

Schemes (1)

• **Urban Challenge Fund — operational guidelines launched**

Detail: Operational Guidelines for the Urban Challenge Fund launched by Union Minister Manohar Lal.

Body: Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Detail: Rs 1 lakh crore fund (announced Union Budget 2025-26) to develop 'Cities as Growth Hubs', creative redevelopment, and water/sanitation infrastructure.

Exam hook: Urban Challenge Fund = Rs 1 lakh cr, a Budget 2025-26 announcement under MoHUA.

PIB 2252186 · 2026-04-15

Polity/Bodies (6)

• **AI Governance & Economic Group (AIGEG) constituted**

Detail: MeitY constituted the AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG) — apex high-level inter-ministerial body for India's AI governance policy.

Body: Chaired by Union Minister (Electronics & IT) Ashwini Vaishnaw; Vice-Chair MoS Jitin Prasada.

Lineage: Gives effect to India's AI Governance Guidelines + Economic Survey recommendation for a coordinating authority.

Exam hook: AIGEG = the apex steering body; it is ADVISED by the TPEC (don't reverse the hierarchy).

PIB 2252739 · 2026-04-16

• **Technology & Policy Expert Committee (TPEC) constituted**

Detail: MeitY constituted the Technology and Policy Expert Committee (TPEC), a standing expert advisory body for AI governance.

Body: Chaired by the Secretary, MeitY; advises the AIGEG.

Detail: Provides technical/legal/policy expertise on AI regulation and India's positions in international AI forums.

Exam hook: TPEC = advisory/expert committee under the Secretary; AIGEG = the apex group under the Minister.

PIB 2253322 · 2026-04-18

• **Delimitation Bill & 131st Constitution Amendment Bill**

Detail: Lok Sabha discussed the Delimitation Bill, 2026, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026; replied to by Home Minister Amit Shah.

Body: Ministry of Home Affairs / Parliament.

Law: Delimitation relates to Articles 82 & 170 (readjustment of constituencies after a census).

Exam hook: Note the amendment number — Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 — linked to delimitation.

PIB 2253186 · 2026-04-17

• **Census 2027 — houselisting field operations begin**

Detail: Field operations for the Houselisting & Housing Census began in Andaman & Nicobar, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim and the NDMC/Delhi Cantonment area.

Body: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Lineage: First Census since 2011; Census 2027 will be India's first DIGITAL census and the first to capture caste data.

Exam hook: Houselisting (Phase 1) precedes Population Enumeration (Phase 2); conducted under the Census Act, 1948.

PIB 2252332 · 2026-04-15

• **18th Civil Services Day (21 April)**

Detail: 18th Civil Services Day observed 21 Apr 2026; Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed civil servants; PM Excellence Awards presented.

Body: DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.

Lineage: 21 April marks Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 1947 address to the first batch of civil servants ('steel frame of India').

Exam hook: Civil Services Day = 21 April, commemorating Patel's address to probationers.

PIB 2253780 · 2026-04-20

• **Obituary — Mohsina Kidwai (veteran parliamentarian)**

Detail: Former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Mohsina Kidwai passed away 8 Apr 2026, aged 94 (born 1 Jan 1932, Banda, UP); Rajya Sabha obituary reference made 16 Apr.

Detail: Represented Chhattisgarh in Rajya Sabha (2004-10, 2010-16); held several Union portfolios; six-decade political career.

Exam hook: A veteran Congress-era Union Minister; served in four different legislatures.

PIB 2252580 · 2026-04-16

Economy (2)

• **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI) approved**

Detail: Union Cabinet approved the 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMI) with a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 cr; underwriting capacity ~Rs 950 cr.

Body: Ministry of Finance; covers Indian-flagged/controlled vessels and vessels to/from India.

Detail: Covers all maritime risks — Hull & Machinery, Cargo, P&I (Protection & Indemnity) and War risk; cuts dependence on the International Group of P&I Clubs.

Exam hook: It is a domestic insurance POOL backed by a sovereign guarantee (Rs 12,980 cr) — purpose = sanctions/geopolitical resilience for shipping.

PIB 2253243 · 2026-04-18

• **India-ROK Shipbuilding & Maritime Logistics framework**

Detail: India and ROK signed a Comprehensive Framework for Partnership in Shipbuilding, Shipping and Maritime Logistics during President Lee's visit.

Body: PMO / Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.

Detail: Part of a wider outcome package including MoUs on Ports, Steel supply chain, MSMEs, and an 'India-Korea Digital Bridge'.

Exam hook: South Korea is a global shipbuilding leader; this framework targets India's shipbuilding capacity build-up.

PIB 2253976 · 2026-04-20

IR/Diplomacy (3)

• **ROK President Lee Jae Myung — State Visit to India**

Detail: State Visit of Republic of Korea (ROK) President H.E. Lee Jae Myung to India; hosted by the President of India; bilateral summit with PM Modi (20 Apr 2026).

Detail: Key outcomes — Joint Strategic Vision for the India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership; Comprehensive Framework on Shipbuilding/Shipping/Maritime Logistics; Joint Statements on Sustainability and on Energy Resource Security; decision to resume CEPA upgrade negotiations; ROK to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

Exam hook: India-ROK ties = 'Special Strategic Partnership'; the trade pact under upgrade is the CEPA (not an FTA by name).

PIB 2253753 · 2026-04-20

• **Raksha Mantri visit to Germany (Berlin)**

Detail: Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) undertook a 3-day visit to Germany; addressed German Parliamentarians in Berlin, calling for deeper India-Germany defence-industrial partnerships.

Body: Ministry of Defence.

Exam hook: Tie the bilateral to defence-industrial cooperation; venue = Berlin.

PIB 2254345 · 2026-04-21

• **Austrian Chancellor Stocker — visit to India**

Detail: Federal Chancellor of Austria Dr. Christian Stocker visited India; called on the President; joint press statement with PM Modi; India-Austria Business Forum and Joint Economic Commission advanced.

Body: PMO / Ministry of External Affairs.

Exam hook: Note the visiting dignitary's title — Federal CHANCELLOR (head of government) of Austria, Christian Stocker.

PIB 2252562 · 2026-04-16

Defence (4)

• TRAWL Assembly contracts for T-72/T-90 tanks

Detail: MoD signed ~Rs 975 cr contracts with BEML and Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (India) for DRDO-developed TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 tanks — a minefield-breaching system creating Vehicle Safe Lanes.

Body: Ministry of Defence; DRDO design; Buy (Indian-IDDm) category.

Exam hook: TRAWL = minefield-breaching/mine-plough for tanks (T-72/T-90), a DRDO design built by BEML — not a missile or a tank itself.

PIB 2254141 · 2026-04-21

• IOS SAGAR — INS Sunayna deployment (IOR)

Detail: Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR — INS Sunayna with a multinational crew from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries — made port calls at Phuket (Thailand) and Jakarta (Indonesia) this week; flagged off from Mumbai 02 Apr 2026.

Body: Indian Navy; under the MAHASAGAR vision (Mutual & Holistic Advancement for Security And growth Across Regions); India is current Chair of IONS.

Detail: Port-call route: Malé, Phuket, Jakarta, Singapore, Yangon, Chittagong, Colombo.

Exam hook: MAHASAGAR is the successor vision to SAGAR; INS Sunayna is the IOS SAGAR platform — note it is an Indian Navy OPV.

PIB 2252298 · 2026-04-15

• DSC A 23 — fourth Diving Support Craft launched

Detail: DSC A 23 (Yard 328), 4th of five Diving Support Craft, launched 19 Apr 2026 at Titagarh, Kolkata by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL) for the Indian Navy.

Detail: 30 m catamaran-hull, ~380-ton displacement; 70% indigenous content; built to Indian Register of Shipping rules; model-tested at NSTL, Visakhapatnam.

Exam hook: Builder is Titagarh Rail Systems (Kolkata), role = diving support/salvage/underwater inspection — not a warship or submarine.

PIB 2253708 · 2026-04-20

• Army & Navy Commanders' Conferences 2026

Detail: Army Commanders' Conference concluded in New Delhi (17 Apr 2026); the FIRST EDITION of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2026 was held at Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi (15-17 Apr).

Body: Ministry of Defence / Indian Army & Indian Navy.

Exam hook: 'First edition' tag attaches to the Naval Commanders' Conference at the new Nausena Bhawan HQ.

PIB 2252126 · 2026-04-15

Environment (2)

• World Earth Day 2026 — theme

Detail: World Earth Day observed 22 Apr; 2026 theme 'Our Power, Our Planet'.

Lineage: Earth Day first observed in 1970; coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG.

Exam hook: Match the year to its theme — 2026 = 'Our Power, Our Planet' (a clean-energy/renewables focus).

PIB 2254023 · 2026-04-21

• Shahtoosh trader convicted — landmark wildlife case

Detail: Landmark conviction of a Shahtoosh trader after a 17-year case.

Body: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change / Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Law: Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 — Shahtoosh comes from the Tibetan antelope (Chiru), a Schedule I species; trade is banned.

Exam hook: Shahtoosh = Chiru (Tibetan antelope) wool — a Schedule I / CITES Appendix I animal; do not confuse with Pashmina (from goats, legal).

PIB 2252139 · 2026-04-15

Sci/Tech (4)

• PFBR attains first criticality (Kalpakkam)

Detail: India's 500-MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu attained first criticality on 6 Apr 2026; flagged in Rajya Sabha on 16 Apr.

Body: Designed by IGCAR; built by BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhihiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd); under Dept of Atomic Energy.

Lineage: Marks India's entry into Stage 2 of the 3-stage nuclear programme — Stage 1 = natural-U PHWRs (Plutonium by-product); Stage 2 = Pu-fuelled Fast Breeder Reactors; Stage 3 = Thorium-Uranium reactors. A breeder makes more fuel than it consumes.

Exam hook: PFBR is sodium-cooled, sited at Kalpakkam (NOT Tarapur); IGCAR designs, BHAVINI operates — don't swap them.

PIB 2252594 · 2026-04-16

• India's first chip fab notified — Dholera (Tata)

Detail: Govt notified India's FIRST chip fabrication plant — a Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Pvt Ltd SEZ at Dholera, Gujarat (66.166 ha; ~Rs 91,000 cr; ~21,000 jobs); notified 9 Apr 2026.

Body: Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Board of Approval for SEZs); under India Semiconductor Mission.

Lineage: Micron's ATMP unit at Sanand, Gujarat (Rs 13,000 cr) was an earlier semiconductor SEZ.

Exam hook: Dholera = first FAB (front-end fabrication); Sanand (Micron) = assembly/test/packaging — fab vs ATMP is the trap.

PIB 2252649 · 2026-04-16

• India's first 3D semiconductor packaging unit — Odisha

Detail: Foundation stone for India's FIRST advanced 3D (glass-substrate) semiconductor packaging unit laid at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (Khordha dist); promoted by 3D Glass Solutions (USA) via HIP SPL; ~Rs 1,943 cr.

Body: Ministry of Electronics & IT; under India Semiconductor Mission.

Detail: Odisha is the only state to host both a compound-semiconductor fab AND the first 3D glass packaging facility.

Exam hook: Odisha = first 3D glass-substrate PACKAGING; Dholera = first FAB — different milestones.

PIB 2253549 · 2026-04-19

• SHANTI Act, 2025 — 100 GW nuclear PPP workshop

Detail: Workshop on the SHANTI Act, 2025 to enable India's 100 GW nuclear-power roadmap through public-private partnership.

Law: SHANTI = Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act, passed Dec 2025; opens the civil nuclear sector to private/all players.

Exam hook: SHANTI Act (2025) is the law that liberalised civil nuclear entry; target = 100 GW nuclear capacity.

PIB 2253013 · 2026-04-17

Infra (1)

• Obituary — Asha Bhosle (legendary playback singer)

Detail: Playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away 12 Apr 2026, aged 92 (born 8 Sep 1933, Sangli, Maharashtra); mourned via Rajya Sabha obituary reference.

Detail: Honours included the Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and National Film Award; career spanning eight decades across multiple languages.

Exam hook: Asha Bhosle — Dadasaheb Phalke awardee and Padma Vibhushan; sister of Lata Mangeshkar.

PIB 2252580 · 2026-04-16