



CENTER OF POLICY RESEARCH & GOVERNANCE

Weekly Policy Digest

A concise, sourced reading of the week that was in Indian public policy – from the Union government and India’s engagements abroad to developments across the states.

At the Centre

UNION GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

01 Centre disburses Rs 2,400 crore under Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana

MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

The Centre released about Rs 2,400 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, the employment-linked incentive scheme. The government said about 70 lakh first-time workers have been brought under social-security cover, around 10 lakh people received incentives after completing six months in their first job, and more than Rs 2,000 crore has been transferred directly to bank accounts.

02 SEBI revives open-market share buybacks and eases bond and fund rules

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA

At its first board meeting of the financial year, SEBI brought back open-market share buybacks through stock exchanges from 1 August 2026. Such buybacks must be announced electronically and completed within 66 working days, and appointing a merchant banker becomes optional. The board also relaxed municipal-bond rules to allow refinancing of project debt and pooled-finance vehicles, permitted mutual funds to use intraday borrowing to manage short-term liquidity gaps, cleared a green channel that lets AIF schemes launch within ten working days of filing, and set up a faster process to pass on the securities of deceased holders to their heirs.

03 RBI finalises revised Kisan Credit Card framework

RBI

The RBI issued the final revised Kisan Credit Card framework, which takes effect on 1 January 2027. Collateral-free and margin-free lending stays at Rs 2 lakh per borrower, and rises to Rs 3 lakh where crops or stock are hypothecated with a tie-up recovery arrangement. Marginal farmers with up to one hectare become eligible for a flexible limit of Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000 that is not linked to land value, and the loan tenure is extended to six years.

SOURCES

01 [Viksit Bharat - PIB](#)03 [RBI - KCC Framework](#)02 [SEBI](#)

At the Centre

UNION GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

04 Coal India and BHEL break ground on Rs 25,016 crore ammonium-nitrate plant in Odisha

MINISTRY OF COAL

The foundation stone was laid for a plant at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda that will produce about 2,000 tonnes a day of technical-grade ammonium nitrate using indigenous pressurised fluidised-bed gasification. The Coal India–BHEL joint venture is estimated to cost about Rs 25,016 crore, with a Rs 1,350 crore incentive from the Coal Ministry, and is targeted for commissioning in 2029 – one of India’s first commercial-scale coal-to-chemicals plants built on domestic technology.

05 New FCRA rules tighten foreign-funding oversight on NGOs

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

The tenth amendment to the FCRA Rules requires every registration certificate to state the exact purpose and the states or union territories where an organisation may operate. Registered groups must disclose their social-media accounts and websites and declare any publications brought out during the year, and general permission is no longer available. An organisation must spend at least Rs 10 lakh in foreign contributions over two years to keep or renew its registration, and misuse of funds can draw a penalty of up to 30 per cent of the amount or Rs 1 lakh, whichever is higher.

06 NAFED launches NAFEX digital auction portal with two-year pulses procurement pledge

MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

The Cooperation Ministry launched NAFED’s e-auction platform, NAFEX.in, which routes farmers’ payments to their bank accounts within 48 hours. A NAFED scholarship scheme and the DRISHTI inventory-management portal were launched alongside it. NCCF and NAFED also committed to buy the entire marketable surplus of pulses directly from farmers over the next two years.

SOURCES

04 [PIB - Ministry of Coal](#)

05 [FCRA Rules](#)

06 [PIB - Ministry of Cooperation](#)

At the Centre

UNION GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

07 Centre rolls out Kharif contingency plan for 315 vulnerable districts amid El Niño concerns

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

With a weak or uncertain monsoon expected, the Centre announced a contingency plan for 315 vulnerable districts. It prioritises short-duration, low-water crops such as pulses, millets and oilseeds, pushes water conservation through ponds, check dams and farm reservoirs, and assures supplies of seed, fertiliser and fodder. The crop-insurance scheme, the Kisan Credit Card and PM-KISAN are named as the season's farmer safety nets, with the developing El Niño expected to peak in winter.

08 MoSPI to launch monthly Index of Services Production in July

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

MoSPI will release a monthly Index of Services Production, a counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production, with 2024-25 as the base year. Trial indices for 2025-26 and for April 2026 are due on 14 July 2026. The index will use GST outward-supply data for the first time in official statistics and will cover the formal services sector, which accounts for more than half of gross value added.

09 Rural Development Ministry finalises VB-G RAM G convergence framework

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A consultation across 18 ministries finalised the convergence framework under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, which comes into force on 1 July 2026. The framework follows a single plan with multiple funding sources, built around a Gram Panchayat plan approved by the Gram Sabha, and carries an interim list of 318 permissible works covering water security, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and protection against extreme weather.

SOURCES

[07 PIB - Agriculture](#)[08 PIB - MoSPI](#)[09 PIB - VB-G RAM G](#)

At the Centre

UNION GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

10 **QS World University Rankings 2027 feature 52 Indian universities, IIT Delhi at 118**

The QS World University Rankings 2027 featured 52 Indian universities, the fifth-largest presence after the United States, the United Kingdom, China and Germany. IIT Delhi was India's highest-ranked institution at 118, up five places, followed by IIT Bombay at 134 and IIT Madras at 170. Thirteen IITs featured in all, while MIT held the top global position.

India & the World

DIPLOMACY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

11 **India and the US move towards an interim trade deal after Delhi talks**

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

A delegation led by the United States Trade Representative held several rounds of talks in New Delhi with India's Commerce and Industry Ministry on the proposed bilateral trade agreement. The discussions covered market access, digital trade, supply-chain resilience and non-tariff barriers, and both sides reported progress towards an interim agreement in line with their joint statement of 7 February 2026.

12 **Prime Minister to make State Visit to Seychelles for National Day golden jubilee**

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Ministry of External Affairs announced a State Visit by the Prime Minister to Seychelles from 27 to 29 June, as guest of honour at the golden jubilee of the country's National Day. The visit, at the invitation of the Seychelles government, will include talks on bilateral cooperation, an address to the Seychelles National Assembly and an interaction with the Indian community. The ministry described Seychelles as a maritime neighbour central to India's Vision MAHASAGAR in the Indian Ocean.

SOURCES

[10 QS World University Rankings 2027](#)[11 PIB India-US talks](#)[12 PM Visit - MEA](#)

Across the States

STATE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

13 Haryana waives vehicle tax to replace old commercial vehicles in NCR

Haryana approved a full motor-vehicle-tax exemption for new BS-VI, electric and CNG trucks and buses that replace older vehicles in its NCR districts, along with a 50 per cent concession for replacement vehicles and a waiver of some past liabilities. The step is aligned with the Delhi-NCR vehicle-replacement drive and efforts to reduce air pollution.

14 Haryana and Rajasthan settle Yamuna water-sharing under 1994 board pact

Haryana and Rajasthan reached an understanding on giving Rajasthan its allotted share of Yamuna water under the 1994 Upper Yamuna River Board agreement, which is to be formalised through a memorandum of understanding. The agreement settles a long-pending question of inter-state water allocation.

15 Delhi extends slum-rehabilitation eligibility to 1 January 2025

Delhi extended rehabilitation benefits to residents of jhuggi-jhopri clusters that existed up to 1 January 2025, replacing the earlier cut-off date. The government expects the change to cover close to 20 lakh people in about four to five lakh families.

16 Punjab caps private-school fee increases at 5 per cent

Punjab approved an ordinance capping annual fee increases by unaided private schools at 5 per cent. Schools whose cumulative increase over the past three years has crossed 15 per cent may have to refund the excess, and any rise above 5 per cent will need regulatory approval.

SOURCES

13 [Haryana - Vehicle Tax Exemption](#)

14 [Yamuna MoU](#)

15 [Delhi - Slum Rehabilitation Extension](#)

16 [Punjab - School Fee Cap](#)

Across the States

STATE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

17 Chhattisgarh approves Compressed Biogas Policy 2026 and VB-G RAM G framework

The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved a Compressed Biogas Policy for 2026 that will turn crop residue, cattle dung and other organic waste into fuel, with the state biofuel authority as the nodal agency and an estimated potential of about five lakh tonnes a year. The Cabinet also cleared the state's framework for the central VB-G RAM G rural-employment mission, livelihood hubs, and an urban gas-distribution policy.

18 Maharashtra launches Maha AI platform and digital-governance reforms

Maharashtra launched an indigenous AI platform, Maha AI, built with the National Informatics Centre to use government data for service delivery and cybersecurity. It came with an upgraded direct-benefit-transfer platform, MahaDBT 2.0, which cuts application fields from 138 to 66 and uses Aadhaar-based verification, with departments asked to migrate their schemes onto it. The state also introduced a digital life certificate for pensioners and a standard, ranked framework for its more than 31,000 Aaple Sarkar service centres.

19 West Bengal budget pairs welfare expansion with industry and education plans

The state presented its first budget, with a large welfare component alongside industry and infrastructure plans. It announced one lakh government jobs – including about 20,000 in the police and 50,000 teaching and non-teaching posts, with 33 per cent reserved for women. Dearness allowance for employees and pensioners will rise by 20 points to 38 per cent from 1 October 2026. The budget set aside Rs 36,000 crore for the Annapurna Yojana cash assistance for women, made state bus travel free for women through pink cards, and introduced a Banglar Yuva Sathi allowance of Rs 1,500 a month for unemployed youth aged 21 to 40. On infrastructure and education, it proposed a greenfield airport at Kalyani, a deep-sea port at Dadanpatrabarh in Purba Medinipur, and new IIT, IIM and AIIMS institutions along with medical colleges in north Bengal.

SOURCES

17 [BIO Gas Policy](#)

18 [Maharashtra Maha AI Platform](#)

19 [West Bengal Budget](#)

Across the States

STATE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

20 Karnataka sets up Praja Seva department for public grievances

The Karnataka Cabinet approved a new Praja Seva Department to handle public grievances, bringing together administrative reforms, the Sakala Mission and the public-grievances wing under a senior IAS officer, with a separate minister in charge. Ministers will visit one taluk each week to hear citizens' concerns, and petitions sent to the Chief Minister and other ministers may be routed through the department.

21 Andhra Pradesh restores old pension option and raises retirement age to 62

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved a one-time option for eligible contributory-pension employees to switch to the Old Pension Scheme, expected to benefit about 10,715 people recruited against posts notified before September 2004. It also raised the retirement age from 60 to 62 for employees and teachers in public-sector undertakings, corporations and welfare and Gurukul societies, effective 1 January 2022 – expected to benefit more than 15,000 people. The Cabinet cleared Rs 34,000 crore of investment proposals and steps to speed up work on Amaravati.

SOURCES

20 [Karnataka - Praja Seva Department](#)

21 [Andhra Pradesh - Old Pension Scheme](#)