Whaling Commission since 1981.**<br>• HQ: **Impington, United Kingdom.** |
| 2. | 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2026) | • Held in **New Delhi.**<br>• Theme: **"Resilience in an Age of Flux".**<br>• Jointly convened by the **Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) and the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.** |

## DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

| S.No | Exercise/Technology | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN 2026 | • **India-UAE Joint Military Exercise.**<br>• Held in **Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.** |
| 2. | 12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) | • Conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard** under the **aegis the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB).**<br>• **Held off the coast of Paradip, Odisha.** |
| 3. | Exercise VARUNA- 24th edition | • **Annual bilateral maritime exercise** between the **Indian Navy and French Navy.**<br>• Held in **Toulon, France.**<br>• **INS Trishul** represented **Indian Navy.** |

## ENVIRONMENT

| S.No | News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Recovery Programme | • The process for **releasing two captive-bred Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) into the wild was initiated at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | • The release marks the **culmination of around 10 years of dedicated conservation breeding efforts for GIB**. |
| | | **About the Programme**<br>• A **collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Rajasthan Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII),** with technical collaboration from the **International Fund for Houbara Conservation.**<br>• Funded via the **National CAMPA Authority.**<br>• **Aim:** To rescue the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard Rajasthan's state bird—from extinction |

## APPOINTMENT

| S.No | Person in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit | • Appointed as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force**.<br>• He will **succeed Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh.** |
| 2. | Dr. Bimal N. Patel | • Took oath as a **Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)** for a tenure of **9-year term (2026–2035).**<br>• He currently serves as **Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Raksha University**.<br>**About ITLOS**<br>• An independent international judicial body established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to resolve maritime disputes.<br>• Comprises 21 independent judges, elected for 9-year terms, with due consideration to geographical representation and major legal systems.<br>• Headquarters: **Hamburg, Germany.** |

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

| S.No | Book Title | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | "Rajbhasha Khand Ki Svarnim Yatra" | • Launched on the **Golden Jubilee celebration** of the **Official Languages Wing** of the **Legislative Department** of the Ministry of Law and Justice |

## DAYS IN NEWS

| S.No | Day in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Centenary Celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) (October 1) | • The UPSC commenced its **two-day centenary celebrations titled "Manthan" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**<br>• The event marked the **culmination of year-long celebrations commemorating 100 years** since the **establishment of the Public Service Commission.** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | **About UPSC**<br>• Established as **Public Service Commission on 1 October 1926.**<br>• The Public Service Commission was later transformed into the **Federal Public Service Commission** under the **Government of India Act, 1935.**<br>• After the Constitution came into force, it became the **UPSC in 1950**.<br>• UPSC is a constitutional body under **Article 315.**<br>• UPSC is headquartered at **New Delhi.** |
| **2.** | **23rd Foundation Day of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) (October 1)** | • The **NBA is an autonomous statutory body** established by the **Government of India in 2003** to **implement the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.**<br>• Headquarters: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**<br>• Ministry: **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).** |
| **3.** | **National Voluntary Blood Donation Day (October 1)** | • Theme: **'One Drop of Humanity, Give Blood, Save Lives.'** |
| **4.** | **National Anti-Drug Addiction Day (October 2)** | -- |
| **5.** | **72nd National Wildlife Week 2026 ( 2to 8 October)** | • Theme: **"Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife".** |
| **6.** | **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) (October 4)** | • **UCIL** was incorporated in **October 1967** as a **Public Sector Enterprise** under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).** |

# OTHER NEWS

## FIRST IN NEWS

| S.No | News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **First artificial intelligence hardware under Project Suncatcher** | • **Google tested its Artificial Intelligence (AI) hardware in space** for the first time under **Project Suncatcher.**<br>• The prototype satellite was **launched aboard SpaceX's Transporter-18 rideshare mission.**<br>• The mission **tested Google's Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)** under radiation, thermal and other physical conditions in orbit.<br>• Project Suncatcher is a long-term research programme to explore whether machine-learning infrastructure can be scaled in space. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. | India's first dedicated MICE Incentive Portal | • **Launched by the Government of Odisha.**<br>• MICE stands for **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions.** |
| 3. | First international inland waterways cargo shipment from Upper Assam since India's Independence in 1947 | • **A barge carrying industrial methanol** was shipped from **Bogibeel Terminal in Dibrugarh, Assam to Pangaon Port in Dhaka, Bangladesh.** |
| 4. | First-ever Irani Cup match hosted by Jammu & Kashmir/Srinagar | • **The Rishabh Pant-led Rest of India team won the 2026–27 Irani Cup, defeating the 2025–26 Ranji Trophy champions, Jammu & Kashmir.**<br>• The match was played at the **Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Srinagar.**<br>• **Smaran Ravichandran** was named **Player of the Match.**<br>• Irani Cup is a first-class domestic cricket competition in India; It is played between the Ranji Trophy champion and the Rest of India team. |
| 5. | India's first commercial private thermal-imaging nanosatellite payload | • Name: **TAPAS-1 (Thermal Access Platform for Analytics & Solutions).**<br>• Developed by **Ahmedabad-based SatLeo Labs.**<br>• Launched aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 under the Transporter-18 rideshare mission** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California**<br>• It flew as a hosted payload via **Dhruva Space's LEAP-2 platform.**<br>• It was deployed into **Low Earth Orbit at about 500 km altitude.**<br>• TAPAS-1 uses **Thermal Infrared (TIR) sensing to detect heat and temperature variations on Earth's surface.** |
| 6. | India's first networked orbital data centre mission | • To be launched by **Hyderabad-based TakeMe2Space in 2028.**<br>• The mission will **fly aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 as part of the Waymaker 2 rideshare mission.**<br>• The mission will fly two 100-kilogram "My Orbital Infrastructure" (MOI) constellation satellites.<br>• The company ultimately plans to build a **core constellation of six satellites** to provide global coverage with orbital data processing capabilities. |
| 7. | India's first private-sector micro-missile programme | • Name: **JWALA.**<br>• Developed by Noida based defence technology firm **IG Defence.**<br>• IG Defence successfully test-fired two solid rocket motors under the mission.<br>• **JWALA** is a **short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM)** designed to destroy hostile drones using hard-kill counter-drone technology. |
| 8. | First Indian Cement Company to Cross 2 GW Green Energy Capacity | • Milestone achieved by **UltraTech Cement, an Aditya Birla Group company** after commissioning a wind energy project in **Barmer, Rajasthan.** |

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

| S.No | Summit/Conference | Key Outcomes |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) Convention- 19th Edition | • To be held in **Kolkata, West Bengal** in **January 2027.**<br>• Organizer: **Ministry of External Affairs & State Government of West Bengal.**<br>• It is the Government of India's flagship platform for engaging with the overseas Indian community and recognising its contribution to India and the wider world.<br>• **Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas** is observed on **9 January** to commemorate the **return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.** |

## BANKING AND FINANCE

| S.No | Program/Initiative | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | BOB Pension Fund Management Company Limited | • **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has officially entered the **pension fund business** by incorporating its **new subsidiary, BOB Pension Fund Management Company Limited.**<br>• This milestone makes **Bank of Baroda only the second public sector bank (PSB) in India to enter the pension fund management market**, following **State Bank of India (SBI), which entered the segment in 2008**. |
| 2. | Apple Pay Launched in India | • **Apple Pay was launched in India**, in partnership with **Axis Bank, its first Indian banking partner.**<br>• Initially, the service supports **Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards, while RuPay cards are not eligible**.<br>• Apple Pay enables **contactless payments using Near Field Communication (NFC)** through iPhones and Apple Watches, along with in-app and online payments. |
| 3. | Poorna Rakshak | • Launched by **Pramerica Life Insurance.**<br>• **A non-linked, non-participating individual savings life insurance plan.** |
| 4. | VIBE | • Launched by **ICICI Lombard General Insurance.**<br>• A new digital-first health protection plan specifically tailored for young adults aged 18 to 35 years. |

## DEFENCE EXERCISES/ INITIATIVES/ TECHNOLOGY

| S.No | Exercise/Technology | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | HAL Koraput – 2,000th Aero-Engine & New Shakti Line | • **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Koraput Division** at **Sunabeda, Odisha,** rolled out its **2,000th aero-engine,** marking six decades of propulsion manufacturing.<br>• Second production line for Shakti helicopter engines was announced at Sunabeda. |

# AWARDS

| S.No | Award/Milestone | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 36th First Annual Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony | • **The ceremony was moved out of the US for the first time and held in Zurich, Switzerland.**<br>• **10 prizes were awarded in 2026 across different fields.**<br>• A major highlight was the **Chemistry Prize** for research on cockroach milk, whose proteins were found to have about three times the energy content of cow's milk proteins.<br>• Indian-linked winners included **Sanchari Banerjee, Nitish Satyanarayanan, and Jandhyam Srikanth from InStem Bengaluru**, and **Subramanian Ramaswamy of Purdue University**, in the cockroach-milk protein research team.<br>**About IG Nobel Prize**<br>• A satirical annual award that honors quirky, imaginative, and unusual scientific research that "first makes people laugh, and then make them think.<br>• Celebrate unusual and imaginative research and stimulate public interest in science, medicine and technology. Improbable Research<br>• The prizes were **founded in 1991 by Marc Abrahams.**<br>• Awarded by **Annals of Improbable Research (AIR).** |
| 2. | 2026 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries | • Awarded to **Professor Mahesh Kakde, a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.**<br>• Awarded for his **fundamental contributions to algebraic number theory.**<br>**About the Award**<br>• Awarded by **Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).**<br>• Awarded to **mathematicians who are under 40 from a developing economy for outstanding contributions to mathematics.**<br>• Reward: US$10,000. |

# APPOINTMENT

| S.No | Person in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anup Bagchi | • Appointed as the next **Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of HDFC Bank.**<br>• He will **succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan.** |
| 2. | Anup Kumar Saha | • **RBI** approved his appointment as the **MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank for 3 years.**<br>• He will **succeed Ashok Vaswani.** |
| 3. | Sidharatha Mishra | • Appointed as the **new Managing Director & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Rajeshwari Kumari | • **Unanimously elected to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission** for the **2026–2030 term.**<br>• She became only the **second Indian to ever serve on the OCA Athletes' Commission**, joining **former luger and current Vice-Chairman Shiva Keshavan.**<br>• She was **nominated by the OCA Executive Board to represent the South Asian region.**<br>• **She is a former Indian trap shooter and Olympian.** |
| | | **Additional Information**<br>• **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Headquarters:** Kuwait City, Kuwait. |

## PERSONS IN NEWS

| S.No | Person in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Captain Smit Machchhar | • An **Indian flydubai pilot** who came into the news after **helping prevent a serious cockpit takeover attempt on a Dubai–Tel Aviv flight.** |
| 2. | Narendra Modi | • The Union Cabinet passed a resolution, congratulating Prime Minister **Narendra Modi on completing 25 years of continuous service as Head of Government.**<br>• **He first assumed office as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001.**<br>• He served as **Gujarat Chief Minister from 2001 to 2014 and has served as Prime Minister of India since 2014.**<br>• In June 2026, he also became **India's longest-serving Prime Minister in terms of continuous elected tenure, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's record of 4,398 days.** |

## OBITUARIES

| S.No | Person in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Professor Palle Rama Rao | • An **eminent Indian scientist, visionary leader, and metallurgist**.<br>• Served as the **chair of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).**<br>• **Padma Vibhushan awardee.** |

## PLACES IN NEWS

| S.No | Place in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anak Krakatau volcano | • **Two new island-like formations emerged near Anak Krakatau** volcano in **Indonesia.**<br>• The formations are located in the **Sunda Strait**, between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra. |

# DAYS IN NEWS

| S.No | Day in News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | World Rabies Day 2026 (September 28) | • Theme: **"Stronger Together".** |
| 2. | International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) (September 29) | • Theme: **"Transformative Potential of Reducing Food Loss and Waste".** |
| 3. | International Day of Older Persons (October 1) | • Theme: **"The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives.".** |
| 4. | International Day of Non-Violence (October 2) | • Theme: "**Non-Violence as a means to Peace and Development.".**<br>• Coincided with the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, who led the Indian independence movement and pioneered the global strategy of non-violence. |
| 5. | World Habitat Day (October 5) | • Theme: "**Adequate Housing for All".**<br>• Global Host: **Muscat, Oman** |
| 6. | World Teachers Day (October 5) | • **Theme:** "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures." |
| 7. | World Space Week (4-10 October) | • Theme: **"Rocket Revolution."** |
| 8. | World Cotton Day 2026 (October 7) | • Theme: **"Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership."**<br>• Global Host: **Tashkent, Uzbekistan.** |
| 9. | Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2026 (October) | • Theme: **Every story is unique, every journey matters.** |

# SPORTS

## ASIAN GAMES 2026 – IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

**Exam-Oriented Quick Revision Sheet**

### 1. EVENT OVERVIEW

**Host**
Aichi–Nagoya, Japan
(3rd time after 1958 & 1994)

**Motto**
Imagine One Asia

**Mascot**
HONOHON

**India Flag Bearers**
**Opening** – Manu Bhaker & Pawan Sehrawat
**Closing** – Neeru Dhanda

**Upcoming Hosts**
**2030** – Doha, Qatar
**2034** – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### 2. MEDAL TALLY & INDIA PERFORMANCE

| Rank | Country | Total Medals |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | China | 341 |
| 2 | Japan | 269 |
| 3 | South Korea | 150 |
| **4** | **India** | **85** (21 Gold, 27 Silver, 37 Bronze) |
| 5 | Uzbekistan | 70 |

India's second-highest Asian Games tally after Hangzhou 2023 (107 medals, 28 Gold).

**India's first medal:** Women's 10m Air Rifle Team – Silver (Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar & Vidarsa Vinod).

### 3. CONSOLIDATED ATHLETE / TEAM TABLE

| Name of Athlete / Team | Sport | Key Achievement |
|---|---|---|
| **Kamaljeet & Suruchi Inder Singh** | Shooting | 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Gold; Asian Record (484.6) |
| **Kynan Chenai & Neeru Dhanda** | Shooting | Trap Mixed Team Gold; Asian Record |
| **Neeru Dhanda** | Shooting | Women's Individual Trap Gold; first Indian woman to win this Gold; Asian Record (28) |
| **Kumkum Anil Mohod** | Archery | Individual Recurve Gold, Women's Team Recurve Gold & Mixed Team Silver (3 medals) |
| **Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Prithika Pradeep & Chikitha Thaniparthi** | Archery | Women's Compound Team Gold; equalled World & Asian Records |
| **Lovlina Borgohain** | Boxing | Women's 75kg Gold |
| **Aman Sehrawat** | Wrestling | Men's 57kg Freestyle Gold |
| **Pranavi Sharath Urs** | Golf | Women's Individual Gold & Women's Team Silver (2 medals) |
| **Vithya Ramraj** | Athletics | Gold – Women's 4×400m Relay; Silver – Mixed 4×400m Relay; Bronze – 400m Hurdles; National Record (54.75 sec) |
| **Indian Men's & Women's Teams** | Hockey / Cricket / Kabaddi | Double Gold in all three sports |
| **Suchika Tariyal** | MMA | Bronze; India's first-ever Asian Games medal in MMA |
| **Jay Meena** | Soft Tennis | Bronze; India's first-ever medal in Soft Tennis |
| **Anahat Singh** | Squash | Women's Singles Silver; first Indian silver in this event |
| **Sawan Barwal** | Athletics | Men's Marathon Silver; National Record (2:11:37); first Indian marathon medal since 1982 |
| **Naorem Roshibina Devi** | Wushu | Women's Sanda 60kg Silver; first Indian with medals at 3 consecutive Asian Games |
| **Parul Chaudhary** | Athletics | Bronze in 3000m Steeplechase & 5000m; National Record in Steeplechase |
| **Nethra Kumanan** | Sailing | Women's Dinghy Bronze; first Indian medal in event |

### 4. OTHER IMPORTANT FIRSTS

| Athlete / Team | Key Achievement |
|---|---|
| **Baranica Elangovan** | Pole Vault Bronze; first Indian women's medal |
| **Indian Men's Team** | Sepaktakraw Men's Quadrant Bronze; first Indian medal in event |
| **Maheshwari Chauhan, Parinaaz Dhaliwal & Raiza Dhillon** | Women's Skeet Team Bronze; first Indian medal in event |
| **Parinaaz Dhaliwal & Anantjeet Singh Naruka** | Skeet Mixed Team Bronze; first Indian medal in event |
| **Satnam Singh & Salman Khan** | Rowing Men's Double Sculls Bronze; first Indian medal in event |

### 5. HISTORICAL FACTS

First Asian Games: **1951, New Delhi**

India hosted again in **1982**

Asian Games concept: **Prof. G.D. Sondhi**

## MISCELLANEOUS

| S.No | News | Key Facts |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Mann Ki Baat Completes 12 Year | • Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme **"Mann Ki Baat" completed 12 years.**<br>• The **first episode of Mann Ki Baat** was broadcast in **2014.**<br>• The programme **highlights inspiring stories from areas such as education, healthcare, environmental conservation, innovation and social service.**<br>• Mann Ki Baat is broadcast across the **Akashvani and Doordarshan networks.** |

# 2. GA + ESI

# PIB IN NEWS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 2.1 Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management Project

#### Why in News?

- **Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change** in collaboration with **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, organized a workshop on "**Capacity Enhancement for Effective Forest Management Project**" in New Delhi.

**About Capacity Enhancement Project**

- **Project period**: 2025–26 to 2031–32, covering 7 years.
- **Total project outlay**: ₹537.10 crore
  - **JICA contribution**: ₹440.42 crore
  - **Government of India contribution**: ₹96.68 crore.
- **Objective:** Strengthen frontline forest personnel in forest and wildlife management, forest fire control, biodiversity conservation, climate response, and sustainable forest management.

**Key Focus Areas**

- Wood transformation and livelihood generation
- Digital transformation for improved forest management
- Collaborative academic research.

## 2.2 India's Environmental-Economic Accounts Strategy 2026–2030

### Why in News?

- **MoSPI** released the **"Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India 2026–2030".**
- It helps India to measure not only **economic growth**, but also **what is happening to its natural wealth while that growth takes place.**

| About Strategy for Environmental-Economic Accounts in India |
|---|
| • It is a **UN-backed statistical framework** that links **economy** and **environment**, helps to prepare accounts for natural resources in a way like how they prepare national accounts. |
| **Major Priority Areas** |
| • The roadmap covers areas like **forest, minerals, soil resources, land, water, carbon stock, Environmental related activities, Biodiversity, environment statistics etc.**<br>• These areas are mainly selected based on recommendations mentioned in the report of "**Green National Account in India A Framework**" and the **SEEA-CF framework**. |
| **New Focus Area** |
| • **Pollination accounting**: MoSPI published its **first monetary account of pollination services** in **2026**, helping estimate the economic value of pollinators to agriculture. |

## 2.3 India–Japan Launch Operational Manual for Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

### Why in News?

- **India** and **Japan** launched the **Operational Manual** for the **Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)** in New Delhi.

| Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) |
|---|
| • It is a bilateral partnership enabling **Japan to fund and export advanced low-carbon technologies** to India. In return, the resulting carbon emission credits are shared between both countries.<br>• **Legal Basis: Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement** (which regulates cooperative, bilateral carbon markets).<br>• **Target Gases:** Covers **7 greenhouse gases**.<br>• **Key Priority Sectors:** Green Hydrogen/Ammonia, Carbon Capture (CCUS), Industrial Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Waste Management. |
| **Project Lifecycle under JCM -** |
| 1. **Project Idea Note (PIN):** Submitted through the **Indian Carbon Market Portal** for in-principle clearance by **NDAIAPA.** |

- **NDAIAPA -** The **National Designated Authority for the Implementation of Article 6.2 Mechanism.** Operating under **India's Environment Ministry (MoEFCC),** this **sovereign body holds the ultimate authority to clear or veto Indian projects.**

2. **Project Design Document (PDD):** Prepared using an approved JCM methodology, including baseline and additionality.
3. **Third-Party Validation:** Independent accredited **Third-Party Entity (TPE)** validates the project.
4. **Project Registration:** Approved and registered by the **India–Japan Joint Committee.**
5. **Monitoring & Verification:** Emission reductions are monitored and independently verified by a TPE.
6. **Credit Issuance:** Verified emission reductions are issued as JCM credits and allocated between India and Japan.
7. **Crediting Period: Maximum 10 years**, including renewals.
8. **Corresponding Adjustment (CA):** A rule to **prevent double counting of emission reductions**. If India transfers credits to Japan, India adjusts its emissions accounting, so the same reduction is not counted by both countries.

## 2.4 India at COFO 28

### Why in News?

- India participated in the **28th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 28)** held in **Rome, Italy.**
- **Theme: "Forests for food, resilience and prosperity".**

| Committee on Forestry (COFO) |
|---|
| • It is the **highest global intergovernmental body on forestry under Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.<br>• **Role:** Guides FAO's forestry work **fosters international policy dialogue, reviews global forest-related issues,** and **provides technical guidance.**<br>• **Establishment:** 1971<br>• **Membership: 128** Member Nations **(India is also a member)**<br>• **Meetings: Convenes biennially (every two years)** at **FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy**.<br>• **Reporting Structure:**<br>  ○ **Reports** to the **FAO Council** on **program and budget matters**, and<br>  ○ **Reports** to the **FAO Conference** on **policy and regulatory issues.** |

## 2.5 India's First PRAMAAN Certificates

### Why in News?

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** awarded **India's first PRAMAAN certificates** under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS).**

### First Certificate Recipients

- **Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC)** received certification for plantations covering about **33,000 hectares.**
- **Govind Mohapatra,** a bamboo farmer associated with **the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency,** also received certification**.**




**Main Objective**

- Promote sustainable **forest management and agroforestry.**
- Help Indian producers and exporters meet emerging global requirements for **responsible and deforestation-free timber sourcing**.
- Improve access of certified Indian forest and agroforestry products to **domestic and international markets.**

**About PRAMAAN**

- It stands for **Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices for Agroforestry and Natural Forestry Resources**.
- It is a national framework for certifying forests, wood and non-timber forest products.

# SOCIAL SECTOR IN INDIA - HEALTH

## 2.6 eSanjeevani Crosses 50 Crore Teleconsultations

### Why in News?

- **E-Sanjeevani** Crosses **50 Crore Teleconsultations**, strengthening Access to Healthcare Across the Country.

| About eSanjeevani |
|---|
| **eSanjeevani** is a Made-in-India digital telemedicine platform that allows patients to consult doctors remotely through digital technology.<br>• **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).<br>• **Developed by**: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), with C-DAC Mohali providing technological development and engineering support.<br>• **Objective**: Provide accessible, affordable and equitable healthcare, particularly in rural, remote and underserved areas. |

**Important Initiatives under eSanjeevani**

- **eSanjeevani** integrated an **AI-powered Clinical Decision Support System (AI-CDSS)** to improve clinical decision-making, winning the **Gold Award** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026**.
- **Emergency Services**: **eSanjeevani** is integrated with **ERSS-112** to improve coordination between emergency services and remote medical experts.
- **Specialist Consultations**: **eSanjeevani** has introduced **specialist teleconsultations** at **AIIMS Jodhpur, Jammu and Patna**, expanding access beyond primary healthcare.

# INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

## 2.7 Cabinet Approves Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)

### Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA).**

**Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)**

- **Nature**: Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)
- **Administrative Department**: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- **Ministry**: Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- **Role**: National apex institution for integrated transport and logistics planning.

**Key Functions of ITLA**

**1. National Transport Master Plan**

- ITLA will prepare a comprehensive **National Transport Master Plan** with a planning horizon of **10 years or more.**
- It will provide a common long-term framework for India's different modes of transport.

**2. Integration of Sectoral Plans**

- ITLA will review **5-year sectoral plans** and **annual transport plans** to ensure alignment with the **National Transport Master Plan and multimodal development.**

**3. Appraisal of Major Infrastructure Projects**

- ITLA will undertake the **technical appraisal** of Government of India infrastructure projects **costing ₹500 crore or more.**
- However, **financial appraisal will continue through the existing financial appraisal mechanisms.**

**4. Project Monitoring & Impact Assessment**

- ITLA will monitor projects **above ₹500 crore**, resolve implementation bottlenecks and assess their post-completion impact.

**5. National Transport Data Repository (NTDR)**

- ITLA will establish a **National Transport Data Repository** by integrating transport and logistics data from sources such as GSTN e-Way Bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS-based systems, and Urban Traffic Management Systems.

**6. National Logistics Policy**

- ITLA will advise and assist in reviewing and updating the **National Logistics Policy, 2022.**

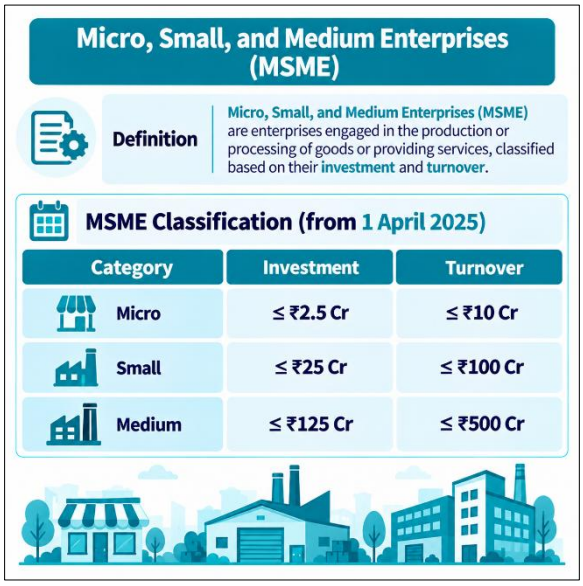
## 2.8 Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Commitment Towards Establishment of SME Growth Fund (SGF) to Create Future Champions

### Why in News?

- The Union Cabinet approved to establish the **SME Growth Fund (SGF)**. It was announced as part of the **Union Budget 2026–27.**

### SME Growth Fund (SGF)

- **Corpus: ₹10,000 crore**.
- **Structure:** The Fund will be established as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).**
- **Core Goal:** Fix the lack of **long-term risk** and **growth-stage equity capital** for **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).**
- **Target:** Growth-oriented **Small and Medium Enterprises**, particularly those in **Tier-II and Tier-III cities.**
- **Coverage:** Major focus on **manufacturing**, broader focus in **services, technology, innovation-driven sectors,** and **strategic value chains.**
- **Eligibility:**
  - An enterprise must fall within the official **Small and Medium Enterprise (SME)** classifications.
  - Established SMEs with a **proven track record, viable revenue model,** and **sound financial compliance.**




**Note:** Unlike early-stage startup funds, the SGF supports established SMEs that are beyond the early stage but need capital to grow further.

# INDIAN DEMOGRAPHY

## 2.9 UIDAI unveils five new initiatives at Aadhaar Samvaad

### Why in News?

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI**) unveiled five new initiatives during the **Aadhaar Samvaad** conference in **Kolkata** to mark the 17th Aadhaar Day on **September 29**.

### The Five New Initiatives

- **Face Authentication for ePDS**: A contactless, consent-based verification method launched with the DFPD and NIC to assist ration beneficiaries.
- **SWIK Portal 2.0:** A streamlined platform for managing governance authentication workflows and eligible entity proposals.
- **Sub-AUA/Sub-KUA (LITE) Framework**: Allows low-volume entities to leverage existing infrastructure for real-time onboarding.
- **Token Management System**: Organizes and streamlines resident visits to UIDAI offices.
- **Revamped UIDAI Website**: A redesigned, accessible, and multilingual portal focused on resident needs.

# OTHER NEWS

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

## 2.10 First Blue Financing in Maritime Sector

### Why in News?

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** has partnered with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** for a **USD 70 million loan** to develop **Shore Power Supply (SPS) infrastructure** at its terminals in **Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
- The project will allow berthed ships **to use land-based electricity instead of diesel generators**, reducing carbon emissions by about 63% and air pollution by up to 90%.

### Key Highlights

- The investment is being described as **India's first blue financing framework for the maritime sector** and the **first labelled blue financing for port infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- It is also the **first investment by a Development Finance Institution (DFI) in India's state-owned major port authorities.**

## GLOBALIZATION

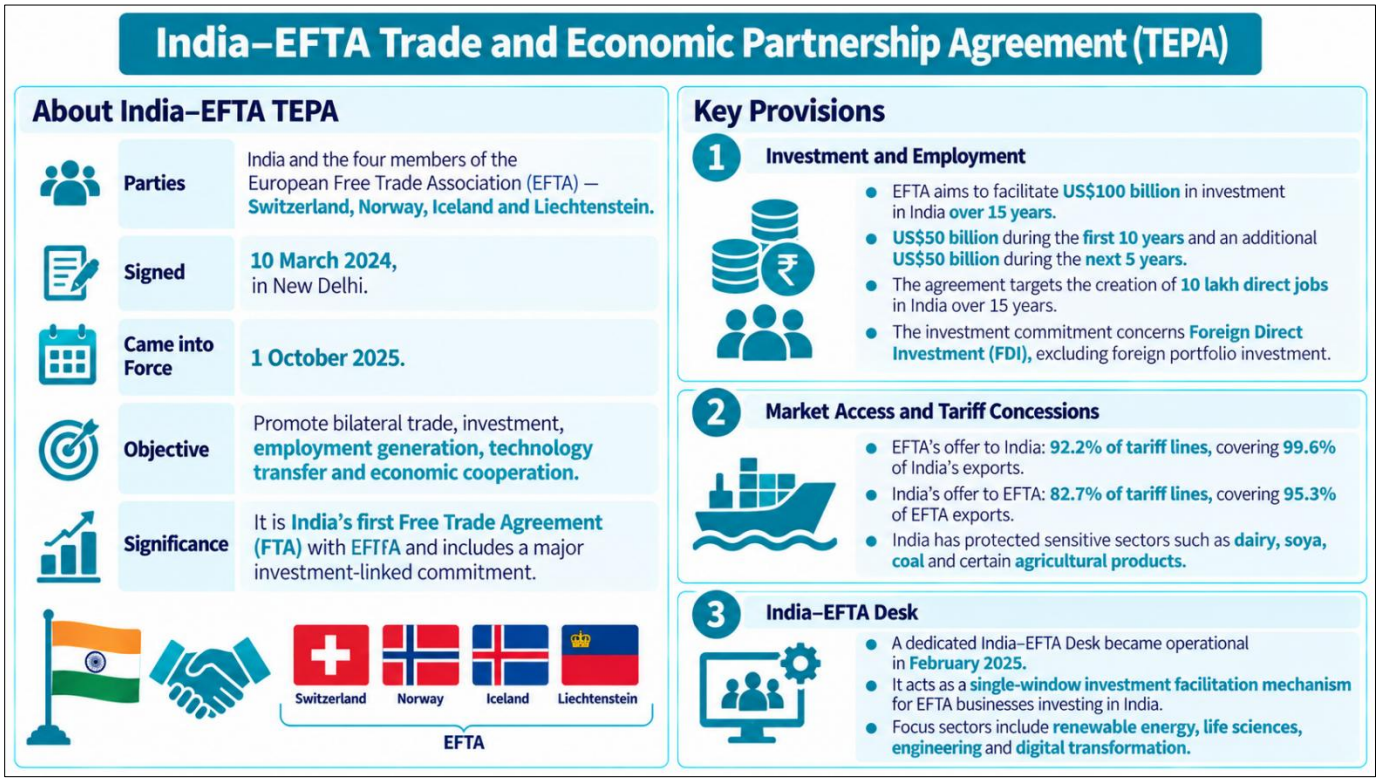
## 2.11 India–EFTA Trade Deal Completes One Year

### Why in News?

- **Swiss Confederation President Guy Parmelin** visited **India** to mark the first anniversary of the implementation of the **India–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).**

**Performance After the First Year**

- During the **first year after TEPA** became operational, India's overall exports to EFTA declined, particularly **exports to Switzerland**, while imports increased, driven significantly by gold imports from Switzerland.
- However, Indian exports of certain products recorded strong growth, particularly **Motor cars and other motor vehicles, Heavy water and Moulding patterns.**




# 3. GA + FINANCE

## PIB IN NEWS

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MARKET

### 3.1 India's First WASH-Focused Social Bond

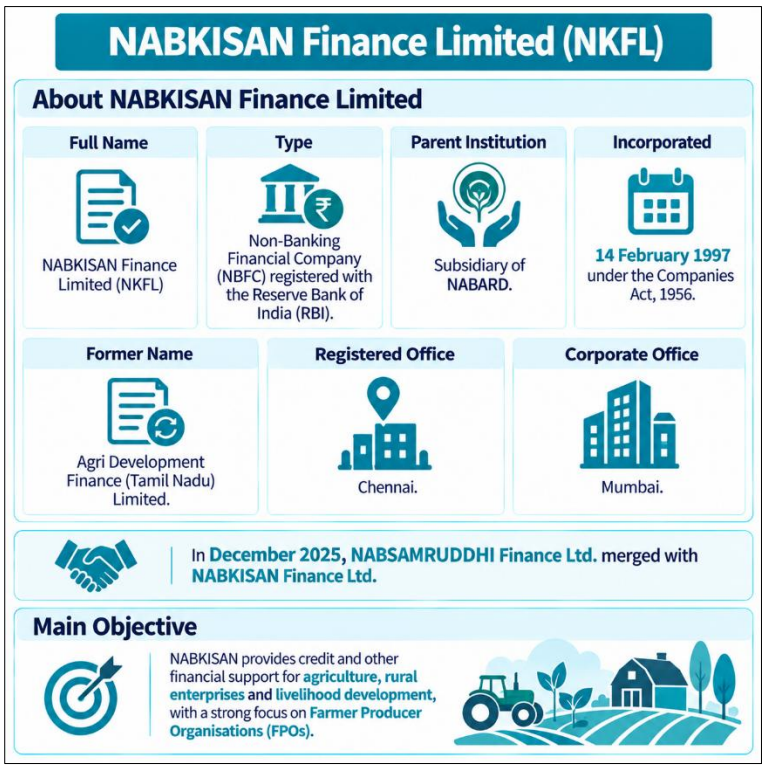
#### Why in News?

- **NABKISAN Finance Limited**, a subsidiary of **NABARD**, listed **India's first Social Bond** dedicated exclusively to the **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector**.
- The bond was listed on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE), Mumbai**.

### Key Features of Bond

- **Amount raised**: ₹180 crore.
- **Tenure: 5 years**
- **Coupon rate**: 8.10%
- **Maturity:** September 2031
- **Credit Ratings**:
  - CRISIL AAA (Stable)
  - CARE AAA (Stable)

  These represent the highest domestic credit-rating category.
- **Purpose:** The proceeds will be used to expand access to Safe drinking water, Sanitation and Hygiene solutions in rural and underserved communities.
- **Technical Partner**: Water.org




# OTHER NEWS

## Recent Development in Financial Sector

### 3.2 Sebi launches nationwide investor campaign

### Why in News?

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched the nationwide investor-awareness initiative **Project Jagrook.** The nationwide campaign will continue till **March 2027.**

### About Campaign

- Under **Project Jagrook**, SEBI launched the campaign **"Samajh Se Investing Simple"**, aimed at promoting **informed and responsible investing**.
- The campaign will bring together **SEBI, stock exchanges, depositories, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM)** under a coordinated investor-education framework.

### MUST Initiative

- SEBI also rolled out **MUST – Mentoring of University and College Students through Trainers**.
- Under MUST, **teachers, staff and senior students** will be trained as **"Partner Trainers"** to conduct financial-literacy and securities-market awareness programmes in colleges and universities.

## 3.3 Introduction of Credit Risk-o-Meter as an additional disclosure mechanism for debt securities

### Why in News?

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** introduces a **mandatory Credit Risk-o-Meter** as a visual disclosure mechanism for debt securities.

**About Credit Risk-o-Meter**

**Applicability**: Listed and proposed issuances of **non-convertible securities**, **commercial papers**, **securitised debt instruments**, **security receipts** and **structured debt.**

**Six Credit Risk Levels**

| | Credit Rating | Risk Level |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | AAA | Lowest credit risk |
| 2. | AA+, AA, AA- | Very low credit risk |
| 3. | A+, A, A- | Low credit risk |
| 4. | BBB+, BBB, BBB- | Moderate credit risk |
| 5. | BB+, BB, BB- | Moderate risk of default |
| 6. | B+ to D | High to very high risk of default |

The categories are displayed using colours ranging from **green for the lowest risk to red for the highest/default risk**.

- The meter must appear in **offer documents, abridged prospectuses, private placement memoranda, advertisements, and web/mobile platforms of Online Bond Platform Providers (OBPPs)**.
- Where multiple credit ratings exist, the meter will use the **lowest rating**. For unsecured debt, **"Unsecured" must be displayed in bold red text**.
- The Credit Risk-o-Meter indicates **only credit risk**; it does not capture all risks such as **market or liquidity risk**.

# 4. RBI NOTIFICATIONS

## 1.1. Monetary Policy Statement, 2026-27 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee October 5 to 7, 2026

- The **63rd meeting** of the **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC), constituted under **Section 45ZB** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, took place.

### Key Highlights of the MPC Statement:

| 63rd MPC's Policy Rate Decisions | Rates | Status Change Since Last MPC |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Repo Rate** | 5.50% | Increased (by 25 bps) |
| **Standing Deposit Facility** | 5.25% | Increased (by 25 bps) |
| **Marginal Standing Facility** | 5.75% | Increased (by 25 bps) |
| **Bank Rate** | 5.75% | Increased (by 25 bps) |
| **Stance** | - | Calibrated tightening (earlier neutral) |

- **Growth Outlook – India:**
  - The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for **2026-27** is projected at **7.1%**, with Q2 at 7.2%; Q3 at 6.9%; Q4 at 6.8%; and Q4 at 6.8%.
  - **Real GDP growth** for **Q1:2027-28** is projected at **7.1%.**
- **Inflation Outlook – India:**
  - Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for **2026-27** is projected to be **5.2%** with Q2 at **4.9%**; Q3 at **6%**; and Q4 at **5.7%.**
  - Inflation for **Q1:2027-28** is projected at **5.6%** with risks being evenly balanced.
  - **Core inflation** is projected at 4.4% for 2026-27.
- **External Sector:**
  - **Foreign exchange reserves** remained adequate, **covering around 11 months of imports** and **94.4% of India's external debt.**
- **Additional Measures announced:**
  - **NBFC Account Aggregators and Consolidated Account Statement (CAS):**
    - RBI will allow **interoperability among NBFC Account Aggregators**, enabling users to access financial information from all aggregators through a single aggregator.
    - **SEBI-regulated depositories** will be allowed to include deposit account **information in CAS.**
    - Both measures will be implemented **by December 31, 2026**.
  - **Technical Consultative Committee for Financial Markets:** RBI will establish a committee to discuss financial market policies and operational matters with market participants and other stakeholders.

# 5. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

## 1. Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)

- **Launch Year:** 2025
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- **Implementing Agency:** Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) under a co-investment model.
    - Anchor Industry Partners: 51% ownership
    - Government: 49% ownership
- **Tenure:** 2025–2030 (5 years)
- **Type of Scheme:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Financial Allocation:** ₹60,000 crore
    - Central Share: ₹30,000 crore
    - State Share: ₹20,000 crore
    - Industry Share: ₹10,000 crore
- **External Financing:** The World Bank and Asian Development Bank will equally co-finance up to 50% of the Central Government's share.
- **Objective and aim**
    - To improve the **quality of training** in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
    - To modernise infrastructure and equipment according to industry standards.
    - To introduce industry-aligned long-term and short-term courses, particularly in emerging sectors.
    - To strengthen industry partnerships for demand-driven skill development and improved employment opportunities.
    - To enhance the capacity of NSTIs for training of trainers.
- **Coverage**
    - The scheme consists of **two major components**.
    - **Component I: Upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs**
    - **Total Coverage:** 1,000 Government ITIs
        - 200 Hub ITIs
        - 800 Spoke ITIs
    - **Implementation Model:** Hub-and-Spoke Model to improve regional access to quality skill training.
    - **Hub ITIs**
        - Hub ITIs will provide advanced infrastructure and specialised support, including:
        - Innovation Centres
        - Trainer Training
        - Production Units
        - Dedicated Placement Services
    - **Spoke ITIs**
        - Spoke ITIs will be connected to Hub ITIs.

- They will extend improved training facilities to smaller towns and regions located away from the hubs.
- **Component II: Capacity Augmentation of NSTIs**
  - **Total Coverage:** 5 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
  - These NSTIs will be upgraded into **National Centres of Excellence (NCoEs)**.
- **Locations of the 5 NCoEs:**
  - Bhubaneswar – Odisha
  - Chennai – Tamil Nadu
  - Hyderabad – Telangana
  - Kanpur – Uttar Pradesh
  - Ludhiana – Punjab

- **Key features**
- **Phase I Rollout:** Initially covers 15 clusters across different States, including Sonipat, Visakhapatnam, Patna, Guwahati, Chennai and Bengaluru Urban.
- **Industry-Led Management:** Anchor Industry Partners (AIPs) will manage ITI clusters through SPVs to ensure industry-relevant training and better employment outcomes.
- **Global Partnerships:** International partnerships will support NCoEs. For example, India and France have partnered to establish a Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics and Defence at NSTI Kanpur.
- **Global Co-financing:** The World Bank and Asian Development Bank are supporting the initiative, with the initial phase focusing on Patna and Darbhanga ITIs.
- **Mandatory Employability Training:** A 120-hour Employability Skills module is mandatory for one-year courses, covering entrepreneurship, financial literacy and digital literacy.
- **Performance Monitoring:** Progress will be measured through **6 Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs)**, including employment outcomes and governance improvements.
  - Independent Third-Party Verification Agency: IIM Indore.

## 2. Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0)

- **Launch Year:** 2021 (SBM-Urban was originally launched in 2014)
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Tenure:** Up to FY 2025–26
- **Financial Allocation:** ₹1,41,600 crore
  - **Central Share:** ₹36,465 crore
- **Coverage:** All statutory towns in India
- **Objective and aim**
  - **Aim:** To make all cities clean and completely garbage-free.
  - **Objectives:**
    - **Sustainable Solid Waste Management:** Ensure scientific waste processing and phase out single-use plastics.
    - **Sustainable Sanitation:** Maintain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and ensure safe treatment of used water.

- **Behavioural Change:** Create awareness and encourage citizen participation to make cleanliness a Jan Andolan.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation of sanitation programmes.

- **COMPONENTS**

**1. Sustainable Solid Waste Management**

- **Objective:** Make all cities garbage-free through **100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste**.
- **Major Activities:** Source segregation, door-to-door collection, separate transportation, waste processing, bulk waste management and user fee collection.
- **Infrastructure:** Establish Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste processing facilities and deploy mechanical sweepers in **NCAP cities and cities with populations above 5 lakh**.
- **Legacy Waste:** Remediate all legacy dumpsites and convert reclaimed land into green zones.

**2. Sustainable Sanitation**

- **Objective:** Sustain **Open Defecation Free (ODF) status** in all statutory towns.
- **Key Activities:** Construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs), Community Toilets (CTs), Public Toilets (PTs), urinals and retrofitting of insanitary toilets.

**3. Used Water Management (UWM) – New Component**

- **Coverage:** Cities with populations **below 1 lakh**.
- **Objective:** Prevent the discharge of untreated faecal sludge and used water into the environment.
- **Key Activities:** Safe containment, transportation and treatment of **sewage, septage, greywater and blackwater**, with maximum reuse of treated water.

**4. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) / Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)**

- Promote cleanliness awareness, **citizen participation and sustainable sanitation behaviour** through large-scale outreach.

**5. Capacity Building (CB)**

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** and implementing agencies for effective implementation and monitoring of sanitation programmes.

- **KEY FEATURES**
  - **Sanitation Access:** Construction of over **3.5 lakh individual, community and public toilets**, including for rural-to-urban migrants.
  - **Waste Infrastructure:** Establishment of **Material Recovery Facilities and waste processing plants**, focusing on reducing single-use plastics.
  - **Urban–Rural Convergence:** Common infrastructure for neighbouring ULBs and rural areas through a cluster-based approach.
  - **Project Eligibility:** Only new projects are considered.

- **Aspirational Toilets:** Additional public toilets at tourist, religious, iconic and high-footfall locations.
- **Sanitation Workers' Welfare:** Provision of **PPE, safety kits, welfare scheme linkages and capacity building**.
- **3R Principles:** Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- **Annual Certification:** Independent third-party agencies conduct **ODF and Garbage Free Cities (GFC)** certifications.

- **MISSION OUTCOMES AND CERTIFICATION TARGETS**
  - **Garbage Free Cities (GFC)**
    - **Target:** All statutory towns to achieve a minimum **3-Star GFC rating**.
    - **SMART Framework: S** – Single Metric; **M** – Measurable and Achievable; **R** – Rigorous Verification; **T** – Targeted Towards Outcomes.
  - **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Protocols**
    - **ODF+:** All statutory towns must ensure proper **operation and maintenance of Community and Public Toilets**, keeping them functional, accessible and clean.
    - **ODF++:** Towns with populations **below 1 lakh** must ensure safe **containment, evacuation, transportation and treatment of faecal sludge**, preventing untreated discharge.
  - **Water+ Certification**
    - **Target:** At least **50% of statutory towns with populations below 1 lakh**.
    - **Objective:** Prevent discharge of untreated used water into the environment and promote **advanced wastewater treatment and maximum reuse**.

**PRAGATI-50 INITIATIVE**

- **Launch & Coverage:** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** launched **PRAGATI-50** under **SBM-U 2.0**, covering **50 model cities across 24 States**.
- **Objective & Approach:** Improve urban sanitation, solid waste and used-water management, and citizen participation through a **City as a Whole approach**, involving ULBs and other stakeholders.
- **Implementation & Monitoring:** Uses **KPIs, technology-based monitoring, time-bound action plans and outcome assessments**. Progress is tracked through the **Swachhatam Portal**, with reviews by the **Union Minister every two months**.

# 6. ReportsTap

## 1. World University Rankings 2027

- **Released by:** Times Higher Education
- **Key Rankings of the Report**

| Top 5 Global Universities | | Top Indian Universities (Under 500) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Rank** | **University** | **Rank** | **University** |
| **1.** | University of Oxford | **254.** | Indian Institute of Science |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| **2.** | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | **326-350 Band** | Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences |
| **3.** | Princeton University | **451-500 Band** | Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences |
| **4.** | Stanford University | | |
| **5.** | University of Cambridge | | |

**Key Findings of the Reports**

- **India** is the **second-most represented country overall**, behind the **United States**, and the **most represented country in Asia.**
- **Asia** is ahead of continental **Europe** for the first time.
- **Three Asian universities** in **top 15** for the first time.
    - Tsinghua University (China) – **Rank 11**

## 2. Annual Survey of Industries (2024-25)

- **Released By:** National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- **About:** It provides a meaningful insight into the dynamics of change in the **composition, growth** and **structure** of various manufacturing industries in terms of **output, value added, employment, capital formation** and a host of other parameters.
- **Coverage:** April 2024 to March 2025
- **Additional Information on ASO (2024 – 25)**
    - Even as **Tamil Nadu** remained the state with the **highest number of factories and workers**, **Uttar Pradesh** was a **key driver of industrial expansion (largest increase in number of factories).**
    - **Employment** in the registered manufacturing sector continued to **expand.** It has reached at **21 million.**
    - **Gujarat** holds the highest share of **fixed capital** and **Maharashtra** accounts for the largest share of manufacturing GVA.
    - The **following five industries** collectively contributed **more than 45%** of India's total manufacturing **GVA** in **2024–25:**
        - **Basic Metals** – largest shared of fixed capital and output.

- Motor Vehicles, Chemicals and Chemical Products & Pharmaceutical Products
- **Food Products** - largest share of factories & people engaged.

- **Registered manufacturing sector** has recorded **remarkable growth** in respect of **Industrial Output, Total Employment, Emoluments, Net Income, Fixed Capital & Net Profit.**
- In terms of **Emoluments**, **Jharkhand** was the only state in **2024-25** whose factory workers were paid less, on average, compared to the previous year

**Note:** This row has some additional information on the report titled **"Annual Survey of Industries"**, which was already covered in the previous booster magazine.