



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.

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At the Centre

01 VB-G RAM G Act comes into force nationwide, replacing MGNREGA

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2026 took effect across rural India on 1 July, with MGNREGA, 2005 standing repealed from the same date. The employment guarantee rises from 100 to 125 days per eligible rural household, an interim base wage of Rs 300 a day has been notified with annual indexation to CPI-AL, and permissible works are focused on water security, rural infrastructure, livelihoods and extreme-weather mitigation.

CPRG INSIGHT

This is the most consequential redesign of rural welfare in two decades. The expanded guarantee, indexed wage floor and thematic focus on water and climate-resilient assets should improve both income security and the durability of assets created.

02 Cabinet approves additional Rs 30,000 crore commitment to NIIF

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Union Cabinet approved an additional commitment of Rs 30,000 crore to new and upcoming funds of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, doubling the total sovereign commitment to Rs 60,000 crore. The capital will anchor NIIF Infrastructure Fund II, with a target corpus of about Rs 30,000 crore, and support strategies across transport, energy, digital and urban infrastructure and e-mobility.

CPRG INSIGHT

The decision deploys sovereign anchor capital to crowd in global institutional money, so that each government rupee draws in multiples of private capital for the infrastructure pipeline.

03 Aarogya Setu 2.0 and a suite of national digital-health platforms launched

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

At the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, the Health Minister launched Aarogya Setu 2.0 as a national health app, the Unified Health Interface for interoperable digital health services, the Ayushman Sarathi PM-JAY WhatsApp chatbot, a national Drug Registry, and eSushrut@clinic, a light ABDM-enabled hospital management system built by C-DAC.

CPRG INSIGHT

India is extending its digital public infrastructure approach from payments to healthcare by building open, interoperable rails. The foundation is strong; adoption by private clinics and hospitals will determine whether the health stack becomes genuinely universal.

SOURCES

[01 PIB – VB-G RAM G Act in force](#)

[02 PIB – NIIF Cabinet approval](#)

[03 PIB – Digital health launches](#)

At the Centre

UNION GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

04 FCRA 2.0 Portal and e-OCI Card launched

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

The Union Home Minister launched FCRA 2.0, an end-to-end digital portal for compliance under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, with API integration to PAN, Aadhaar, NGO Darpan and the ICAI UDIN system, Aadhaar-based authentication, e-sign and an AI chatbot. The e-OCI Card gives Overseas Citizens of India a secure QR-code-based digital credential integrated with the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme at Indian international airports.

CPRG INSIGHT

The package pairs stronger real-time oversight of foreign funding with materially lower compliance friction for registered organisations, while the e-OCI Card meaningfully eases travel for the diaspora.

05 Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative ride-hailing service, launched from Gandhinagar

MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

Bharat Taxi is a driver-owned, zero-commission mobility platform developed by Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Ltd with support from NCDC, Amul, NDDB, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NABARD, NAFED and NCEL. Drivers become co-owners by purchasing a Rs 100 share, retain their full earnings and receive insurance, pension and concessional-loan benefits, while passengers get surge-free bike, auto and cab rides. The service plans to expand to 125 cities and 30 major urban centres by March 2027.

CPRG INSIGHT

This extends India's cooperative tradition into the platform economy and offers a genuinely worker-centric alternative to commission-based aggregation. The model's promise is real; sustained app reliability and driver availability at scale will decide its competitiveness.

06 PM Family Care Tracker pilot inaugurated in Gandhinagar

The pilot creates a digital platform that maps the health and welfare status of every family so that scheme benefits can be delivered proactively to each eligible member, rather than waiting for citizens to apply. It reflects the government's saturation approach to welfare delivery, with Gujarat as the testbed before wider rollout.

CPRG INSIGHT

The shift from application-based welfare to proactive entitlement-mapping could substantially reduce exclusion errors, which remain the weakest link in benefit delivery. Robust data-protection and consent safeguards should be built in as the platform scales.

SOURCES

[04 PIB – FCRA 2.0 & e-OCI](#)[06 PIB – PM Family Care Tracker](#)[05 PIB – Bharat Taxi launch](#)

At the Centre

UNION GOVERNMENT & NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

07 I&B Ministry announces two major decisions to boost the Indian film industry

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

Following a review chaired by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the ministry announced two measures. A Study Group under Prasoon Joshi will examine global competitiveness, AI in filmmaking, and film financing, and report in three months, while Model State Cinema Regulations have been sent to states to ease theatre-licensing rules and expand cinema infrastructure.

CPRG INSIGHT

The measures address the two structural gaps of Indian cinema, namely capital and screens, though their impact hinges on states adopting the model rules since cinema regulation is a State subject.

India & the World

DIPLOMACY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

08 Prime Minister's State Visit to Seychelles delivers 19 outcomes

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Prime Minister's 27–29 June State Visit, timed to the Golden Jubilee of Seychelles' independence, produced 19 outcomes across defence, maritime security, digital payments, space, health and education. Key deliverables included an MoU to implement UPI with the Central Bank of Seychelles, a Jan Aushadhi agreement for affordable generic medicines, an extradition treaty, a rupee-denominated Line of Credit of Rs 1,250 crore, a USD 175 million economic package and Seychelles joining the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The Prime Minister became the first Indian PM to address the Seychelles National Assembly and received the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' distinction.

CPRG INSIGHT

Rupee credit lines, UPI export and Jan Aushadhi together demonstrate India packaging its digital public infrastructure and pharmaceutical capacity as instruments of foreign policy. The visit consolidates India's position as the preferred security and development partner in the western Indian Ocean, in line with Vision MAHASAGAR.

09 16th India–Japan Annual Summit held in New Delhi

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, on her first visit to India from 1 to 3 July, held summit talks with the Prime Minister at Hyderabad House. The joint press statement stressed commitment to a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific, stronger defence-industry and innovation cooperation, and deeper ties between Indian states and Japanese prefectures. The summit builds on the bilateral Joint Vision under which Japan has targeted about ¥10 trillion (roughly USD 68 billion) of private investment in India over ten years, with semiconductors and supply chains high on the agenda.

CPRG INSIGHT

Tokyo is positioning India as its principal economic-security partner amid global uncertainty. Capital flows and semiconductor supply chains, more than defence hardware, are likely to define the next decade of this partnership.

SOURCES

[07 PIB – Film industry decisions](#)

[09 PIB – India-Japan Summit](#)

[08 PIB – Seychelles visit outcomes](#)

India & the World

DIPLOMACY & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

10 UPI goes live in Greece, the tenth country on India's payments network

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

UPI services were launched in Greece through a partnership between Eurobank and NPCI International Payments Ltd, with the Commerce Minister witnessing a live demonstration in Athens. Eligible customers can now transfer money instantly at a fraction of conventional cross-border costs. The launch came during a broader business-delegation visit that included the India-Greece Business Forum and advocacy for the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

CPRG INSIGHT

Every new UPI geography lowers remittance costs for the diaspora and normalises Indian digital public infrastructure as a global standard. Fintech is steadily becoming one of India's most effective instruments of economic diplomacy.

Across the States

STATE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

11 Delhi notifies Electric Vehicles Policy 2026

The Delhi Cabinet approved and notified the EV Policy 2026, effective 1 July, committing around Rs 15,000 crore over four years to electric mobility. The plan includes more than 30,000 public charging points across the capital and a full tax exemption for electric cars priced up to Rs 30 lakh registered in Delhi, and is framed around building a complete charging-and-manufacturing ecosystem rather than purchase subsidies alone.

CPRG INSIGHT

CPRG was among the policy experts consulted during the drafting of the policy. Pairing demand incentives with a dense charging network addresses the binding constraint on EV adoption, and the Rs 30 lakh exemption ceiling meaningfully broadens the buyer base.

12 Delhi notifies permanent Winter Pollution Master Plan

The Delhi Government notified a permanent Winter Pollution Master Plan, in force every year from 1 November to 28 February, consolidating existing orders into a single framework aligned with revised GRAP norms and Supreme Court directions. Vehicles without a valid PUC certificate will be denied fuel year-round, non-BS-VI vehicles from outside Delhi and dust-generating construction stand barred from 1 November to 31 January, and 50 per cent work-from-home with doubled parking charges applies from 1 November.

CPRG INSIGHT

Converting annual emergency orders into a predictable, permanent framework is sound regulatory design that shifts Delhi's response from reactive to preventive. The year-round PUC-fuel linkage is the plan's sharpest tool, and consistent enforcement will decide its credibility.

SOURCES

[10 PIB – UPI in Greece](#)

[11 Delhi EV Policy 2026](#)

[12 Delhi Winter Pollution Master Plan](#)

Across the States

STATE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

13 Odisha launches GO-EAST platform and rewrites industrial policy for backward districts

The Chief Minister unveiled GO-EAST (Government of Odisha – Eastern Investment Accelerator and Special Task Force) and amendments to the Industrial Policy Resolution at the first CII Eastern Region Council meeting in Bhubaneswar. Non-mineral industrial units in 15 industrially less-developed districts will now be treated as thrust-sector units with enhanced incentives, a Go SWIFT module will track investment approvals in real time, and seven MoUs worth roughly Rs 24,823 crore were signed at the event.

CPRG INSIGHT

Directing enhanced incentives to industrially backward districts pursues regionally balanced growth rather than further concentration in existing clusters. Odisha is positioning itself as the manufacturing gateway for eastern India, and real-time approval tracking should strengthen investor confidence.

14 Punjab begins first cash transfers under its largest-ever women's welfare scheme

The first payments under the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana began on 1 July, Rs 1,000 per month for eligible women and Rs 1,500 for Scheduled Caste women, via direct benefit transfer into Aadhaar-linked accounts. Around 52 lakh women are expected to benefit, backed by Rs 9,300 crore sanctioned in the 2026-27 Budget; the first instalment covers three months at once, and registration remains open with arrears paid to late registrants.

CPRG INSIGHT

Sustaining a recurring commitment of this scale will require disciplined fiscal planning in the years ahead.

15 Maharashtra creates a standalone Electronics, IT and Artificial Intelligence department

The Cabinet approved an independent Department of Electronics, IT and AI, converting the IT Directorate into a full Commissionerate to drive AI adoption and digital governance. The Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre was cleared to operate as a company to accelerate road information systems, city planning and the Jalyukta Shivar scheme, and the Cabinet also approved the Maharashtra Resilient Development Programme to mobilise private capital for disaster-management financing.

CPRG INSIGHT

Giving AI its own department with budget lines, cadre and clear accountability converts policy intent into permanent administrative capacity. This builds directly on the Maha AI platform covered in our previous volume and signals sustained institutional commitment.

SOURCES

[13. GO-EAST](#)

[15. Maharashtra IT & AI department](#)

[14. Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana](#)

Across the States

STATE POLICY & GOVERNANCE

16 Rajasthan unveils MSME and semiconductor incentive package

On International MSME Day, the Chief Minister launched the Rajasthan Industrial Development Policy, dedicated haats for artisans and weavers, and financial support for 25 startups through the Rajasthan Venture Capital Fund. Under the RIPS-2024 manufacturing package, the minimum investment threshold for electronics and semiconductor units was cut to Rs 15 crore, ECMS-linked projects can now invest in five phases instead of three, and the training allowance for women and differently-abled trainees rose from Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000 a month.

CPRG INSIGHT

Cutting the semiconductor entry threshold to Rs 15 crore is a pragmatic bid to capture the component and small-supplier layer of the chip ecosystem that mega-fab states tend to overlook. Depth in the supplier base is precisely what India's semiconductor mission needs.

SOURCES

[16 Rajasthan MSME package](#)