

Schemes (1)

• 36 Schemes, 11 Ministries, and One Collector Who Has to Sequence Them

Body: What: PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) completed one year on **11 October 2026**; PIB backgrounder **10 October 2026**.

Approval and launch: Union Cabinet **16 July 2025**, for six years from FY 2025-26; launched by the PM on **11 October 2025**; annual outlay Rs **24,000 crore**; about **1.7 crore farmers** expected to benefit.

Coverage: 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts.

Selection indicators: low productivity, low cropping intensity, low agricultural credit disbursement; also weighed State/UT share of net cropped area and operational holdings; every State/UT has at least one district.

Mechanism: convergence of 36 Central schemes across 11 Ministries and Departments + State schemes + private sector participation.

Three tiers: District Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Samiti under the Collector/DM (prepares the District Action Plan) → State Samiti under the Chief Secretary → National Executive Committee under the Union Agriculture Minister and National Monitoring Committee under the Secretary, DA&FW.

DAPs: built on baseline and diagnostic analysis; outcome-based targets and annual milestones; folded into State annual action plans to unlock approvals and funds; tracked on a dashboard with objective-wise scores.

Model: NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme (2018) — laggard selection, district officer accountability, convergence, ranking.

Cropping intensity: gross cropped area ÷ net sown area — a proxy for assured irrigation, since a second crop needs water after the monsoon.

Exam hook: Exam hook: a convergence scheme cannot be judged by expenditure, because the money was already budgeted elsewhere. Judge it by whether the indicators move — and watch for the ranking becoming the target instead of the outcome.

Welfare (3)

• 170% Mark-Up, Capped at 30%, and the List Nobody Has Published Yet

Body: Decision, 8 October 2026: the Government approved a cap on trade margins for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs at 30% of MRP. Expected to cut prices by up to 70% and save patients Rs 2,500 crore annually.

Process pending: an expert committee under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) will finalise the list of medicines; the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) will then decide and issue the notification. Nothing is notified yet.

Two instruments, distinguished: ceiling price applies to scheduled formulations in Schedule I of DPCO 2013, drawn from the National List of Essential Medicines, and fixes the price. Trade Margin Rationalisation applies to non-scheduled formulations and caps the margin between the trade's purchase price and the MRP; the manufacturer's ex-factory price stays free.

Why a margin cap: NPPA market analysis found an average mark-up of about 170% on non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, reaching 700% or more in some. The inflation occurs after the manufacturer sells, so the chain — not the ex-factory price — is the target. It also avoids the larger fight over fixing prices of branded and patented medicines, and the supply risk that carries.

The arithmetic: a cap of 30% of MRP means for an MRP of Rs 100 the price to the stockist must be at least Rs 70 — equivalently a mark-up of about 43% on the purchase price ($30 \div 70$).

Read the headline honestly: a 70% reduction corresponds to the extreme cases (700% mark-up). At the average 170% mark-up the fall is much smaller. Rs 2,500 crore is the more defensible figure.

The structural limit: a margin cap binds the distributor, not the manufacturer. Nothing prevents a higher ex-factory price, in which case 30% is 30% of a larger MRP.

Legal basis: paragraph 19 of the DPCO, 2013 — extraordinary powers allowing the Government to fix the price of any drug in the public interest, including non-scheduled ones. Strength: reach without revising the NLEM. Weakness: it is an exception, typically time-limited and separately challengeable — hence calls to give TMR a permanent statutory basis in the DPCO.

The 2019 precedent: February 2019, 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs brought under a 30% trade-margin cap under Para 19, described officially as a pilot. Reported savings and brand counts vary between official summaries.

Non-scheduled drugs otherwise face only a cap on the annual increase in price, not on the price itself.

Burden: cancer incidence around 60 per lakh population. Prices vary by retail pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and online pharmacy — possible only where MRP sits far above the cost of supply. Concerns were raised by Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka, patients and civil society.

Three levers on the same burden: prevention (vaccination and screening), price (DPCO ceiling prices and TMR), insurance (Ayushman Bharat). Insurance changes who pays; price control changes how much. Reimbursing an inflated price moves the inflation to the exchequer rather than removing it.

Exam hook: Institutions: NPPA fixes prices and notifies, under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. DGHS sits under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

• 10 Years of Sugamya Bharat, and Still No Yardstick

Body: What: DEPWD's Sugamya Ka Sankalp consultation, India International Centre, New Delhi, 9 October 2026, with APD and Ipsos; two roundtables on **accessibility data** and on a **measurement framework**.
Campaign: Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, launched 3 December 2015 (International Day of Persons with Disabilities); three verticals — **built environment, transport, ICT**.

Original targets: 50% of government buildings in the national and State capitals; all international airports and **A1, A and B-category** railway stations by **July 2016**; 25% of government public transport by mid-2017; websites to **ISO/IEC 40500:2012** (based on **WCAG 2.0**). Missed by one to three years; deadline reset to **March 2020**.

Statute: **RPwD Act, 2016** — disabilities expanded 7 → **21**; **benchmark disability = 40%**; **Section 34** ≥ 4% reservation in government vacancies; **Section 32** ≥ 5% seats in government and aided higher education; **Section 21** equal opportunity policy for private establishments with 20+ employees. **Accessibility provisions:** **Section 40** empowers the Centre to prescribe accessibility standards in consultation with the **Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities**; **Sections 44, 45, 46 and 89** supply conditions, timelines and consequences.

Rajive Raturi v. Union of India, 8 November 2024, three-judge bench: clauses (a) to (p) of **Rule 15(1)** of the RPwD Rules, 2017 largely lacked mandatory prescriptions and were held **ultra vires**; Union directed to frame mandatory rules under Section 40 within **three months**, segregating non-negotiable rules from guidelines; existing Rule 15(1) compliance and campaign targets to **continue unabated** meanwhile.

Status: the three months expired in **February 2025**; mandatory standards exist as **sectoral drafts** — products, transport and mobility, built environment (December 2025), and ICT (July 2026, proposing **Accessibility Conformance Reports** against **IS 17802**).

Census 2011: **2.68 crore** persons with disabilities, **2.21%** of the population; 1.5 crore men, 1.18 crore women; up from 2.19 crore in 2001.

Exam hook: **Exam hook:** an advisory standard cannot be audited, and a mandatory standard without a measurement instrument cannot be verified. Accessibility is a **chain** — a station with a ramp and a locked lift is unusable, not partly usable.

• 47 Lakh Calls to 14416, and What Happens After the Call

Body: Day: **World Mental Health Day**, 10 October; 2026 global theme "**Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change.**"

Tele-MANAS: Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States; launched **10 October 2022**; helpline **14416**; free, confidential, 24×7, multilingual.

Numbers: **47,75,644** calls since launch; **53 cells** across all **36** States and UTs as of October 2026.

Caller profile (of 13,35,275 recorded profiles — about 28% of calls): men **54.18%**, women **43.78%**; ages **18–45 = 73.2%**; concerns include exam, workplace and relationship stress, anxiety and sleep disturbance.

MANN Jaagriti: community awareness and engagement initiative through schools, colleges, workplaces and health facilities; involves persons with **lived experience**.

Programmes: **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)**; **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)** sanctioned for **767 districts** under the **National Health Mission**; mental health in Comprehensive Primary Health Care at **over 1.83 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs**.

National Mental Health Survey 2015–16: **39,532** respondents across **12 States**; current prevalence **10.56%**, lifetime **13.67%**; **treatment gap 70–92%**, common mental disorders **85.0%**, overall often cited **~84.5%**.

Workforce: commonly cited at about **0.75 psychiatrists per lakh** against a WHO norm of about 3 — indicative, not exact.

Law — the sequence: **IPC 309** criminalised attempted suicide → **Section 115, Mental Healthcare Act 2017** presumes **severe stress**, bars trial and punishment, and imposes a duty of **care, treatment and rehabilitation** → the **BNS did not re-enact** the general offence; **BNS Section 226** punishes an attempt intended to **compel or restrain a public servant** (up to **1 year**, fine, or community service).

MHA 2017 also: **Section 5** right to an **advance directive** and a **nominated representative**; covers mental illness only; a later capacious decision overrides an earlier directive.

Exam hook: **Exam hook:** detection without treatment capacity turns a treatment gap into a **referral queue**. Screening at 1.83 lakh facilities will find more patients than district services can currently treat.

• 56 Professions, 20 Curricula, and a Register You Can Scan

Body: Date and body: **7 October 2026** — the **National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP)**, Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare**, notified measures under the **NCAHP Act, 2021**.

Three measures: (1) **Autonomous Boards and Central Assessment Committee (Establishment, Constitution, Functions and Powers) Regulations, 2026**; (2) **Registration of Allied and Healthcare Professionals Regulations, 2026**, gazetted **15 September 2026**; (3) competency-based **D.MRIT** curriculum, notified **30 September 2026**, under **One Nation One Curriculum**.

Scope of the Act: Schedule lists **56 occupations** across **10 categories** — medical laboratory and life sciences; trauma, burn care and surgical and anaesthesia-related technology; physiotherapy; nutrition science; ophthalmic sciences; occupational therapy; community care and behavioural health sciences; medical imaging and therapeutic technology; medical technology; physician associate/assistant.

Autonomous Boards: under **State Allied and Healthcare Councils**, **10–20 members** including a President. Three types — **UG and PG Boards** (standards, competency frameworks, faculty development, research); **Assessment and Rating Board** (recognition applications, **Letters of Permission**, inspections, annual disclosures, assessor empanelment, **ratings published in the public domain**); **Ethics and Registration Board** (document verification, registration recommendations, State register, ethics, complaints).

Central Assessment Committee (CAC): for States **without a functional State Council**; under NCAHP supervision with its Secretariat; **10–30 members** including a President; performs Autonomous Board functions. Removal grounds include **conflict of interest, breach of code, abuse of position**, with an **opportunity of hearing**.

What the CAC concedes: five years after the Act, many States have **not constituted Councils** — the standard difficulty of a central regulator in a field whose delivery is a State responsibility.

Registration: **State Registers** and a **Central Register**; certificates with **Unique Identification (UID)** numbers, issued online and **QR-coded**, enabling **public verification**.

D.MRIT: **2 years**; entry after Class 12 Science with **Physics, Chemistry, Biology**; **six-month clinical internship**; mandatory adoption from **2027–28**, optional from **2026–27**; covers **X-ray, CT, sonography, mammography, fluoroscopy**, with radiation protection and quality assurance.

The ladder: **B.MRIT** and **M.MRIT** competency-based curricula released **24 April 2025** for implementation from **2026–27**; D.MRIT completes it downward.

Progress: **20** competency-based curricula released so far, against **56** listed occupations.

Competency-based education: the standard is what a graduate can reliably **do** — knowledge, skills, values and attitudes — not what a syllabus covered.

Why imaging first: imaging capacity has outgrown the trained workforce; demand cited from **PHCs**, hospitals, diagnostic centres and students.

Exam hook: **Regulators to distinguish:** **NMC** for doctors, the nursing commission for nurses, **NCAHP** for the 56 allied and healthcare occupations.

• 23 Officers for 1.2 Crore Candidates

Body: What: The 382nd Report of the DRSC on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, chaired by Mukul Wasnik, MP (RS), on Reforms and Strengthening of the NTA, presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 9 October 2026; adopted 25 August 2026.

DRSC system: 24 committees, 31 members each — 21 Lok Sabha + 10 Rajya Sabha, nominated by the Speaker and the Chairman; term not exceeding one year; restructured in July 2004 from 17 committees of 45 members.

DRSC limits: may not examine day-to-day administration; reports may not suggest anything in the nature of a cut motion; they report to the House, and their recommendations are not binding.

NTA's form: set up 2017 as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 — contrast UPSC (constitutional, Article 315; report laid before Parliament under Article 323) and SSC.

Scale: conducts JEE (Main), NEET-UG, UGC-NET, CUET; about 1.2 crore candidates annually.

Key recommendation: a Parliamentary framework for the NTA's accountability to Parliament, with resources matched to responsibilities.

Paper security: a large, continuously updated question bank; final papers assembled digitally close to the examination; vetters quarantined; experts from IITs/AIIMSs/IIMs screened for conflict of interest.

Why CBT changes the logic: no printing or transport means no reason to finalise papers long in advance — removing both the time window and the physical supply chain.

The staffing finding: 39 sanctioned posts, 23 in position — 41% vacant, all on deputation, two years after the Radhakrishnan Committee (constituted 22 June 2024; reported October 2024; 101 recommendations) asked for permanent staff.

The Committee's own counter-example: NEET-UG 2026 was cancelled despite SLCCs, DLCCs, biometrics, jammers and AI-based CCTV analysis. **Exam hook:** Exam hook: a recommendation of a Standing Committee binds nobody. Its force is that the finding is on the record of the House and the government must reply.

Economy (5)

• 42.6% on Two Wheels, 5% on Mass Transit

Body: Survey: first-ever all-India National Household Travel Survey (NHTS), conducted July 2025 – June 2026 by the NSO under MoSPI; key indicators released 5 October 2026 as a Factsheet.

Sample: 14,274 villages, 10,377 urban blocks, 4,92,023 households, 20,34,371 persons.

Definitions: travel = a trip of more than 1 km; trips under 1 km not recorded. **Primary mode** = mode covering the longest distance in a trip. **Travel-day** = 3:00 AM to 2:59 AM the next day. **Within travel-day trip** = away for up to 24 hours. **Overnight trip** = away more than 24 hours and at least 50 km.

Workers: 57.6% make work trips over 1 km (rural 54.5%, urban 64.1%).

Two-wheelers 42.6% — the largest single mode (rural 37.1%, urban 52.3%). Rail-based urban transit 5.0% — Maharashtra 20.7%, West Bengal 16.5%, Delhi 14.4%.

Commute times: workers average 25 min (rural 23, urban 27); 83.4% within 30 minutes; 13.7% take 30–60 minutes. 94.9% leave before 10 AM — 56.5% between 8 and 10, 33.7% between 6 and 8, 4.7% before 6.

Students: 66.4% travel over 1 km; peak participation at 15–29 years (79.1% rural, 73.3% urban). Modes — walking 37.0%, buses 29.5%, bicycles 15.8%, autos 10.5%, two-wheelers 6.7%. Average 23 min; 87.6% within 30 minutes; 82.0% depart 7–10 AM, peak 8–9 AM at 35.7%. North East including Assam 15–19 min.

Expenditure per month: workers Rs 785 (urban Rs 1,044, rural Rs 612); students Rs 443 (urban Rs 617, rural Rs 361). Male workers Rs 835, female Rs 533.

Gender: 61.9% of male against 41.9% of female workers make daily work trips over 1 km — partly a measurement effect, since home-based and unpaid work generates no qualifying trip, and partly real (safety, time poverty, vehicle access).

Overnight trips: buses 55.8%, inter-city rail 17.7% (together 73.5%), cars 15.1%, two-wheelers 8.8%. Rail — rural 14.0%, urban 22.7%. Purpose — social, communication and religious 70.2%; culture, leisure, sport and tourism 7.4%; self-care 6.5%.

Other within-day trips: two-wheelers 32.2%, walking 24.9%, autos 18.9%, bicycles 12.6%, buses 8.5%.

Cross-reference to hold: MoRTH records two-wheeler users as 44.8% of road deaths in 2023 and 46.2% in 2024, up from about 30% in 2014; pedestrians about 20%. The largest mode is also the most fatal.

Limitation: the 1 km floor excludes the shortest walking trips, so walking shares are floors, and the survey under-observes pedestrians — the second-largest fatality group.

Why the commute is short: rural workers travel less time than urban, so it is proximity by necessity and dispersed employment, not transport efficiency.

Exam hook: Commissioning interest: the survey explicitly meets the data needs of the Ministry of Railways — household data sizes the whole travel market, including the bus share rail might capture.

• Rs 10,000 Crore of Equity, After Years of Lending to the Same Firms

Body: Decision: on 6 October 2026 the Union Cabinet approved a commitment of **Rs 10,000 crore** towards establishing the **SME Growth Fund (SGF)**, for **direct equity investments** in small and medium enterprises. Announced as part of the **Union Budget 2026-27** package on equity, liquidity and professional support.

Structure: a **direct equity investment fund** operating in the form of an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** — a privately pooled fund established in India, investing per a defined policy. Rs 10,000 crore is a **commitment**, drawn down as investments are made.

Purpose: **patient equity capital** to high-potential SMEs with demonstrated viability and scalability, to produce **champion enterprises**.

Priorities: manufacturing at the core — capacity expansion, advanced technology, productivity, export competitiveness; also SMEs in **industrial clusters in Tier-II and Tier-III cities**; plus technology, innovation-driven sectors and **strategic value chains**.

The gap: existing equity funds focus on **early-stage and micro** enterprises; **small and medium** firms lack growth equity.

Why equity and not credit: a term loan requires repayment before an expansion yields returns, charges fixed interest regardless of outcome, and needs collateral. Equity carries **no repayment schedule** and pays only if the firm becomes more valuable.

Classification, effective 1 April 2025 — a **composite** test, both limits must be met: **micro** ≤Rs 2.5 cr investment and ≤Rs 10 cr turnover; **small** ≤Rs 25 cr and ≤Rs 100 cr; **medium** ≤Rs 125 cr and ≤Rs 500 cr. Investment limits raised 2.5×, turnover limits 2×.

Economic Survey 2025-26: MSMEs = **31.1% of GDP, 35.4% of manufacturing output, 48.58% of exports**.

Registered base, 6 October 2026: about **9.78 crore** under **Udyam** and the **Udyam Assist Platform** — **trading ~4.08 crore, services ~3.77 crore, manufacturing ~1.93 crore**. Female-owned **37.6%** of registrations.

Read with care: the export share is computed across a base in which **traders outnumber manufacturers**, so it describes who ships as much as who makes. The **~43.28 crore** employment figure is **self-reported at registration**, cumulative, includes proprietors and is not reconciled against exits — not comparable to a labour-force survey estimate.

Udyam vs UAP: **Udyam** registers formal enterprises with PAN and GST; the **Udyam Assist Platform** brings **informal micro enterprises** without PAN or GST into the formal fold through designated agencies.

Exam hook: The open question: exit. Unlisted SMEs in cluster towns have thin exit routes, and a fund that cannot exit cannot recycle capital.

• GDP Never Subtracted the Forest. Since 2025, Net Domestic Product Does

Body: Release, 7 October 2026: the NSO, MoSPI, published the "**Strategy for Environmental Economic Accounts in India 2026–2030**" — successor to the **2022–2026** strategy.

2026-30 subjects: forest, **minerals**, soil resources, land, water, **carbon stock**, environment-related activities, biodiversity, environment statistics. Selected on the basis of "**Green National Accounts in India: A Framework**" and the **SEEA Central Framework**.

2022-26 priorities, for contrast: Material Flow Accounts, Ocean Accounts, Energy Accounts, and Thematic Accounts for Biodiversity and Urban Areas. The shift is from **flows to stocks**.

Work since 2018 spans: forests, biodiversity, wetlands, ocean accounts, soil, water quality, croplands, energy, residuals, urban ecosystems and **pollination services**.

SEEA: System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, the statistical standard endorsed by the **UN Statistical Commission**. Two parts — **SEEA-CF** (physical and monetary accounts for environmental assets and flows) and **SEEA-EA** (ecosystem **extent, condition** and **services**).

The 2025 SNA — the key fact. Endorsed by the **UN Statistical Commission in March 2025**, succeeding the 2008 SNA. **Depletion of a non-produced natural resource is now a cost of production**, not an "other change in the volume of assets". Therefore **NDP = GDP – depreciation – depletion of natural resources**. The 2025 SNA adopts **SEEA-CF's** depletion definition.

Why that matters: environmental accounting moves from a satellite exercise into the arithmetic of a **core national aggregate**, so measuring stock change becomes obligatory rather than optional.

Dasgupta Expert Group: constituted by MoSPI in **2011** under **Prof. Sir Partha Dasgupta**; reported in **2013** as "**Green National Accounts in India: A Framework**"; recommended **phased SEEA** compilation — **asset accounts → physical flows → monetary flows**.

NCAVES: joined **2017**. Funded by the **European Union** (Partnership Instrument), implemented by the **UN Statistics Division** and **UN Environment** with the **Convention on Biological Diversity**. India one of 5 countries, with **Brazil, China, Mexico and South Africa**. Run by MoSPI with **MoEFCC** and the **National Remote Sensing Centre**.

EnviStats India: MoSPI's annual environmental-accounts publication since **2018**. First release — asset accounts in **physical terms** for **forest, land, minerals and water**.

Why NRSC is involved: ecosystem **extent** accounts are built from satellite **land-cover classification**.

Physical vs monetary: physical accounting is measurement; monetary valuation requires a valuation technique, a **shadow price** and a **discount rate**, each contested — which is why **no country publishes "green GDP" as a headline number**.

Exam hook: Federal dimension: the strategy is intended as a guiding framework for **States and UTs** that wish to begin or strengthen environmental accounting.

- Arrest Provisions Out, and the Law That Has to Change First**
Body: Meeting: 57th GST Council, New Delhi, 8 October 2026, chaired by Finance Minister **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**. The **56th** meeting focused on **rate rationalisation**; the 57th on **process reforms** — registration, returns, refund, adjudication — plus clarifications and trade facilitation.
Headline recommendations: removal of arrest provisions; prosecution threshold **Rs 1 crore** → **Rs 5 crore**; general penalty **Rs 25,000** → **Rs 10,000**; wider ITC and refund eligibility; faster refunds; common standards for notices; smoother inter-State movement of goods; **intelligence-based, authorised interception**; simplified registration for small e-commerce sellers; measures for export of services; in-principle **ARQP** scheme up to **Rs 5 crore**.
The essential caveat: the Council is a constitutional body under **Article 279A** that **recommends**. These changes require amendment of the **CGST Act, 2017** and the **State GST Acts**. In **Union of India v. Mohit Minerals (2022)** the Supreme Court held Council recommendations have **persuasive value** and are **not binding**, since legislative power rests with Parliament and the States under **Article 246A**.
Existing architecture: Section 69 — Commissioner may authorise arrest for specified **section 132** offences in the higher tiers, with production before a magistrate within **24 hours**. **Section 132** — offences graded by amount, heaviest tier above **Rs 5 crore**. **Section 125** — **general penalty** where no specific penalty is prescribed.
What is not removed: criminal proceedings where criminality is established. What goes is deprivation of liberty **during investigation**, before adjudication.
The rationale: e-invoicing and the returns architecture now surface fake credit close to when it arises, so **detection can replace deterrence**. Hence e-invoicing is being **extended** — to domestic supplies from unregistered persons under **reverse charge** and to **import of services**, for turnover of **Rs 5 crore and above** — at the same time.
Interception reform: only on **specific intelligence**, authorised at not below **Joint Commissioner**; action only where **supplier or recipient is in that State** — **no interception in transit States**; **section 130 confiscation** inapplicable to goods in transit. **Exception:** where **no e-way bill** exists, or no document shows origin or destination, goods may be inspected, detained or seized **irrespective of jurisdiction**.
Rule 86A: permits **blocking** of the electronic credit ledger on reasonable belief of fraudulent credit; now to allow an **objection** and a **personal hearing** before decision.
IPR: Schedule II amendment — transfer of title in IPRs, **temporary or permanent**, uniformly a **supply of services**.
Validation clause: to validate notices struck down by courts for covering **multiple financial years** — a legislative override of judicial outcomes.
Rule 96(10) omitted with effect from **23.10.2017**, in line with a Supreme Court decision.
ARQP scheme (in-principle): turnover ≤ **Rs 5 crore** in the preceding year and **exclusively B2C** supplies — **annual return, quarterly payment**.
Rationale: a B2C seller passes on **no input tax credit**, so the credit chain does not depend on its filing frequency.
Other alignments: sections **16, 37 and 39** aligned with the **section 16(4)** ITC time limit; **section 9(5)** clarified on **e-commerce operator** liability for notified services irrespective of business model.
Exam hook: Automatic registration route: under **rule 14A**, granted without officer intervention where the applicant does not intend to pass on ITC above **Rs 2.5 lakh per month**. **Rule 19** amendment — automatic acceptance of amendments except **Principal Place of Business** (and including PPoB for rule 14A taxpayers). Cancellation on application auto-accepted once returns are filed and dues paid, with **GSTR-10** the final return.

- No State Measures What Its Households Spend**
Body: What: NSO/MoSPI released a **draft guideline for compiling GSDP from the expenditure side**, base year **2022-23**, on **9 October 2026**; comments open till **28 October 2026**.
The gap it addresses: some States/UTs compile **GFCE and GFCF**; **no State or UT compiles PFCE**. State accounts are production- and income-side only.
Expenditure identity: **PFCE + GFCE + GFCF + change in inventories + valuables + net exports**.
Three approaches: production (value added), income (wages, operating surplus, mixed income), expenditure (final purchases). Independently compiled; the gap appears as **discrepancies** in the accounts.
Why it is hard for a State: "net exports" includes **inter-State trade**, which nobody records — there are no customs posts between States.
The method where data are missing: **allocation indicators** distributing a national total across States — with the risk that the indicator imports the assumption being tested.
Base-year context: GDP rebased **2011-12** → **2022-23**, new series **27 February 2026**; CPI to 2024 base **12 February 2026**; WPI already on 2022-23; **double deflation** adopted; base recommended by **ACNAS** under **Biswanath Goldar**.
Who compiles it: **State Directorates of Economics and Statistics**, to a common NSO methodology — the stated aim is strengthening their statistical capacity.
Exam hook: **Exam hook:** GST is a **destination-based** tax; destination is **consumption**. A production-side-only State account cannot measure the base of the tax the State collects.

Environment (3)

• Who Owns the Tonne: India, Japan and the Adjustment That Must Follow

Body: Event: Operational Manual for the India–Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism launched in New Delhi on **30 September 2026** by Japan's Ambassador **Keiichi Ono** and the then-Secretary, MoEFCC, **Tanmay Kumar**. Announced by PIB on **5 October 2026**.

Sequence: MoC 7 August 2025 → Rule of Implementation 8 June 2026 → Operational Manual 30 September 2026. India is about the **31st** partner in Japan's JCM network, and this is India's **first bilateral carbon-market arrangement** under Paris.

Project cycle covered: from Project Idea Note to issuance and authorization of credits.

Article 6 structure: 6.2 — cooperative approaches, bilateral, unit is the **ITMO** (Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome), decentralised governance. **6.4** — centralised, UN-supervised **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)**, successor to the **CDM**. **6.8** — non-market approaches.

Why three documents: under 6.2 there is no UN registry or methodology panel, so **the bilateral agreement is the rulebook**.

Corresponding adjustment: the seller **adds the tonne back** to its own emissions; the buyer **subtracts** it. Prevents **double counting**. Consequence — **selling a credit costs the seller the tonne**.

Kyoto vs Paris: under Kyoto, developing countries had **no targets**, so a **CER** sale cost the host nothing; India became the **second-largest CDM host**. Under Paris **every** Party has an **NDC**, so every host has a ledger — which is why corresponding adjustment had to be invented.

What India gains: the **physical asset and operating experience** stay in India; **MRV capacity** is built. **Condition — additionality**. If the project would have happened anyway, India has sold a tonne it needed.

Why authorization matters: it is the sovereign, project-by-project decision on whether a tonne should be exported. The Manual makes it procedural rather than ad hoc.

Reported eligible sectors: solar thermal, offshore wind, green hydrogen and ammonia, compressed biogas, sustainable aviation fuel, **CCUS**, high-efficiency industrial technologies — all **high-cost** abatement, which is additionality enforced by sector choice.

Japan's JCM: started **2013**, predates Paris, retrofitted to Article 6.2; around 30 partner countries. Japan has high domestic marginal abatement costs.

CCTS: notified **28 June 2023**, Ministry of Power, under **Section 14AA, Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022**. **Compliance arm** — **GEI** targets, tradable **Carbon Credit Certificates**, binding for **2025–26** and **2026–27**, baseline **FY 2023–24**, close to **490 entities** across **7 sectors**.

Offset arm — voluntary. Administered by **BEE**.

Exam hook: Intensity, not absolute: a **GEI** target is a ratio, and so is India's **NDC** headline — a **45%** reduction in emissions intensity of GDP against **2005**, with net zero by **2070**. Absolute emissions can rise while an intensity target is met.

• 2 Presidencies for 1 Summit, and the 3rd Pillar India Keeps Naming

Body: Event: Pre-COP31, UNFCCC preparatory ministerial, co-hosted by **Australia, Fiji and Tuvalu**, early **October 2026**. India's delegation led by Environment Minister **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, who addressed the **Leaders' Plenary in Fiji**.

India's demand: equal attention to **adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation**; **equity** and **CBDR-RC** upheld "in letter and spirit"; no **"one-size-fits-all"** pathway; local studies and assessments should determine required measures and resources.

COP31: Antalya, Türkiye, November 2026. Unprecedented **split presidency** agreed at **COP30 in Brazil** after rival bids — **Türkiye** holds the formal presidency, hosts, and designs the **action agenda**; **Australia** holds the presidency **for negotiations**, managing talks, draft texts and the **cover decision**. The deal also secured a **Pacific Pre-COP**.

The three pillars: **mitigation** (cutting emissions) · **adaptation** (living with impacts) · **means of implementation** (finance, technology transfer, capacity building).

Evidence of asymmetry: at **COP29, Baku**, the **Global Goal on Adaptation** stalled for lack of consensus on **means of implementation**, producing only the **Baku Adaptation Road Map** — a procedure, not a goal.

New Collective Quantified Goal (Baku Finance Goal): developed countries to mobilise **at least \$300 billion a year by 2035** — a tripling of the earlier **\$100 billion** — within a wider call to channel **\$1.3 trillion a year** by 2035, prioritising **LDCs** and **SIDS**.

CBDR-RC: from the **1992 UNFCCC**, which split parties into **Annex I** and **non-Annex I** by historical responsibility. The **Paris Agreement, 2015**, reframed it as **CBDR-RC "in the light of different national circumstances"** and moved to **nationally determined contributions** — softening the binary. India's "letter and spirit" is an argument for the 1992 reading.

India's offer to the Pacific: expertise from **ISRO**, the **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (MoEFCC)** and the **National Centre for Coastal Research (Ministry of Earth Sciences)** — coastal **vulnerability assessment**, **shoreline change mapping**, **marine spatial plans**, **integrated coastal area management**, **Blue Economy**; and space-based **shoreline monitoring**, **inundation assessment**, **cyclone early warning** and **climate-risk assessment**. The **Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project** cited as means of implementation delivering resilience.

The partial alignment: **PICs** demand **mitigation** ambition, because adaptation cannot save a submerged state. **India's** interest is **adaptation finance and means of implementation**. They agree on finance adequacy; they differ on mitigation pace and fossil-fuel language. India offers **South-South technical cooperation**, which builds goodwill without conceding on mitigation.

Exam hook: What a Pre-COP is: a ministerial preparatory meeting weeks before the COP, to narrow political questions. **No decisions, nothing binding** — its value is diagnostic.

- **Rs 8,300 Crore on Viaducts, and Rs 650 Crore on Overpasses**
Body: Release, 8 October 2026: NHAI published 'Wildlife Mitigation Measures & Structures', marking National Wildlife Week, 2–8 October. Released by Shri Nitin Gadkari at a Chintan Shivir at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat.

Headline figures: about Rs 19,700 crore over five years; more than 2,150 mitigation structures built and/or proposed; **guide fencing and noise barriers** over 300 km of alignments.

Three named problems: habitat fragmentation, barrier effects, **wildlife–vehicle collisions**.

The barrier effect: a road divides a population into sub-populations, raising extinction risk through loss of **genetic exchange** even with zero collisions. Mitigation is therefore about **connectivity**, not just safety.

Investment breakdown: viaducts Rs 8,300 cr · animal underpasses Rs 4,600 cr · tunnels Rs 2,800 cr · major bridges Rs 2,500 cr · animal overpasses Rs 650 cr · minor bridges Rs 500 cr.

Why viaducts are the strongest measure: an elevated road **removes** the barrier rather than perforating it — the whole stretch becomes crossable. With tunnels, **Rs 11,100 crore** of Rs 19,700 crore went on removing the road from the animal's path.

The 7:1 underpass-to-overpass ratio reflects **engineering convenience**, not animal preference. **Hoofed species prefer overpasses or wide, open underpasses**, and **sightlines matter** to them; several **carnivores** use enclosed tunnels readily. Banff monitoring documents these species-specific preferences.

Structure types: Animal Under Passes (AUPs), major and minor **bridge-cum-AUPs**, culverts adapted for faunal movement, **canopy crossings** (rope or pole bridges for arboreal species), **reptile crossings**. **Monitoring — the key commitment:** camera trapping to assess movement and **periodically evaluate** structures, plus identification of **collision hotspots** with speed-regulation boards and signage. Most mitigation worldwide is built and never evaluated.

Indian evidence: on NH-44 through the **Pench** landscape, **Wildlife Institute of India** camera traps recorded **18 species** using the structures between **March and December 2019** — most frequently **Indian hares and jungle cats**, with tigers, leopards, gaur and sloth bears also recorded, largely at night.

Noise matters as much as geometry: elephants, sambar and spotted deer favour **quieter** sections; golden jackals and wild boar tolerate noise.

Fencing funnels animals to crossings; **quiet persuades** them to use one. One railway study found fencing **reduced elephant passage** even while funnelling other species.

Statutory frame: linear infrastructure through a protected area or eco-sensitive zone needs clearance involving the **National Board for Wildlife** and its **Standing Committee**, where mitigation conditions are imposed.

Exam hook: **The trade-off to state:** access-controlled highway design makes roads safer for people by fencing them, and thereby makes them **more absolute barriers** for wildlife. Viaducts are what it costs to have both.

- **540 Tonnes Down the Brahmaputra, 70 Years After the Ghat Closed**

Body: Event, 5 October 2026: 540 metric tonnes of methanol left **Bogibee Terminal**, Dibrugarh, for Bangladesh — the **first cargo from upper Assam to a foreign port since Independence**.

Vessel and people: barge **DLB Patkai**, tug **Kushal Konwar**. Flagged off by **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Assam CM **Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma** joined virtually.

Cargo and route: methanol from **Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd, Namrup** → **Pangaon**, Dhaka, ending at **Narayanganj**. About **768 km** on **NW-2**, then the **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**; **1,300 km** total. Agencies — **IWAI, APCL, Cochin Bunkers**.

What enabled it: **customs and immigration complexes** at **Bogibee and Dhubri**. The constraint was institutional, not hydrological.

NW-2: the **891 km** Brahmaputra stretch from **Sadiya to Dhubri**, declared in **1988**. First regular cargo only in **December 2017** (cement, Pandu to Dhubri).

IBPR: rests on the **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade**, first signed **1972**.

The historical arc: steamers from Calcutta by **1856** · **Dibru-Sadiya Railway, 1882**, from the steamer ghat · daily steamers by **1913**, carrying tea, timber and passengers · **1947** partition cut the jurisdiction · **1950** earthquake disturbed the riverbed · bookings stopped **1954** · ghat closed **15 October 1956** as tea shifted to rail · **1965** war suspended river trade.

Three causes of collapse, three kinds: **political** (1947), **physical** (1950), **competitive** (rail beat the river by 1956). The third is the one the revival must still answer.

Recent milestones: Tata Steel barges to Pandu via Bangladesh, **February 2022** · **MV Ganga Vilas**, Varanasi to Dibrugarh, **2023** · Bogibee terminal opened **February 2024** (foundation **July 2023**).

Jalvahak: launched **15 December 2024**. Reimburses up to **35% of operating expenditure** for cargo moved over **300 km** on **NW-1 (Ganga)**, **NW-2 (Brahmaputra)** and **NW-16 (Barak)**; fixed-day scheduled sailings. **Kolkata–Pandu scheduled at 18 days**; Pandu–Kolkata **15 days**.

Why methanol: river freight is cheap and slow, so it suits **bulk, non-perishable, non-urgent** cargo. **Tea** — the old steamer cargo — is high-value, seasonal and time-sensitive, which is why it left for rail in the 1950s.

Scale: national waterways cargo rose from **18 MMT in FY 2013-14** to **218 MMT in 2025-26**. 540 tonnes is a **route-proving** voyage, not a freight event.

Investment: over **Rs 6,800 crore** in North East waterways — **NW-2** development, a **ship repair facility at Pandu**, last-mile connectivity to Pandu Port. Regional cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

The permanent constraint: the Brahmaputra is **braided**, with an exceptionally high sediment load and shifting channels, so maintaining a **least available depth (LAD)** along a moving fairway is an annual **operating** cost, not a one-time capital cost.

Exam hook: **Geography:** without the Protocol Route, Assam's freight must go overland around Bangladesh through the **Siliguri corridor** ("Chicken's Neck").

• **Rs 500 Crore and Above, and the Data Nobody Had Joined Up**

Body: Decision: the Union Cabinet approved the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)** on **6 October 2026**.

Mandate: research, planning, project appraisal, monitoring and impact assessment across transport and logistics; policy support and data analytics. Described as **complementing** the **PM GatiShakti National Master Plan** and the **National Logistics Policy**.

National Transport Master Plan: horizon of **10 years or more**; covers **roads, railways, ports and shipping, civil aviation, inland waterways, coastal shipping, urban mobility and logistics**.

Planning framework: evaluates sectoral plans of about **5 years** and **annual** plans of transport ministries, aligning them with the Master Plan; promotes **multimodal** development.

Appraisal — the key distinction: ITLA does **technical appraisal** of GoI projects of **Rs 500 crore or more**. **Financial appraisal continues through existing mechanisms**. ITLA's power is technical and advisory, not financial.

Monitoring: projects **above Rs 500 crore**, with coordinated issue resolution and **post-implementation impact assessment** — the rarest function in Indian infrastructure governance.

National Transport Data Repository (NTDR): integrates **GSTN e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS-based systems and urban traffic management systems**, for **freight-flow and origin-destination analysis**.

Why the NTDR matters: India has never had administrative-record evidence of what moves where; planning has relied on surveys and models.

Its limits: e-way bills are a **tax** instrument (below-threshold, exempt and non-GST movement invisible); FASTag is a **tolling** instrument (blind to untolled state and district roads and the first and last mile); Vahan describes the vehicle as **registered**, not as loaded.

The crowded space: **PM GatiShakti (2021)** is a **GIS platform**, with the **Network Planning Group** under **DPIIT** appraising multimodal integration. The **National Logistics Policy (2022)** brought the **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** and the **LEADS** index. Neither does **ex-post evaluation** — which is ITLA's distinctive addition.

Left unstated: how ITLA's Rs 500 crore technical appraisal relates to the Network Planning Group's existing appraisal function.

Exam hook: Comparators cited: Korea, Japan, the United States, China and Australia. Placed within **Vision 2047**.

• **4,000 Years of Lost Wax, and a Stole Covered in 1 Word**

Body: Event, 7 October 2026: the Ministry of Culture announced **16 mementos from Chhattisgarh** in the **8th edition of PM Mementos**.

Auction live, extended to 31 October 2026; proceeds support Namami Gange; portal pmmementos.gov.in.

Dhokra items: **Elephant Head Nandi, Standing Nandi, Madia-Madin Tribal Couple Bust**. Other items — ceremonial **headgear**

(peacock-feather cluster, cowrie shells, metallic discs, brass bells); a **Ramnami Samaj chanting stole**; landmarks **Hatkeshwar Mahadev, Budeshwar Mahadev, Jai Maa Kudargadi, Madheshwar Mahadev**; a woodcut of **Mahtari Vandan Yojana**; a **Rajat Jayanti** memento for the **Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha**; models of institutions at **Nava Raipur**.

Lost-wax (cire perdue) sequence: clay **core** → **beeswax** detail, in Dhokra drawn into **threads and wound** over the core (hence the ribbed surface) → encased in clay with a channel → heated so the **wax runs out** → molten **brass or bronze** poured into the cavity → clay **broken open**.

Two consequences: the wax is gone and the mould destroyed, so **every piece is unique** — no editions, no reproductions; and the casting is **hollow** over a clay core, so it uses far less metal.

The 4,000-year claim: rests on the **Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-daro**, a **lost-wax bronze** excavated in **1926**, from a city dating to about **2500 BCE**. The claim is about the **technique**, not an unbroken lineage of Bastar workshops.

Bastar Dhokra GI: applied **2007**, certified **2008**, separate **GI logo** registration **2014**. Practised by the **Ghadawa** community of Bastar, in brass and bronze.

Why the GI matters: a GI protects the **indication** — only producers in the defined area using the defined method may use the name. Machine-cast and resin imitations with a ribbed finish are the real threat, because genuine pieces are unique and slow while imitations are identical and fast.

Ramnami Samaj: founded in the **1890s** by **Sant Parasuram** (Parsuram Bhardwaj), son of a low-caste sharecropper, of **Charpara**,

Janjgir-Champa, present-day Chhattisgarh. **Denied temple entry on caste grounds, he tattooed the name of Ram on his body**. Adherents wear a shawl printed with "**Ram**", **peacock-feather headgear**, and tattoo the name. A century-old peaceful protest against **untouchability**.

The theological point: if a priest controls the temple door, the devotee carries the deity's name on the **skin**, where no gatekeeper has jurisdiction — devotion relocated from a place to a person.

What the collection actually spans: **Shaiva devotion** (the Nandis and Mahadev shrines), **tribal material culture** (the headgear), and an **anti-caste devotional movement** (the stole).

PM Mementos mechanism: gifts to the Prime Minister's office are **state property**, catalogued and offered by public **e-auction**, with proceeds assigned to a designated cause — here **Namami Gange**. The **8th** edition indicates a settled recurring process.

Exam hook: Derived date: Chhattisgarh was formed in **2000**, so the **Rajat Jayanti** (silver jubilee) of its Vidhan Sabha falls in its twenty-fifth year.

Culture/Sport (2)

• A Wick Lamp on a Pallava Temple, and 87 Data Stations

Today

Body: What: PIB backgrounder *From Beacons to Landmarks*, 10 October 2026, on India's changing lighthouse story.

Scale: coastline over 11,000 km; 205 lighthouses (plus a lightship).

Statute: the **Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021** repealed and replaced the **Lighthouse Act, 1927** — framed when British India had only 32 lighthouses.

Scope of the 2021 Act: whole of India including **territorial waters, continental shelf and EEZ**; provides for **vessel traffic services, training and certification of operators**, and **marking of wrecks**.

Institution: Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), a subordinate office of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**; HQ **Noida**; **nine** regional directorates — Gandhidham, Jamnagar, Mumbai, Goa, Cochin, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Port Blair.

Division: general aids to navigation = DGLL; **local** aids = State maritime organisations (ports, State maritime boards).

AIS: 87 Automatic Identification System shore stations installed on lighthouses; AIS is a ship-and-shore data broadcast system under **SOLAS** (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea), for situational awareness and traffic management.

Why lights persist: satellite navigation can be **jammed, spoofed or fail**; a charted tower of known characteristic is an **independent, equipment-free layer** in a redundant system.

Modernisation: all lighthouses are **solar-powered**; Samiyani Island went oil lamp → solar flasher → **LED (2016)**; Jodiya upgraded to high-intensity **LED (2021)**.

Tourism: about **4 lakh visitors (2014) → 18.63 lakh (2024-25)**; 75 lighthouses developed — Mandvi and Dwarka (Gujarat), Tadri (Karnataka), Pamban (Tamil Nadu), Vizhinjam (Kerala); **digital ticketing portal**; museums at **Chennai, Mahabalipuram, Alappuzha, Kannur, Muttom, Dwarka, Gopnath**.

Mahabalipuram: Pallava port of the **seventh century AD** trading with Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean; log fire; first conventional light **1887**, a wick lamp in a fourth-order optic on the **Olakkaneeswar Temple** roof; metal halide cluster in **2004**; present tower **26 m**, circular stone masonry.

Exam hook: Exam hook: the Act was renamed because the function changed — from a tower with a lamp to a node in a navigation and surveillance network. The first purpose, navigation, remains unchanged.

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