

Schemes (3)

• PMGSY-III Extension

Body: Ministry of Rural Development; Cabinet approval.
Detail: continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III approved beyond March 2025 up to March 2028.
Lineage: PMGSY launched in 2000 for all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations; PMGSY-IV also under rollout.
Exam hook: extension till March 2028 / launch year 2000 / which-ministry (Rural Development) / III vs IV.
 PIB 2253247 · 2026-04-18

• Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)

Body: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; operational guidelines launched by Union Minister Manohar Lal.
Detail: Rs 1 lakh crore central assistance to catalyse around Rs 4 lakh crore investment; central aid capped at 25 percent of project cost; includes a Credit Repayment Guarantee Sub-Scheme (CRGSS) for Tier-II/Tier-III and hilly/NE cities; period 2025-26 to 2030-31.
Lineage: succeeds AMRUT and the Smart Cities Mission as the next phase of urban financing.
Exam hook: Rs 1 lakh cr -> Rs 4 lakh cr / 25 percent cap / CRGSS / successor to AMRUT and Smart Cities.
 PIB 2252186 · 2026-04-15

• Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA); a border-village development programme.
Detail: aims to develop 662 villages across Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Ladakh as self-reliant 'first villages'; MSDE has sanctioned 74 skill development proposals under it.
Lineage: reframes border hamlets from the 'last village' to the country's 'first village'.
Exam hook: which ministry (MHA) / 662 villages / five States-UTs covered / 'first village' framing.
 PIB 2254251 · 2026-04-21

Polity/Bodies (6)

• Constitution 131st Amendment Bill, 2026

Law: Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, debated with the Delimitation Bill, 2026; rests on Articles 81, 82 and 170 governing delimitation.
Detail: concerned delimitation enabling women's reservation under the Nari Shakti Vandan Act; proposed raising total Lok Sabha seats to 816 (each state's seats up by 50 percent); the Constitution Amendment Bill was ultimately NOT passed by the House.
Lineage: seats were frozen by the 42nd (1976) and 84th (2001) Amendments until the first census after 2026.
Exam hook: Articles 81/82/170 / freeze Amendments (42nd, 84th) / Nari Shakti Vandan link / bill not passed.
 PIB 2253186 · 2026-04-17

• Census 2026 Houselisting Phase

Body: Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (RGI), under MHA.
Detail: field operations began 16 April over a 30-day period to 15 May 2026 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim and the NDMC and Delhi Cantonment Board area; a Self-Enumeration (SE) facility introduced for the first time; the Census will include caste enumeration.
Lineage: conducted in two phases - Houselisting and Housing, then Population Enumeration; first census since 2011.
Exam hook: Self-Enumeration first / two-phase order / caste enumeration / first-since-2011.
 PIB 2252332 · 2026-04-15

• Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman (Harivansh)

Body: Rajya Sabha; Shri Harivansh elected (unopposed) Deputy Chairman on 17 April 2026 - his third term.
Detail: the Deputy Chairman is elected by RS members and presides in the absence of the Chairman (the Vice-President of India).
Exam hook: elected-by-members (not nominated) / presides for absent Chairman = Vice-President / third term.
 PIB 2252976 · 2026-04-17

• International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) Phase-II

Body: Election Commission of India (ECI); inaugurated by CEC Gyanesh Kumar at IIIDEM, New Delhi.
Detail: Phase-II of IEVP-2026 for the Legislative Assembly elections of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; 34 delegates from 17 countries participated (Phase-I covered Assam, Kerala and Puducherry).
Lineage: IEVP is the ECI's flagship international cooperation programme; IIIDEM is the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management.
Exam hook: Phase-II states (TN, WB) vs Phase-I (Assam, Kerala, Puducherry) / IIIDEM full form / ECI flagship.
 PIB 2254216 · 2026-04-21

• FIU-India MoUs (PFRDA, SEBI)

Body: Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), set up in 2004; the central national agency for receiving and analysing suspicious transaction reports.
Law: Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA); aligned with Egmont Group principles.
Detail: signed MoUs with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to combat money laundering and enable information exchange.
Exam hook: FIU-IND under PMLA / Egmont Group link / which regulators (PFRDA, SEBI) / set-up year 2004.
 PIB 2252517 · 2026-04-16

• 18th Civil Services Day

Body: DARPG; Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed the nation's civil servants.
Detail: 18th Civil Services Day observed on 21 April 2026; PM's Excellence Awards entries rose from 1,216 (2023) to 2,035 (2025).
Lineage: observed on 21 April, marking Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 1947 address to probationers calling civil servants the 'steel frame of India'.
Exam hook: date (21 April) / Patel 'steel frame' origin / which-edition (18th).
 PIB 2254123 · 2026-04-21

Economy (5)

• Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)

Body: Union Cabinet approval; a domestic marine-insurance pool.
Detail: sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore; covers Hull and Machinery, Cargo, P&I and War risk for Indian-flagged or India-bound/originating vessels; reduces dependence on the International Group of P&I Clubs.
Lineage: P&I (Protection and Indemnity) insurance covers third-party maritime liabilities like oil pollution and wreck removal; the move builds sanctions resilience.
Exam hook: sovereign-guarantee figure / risks covered (H&M, Cargo, P&I, War) / cut dependence on Intl Group of P&I Clubs.
 PIB 2253242 · 2026-04-18

• NITI Trade Watch Quarterly (7th edition)

Body: NITI Aayog (Vice-Chairman Suman Bery); 7th edition of Trade Watch Quarterly for Q3 FY26 (Oct-Dec 2025).
Detail: thematic focus on India's gems and jewellery sector; noted Surat as the world's largest diamond cutting and polishing hub.
Lineage: gems and jewellery exports valued at \$29.5 billion, a 7.8 percent share of world exports, concentrated in the US, UAE and Hong Kong.
Exam hook: issuing body (NITI Aayog) / theme (gems and jewellery) / Surat = world's largest cutting-polishing hub.
 PIB 2253821 · 2026-04-20

• Seafood Exports Record (FY 2025-26)

Body: MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority), the nodal body; provisional data.
Detail: seafood exports hit an all-time high of Rs 72,325.82 crore (US\$ 8.28 billion) in FY 2025-26 (19.32 lakh metric tonnes); frozen shrimp the top product (over two-thirds of earnings); the United States the largest destination.
Lineage: top export ports are Vizag, JNPT, Kochi, Kolkata and Chennai.
Exam hook: nodal body (MPEDA) / frozen shrimp top product / US top destination / record value.
 PIB 2254341 · 2026-04-21

• Index of Eight Core Industries (March 2026)

Body: released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Detail: combined ICI declined 0.4 percent (provisional) in March 2026 year-on-year, with negative growth in Fertilizers, Crude Oil, Coal and Electricity; Petroleum Refinery Products has the highest weight (28.04 percent); cumulative FY 2025-26 growth 2.6 percent.
Lineage: the eight core industries comprise 40.27 percent of the IIP weight.
Exam hook: highest-weight item (Refinery Products, 28.04 pc) / 40.27 pc of IIP / which-ministry releases ICI.
 PIB 2253812 · 2026-04-20

• Startup India Recognitions (FY 2025-26)

Body: DPIIT; recognitions under Startup India.
Detail: more than 55,200 startups recognised during FY 2025-26 - the highest ever in a single year since launch.
Lineage: Startup India launched on 16 January 2016; DPIIT recognition confers tax and regulatory benefits.
Exam hook: launch date (16 Jan 2016) / DPIIT recognition authority / record 55,200+ figure.
 PIB 2253019 · 2026-04-17

IR/Diplomacy (5)

• ROK President State Visit (Lee Jae Myung)

Body: MEA; first state visit to India by ROK President Lee Jae Myung.
Detail: outcomes - Joint Strategic Vision for the India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership; launch of an Economic Security Dialogue; India-Korea Digital Bridge framework; ROK joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA), while India joined the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); 2028-29 declared Year of India-ROK Friendship.
Lineage: ties upgraded to Special Strategic Partnership in 2015; CEPA (2010) now slated for upgrade negotiations.
Exam hook: who joined ISA/IPOI vs who joined GGGI / CEPA year / Friendship-year confusion.
 PIB 2253753 · 2026-04-20

• Austria Chancellor Visit (Stocker)

Body: MEA; visit by Austrian Federal Chancellor Dr. Christian Stocker - his first visit outside Europe.
Detail: signed a Letter of Intent on Cooperation in Military Matters (building on the India-EU Defence and Security Partnership of 27 January 2026), an LoI on a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, and an MoU on food safety between AGES (Austria) and FSSAI (India).
Lineage: first visit by an Austrian Chancellor to India in about 40 years; India-Austria Start-up Bridge launched 2024.
Exam hook: AGES-FSSAI food-safety MoU / India-EU Defence and Security Partnership date / first-in-40-years framing.
 PIB 2252562 · 2026-04-16

• India-Bhutan Customs (7th JGC)

Body: CBIC (India) with Bhutan; 7th India-Bhutan Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting.
Detail: held at Munnar, Kerala on 20-21 April 2026.
Lineage: India is Bhutan's largest trading partner; the two share a free-trade arrangement and an open border.
Exam hook: venue (Munnar, Kerala) / which-edition (7th) / free-trade-and-open-border fact.
 PIB 2254164 · 2026-04-21

• India-Norway Trade Dialogue (3rd Session)

Body: MEA/Commerce; 3rd Session of the India-Norway Dialogue on Trade and Investment.
Detail: underscored the role of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) in strengthening bilateral economic ties.
Lineage: EFTA comprises Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein; the India-EFTA TEPA involves a \$100 billion investment commitment over 15 years.
Exam hook: EFTA's four members / TEPA \$100 bn / 15-year investment horizon / TEPA vs FTA naming.
 PIB 2253089 · 2026-04-17

• India-ROK Shipbuilding Framework

Body: MEA / Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; concluded during the ROK President's 2026 state visit.
Detail: Comprehensive Framework for Partnership in Shipbuilding, Shipping and Maritime Logistics, plus MoUs on Ports and on a Steel Supply Chain, recognising Korea's strength in shipbuilding.
Lineage: South Korea is among the world's top shipbuilding nations; the framework supports India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision.
Exam hook: shipbuilding framework + Ports MoU + Steel Supply Chain MoU / Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision link.
 PIB 2253753 · 2026-04-20

Defence (5)

• India-ROK Defence Cooperation

Body: MoD; flows from the India-ROK Joint Strategic Vision.
Detail: Defence Minister of India to visit ROK in May 2026; cooperation flagged on futuristic platforms including Self-Propelled Air Defence Gun-Missile Systems; a Joint Working Group set up between ISRO and the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA).
Lineage: K9 Vajra self-propelled howitzer - made in India by L&T under licence from Hanwha - is the flagship of India-ROK defence-industrial ties.
Exam hook: ISRO-KASA JWG / K9 Vajra maker (L&T-Hanwha) / which system named.
 PIB 2253977 · 2026-04-20

• Raksha Mantri Germany Visit

Body: MoD; 3-day visit to Germany by India's Raksha Mantri.
Detail: bilateral talks with German counterpart Mr Boris Pistorius; addressed German Parliamentarians in Berlin; called for enhanced India-Germany defence industrial partnerships.
Lineage: India and Germany have been Strategic Partners since 2000; Germany is a key source of submarine and naval technology under Project-75I.
Exam hook: German counterpart's name (Pistorius) / Strategic-Partner year (2000) / Project-75I link.
 PIB 2253493 · 2026-04-19

• IOS SAGAR at Jakarta (INS Sunayna)

Body: Indian Navy; deployment under the IOS SAGAR initiative.
Detail: INS Sunayna, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), arrived at Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 April 2026 with a multinational crew drawn from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries; a PASSEX with the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) scheduled on departure.
Lineage: IOS SAGAR expresses India's MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), an evolution of the earlier SAGAR doctrine.
Exam hook: ship class (OPV) / 16-FFC crew / MAHASAGAR full form vs SAGAR / TNI AL = Indonesian Navy.
 PIB 2254169 · 2026-04-21

• DRDO TRAWL Assembly Contract

Body: MoD, using DRDO-developed equipment.
Detail: Rs 975 crore contracts signed for TRAWL (mine-plough / minefield breaching) Assembly for T-72 and T-90 tanks to enhance the Indian Army's minefield breaching capability.
Lineage: the T-90 Bhisma and T-72 Ajeya are the mainstay main battle tanks of the Indian Army.
Exam hook: TRAWL purpose (minefield breaching) / T-90 = Bhisma, T-72 = Ajeya / DRDO origin.
 PIB 2254141 · 2026-04-21

• Naval Commanders' Conference 2026

Body: Indian Navy; first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2026 at Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi.
Detail: outlined the Indian Navy's Maritime Security Strategy (INMSS), building on Defence Forces Vision 2047 and Indian Navy Vision 2047.
Lineage: the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) heads the Indian Navy; commanders' conferences are apex forums for reviewing operational readiness.
Exam hook: INMSS full form / venue (Nausena Bhawan) / Vision 2047 linkage / first-edition framing.
 PIB 2253155 · 2026-04-17

Environment (3)

• World Earth Day 2026 Theme

Detail: World Earth Day 2026 (22 April 2026) carried the global theme 'Our Power, Our Planet'.

Lineage: Earth Day observed annually on 22 April since 1970, coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG.

Exam hook: 2026 theme ('Our Power, Our Planet') / date (22 April) / observed since 1970.

PIB 2254023 · 2026-04-21

• GRAP Stage-I in Delhi-NCR (CAQM)

Body: Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas - a statutory body created in 2021.

Detail: invoked GRAP Stage-I as Delhi-NCR air quality deteriorated to the 'Poor' category.

Lineage: GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) is a staged set of anti-pollution measures, escalating with worsening AQI.

Exam hook: which body (CAQM, statutory since 2021) / GRAP full form / Stage-I trigger = 'Poor' AQI.

PIB 2252727 · 2026-04-16

• Shahtoosh Wildlife Conviction

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Law: Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 - Tibetan antelope (Chiru) is a Schedule I species.

Detail: a shahtoosh trader convicted in a landmark wildlife crime case spanning 17 years; shahtoosh is made from Chiru wool and its trade is banned.

Exam hook: shahtoosh = Chiru (Tibetan antelope) wool / Schedule I under WLP 1972 / banned trade.

PIB 2252139 · 2026-04-15

Sci/Tech (5)

• PFBR First Criticality (Kalpakkam)

Body: designed by IGCAR and built by BHAVINI; under DAE.

Detail: India's 500-MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) attained first criticality at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu on 6 April 2026 (announced in Rajya Sabha on 16 April), marking entry into the second stage of the three-stage nuclear programme.

Lineage: three-stage programme - Stage 1 (PHWRs, natural Uranium), Stage 2 (Fast Breeder Reactors, Plutonium), Stage 3 (Thorium-Uranium); SHANTI Act (Dec 2025) opened civil nuclear energy to private players.

Exam hook: IGCAR designs vs BHAVINI builds / Stage-2 = FBR / SHANTI Act / Kalpakkam location.

PIB 2252594 · 2026-04-16

• India's First Chip Fab (Dholera)

Body: Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Pvt Ltd; SEZ notified by the Government under the India Semiconductor Mission.

Detail: India's first chip fabrication plant at Dholera, Gujarat - 66.166 hectares, around Rs 91,000 crore investment, 21,000 jobs; an AI-enabled semiconductor fabrication facility.

Lineage: Dholera is India's first greenfield smart city under DMIC; Micron's ATMP unit at Sanand is also in Gujarat.

Exam hook: first fab vs Micron ATMP (Sanand) / Dholera site / India Semiconductor Mission / fab-vs-packaging distinction.

PIB 2252649 · 2026-04-16

• First 3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit (Bhubaneswar)

Body: 3D Glass Solutions (USA) via subsidiary HIPSPPL; under the India Semiconductor Mission.

Detail: foundation stone for India's first advanced 3D chip (glass substrate) packaging unit laid at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, Odisha; around Rs 1,943 crore investment; production expected by August 2028.

Lineage: Odisha becomes the only state hosting both India's first compound semiconductor fabrication unit and first 3D glass substrate packaging facility.

Exam hook: glass-substrate 3D packaging vs Dholera fab / Bhubaneswar site / Odisha 'both firsts'.

PIB 2253549 · 2026-04-19

• Samriddh Gram WSIS Nomination

Body: Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Detail: Samriddh Gram (Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model Enabled by BharatNet) nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 under Action Line AL C6: Enabling Environment.

Lineage: WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) Prizes recognise ICT-for-development projects; BharatNet is the world's largest rural broadband project; WSIS Forum 2026 in Geneva (6-10 July 2026).

Exam hook: WSIS full form / Action Line AL C6 / BharatNet link / DoT. PIB 2253892 · 2026-04-20

• National Green Hydrogen Mission (Outlay restated)

Body: MNRE; restated by Dr. Jitendra Singh alongside a Nuclear Energy Mission.

Detail: Green Hydrogen Mission outlay of Rs 19,744 crore, positioning India as a global clean-energy player.

Lineage: National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) targets 5 MMT annual green hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

Exam hook: outlay (Rs 19,744 cr) / 5 MMT by 2030 target / launch year 2023 / nodal ministry (MNRE).

PIB 2252689 · 2026-04-16

Infra (2)

• First Greenfield Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex (Pachpadra)

Body: HRRL - joint venture of HPCL and the Government of Rajasthan; dedicated by PM Modi.

Detail: India's first greenfield integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Balotra, Rajasthan - 9 MMTPA, over Rs 79,450 crore, with a Nelson Complexity Index of 17.0.

Lineage: anchors a Petrochemical and Plastic Park in Rajasthan, strengthening energy security and petrochemical self-sufficiency.

Exam hook: Pachpadra/Balotra site / HPCL-Rajasthan JV / 9 MMTPA / Nelson Complexity Index 17.0.

PIB 2253676 · 2026-04-21

• President Inaugurations at Rourkela

Body: President Droupadi Murmu; inaugurations in Sundargarh district, Odisha.

Detail: inaugurated a Planetarium and Science Centre, the Nirmal Munda Parivesh Path, a Tribal Museum and an Integrated Command and Control Centre at Rourkela.

Lineage: Nirmal Munda was a tribal freedom fighter of the Sundargarh region; Odisha will mark its centenary as a state in 2036.

Exam hook: Rourkela = Sundargarh district / Nirmal Munda (tribal freedom fighter) / Odisha centenary 2036.

PIB 2254213 · 2026-04-21