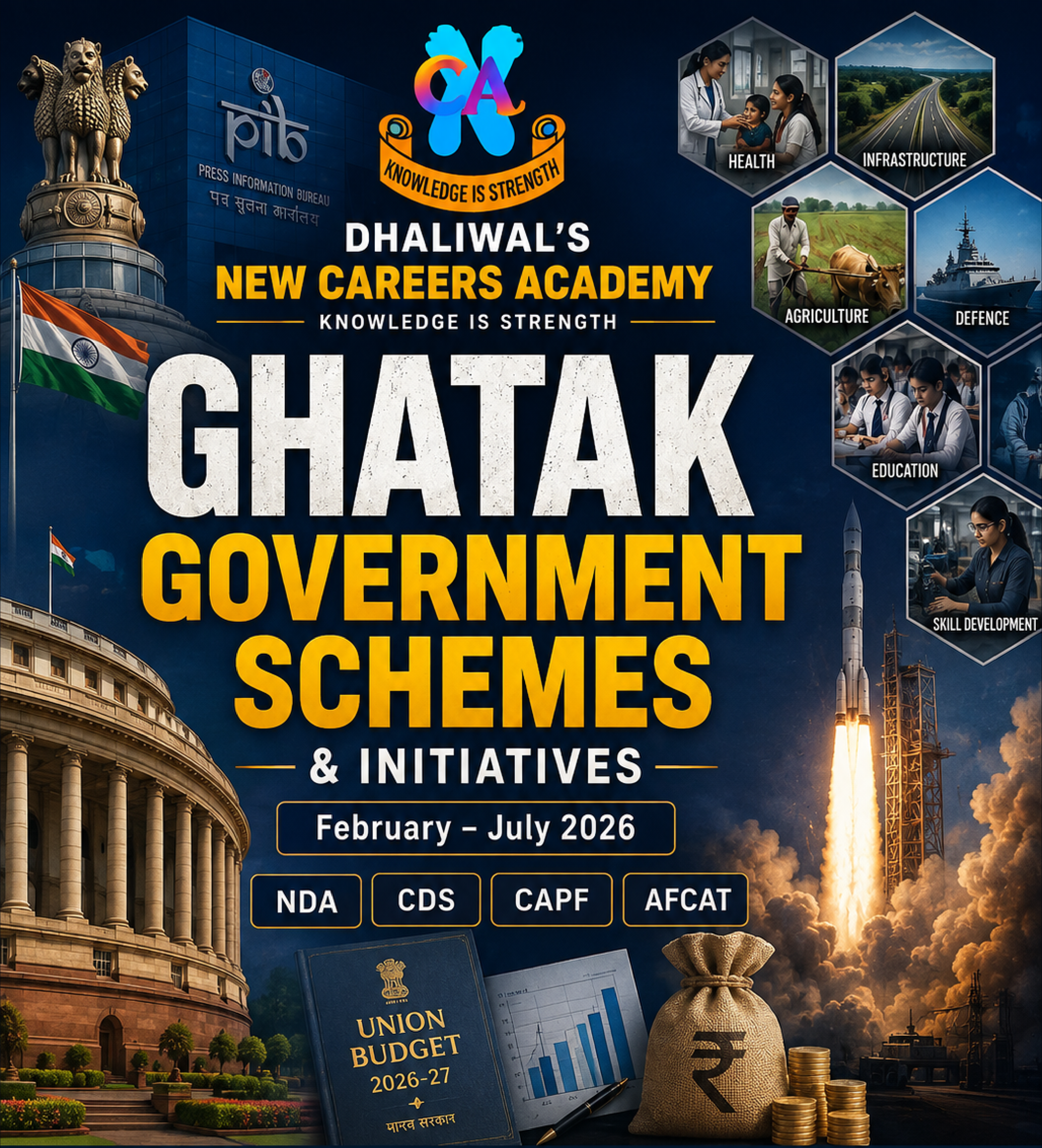


DHALIWAL'S

# NEW CAREERS ACADEMY

KNOWLEDGE IS STRENGTH

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# GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

## & INITIATIVES

February – July 2026

NDA | CDS | CAPF | AFCAT

Compiled from PIB • Union Budget 2026-27 • Cabinet Secretariat • PRS Legislative Research



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# Contents

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ACRONYMS



> **Important status rule:** A Budget announcement is not automatically the same as a Cabinet-approved / operational scheme. The status pill on every entry preserves this distinction — read it before you memorise the figure next to it.

# Scope & How to Use

Read this page before the chapters

**Scope:** 1 February 2026 to 31 July 2026. Includes new schemes, Budget announcements, Cabinet approvals, major extensions/restructuring, pilots, implementation milestones and high-value scheme updates.

**How to use these notes:** Pay special attention to the ministry, outlay, duration, target, beneficiaries, full forms — and whether an item was merely announced in the Budget or formally approved by Cabinet.

## Status key

CABINET APPROVED / LAUNCHED · BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT · EXTENDED / RESTRUCTURED · PILOT / IMPLEMENTATION

> Every entry in this book carries an **Exam Trigger** line — the specific number, name, or chronology an examiner is most likely to test. Read the trigger even if you skim the bullets.

# Chapter 1 · February 2026

Budget month — the single largest source of scheme announcements in this book

## PM-RAHAT Scheme

CABINET APPROVED · 13 Feb 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 13 Feb 2026

**Ministry:** Road Transport & Highways / National Health Authority

**Start/Origin:** Framework notified 5 May 2025; guidelines 4 June 2025; launched nationwide 13 Feb 2026; named PM-RAHAT 19 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Road-accident victims involved in accidents caused by motor vehicles, on any category of road in India.

**Why in News:** The nationwide scheme was launched on 13 Feb 2026; subsequent PIB releases detailed its legal basis, benefits and implementation architecture.

*Prime Minister – Road Accident Victims' Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment. Notified under Section 162, Motor Vehicles Act 1988.*

> In simple words: if you're in a road accident anywhere in India, hospitals treat you first and worry about the bill later. The government pays up to ₹1.5 lakh of your treatment directly. You don't need to arrange cash before doctors start helping.

- Cashless treatment up to **₹1.5 lakh** per victim, for a maximum of 7 days from date of accident, on any category of road.
- Legal basis: Section 162, Motor Vehicles Act 1988. Framework notified 5 May 2025; comprehensive guidelines followed 4 June 2025; launched nationwide by the PM on 13 Feb 2026; formally named "PM-RAHAT" by notification dated 19 Feb 2026.
- Covers all eligible victims regardless of income, insurance status, or hit-and-run cases.
- Funded through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund; runs on eDAR (accident reporting) + TMS 2.0 (claims); emergency linkage integrated with ERSS-112.
- Stabilisation window: up to 24 hrs (non-life-threatening) / 48 hrs (life-threatening), subject to police authentication.
- Update: facial-authentication requirement dropped, June 2026, to speed up admission.

**Exam trigger:** Ministry + status + outlay/target + duration/full form are the most likely factual question areas.

## Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) CABINET APPROVED · 13/14 Feb 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 13/14 Feb 2026

**Ministry:** DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet/CCEA approval, 14 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Indian startups, especially deep-tech, technology-led manufacturing and early-growth-stage firms — supported through eligible investment funds.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: the government doesn't pick startups itself. It gives money to other investment funds, and those funds pick the startups. This ₹10,000 crore is meant to pull in even more long-term Indian venture capital alongside it, strengthening India's startup risk-capital system.

- Corpus: **₹10,000 crore**.
- Target beneficiaries: Indian startups, especially **deep-tech, technology-led manufacturing, and early-growth-stage firms** — supported through eligible investment funds, not directly.
- Priority areas highlighted by government: deep-tech, tech-driven innovative manufacturing, early-growth-stage startups, and breakthrough technologies.
- Important concept: a Fund of Funds channels money through **SEBI-registered investment funds/AIFs** (Alternative Investment Funds), rather than the government financing every startup directly.

**Exam trigger:** corpus figure — don't confuse with the SME Growth Fund's identical ₹10,000 crore later in this chapter. Also remember: AIF/SEBI-registered funds are the actual investment vehicle, not the government.

## Rs. 1 Lakh Crore Urban Challenge Fund CABINET APPROVED · 14 Feb 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 14 Feb 2026

**Ministry:** Housing & Urban Affairs

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 14 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Selected urban regions; major industrial cities (population 1 lakh+); all ULBs in hilly/North-Eastern States and smaller ULBs eligible for the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme.

**Why in News:** Cabinet approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: the Centre pays only 25% of a city project's cost. The city must raise the rest itself, through bonds, loans, or private partners. This pushes cities to stand on their own feet instead of always waiting for grants. A separate ₹5,000 crore guarantee fund helps small cities borrow money for the very first time — the Centre backs up to 70% of that first loan, so banks feel safe lending. The goal is ₹4 lakh crore of total city investment over five years, for things like water systems, old-market redevelopment, and climate-friendly infrastructure.

- Total Central Assistance (CA): **₹1 lakh crore**, covering **25%** of project cost — the city must raise a minimum **50%** from the market.
- A dedicated **₹5,000 crore Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme** helps ~4,223 cities (especially Tier-II/III) access market finance for the first time — Centre guarantees up to ₹7 crore or 70% of a first-time loan (whichever is lower), and up to ₹7 crore or 50% on a successful second loan.
- Expected to leverage total investment of **₹4 lakh crore** in the urban sector over 5 years.
- Covers: Cities as Growth Hubs (spatial/economic planning, transit corridors), Creative Redevelopment of Cities (CBD/heritage renewal, brownfield regeneration), and Water & Sanitation (supply, sewerage, stormwater, solid waste).
- Coverage: major industrial cities with population 1 lakh+; all ULBs in hilly/North-Eastern States and smaller ULBs (below 1 lakh population) are eligible for the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme specifically.

**Exam trigger:** outlay figure — ₹1 lakh crore.

## Agriculture Infrastructure Fund — Expanded Target MAJOR EXPANSION

**Status:** MAJOR EXPANSION

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** Originally launched 2020; loan target doubled Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Farmers, FPOs, cooperatives, agri-entrepreneurs and eligible entities creating agriculture infrastructure.

**Why in News:** A major target revision was approved/announced in Feb 2026.

> In simple words: banks lend money to build cold storages, warehouses, and processing units for farm produce. The government pays part of the interest, so the loan is cheaper. Doubling the target to ₹2 lakh crore just means banks can now lend twice as much under this scheme.

- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund was originally launched in **2020**; loan/credit target increased from **₹1 lakh crore to ₹2 lakh crore** in Feb 2026.
- Supports post-harvest management, storage, processing and community farming infrastructure.
- Classification: major expansion of an existing scheme, not a newly-created one.

**Exam trigger:** old target vs new target is the classic trap question.

---

## Lakhpati Didi — Expanded National Target TARGET REVISION

**Status:** TARGET REVISION

**Ministry:** Rural Development

**Start/Origin:** Implemented through the DAY-NRLM women SHG ecosystem; target doubled Feb 2026 after the 3-crore milestone was crossed.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women members of Self-Help Groups under the rural livelihoods ecosystem.

**Why in News:** A major target revision was approved/announced in Feb 2026.

> In simple words: this is a target, not a cash payout. Women in Self-Help Groups get training and support in work like dairy or tailoring until their household earns over ₹1 lakh a year. The government has simply raised how many such women it wants by 2029.

- Government stated the 3-crore milestone had been crossed **ahead of the earlier timeline**.
- New target: **6 crore** Lakhpati Didis by **March 2029**.
- Linked with the DAY-NRLM Self-Help Group ecosystem.

**Exam trigger:** revised target + deadline year.

---

## PLI Scheme 1.2 for Specialty Steel LAUNCHED · 9 Feb 2026

**Status:** LAUNCHED · 9 Feb 2026

**Ministry:** Steel

**Start/Origin:** New approval/launch phase, 9 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible domestic specialty-steel manufacturers and investors.

**Why in News:** It was launched during the Feb-Jul 2026 period.

> In simple words: the government pays a cash bonus to companies based on how much they actually manufacture and sell — not just for building a factory. This version is for specialty steel, used in cars, defence, and pipelines, so India makes more of it instead of importing it.

- Fresh version of the Production Linked Incentive framework, specifically for specialty steel.
- Target beneficiaries: eligible domestic specialty-steel manufacturers and investors.
- Objective: expand high-value specialty steel production, reduce import dependence, and support value addition and investment.
- Promotes domestic manufacture of high-value specialty steel — used in cars, defence equipment, pipelines.
- Sector-specific PLI — this is version "1.2," not a brand-new PLI category.

**Exam trigger:** version number and nodal ministry.

---

## Kisan e-Mitra PLATFORM LAUNCH (PHASE I) · 17 Feb 2026

**Status:** PLATFORM LAUNCH (PHASE I) · 17 Feb 2026

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** Phase-I launched, 17 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Farmers and users of Central agriculture services/schemes.

**Why in News:** It was launched during the Feb-Jul 2026 period.

> In simple words: earlier, farmers had to visit different offices for crop insurance, income support, or soil testing. Now it's all in one place. Farmers can also just call and talk instead of needing the internet.

- Target beneficiaries: farmers and users of Central agriculture services/schemes.
- Phase-I integrates major Central agriculture schemes on one assistance platform: **PM-KISAN, PMFBY, Soil Health Card, KCC, AIF, PMKSY, PM-AASHA**, among others.
- Purpose: provide easier, technology-enabled access to agricultural information, schemes, and **customised advisory support**.
- Includes Voice/IVRS support to improve accessibility for farmers who may lack internet access or literacy.

**Exam trigger:** the list of schemes integrated is a likely match-the-following item.

---

## CBDC-based Food Subsidy Pilot under PMGKAY PILOT · 26 Feb 2026

**Status:** PILOT · 26 Feb 2026

**Ministry:** Dept of Food & Public Distribution

**Start/Origin:** Pilot launched, 26 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible food-security beneficiaries participating in the pilot.

**Why in News:** A new pilot-stage implementation was launched in the current-affairs period.

> In simple words: normal subsidy money can be spent on anything. This pilot pays subsidy using India's digital currency (e₹), which can be locked to only buy food grains. That way the government knows the money is used the right way.

- Launched in **Puducherry** — uses RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (e₹) for subsidy delivery.
- Objective: programmable, targeted, traceable subsidy delivery.
- A pilot under existing PMGKAY architecture, not a replacement scheme.

**Exam trigger:** location (Puducherry) + "first CBDC-based PDS pilot" tag.

---

## Biopharma SHAKTI BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Department of Biotechnology

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026 — a Budget proposal unless/until a separate approval, guideline or launch is issued.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Biopharma companies, researchers, startups, clinical-trial/regulatory institutions, and the healthcare ecosystem.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

*Strategy for Healthcare Advancement Through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation.*

> In simple words: medicines like insulin, vaccines, and cancer drugs are mostly imported today. This scheme funds Indian companies to build the factories and research skills to make these at home instead.

- Full form: Strategy for Healthcare Advancement Through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation.
- Outlay: **₹10,000 crore over 5 years**.
- Purpose: make India a global biopharma manufacturing hub and build the ecosystem for domestic production of biologics and biosimilars.
- Budget also proposed strengthening clinical-trial capacity and regulatory scientific review.

**Exam trigger:** full-form acronym.

---

## Regional Medical Hubs Scheme BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Sources differ — Health & Family Welfare (per NCA audit notes) vs Commerce & Industry/DPIIT (per a Lok Sabha question addressed to the Commerce Minister, 21 Jul 2026). Likely a joint Health-delivery, DPIIT-facilitated scheme; treat both as defensible answers until PIB issues a single definitive nodal-ministry notification.

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Patients, medical tourists, hospitals, health professionals, and private healthcare/research partners.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: instead of patients flying to Thailand or Singapore for treatment, this builds hospitals in India — with private partners — aimed at attracting foreign patients here instead. Each hub isn't just a hospital; it bundles a treatment centre, a training/research institute, and a dedicated "facilitation centre" that handles the paperwork and logistics a foreign patient needs, all in one place.

- **5** Regional Medical Hubs proposed, developed by States in partnership with the private sector.
- Each hub combines medical treatment, medical education, and research under one roof.
- Includes an AYUSH Centre (Ayurveda etc. alongside modern medicine), a Medical Value Tourism Facilitation Centre, plus diagnostics, post-treatment care and rehabilitation infrastructure.
- Expected to create jobs for doctors and Allied Healthcare Professionals (AHPs) — part of a parallel goal to add 1 lakh AHPs.
- Announced alongside 3 new All India Institutes of Ayurveda and support for exporting Ayurveda products.
- Status as of July 2026: still early-stage — a Lok Sabha question (21 Jul 2026) asked whether DPIIT had finalised the framework, eligibility criteria, and hub locations; no locations had been formally confirmed by then. Kerala's Kuttanad (Alappuzha) is one location under consideration, on account of its backwater tourism appeal.
- Target specialties: sector coverage isn't fixed in the PIB/Budget text itself, but industry and trade-press analysis around the scheme points to **cardiology, oncology, orthopaedics (joint replacement), and fertility treatment** as the specialties India already attracts the most foreign patients for, and the hubs are expected to build around these — alongside AYUSH-based wellness care as the differentiator from competitors like Thailand or Turkey.
- Sits inside India's larger "Heal in India" medical-value-travel push: ~5 lakh foreign patients visited India for treatment in 2025, and the sector (valued ~$8.7 billion in 2025) is projected toward $16.2 billion by 2030; medical/AYUSH visas now cover 170+ countries.

**Exam trigger:** number of hubs (5) + what's inside a hub (AYUSH Centre + Facilitation Centre + diagnostics/rehab) — and remember this was still unfinalised (no locations fixed, and no officially notified specialty list) as of July 2026. If a question asks for the "official" target sectors, be careful: cardiology/oncology/orthopaedics/fertility is the informed industry expectation, not a confirmed PIB list.

## Buddhist Circuits Development Scheme BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Tourism

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Pilgrims, tourists, and Buddhist heritage destinations in the six named North-Eastern States.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: North-East India has many Buddhist pilgrimage sites that are hard to visit due to poor roads and facilities. This scheme funds better infrastructure around them to draw more tourists.

- Covers **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura**.
- Components: preservation/restoration of temples and monasteries, pilgrimage interpretation centres, improved connectivity to Buddhist sites, and pilgrim amenities.
- Positioned as part of a wider push on spiritual tourism, aiming to put the North-East on the global Buddhist tourism map.

**Exam trigger:** the six named states.

---

## Tourist Guide Upskilling Pilot Scheme BUDGET PILOT

**Status:** BUDGET PILOT

**Ministry:** Tourism

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Tourist guides working at major destinations, and visitors who rely on guide services.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: tour guides today vary a lot in quality. This gives 10,000 guides the same 12-week training at 20 major sites, so every visitor gets a good, knowledgeable guide.

- Target: **10,000** guides, across **20** iconic sites, **12-week** standardised training.
- Delivered in **hybrid mode** (online + offline), in collaboration with an **IIM** (Indian Institute of Management).

**Exam trigger:** the three numbers — 10,000 / 20 / 12 weeks.

---

## Seaplane VGF Scheme BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Civil Aviation

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Regional travellers, tourism destinations, seaplane operators, and domestic aerospace manufacturers.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: seaplane routes to islands or hilly areas often lose money for airlines. The government pays the difference so operators are willing to start flying these routes.

- Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for seaplane operations and connectivity.
- Purpose: improve last-mile/remote connectivity and tourism, and encourage indigenous manufacture of seaplanes.

**Exam trigger:** VGF full form.

---

## India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 / Semicon 2.0 — Budget Stage BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** MeitY

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026 — Budget-stage proposal; fully funded as Semicon 2.0 in July.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Chip designers, fabs, packaging units, equipment/material suppliers, researchers, startups, skilled professionals.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: this was just the Budget's first mention of a bigger chip-making plan — a small placeholder amount. The real, fully-funded scheme came five months later as "Semicon 2.0" in Chapter 6.

- Budget-stage FY27 provision highlighted: **₹1,000 crore**.
- Objectives announced at Budget stage: produce semiconductor equipment and materials, develop full-stack Indian IP, fortify supply chains, expand industry-led R&D/training.
- Chronology: Feb Budget announcement → 15 Jul Cabinet approval of Semicon 2.0 at ₹1,27,500 crore (see Chapter 6).

**Exam trigger:** this chronology is a very common "which came first" question.

---

## Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme — Expansion

MAJOR EXPANSION

**Status:** MAJOR EXPANSION

**Ministry:** MeitY

**Start/Origin:** Existing scheme launched April 2025; Budget 2026-27 proposed expanding its outlay.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Electronics-component manufacturers, investors, and domestic supply-chain firms.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: this pays companies that make the small parts inside gadgets — chips, circuit boards, connectors — not the finished phone or laptop. More money now means more of these part-makers get support.

- Existing scheme launched **April 2025** with an original outlay of **₹22,919 crore**.
- Budget 2026-27 proposed raising the outlay to **₹40,000 crore**, because investment commitments had already exceeded the original target.

**Exam trigger:** revised outlay figure.

---

## Coconut Promotion Scheme · Cashew & Cocoa Programme · Sandalwood Cultivation Programme · Programme for Walnuts, Almonds & Pine Nuts

BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (all four)

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026 (all four commodity schemes).

**Target Beneficiaries:** Farmers and value-chain participants in the specified high-value crops/commodities.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: these are four separate crop-specific schemes — coconut, cashew/cocoa, sandalwood, and nuts. Each gives farmers of that crop better seeds and support, so India grows more and imports less.

- **Coconut Promotion Scheme:** increase competitiveness in coconut production and strengthen farmer livelihoods/value chains — Budget specifically noted the large livelihood dependence on the coconut economy.
- **Cashew & Cocoa Programme:** dedicated support announced for Indian cashew and cocoa.
- **Sandalwood:** promotion of sandalwood cultivation.
- **Walnuts, Almonds & Pine Nuts:** dedicated programme specifically for hilly regions.

**Exam trigger:** these four are often bundled into one "match the commodity to the scheme" question.

---

## Veterinary Infrastructure Loan-linked Capital Subsidy Scheme

BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Dept of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Veterinary/para-veterinary students, professionals, private colleges, hospitals, labs, breeding facilities, and livestock owners.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: if someone builds a vet college or hospital using a bank loan, the government pays back part of that loan later. This makes it cheaper to build vet facilities and train more vets, since India has a shortage.

- Supports private veterinary/para-veterinary colleges, hospitals, diagnostic labs, breeding facilities.
- Target: **20,000+** additional veterinary professionals.
- Budget also proposed facilitating collaboration between Indian and foreign veterinary institutions.

**Exam trigger:** the 20,000+ target figure.

---

## SME Growth Fund BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** MSME / Finance ecosystem

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** MSMEs/micro enterprises and growth-oriented firms needing risk or growth capital.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: this isn't one scheme, it's three moves rolled together — money to invest in promising MSMEs (equity), faster payment cycles so MSMEs don't wait months to get paid by big buyers (liquidity), and professional mentors to help small firms run better (capacity-building) — all aimed at growing India's best MSMEs into globally competitive "Champion" firms.

- Part of a **three-pronged "Champion MSME"** strategy announced together in the Budget:
- **Equity support** — this SME Growth Fund (₹10,000 crore) plus a ₹2,000 crore top-up to the older Self-Reliant India Fund (see next entry).
- **Liquidity support** — reforms to TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System), which has already unlocked over ₹7 lakh crore for MSMEs; TReDS is now being mandated as the settlement platform for large-buyer payments.
- **Capacity building** — "Corporate Mitras": professional bodies (ICAI, ICSI, ICMAI) will design short, modular courses to mentor MSMEs, especially in Tier-II/III towns.

**Exam trigger:** don't confuse with Startup India FoF 2.0's identical ₹10,000 crore — different fund, different ministry.

---

## National Fibre Scheme · Textile Expansion & Employment Scheme · Mega Textile Parks Initiative BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Textiles

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Textile producers, fibre manufacturers, weavers, artisans, workers, trainees, and traditional clusters.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: the National Fibre Scheme secures good raw fibre supply — silk, wool, jute, and synthetic. The Textile Expansion Scheme upgrades old cluster machinery. Mega Textile Parks build big, ready-to-use sites with shared facilities so companies don't build everything themselves.

- Part of the new **Integrated Programme for the Textile Sector**, announced with **five sub-components**:
- **National Fibre Scheme** — self-reliance in silk, wool, jute, man-made and new-age fibres.
- **Textile Expansion and Employment (TEEM) Scheme** — modernises traditional clusters via machinery support, technology upgradation and common testing/certification centres.
- **National Handloom and Handicraft Programme** — integrates/strengthens existing schemes and gives targeted support to weavers and artisans.
- **Tex-Eco Initiative** — promotes globally competitive and sustainable textiles and apparel.
- **Samarth 2.0** — modernises the textile skilling ecosystem through collaboration with industry and academia.
- Mega Textile Parks: established in challenge mode, can focus on higher value addition including technical textiles.

**Exam trigger:** "challenge mode" as the selection mechanism for Mega Textile Parks.

---

## Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj Initiative BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Traditional industries ecosystem (Textiles-linked)

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Weavers, village industries, rural youth, and the One District One Product (ODOP) ecosystem.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: Khadi and handicraft artisans usually can't sell beyond their local area. This helps with branding, connects them to bigger markets, and trains them in better techniques.

- Purpose: strengthen Khadi, handloom and handicrafts.
- Focus: global market linkages, branding, training, skilling, production processes and quality.
- Expected beneficiaries: weavers, village industries, rural youth, and the **One District One Product (ODOP)** ecosystem.

**Exam trigger:** the three sectors.

---

## Scheme for Revival of 200 Legacy Industrial Clusters BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Commerce & Industry / DPIIT

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Enterprises and workers in the 200 identified legacy industrial clusters.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: old industrial towns often have outdated roads, power, and waste systems, which makes their products less competitive. This funds fixing that shared infrastructure in 200 such clusters.

- Target: **200** legacy industrial clusters — old, established manufacturing hubs whose shared infrastructure has fallen behind.
- Objective (Budget's own wording): improve their **cost competitiveness and operational efficiency** through targeted infrastructure and technology upgradation.

**Exam trigger:** the number 200.

---

## Self-Reliant India Fund — Additional Allocation BUDGET EXPANSION

**Status:** BUDGET EXPANSION

**Ministry:** MSME

**Start/Origin:** Originally set up 2021; additional allocation announced Budget 2026-27.

**Target Beneficiaries:** MSMEs/micro enterprises and growth-oriented firms needing risk or growth capital.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: like the Startup Fund of Funds, but for very small businesses — government money flows through investment funds, which then invest in micro enterprises that can't easily get bank loans.

- Self-Reliant India Fund was originally set up in **2021**; this Budget gives it an **additional ₹2,000 crore** top-up.
- Continues providing risk-capital (equity-style) support to micro enterprises, keeping their access to growth financing alive.
- Linked to the same "Corporate Mitras" mentorship push as the SME Growth Fund above.

**Exam trigger:** this is additional, not the fund's original corpus — a common trap.

---

## Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Finance

**Start/Origin:** Proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026; PIB re-highlighted March 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Private infrastructure developers and lenders financing projects during development and construction.

**Why in News:** Union Budget 2026-27 introduced it as a new infrastructure-financing measure; PIB re-highlighted it in March 2026 as a major innovation in infrastructure finance.

> In simple words: infrastructure projects often stall because investors fear delays or cost overruns. This fund covers some of that risk, so banks and investors feel safer funding these projects.

- Provides **partial credit guarantees** to lenders, specifically covering the riskiest phase of a project — **development and construction**, before it starts earning revenue.
- This construction-phase risk has historically been "largely unbankable" for Indian lenders, so de-risking it is meant to unlock financing for new (greenfield) infrastructure projects.
- Ministry of Finance initiative, aimed at improving private-sector participation in infrastructure.

**Exam trigger:** purpose — risk mitigation, not direct funding.

---

## Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Ports, Shipping & Waterways

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Cargo owners, logistics firms, and coastal shipping/inland-waterway operators.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: most goods in India move by road or rail today, which is costly and jams highways. This scheme makes shipping goods by sea or river cheaper, aiming to double that share by 2047.

- Target: raise inland-waterway/coastal-shipping modal share from **6% to 12% by 2047**.
- Announced alongside related freight moves: a new Dedicated Freight Corridor from **Dankuni to Surat**, and **20 new National Waterways** to be operationalised over five years, starting with **NW-5 in Odisha**.
- Also paired with a new ship-repair ecosystem for inland waterway vessels at **Varanasi and Patna**.

**Exam trigger:** the 6% → 12% by 2047 figures.

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## CCUS Programme BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Energy/heavy-industry ministries

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Hard-to-abate industries — power, steel, cement, refineries, chemicals.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

*Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage*

> In simple words: factories release CO2 that heats up the planet. CCUS technology catches this CO2 before it escapes and either reuses it or buries it underground. This money helps Indian industries adopt it — though Cabinet hasn't formally approved it yet, as the note above says.

- CCUS = Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage.
- Outlay proposed: **₹20,000 crore over 5 years**, across power, steel, cement, refineries, chemicals.
- Purpose: raise technology readiness and deployment in five major industrial sectors.
- Aligned with the Dec-2025 national CCUS roadmap and Net Zero 2070 goal.

> Cabinet approval reportedly still under consideration as of mid-2026 — don't upgrade this to "Cabinet approved" on an exam answer.

**Exam trigger:** ₹20,000 crore / 5 sectors / status still Budget-stage.

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## City Economic Regions (CER) Programme BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Housing & Urban Affairs

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Selected urban regions, Tier-II/Tier-III cities, temple towns, residents, and local businesses.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: instead of funding one city at a time, this groups nearby cities that share an economic strength — like a manufacturing belt — and funds them together, but only as they deliver on promised reforms.

- Allocation proposed: **₹5,000 crore per CER over 5 years**.
- Implementation: challenge mode with reform-cum-results-based financing.
- Focus: **Tier-II and Tier-III cities** — including temple towns — mapped around specific growth drivers.

**Exam trigger:** the figure is per-CER, not a total corpus.

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## Girls' Hostel in Every District BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Education / social infrastructure

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Girl students, especially those facing access constraints in higher education and STEM.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: many girls drop out of college because there's no safe place to stay nearby. This funds a hostel in every district so more girls can study away from home safely.

- VGF/capital support; coverage ambition: **one girls' hostel in every district**.
- Specifically aimed at girl students in **higher-education STEM institutions** — the Budget explicitly cites the difficulty of managing prolonged study and laboratory hours without safe nearby housing as the problem this solves.

**Exam trigger:** "every district" as the coverage claim.

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## Khelo India Mission — Budget Announcement BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Youth Affairs & Sports

**Start/Origin:** Proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026, as a decade-long mission building on the existing Khelo India programme.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Young athletes, coaches, support staff, schools, training centres, and the wider sports ecosystem.

**Why in News:** A major Union Budget 2026-27 announcement; the policy direction later connected with the revamped Khelo India Scheme and enhanced ANSF assistance approved 31 Jul 2026.

> In simple words: this was the Budget's first announcement of a decade-long sports plan. The actual funded scheme came later in July as the "Revamped Khelo India Scheme" (Chapter 6).

- Decade-long sports-development mission, building on the existing Khelo India programme.
- Five major areas highlighted: talent pathway; coaches/support staff; sports science and technology; competitions/leagues; sports infrastructure.
- Later linked to the revamped Khelo India Scheme, Cabinet-approved 31 July 2026 (Chapter 6).

**Exam trigger:** "decade-long mission" wording vs the July scheme's 2026-31 (5-year) outlay period — related but distinct facts.

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## Bharat-VISTAAR BUDGET INITIATIVE

**Status:** BUDGET INITIATIVE

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Farmers and users of Central agriculture services/schemes.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

*Virtually Integrated System To Access Agricultural Resources*

> In simple words: farmers often don't get advice suited to their own soil or region. This AI platform combines farm data and expert farming advice, and gives it to farmers in their own language.

- VISTAAR = Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources.
- Multilingual AI tool integrating AgriStack portals and ICAR packages on agricultural practices with AI systems.
- Purpose: improve access to timely, localised farm knowledge and advisory services.

**Exam trigger:** full-form acronym — very high probability item for NDA/CDS/CAPF GK.

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## Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Persons with disabilities seeking industry-relevant skills and employment.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: this trains persons with disabilities for real jobs — like animation, IT support, or hospitality — matched to what they can do and what employers are hiring for.

- Customised, industry-relevant training for Divyangjan.
- Focus sectors highlighted: IT, AVGC (Animation-VFX-Gaming-Comics), hospitality, food and beverages.
- Objective: dignified livelihood opportunities through task-oriented/process-driven roles.
- Announced alongside a companion scheme, **Divyang Sahara Yojana** — assistive devices via ALIMCO and Assistive Technology Marts.

**Exam trigger:** the four focus sectors.

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## Integrated Development of 500 Reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars

BUDGET INITIATIVE

**Status:** BUDGET INITIATIVE

**Ministry:** Agriculture/fisheries/water-resource convergence

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026; implementation planning continued through 2026 under PMMSY.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Reservoir fishermen, fish farmers, women SHGs, fisheries cooperatives, and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations.

**Why in News:** PIB repeatedly highlighted the initiative in March and July 2026 as States/UTs prepared implementation plans and Parliament was informed of its components.

> In simple words: many old water bodies in India have silted up and gone unused. This funds cleaning and reviving them for irrigation, fishing, and recharging groundwater.

- Target: **500** reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars, developed as **fisheries hubs**; implementation planning continued through 2026 under the PMMSY framework.
- Target beneficiaries: reservoir fishermen, fish farmers, women SHGs, fisheries cooperatives, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs).
- Possible components: hatcheries/quality seed, cage and pen culture, boats and nets, composite/integrated fish farming.
- Infrastructure may include feed mills, cold storage, ice plants, fish kiosks/retail markets, transport vehicles, value-addition units.
- Unit cost/funding pattern follows applicable PMMSY guidelines and State/UT Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
- PIB repeatedly highlighted this initiative in March and July 2026 as States/UTs prepared implementation plans.

**Exam trigger:** the number 500.

## Construction & Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Enhancement Scheme

BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Heavy Industries

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Domestic manufacturers of advanced construction and infrastructure equipment.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: heavy machines used for building roads and metros — cranes, excavators, tunnel machines — are mostly imported. This funds Indian companies to build this equipment at home.

- Full name: **Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment (CIE)**.
- Objective: strengthen domestic manufacturing of **high-value, technologically advanced** construction/infra equipment.
- Budget examples ranged from lifts and fire-fighting equipment to tunnel-boring equipment for metros and equipment for high-altitude roads.

**Exam trigger:** CIE full form.

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## Container Manufacturing Scheme

BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Ports, Shipping & Waterways / manufacturing ecosystem

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Container manufacturers, ports, logistics firms, exporters, and shipping-sector users.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: nearly every shipping container India uses comes from China. India makes only about 30,000 a year on its own. When there was a global shortage, Indian exporters had to pay 3-5 times normal freight costs. This ₹10,000 crore helps Indian companies start making containers themselves — aiming for 1 million TEU of capacity within a decade — so exporters aren't so dependent on imports.

- Allocation: **over ₹10,000 crore for 5 years**, for a globally competitive domestic container-manufacturing ecosystem.
- Longer-term target cited alongside the scheme: build toward **1 million TEU** of annual domestic container-manufacturing capacity over 10 years — up from India's current output of roughly 30,000 units a year.
- Falls under the broader Make in India push, alongside the CIE Scheme above.

**Exam trigger:** third scheme this chapter with a ₹10,000-crore-class figure — keep it separate from Startup FoF 2.0 and SME Growth Fund.

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## PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana — Budget Boost & Progress Update

BUDGET OUTLAY INCREASE + IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

**Status:** BUDGET OUTLAY INCREASE + IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

**Ministry:** New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) — existing scheme, launched 13 Feb 2024

**Start/Origin:** Existing scheme, launched 13 Feb 2024; Budget 2026-27 raised its outlay.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Residential electricity consumers/households applying for rooftop solar installation.

**Why in News:** Budget 2026-27 raised the outlay, and implementation progress figures were reported through the year.

> In simple words: this pays households to put solar panels on their own roof, so their electricity bill drops. It's a different, older scheme from PM Surya Sarovar Yojana in Chapter 6, which is about big floating solar plants on reservoirs, not home rooftops.

- Budget 2026-27 allocation raised to **₹22,000 crore** (up from ₹17,000 crore RE in FY26).
- Progress as of 19 Mar 2026: **26.19 lakh** rooftop solar installations completed; **₹17,967.53 crore** Central Financial Assistance disbursed since launch.
- Progress as of May 2026: **60.95 lakh** applications received, **31.38 lakh** installations completed, **38.40 lakh** households covered, cumulative capacity **11,335.27 MW**.
- Target: 1 crore rooftop solar installations in the residential sector by FY 2026-27.

**Exam trigger:** don't confuse this with PM Surya Sarovar Yojana (Chapter 6, floating solar) — Surya Ghar is rooftop residential solar, a different scheme entirely, launched 2024.

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## PM-SETU — Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs

MAJOR 2026 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

**Status:** MAJOR 2026 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

**Ministry:** Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

**Start/Origin:** Approved 2025 as a major ITI/NSTI modernisation programme; accelerated implementation/ State rollout in 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** ITI/NSTI trainees, trainers, young job-seekers, and industry seeking job-ready skilled manpower.

**Why in News:** Implementation of the 1,000-ITI Hub-and-Spoke modernisation model and State-level rollout were highlighted in 2026.

> In simple words: ITIs (Industrial Training Institutes) train India's electricians, fitters, welders and similar skilled workers, but many run on old equipment and outdated courses. This scheme upgrades 1,000 government ITIs — 200 "Hub" ITIs get the biggest upgrade and act as a resource centre for 800 smaller "Spoke" ITIs around them — with modern labs, digital content and courses matched to what industry actually needs.

- Approved in 2025; 2026 news is about accelerated implementation and State-level rollout of the Hub-and-Spoke model.
- **1,000 Government ITIs** upgraded: **200 Hub ITIs + 800 Spoke ITIs**.
- Upgrades: smart classrooms, modern labs, digital content, industry-aligned courses, stronger trainer capacity at NSTIs.

**Exam trigger:** full form (PM-SETU) + the 1,000 / 200 Hub / 800 Spoke structure.

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## Rare Earth Corridors BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Mines / strategic manufacturing ecosystem

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Rare-earth mining, processing, research, and manufacturing ecosystems in identified mineral-rich States.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: rare-earth elements go into magnets used in EV motors, wind turbines and defence electronics — and China dominates global supply. This proposes dedicated "corridors" in mineral-rich states to mine, process and manufacture rare-earth products domestically, so India isn't dependent on one country for these critical materials.

- Budget proposed support to mineral-rich states **Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** for dedicated Rare Earth Corridors.
- Focus: mining, processing, research and manufacturing.
- Related background: a separate Scheme for Rare Earth Permanent Magnets had already been launched in November 2025.

**Exam trigger:** the four named states; don't confuse this Budget-stage corridor idea with the November-2025 Permanent Magnets scheme — related but different.

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## Dedicated Sports Goods Initiative BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Sports/manufacturing ecosystem

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Indian sports-goods manufacturers, designers, researchers, and innovation-led firms.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: India imports a lot of sports equipment despite having a domestic sports-goods manufacturing base (e.g. Jalandhar). This pushes Indian sports-goods makers to invest more in R&D, design and materials science, so India makes higher-quality equipment itself.

- Purpose: promote domestic sports-goods manufacturing, research and innovation.
- Focus areas: equipment design and material sciences.

**Exam trigger:** this is a manufacturing scheme, not an athlete-support scheme — don't confuse with Khelo India.

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## Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers — Disclosure Scheme (FAST-DS), 2026

BUDGET TAX SCHEME

**Status:** BUDGET TAX SCHEME

**Ministry:** Finance / Income Tax Department

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Specified small taxpayers with eligible undisclosed foreign assets/foreign-source income within prescribed conditions.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: if a small taxpayer forgot to declare a foreign bank account or asset, this gives them a one-time, time-bound window to come clean without facing the usual harsh penalties — as long as their case fits specific, limited conditions.

- One-time, time-bound **6-month disclosure window** for specified small taxpayers with foreign assets/foreign-source income below prescribed thresholds.
- Two taxpayer categories proposed, with differing thresholds/settlement conditions.
- Exam caution: this is a tax-compliance disclosure scheme, not a welfare scheme.

**Exam trigger:** this is a tax-compliance scheme, not a welfare scheme — a common examiner trap given how many other "Yojana"-style names surround it.

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## Divyang Sahara Yojana

BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Dept of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Divyangjan and senior citizens needing high-quality assistive devices.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: this is the companion scheme to Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana — where that one is about skilling/jobs, this one is about the physical tools: wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids and similar assistive devices, made better, cheaper and easier to access.

- Supports **ALIMCO** (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India) to scale up production, invest in R&D, and integrate AI into assistive devices.
- Strengthens PM Divyasha Kendras and sets up **Assistive Technology Marts** — modern retail-style centres — for Divyangjan and senior citizens.

**Exam trigger:** Divyang Sahara (devices) vs Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana (skilling/jobs) — two different, companion schemes announced together.

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## AVGC Content Creator Labs in Schools and Colleges BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Information & Broadcasting / Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Mumbai

**Start/Origin:** Proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Students and young creators in secondary schools and colleges seeking AVGC skills.

**Why in News:** Union Budget 2026-27 proposed a major scale-up of creative-technology education as the AVGC sector was projected to require ~2 million professionals by 2030.

> In simple words: India's animation/gaming/VFX industry is projected to need about 2 million professionals by 2030, but there's no large-scale way to introduce students to these skills early. This sets up hands-on content-creation labs directly inside schools and colleges to build that talent pipeline.

- Target: AVGC Content Creator Labs in **15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges**.
- Implementing anchor: the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), Mumbai.

**Exam trigger:** 15,000 schools + 500 colleges + AVGC + IICT Mumbai.

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## Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) / Indian Carbon Market — 2026 Operationalisation EXISTING SCHEME — MAJOR 2026 OPERATIONALISATION

**Status:** EXISTING SCHEME — MAJOR 2026 OPERATIONALISATION

**Ministry:** Power / Bureau of Energy Efficiency

**Start/Origin:** CCTS notified earlier to create the Indian Carbon Market; major operationalisation detailed 5 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Energy-intensive industries and other eligible entities that can reduce, remove, or avoid greenhouse-gas emissions.

**Why in News:** On 5 Feb 2026, PIB detailed major operationalisation steps for an existing scheme.

> In simple words: companies that cut their emissions below target can earn tradable "carbon credits" and sell them; companies that pollute more than allowed have to buy credits to cover the gap. This turns cutting emissions into something with real market value, giving high-polluting industries a financial reason to clean up.

- Compliance mechanism: Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity targets notified for **seven energy-intensive sectors**.
- Offset mechanism: approved methodologies put in place.
- **MRV** = Monitoring, Reporting and Verification — procedures for accrediting carbon-verification agencies were established.
- Industries can meet targets by improving efficiency and adopting low-carbon technologies.

**Exam trigger:** MRV full form + "seven energy-intensive sectors" — this is an existing scheme reaching operational maturity in 2026, not a brand-new one.

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## PLI Scheme for Textiles — Registration Extension / 2026 Update

**EXISTING PLI SCHEME — APPLICATION WINDOW EXTENDED**

**Status:** EXISTING PLI SCHEME — APPLICATION WINDOW EXTENDED

**Ministry:** Textiles

**Start/Origin:** Existing PLI scheme for MMF apparel, MMF fabrics and technical textiles; deadline extended 10 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible textile manufacturers, including mid-sized firms and MSMEs.

**Why in News:** PIB reported on 10 Feb 2026 that the application deadline had been extended after earlier amendments made participation easier.

> In simple words: this existing incentive scheme for man-made-fibre (MMF) apparel/fabric and technical textiles wasn't attracting enough mid-sized and small manufacturers. So the government relaxed the entry rules and gave companies more time to apply.

- PIB reported on 10 Feb 2026 that the application deadline was extended to **31 March 2026**.
- Earlier amendments reduced the minimum investment requirement by **50%**.
- Incremental turnover criterion was reduced from **25% to 10%**.
- Seventeen new MMF apparel/fabric products were added to the notified product basket.
- Requirement to set up a brand-new company to claim benefits was relaxed.

**Exam trigger:** this is the original textiles PLI (separate from the "National Fibre Scheme" Budget announcement) getting easier to enter, not a new scheme.

## Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-I & VVP-II) — 2026 Implementation Update EXISTING FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME — MAJOR 2026 UPDATE

**Status:** EXISTING FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME — MAJOR 2026 UPDATE

**Ministry:** Home Affairs

**Start/Origin:** VVP-I approved 15 Feb 2023 (CSS); VVP-II approved 2 Apr 2025 (Central Sector Scheme); fresh update 3 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Residents of strategically located villages along India's international land borders.

**Why in News:** PIB gave a fresh implementation update on 3 Feb 2026, including the number of priority villages under both phases.

> In simple words: villages right on India's international border often empty out because people move to cities for better roads, jobs, and services. This programme develops those border villages directly — better roads, connectivity, livelihoods — so people have a reason to stay, which also strengthens India's presence along sensitive borders.

- VVP-I approved **15 Feb 2023** (Centrally Sponsored Scheme); VVP-II approved **2 Apr 2025** (Central Sector Scheme).
- PIB gave a fresh implementation update on 3 Feb 2026 with village counts under both phases.
- **VVP-I:** 662 villages identified across 46 blocks of 19 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Ladakh.
- **VVP-II:** 1,954 villages identified across blocks adjoining international land borders of 15 States and 2 UTs (excluding the northern-border area already covered by VVP-I).

**Exam trigger:** VVP-I (662 villages, 5 northern-border States/UT) vs VVP-II (1,954 villages, 15 States + 2 UTs) — a classic "which phase covers how many villages" question.

## Scheme for Dedicated Chemical Parks BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Status:** BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ministry:** Dept of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27, 1 Feb 2026; evolved into BHAVYA-Rasayan (Chapter 6).

**Target Beneficiaries:** Chemical manufacturers, investors, and States developing dedicated chemical clusters.

**Why in News:** Announced/proposed in Union Budget 2026-27, making it a fresh policy initiative for the 2026 current-affairs cycle.

> In simple words: this is the original Budget-stage idea — three plug-and-play chemical parks with shared infrastructure so chemical companies don't each have to build their own waste-treatment and utility systems. It later became a fully funded Cabinet-approved scheme in July, renamed BHAVYA-Rasayan (Chapter 6).

- Budget proposed support to States for **3 dedicated Chemical Parks** through a challenge route on a cluster-based, plug-and-play model.
- Purpose: increase domestic chemical production and reduce import dependence.
- Important chronology: this Feb Budget proposal evolved into the Cabinet-approved **BHAVYA-Rasayan** scheme in July 2026 (Chapter 6) — same initiative, don't count as two separate schemes.

**Exam trigger:** Feb Budget proposal → July Cabinet approval as BHAVYA-Rasayan — same chronology pattern as ISM 2.0 → Semicon 2.0.

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## Self Help Entrepreneur Marts (SHE-Marts)

BUDGET INITIATIVE / DAY-NRLM MARKET-ACCESS MEASURE

**Status:** BUDGET INITIATIVE / DAY-NRLM MARKET-ACCESS MEASURE

**Ministry:** Department of Rural Development

**Start/Origin:** Announced in Union Budget 2026-27; implementation strategy discussed March-June 2026 under DAY-NRLM.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Rural women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Group members, particularly those moving from credit-linked livelihoods to enterprise ownership.

**Why in News:** PIB clarified the model in March 2026, and in June, Rural Development highlighted an implementation strategy in support of the 6-crore Lakhpati Didi goal.

> In simple words: rural women's Self-Help Groups often make good products (food, handicrafts, textiles) but struggle to sell them beyond their own village. SHE-Marts are community-owned retail outlets that give SHG products a proper storefront and visibility, helping women move from just borrowing credit to actually owning and running a business.

- SHE = Self Help Entrepreneur. Announced in Union Budget 2026-27; implementation strategy discussed March-June 2026 under DAY-NRLM.
- Marts are envisaged as community-owned retail outlets within Cluster Level Federations.
- June 2026 strategy highlighted **700 SHE-Marts** and **1,000 District Fulfilment Centres**.
- Linked closely with the **6-crore Lakhpati Didi** goal (Chapter 1) and the wider enterprise-promotion push.

**Exam trigger:** 700 SHE-Marts + 1,000 District Fulfilment Centres — and its link to the Lakhpati Didi target.

# Chapter 2 · March 2026

The heaviest Cabinet-approval month in the whole window

## Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 CABINET APPROVED / RESTRUCTURED · 10 Mar 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED / RESTRUCTURED · 10 Mar 2026

**Ministry:** Jal Shakti

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved restructuring, 10 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Rural households and village drinking-water systems.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: the original JJM laid pipes to give every rural home a tap. JJM 2.0 is about the harder next step — making sure water actually keeps flowing for years, with local communities managing and maintaining the systems.

- Total outlay: **₹8.69 lakh crore**, including **₹3.59 lakh crore** Central assistance (an additional **₹1.51 lakh crore** Central share over the earlier approval).
- Period extended to **December 2028**.
- Introduces **'Sujalam Bharat'** — a national digital framework; every village gets a unique Sujal Gaon/Service Area ID mapping water systems source-to-tap.
- Shift in focus: from infrastructure creation to sustainable service delivery, governance, O&M, community participation.

**Exam trigger:** the three outlay figures (8.69 / 3.59 / 1.51 lakh crore) are frequently confused with each other — memorise which is total, which is Central assistance, which is additional.

## Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

**CABINET APPROVED · 18 Mar 2026**

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 18 Mar 2026

**Ministry:** New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 18 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Small-hydro developers, remote/hilly communities, States, and the renewable-energy ecosystem.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: small hydro projects on rivers and streams are often ignored next to giant dams, but they work well for hilly, remote areas that are hard to connect to the main power grid. This scheme funds developing them.

- Outlay: **₹2,584.60 crore**. Period: **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**. Target: ~**1,500 MW** of new small-hydro capacity.
- Eligible project size: **1-25 MW**.
- Special Central Financial Assistance (CFA): in North-East and international-border districts, up to ₹3.6 crore/MW or 30% of project cost (lower of the two), capped at ₹30 crore/project; other States, ₹2.4 crore/MW or 20%, capped at ₹20 crore/project.
- Estimated construction employment: ~51 lakh person-days (PIB backgrounder).
- Focus: hilly/remote-area small-hydro potential. Operational guidelines launched June 2026.

**Exam trigger:** distinct from large-hydropower policy — don't conflate.

## Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) CABINET APPROVED · 18 Mar 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 18 Mar 2026

**Ministry:** DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 18 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** States, industrial investors, and manufacturers using new plug-and-play industrial parks.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: setting up a factory in India usually means dealing with many departments and building your own roads and power connections, which takes years. BHAVYA builds ready-to-use industrial parks where all this is already done, so a company can just move in and start manufacturing.

- Allocation: **₹33,660 crore**.
- Target: **100** plug-and-play industrial parks, developed with States and private players.
- Focus: world-class industrial infra, single-window systems, deregulation, ease of doing business.
- Digital implementation portal ("BHAVYA Portal") launched 8 June 2026.

NOT the same scheme as BHAVYA-Rasayan (chemical parks, Cabinet approved 24 July, Chapter 6) — shared branding word, different scheme, different outlay.

**Exam trigger:** ₹33,660 crore / 100 parks — and the BHAVYA vs BHAVYA-Rasayan distinction is a deliberate examiner trap.

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## Regional Connectivity Scheme – Modified UDAN

CABINET APPROVED · 25 Mar 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 25 Mar 2026

**Ministry:** Civil Aviation

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 25 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Passengers in underserved/unserved areas, Tier-II/Tier-III cities, regional airlines, and aerodromes.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: airlines avoid flying to small towns because too few people book those flights. UDAN pays the airline part of that shortfall and funds small airports, so more small towns get air connectivity.

- Outlay: **₹28,840 crore**. Period: **FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36** (10 years).
- Focus: unserved/underserved areas, Tier-2/3 cities, remote/hilly connectivity, regional aerodrome viability, indigenous aerospace.
- Further PIB detail: **100 airports** proposed from existing unserved airstrips; O&M support for about **441 aerodromes**; **200 modern helipads** for hilly/remote/island/aspirational regions; and **₹10,043 crore** of VGF support for airline operators over 10 years.
- UDAN = Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik.

**Exam trigger:** 10-year period + full form of UDAN.

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## PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana — Implementation

IMPLEMENTATION · March 2026

**Status:** IMPLEMENTATION · March 2026

**Ministry:** Labour & Employment

**Start/Origin:** PM-VBRY launched 1 Aug 2025; financial-benefit disbursal began March 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** First-time employees and eligible employers creating additional formal jobs.

**Why in News:** It had a material 2026 implementation development — first-instalment rollout in March, and a fresh disbursement milestone in June.

> In simple words: companies often hesitate to hire first-time employees because of training costs. This scheme pays both the new employee and the employer money as an incentive to hire someone into their first formal job.

- PM-VBRY was launched **1 August 2025**; financial-benefit disbursal was scheduled to begin from March 2026.
- First-time employees: incentive up to **₹15,000**, subject to conditions; employee + employer incentives.
- Face Authentication Technology made mandatory for new joiners/first-time members in the rollout.
- Fresh June 2026 milestone: on **19 June 2026**, incentives worth **₹2,400 crore** were disbursed to more than **15 lakh beneficiaries**.

**Exam trigger:** ₹15,000 ceiling for first-time employees.

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## PM-KISAN — 22nd Instalment

RELEASED · 13 Mar 2026

**Status:** RELEASED · 13 Mar 2026

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** PM-KISAN launched 24 Feb 2019; 22nd instalment released 13 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible landholding farmer families across India.

**Why in News:** The 22nd instalment was released 13 Mar 2026 with a major DBT transfer to eligible farmer families.

> In simple words: this is just a routine payment — money farmers already enrolled in PM-KISAN are owed under the scheme's ₹6,000-a-year benefit, paid out three times a year.

- Amount: over **₹18,640 crore**, to ~**9.32 crore** farmers.
- More than **2.15 crore** women beneficiaries highlighted.
- Cumulative transfers crossed **₹4.27 lakh crore** at this stage.

**Exam trigger:** instalment number (22nd) — cross-check against the 23rd instalment (June, Chapter 5).

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## IVFRT Scheme — Five-Year Extension **EXTENDED · 25 Mar 2026**

**Status:** EXTENDED · 25 Mar 2026

**Ministry:** Home Affairs

**Start/Origin:** Originally approved by CCEA, 13 May 2010; extended 25 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Legitimate international travellers, foreign nationals using immigration/visa services, and security/immigration agencies.

**Why in News:** A major continuation/extension was approved/announced in 2026.

*Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking*

> In simple words: earlier, a foreigner's visa, entry record, and police registration were on separate systems, making it easy to lose track of someone. IVFRT links it all into one system so officials can track a visitor from arrival to departure.

- Originally approved by CCEA on **13 May 2010**; extended for another **5 years**: 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031.
- Outlay: **₹1,800 crore**.
- Integrates immigration, visa issuance, foreigner registration/tracking within a secure service-delivery framework.

**Exam trigger:** full form + the 2026–2031 window.

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## National Ayush Mission — Infrastructure Expansion Update

**IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

**Status:** IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

**Ministry:** Ayush (existing centrally sponsored scheme, launched 2014-15)

**Start/Origin:** Existing centrally sponsored scheme, launched 2014-15; disclosed 13 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Patients seeking Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy treatment near home.

**Why in News:** Disclosed via Lok Sabha written reply, 13 Mar 2026.

> In simple words: this is just new traditional-medicine hospitals and dispensaries — Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy — being added under an existing scheme, so more people get easy access near home.

- **203** Integrated Ayush Hospitals and **383** new Ayush dispensaries approved across States/UTs.
- Uttar Pradesh has the largest dispensary share (250), followed by Assam (100).
- ₹424.24 crore released as grant-in-aid to States/UTs in the current financial year.
- Disclosed via Lok Sabha written reply, 13 Mar 2026.

**Exam trigger:** the 203/383 figures, and UP's leading dispensary share — this updates an existing 2014-launched mission, not a new scheme.

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## Research, Development & Innovation (RDI) Scheme — Operationalisation Update EXISTING SCHEME IN NEWS

**Status:** EXISTING SCHEME IN NEWS

**Ministry:** Department of Science & Technology

**Start/Origin:** Approved July 2025, launched November 2025; major operational phase in 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Private-sector technology firms, startups, research-led entities, and eligible innovation projects.

**Why in News:** The scheme entered a new operational phase in 2026, including designation of fund managers and disbursal for onward technology financing.

> In simple words: India's private companies often avoid long-shot, high-risk research because the payoff is uncertain and years away. This is a large, patient pool of government money (₹1 lakh crore) that gets lent out through intermediary "fund managers" to finance exactly that kind of research — the kind banks and regular VCs won't touch.

- Approved July 2025, launched November 2025, with a **₹1 lakh crore corpus over 6 years**.
- In 2026, the Technology Development Board (TDB) and BIRAC were designated as Second-Level Fund Managers.
- **₹500 crore** disbursed to TDB in March 2026 for onward financing of eligible technology entities.

**Exam trigger:** ₹1 lakh crore / 6 years corpus + TDB and BIRAC as fund managers.

## Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses — Major 2026 Implementation Update EXISTING 2025 MISSION — MAJOR MARCH 2026 UPDATE

**Status:** EXISTING 2025 MISSION — MAJOR MARCH 2026 UPDATE

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved 1 Oct 2025; PM launched 11 Oct 2025; major implementation update March 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Nearly 2 crore pulse farmers; special focus on Tur, Urad and Masoor growers; States/ UTs, seed systems, FPO/cooperative and processing ecosystems.

**Why in News:** PIB issued detailed implementation updates in March 2026, including focus districts, seed-kit targets, processing-unit targets and procurement progress.

> In simple words: India grows the most pulses (dal) in the world but still imports 15-20% of what it eats, because production hasn't kept up with demand. This mission gives farmers better seeds, guarantees the government will buy tur/urad/masoor at a fixed price for four years, and builds processing units — all aimed at closing that import gap.

- ⚠ Cabinet approved this Centrally Sponsored Scheme on **1 October 2025** (outside this book's Feb-Jul 2026 window); PM launched it 11 Oct 2025. What happened in **March 2026** was a detailed PIB/Parliament implementation update, not a fresh approval.
- Outlay: **₹11,440 crore over six years (2025-26 to 2030-31)**.
- Production target: ~350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31; cultivation area target ~310 lakh hectares (35 lakh hectare expansion: 24.5 lakh in traditional areas, 10.5 lakh in non-traditional areas).
- 489 districts identified for pulse clusters; 87.5 lakh seed kits targeted over six years.
- 1,000 pulse processing units targeted; first-phase target of 528 units allotted to States/UTs; assistance is 33% of project cost or up to ₹25 lakh, whichever is lower.
- Assured procurement of Tur, Urad and Masoor through NAFED/NCCF under PSS/PM-AASHA norms — offered as 100% procurement from registered farmers for four years, subject to conditions. By March 2026, ~1.5 lakh pulse farmers had already registered for the Rabi 2026-27 procurement season.

**Exam trigger:** cite **1 Oct 2025** if asked when it was approved; cite **March 2026** only for the implementation-progress figures. ₹11,440 crore / 6 years / 350 lakh tonnes target are the core numbers.

# Chapter 3 · April 2026

Rural roads, fertiliser subsidy, maritime insurance, and the labour-codes milestone

## PMGSY-III — Extension EXTENDED · 18 Apr 2026

**Status:** EXTENDED · 18 Apr 2026

**Ministry:** Rural Development

**Start/Origin:** PMGSY launched 25 Dec 2000; PMGSY-III extended 18 Apr 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Rural habitations and communities dependent on all-weather road links to markets, schools, and health facilities.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: earlier PMGSY phases built new roads to connect villages for the first time. Phase III instead upgrades those existing roads to make them better and more durable.

- Extended up to **March 2028** (selected hilly-region bridge works up to March 2029).
- Revised outlay: **₹83,977 crore**.
- Purpose: consolidate Through Routes and Major Rural Links connecting habitations to GrAMs (Gram Panchayat-level rural agricultural markets), higher secondary schools and hospitals.

**Exam trigger:** revised outlay + the two different end-dates (general vs hilly bridges).

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## Nutrient Based Subsidy — Kharif 2026 ANNUAL SCHEME DECISION · 8 Apr 2026

**Status:** ANNUAL SCHEME DECISION · 8 Apr 2026

**Ministry:** Dept of Fertilizers

**Start/Origin:** NBS for P&K fertilisers has operated since 1 Apr 2010; Kharif 2026 rates approved April 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Farmers using phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, and fertiliser manufacturers/importers operating under NBS.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: farmers pay less than the market price for fertilisers like DAP, and the government pays the difference to fertiliser companies. This decision just sets that subsidy rate for this season.

- Approved rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertiliser subsidy, applicable **1 April to 30 September 2026**.
- Tentative budgetary requirement: ~**₹41,533.81 crore** — about **₹4,317 crore more** than Kharif 2025.

**Exam trigger:** NBS = P&K fertilisers specifically, not urea (urea has its own separate policy — see Chapter 6).

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## Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool — Sovereign Guarantee

**CABINET APPROVED · 18 Apr 2026**

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 18 Apr 2026

**Ministry:** Ports, Shipping & Waterways / financial-insurance ecosystem

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 18 Apr 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Indian shipping, cargo, and maritime stakeholders exposed to hull, cargo, P&I, and war-risk insurance needs.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: after recent conflicts, some foreign insurers refused to insure Indian ships in risky waters like the Red Sea. This pool is India's own backup — the government guarantees ₹12,980 crore so Indian insurers can cover ships without depending on foreign companies.

- Sovereign guarantee: **₹12,980 crore** for the domestic insurance pool.
- Coverage: hull & machinery, cargo, P&I, war risk.
- Strategic aim: shipping resilience against geopolitical/external insurance disruption.

**Exam trigger:** the ₹12,980 crore sovereign-guarantee figure.

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## Four Labour Codes — Central Rules Notified

**MAJOR MILESTONE · Central Rules notified 8–9 May 2026**

**Status:** MAJOR MILESTONE · Central Rules notified 8–9 May 2026

**Ministry:** Labour & Employment

**Start/Origin:** Codes came into force 21 Nov 2025; Central Rules notified 8–9 May 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** All Indian employers and employees, including — for the first time — gig and platform workers.

**Why in News:** Central Rules were notified 8-9 May 2026, moving the Codes from legal force to operational readiness.

> In simple words: India used to run on 29 separate, old labour laws. These four Codes combine all of them into simpler rules — like one minimum-wage rule for the whole country, faster final settlement when leaving a job, and social security for gig workers for the first time.

- The 4 Codes — Code on Wages (2019), Industrial Relations Code (2020), Code on Social Security (2020), Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code (2020) — had already come into force **21 Nov 2025**, repealing 29 central labour laws.
- Final Central Rules — Code on Wages (Central) Rules 2026, Social Security (Central) Rules 2026, OSH&WC (Central) Rules 2026, Industrial Relations (Central) Rules 2026 — notified **8–9 May 2026**.
- State-level rules still rolling out unevenly across States/UTs as of mid-2026.
- MGNREGS transitions to the new Social Security Code framework, with transitional protection for ongoing works/eKYC job cards.

> Don't confuse "Codes notified" (Nov 2025) with "Central Rules notified" (May 2026) — this is the single biggest labour-law story of the whole Feb-Jul window.

**Exam trigger:** the two dates, and the fact that 29 old laws stand repealed.

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## SADHANA Saptah 2026 — National Learning Week under Mission Karmayogi NATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE

**Status:** NATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE

**Ministry:** Dept of Personnel & Training; Capacity Building Commission, Karmayogi Bharat

**Start/Origin:** Organised April 2026, marking 5 years of Mission Karmayogi.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Government functionaries across Central Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, training institutions, and frontline public-service systems.

**Why in News:** The nationwide 2026 learning campaign began in April and recorded exceptionally large participation/course-completion numbers on the iGOT Karmayogi platform.

> In simple words: this is a nationwide "training week" for government employees — from Central ministries down to States and frontline workers — pushing everyone to complete courses on an online learning platform (iGOT Karmayogi), to mark five years of the government's civil-service capacity-building mission.

- Full form: **S**trengthening **A**daptive **D**evelopment and **H**umane **A**ptitude for **N**ational **A**dvancement.
- Core Saptah: 2-8 April 2026 (campaign activity tracked through 10 April).
- Participation: 100+ Central Ministries/Departments, 30+ States/UTs, 250+ training institutions.
- Results: over **3.18 crore** course completions by the concluding update, including **1.48 crore+** by frontline workers alone.
- Tagline: *Ham Bane Karmayogi*.

**Exam trigger:** SADHANA full form + the 3.18 crore course-completion figure.

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## Space Laboratories in Universities and Colleges

NEW 2026 CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE

**Status:** NEW 2026 CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE

**Ministry:** Department of Space / IN-SPACe ecosystem

**Start/Origin:** Plan reviewed and announced 26 Apr 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** University and college students, young researchers, and future professionals entering India's space sector.

**Why in News:** The Department of Space reviewed the national plan in April 2026 and announced seven labs in the first phase.

> In simple words: as India's private space industry grows, it needs a steady pipeline of trained young engineers. This puts hands-on satellite, rocketry and mission-design labs directly inside universities and colleges, so students get real experience before they graduate.

- Plan reviewed and announced **26 April 2026**; first phase: **7 Space Laboratories** in universities/colleges across India.
- Hands-on areas: satellite systems, rocketry, mission design.

**Exam trigger:** 7 labs, first phase — a government space-sector capacity-building initiative, not a welfare scheme.

# Chapter 4 · May 2026

Cotton, credit guarantees, coal gasification, and the PDS overhaul

## Mission for Cotton Productivity CABINET APPROVED · 5 May 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 5 May 2026

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (Textiles-linked)

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 5 May 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Cotton farmers, State agriculture systems, KVKs, agricultural universities, and the textile value chain.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: Indian cotton farms produce less per hectare than competitors like China or the US, and quality issues hurt export prices. This mission funds better seeds and cleaner harvesting to fix both.

- Outlay: **₹5,659.22 crore**. Period: **2026-27 to 2030-31**.
- Focus: HYV seeds, disease/pest resistance, improved crop technologies, reduced contamination.
- Implementation partners: State Governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), State Agricultural Universities.
- Linked to the **5F vision**: Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign.

**Exam trigger:** the 5F vision sequence is a very likely fill-in-the-blank.

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## Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0 (ECLGS 5.0)

CABINET APPROVED · 5 May 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 5 May 2026

**Ministry:** Dept of Financial Services

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 5 May 2026, amid West Asia crisis liquidity stress.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible MSMEs, specified non-MSMEs, and airlines facing liquidity stress.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: when a crisis hits, banks get scared to lend to small businesses. Under ECLGS, if a bank lends anyway, the government promises to cover most of that loan if the business can't repay — so banks keep lending during the crisis.

- Response to liquidity stress from West Asia-related disruption.
- Target additional credit flow: **₹2.55 lakh crore**, including **₹5,000 crore** for airlines.
- Guarantee: **100%** for eligible MSME credit, **90%** for specified eligible non-MSMEs/airlines.
- Guarantee administered through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (**NCGTC**) to Member Lending Institutions.

**Exam trigger:** 100% vs 90% guarantee split is the classic trap.

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## Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Promotion Scheme

**CABINET APPROVED · 13 May 2026**

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 13 May 2026

**Ministry:** Coal

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 13 May 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Coal/lignite gasification project developers and downstream chemical/fertiliser/energy users.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: burning coal directly is very polluting. Turning it into gas first lets it be converted into cleaner fuels and chemicals that India currently imports. This scheme funds building plants that do this conversion.

- Outlay: **₹37,500 crore**.
- Supports the national goal of gasifying **100 MT coal by 2030**.
- Reduces dependence on imported LNG, methanol, ammonia, urea.
- Accompanying reform: coal-linkage tenure extended up to **30 years** for the "Production of Syngas leading to Coal Gasification" sub-sector in NRS (Non-Regulated Sector) auctions.

**Exam trigger:** the 100 MT-by-2030 target.

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## SARTHAK-PDS **CABINET APPROVED (UMBRELLA CONTINUATION) · 27 May 2026**

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED (UMBRELLA CONTINUATION) · 27 May 2026

**Ministry:** Dept of Food & Public Distribution

**Start/Origin:** CCEA approved, 27 May 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** NFSA/PDS beneficiaries, Fair Price Shops, and State food-distribution systems.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: running ration shops involves transporting grain and paying shopkeepers a margin — this used to be funded by several overlapping schemes. SARTHAK-PDS merges them into one, and adds tech like automatic weighing machines to stop grain theft.

- Full umbrella name: **S**cheme for **A**ssistance in **R**ation **T**ransport and **H**andling-Income with **A**utomation in PDS.
- Central share: **₹25,530 crore** over 5 years, under the 16th Finance Commission cycle.
- Integrates two schemes: assistance for intra-State foodgrain movement/FPS dealer margins under NFSA, and SMART-PDS technology reforms.

**Exam trigger:** name (SARTHAK-PDS) + the ₹25,530 crore Central share.

# Chapter 5 · June 2026

Pollution control, aviation fuel, and implementation follow-through

## Delhi-NCR Old Truck & Bus Replacement Scheme CABINET APPROVED · 3 Jun 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 3 Jun 2026

**Ministry:** MoHUA (lead) / MoRTH / MoPNG

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved 3 Jun 2026; operational guidelines approved 16 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Owners/operators of eligible BS-IV-or-older trucks and buses registered in Delhi-NCR, plus NCR residents.

**Why in News:** Cabinet approved the scheme 3 Jun 2026; MoUs with OEMs followed, and operational guidelines were approved 16 Jul 2026.

> In simple words: old, high-polluting trucks and buses are a big reason for Delhi-NCR's bad air. This scheme pays part of the cost to scrap them and buy cleaner, newer ones instead.

- Official name: **Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivization of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions (PARIVARTAN)**.
- Two-stage rollout: Cabinet approved 3 June 2026; MoUs with vehicle makers (OEMs) followed; operational guidelines approved **16 July 2026**.
- Duration: **two-year scheme**. Total outlay: **₹9,585 crore**, including ₹5,041 crore Central budgetary support.
- Participating jurisdictions: **Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Targets BS-IV-or-older trucks/buses registered in Delhi-NCR; replacement with BS-VI/stricter vehicles or EVs.

**Exam trigger:** BS-IV → BS-VI/EV replacement threshold.

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## ATF Price Stabilization Fund CABINET APPROVED · 3 Jun 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 3 Jun 2026

**Ministry:** Petroleum & Natural Gas / Civil Aviation

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 3 Jun 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Scheduled Indian airlines and Oil Marketing Companies affected by exceptional ATF-price volatility.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: jet fuel prices spiked due to global events, and airlines risked big losses. The government is temporarily helping fuel companies keep jet fuel prices stable for Indian airlines.

- Support up to **₹10,000 crore**, structured as **interest-free advances** to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — not a direct payment to airlines.
- Purpose: stabilise ATF prices for scheduled Indian airlines during exceptional volatility linked to the West Asia crisis.

**Exam trigger:** "up to ₹10,000 crore," one-time, to OMCs — not directly to airlines.

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## BHAVYA Portal **PORTAL LAUNCHED · 8 Jun 2026**

**Status:** PORTAL LAUNCHED · 8 Jun 2026

**Ministry:** DPIIT

**Start/Origin:** Launched, 8 Jun 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** State Governments and agencies submitting/monitoring industrial-park proposals under BHAVYA.

**Why in News:** The implementation portal for the newly approved BHAVYA scheme was launched in June 2026.

> In simple words: this is just the website where States upload their industrial park proposals to apply for BHAVYA funding from Chapter 2. It's not a new scheme, just the application system.

- Digital implementation/monitoring platform for BHAVYA — States submit and compete with industrial-park proposals under the challenge/competitive framework.
- Study alongside the March Cabinet approval of the ₹33,660 crore BHAVYA scheme (Chapter 2) — this portal is the operational front-door to that scheme, not a separate scheme.

**Exam trigger:** portal launch date vs scheme approval date (18 Mar → 8 Jun).

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## Small Hydro Power Development Scheme — Guidelines

**IMPLEMENTATION · June 2026**

**Status:** IMPLEMENTATION · June 2026

**Ministry:** MNRE

**Start/Origin:** Guidelines issued after the 18 March Cabinet approval.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Small-hydro developers, remote/hilly communities, States, and the renewable-energy ecosystem.

**Why in News:** Operational guidelines were issued after the March 2026 Cabinet approval, moving the scheme from approval to implementation.

> In simple words: March approved the money and target. These June guidelines are the actual rulebook developers follow to apply for funding.

- Operational guidelines followed the 18 March Cabinet approval.
- Exam chronology: approval in March; operationalisation/guidelines in June — same pattern as BHAVYA → BHAVYA Portal.

**Exam trigger:** approval-vs-operationalisation chronology.

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## PM-KISAN — 23rd Instalment RELEASED · 20 Jun 2026

**Status:** RELEASED · 20 Jun 2026

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** 23rd instalment released 20 Jun 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible landholding farmer families across India.

**Why in News:** The 23rd instalment was released 20 Jun 2026, producing a fresh beneficiary and cumulative-transfer milestone.

> In simple words: another routine, scheduled payment of the same ₹6,000-a-year PM-KISAN benefit — this time the second instalment of the year.

- Amount: over **₹18,880 crore**, to ~**9.44 crore** farmers (~2.18 crore women).
- Cumulative transfers exceeded **₹4.46 lakh crore**.

**Exam trigger:** instalment number (23rd) — cross-check against the 22nd (March, Chapter 2).

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## Floating Solar Scheme — Precursor to PM Surya Sarovar Yojana

PRE-APPROVAL SIGNAL

**Status:** PRE-APPROVAL SIGNAL

**Ministry:** MNRE

**Start/Origin:** June 2026 NISE assessment, ahead of the July Cabinet approval of PM-SSY.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Floating-solar developers, power utilities, and States/consumers benefiting from added clean power.

**Why in News:** NISE's June 2026 potential assessment directly preceded the July Cabinet approval of PM-SSY.

> In simple words: floating solar panels sit on water instead of taking up farmland — useful in land-scarce India. This June entry is just a government survey of how much potential exists, which led directly to the full scheme approved the next month.

- NISE assessed floating-solar potential of **~102.18 GWp** across reservoirs/inland water bodies.
- Chronology: June policy signal → PM Surya Sarovar Yojana Cabinet-approved 31 July (Chapter 6).

**Exam trigger:** the 102.18 GWp NISE figure.

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## DISHA 2.0 — Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice

APPROVED/RESTRUCTURED · 22 Jun 2026

**Status:** APPROVED/RESTRUCTURED · 22 Jun 2026

**Ministry:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice

**Start/Origin:** DISHA existed as a Central Sector scheme; restructured as DISHA 2.0, approved 22 Jun 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Citizens requiring legal information, pre-litigation legal advice, pro bono support, and legal awareness — nationwide outreach.

**Why in News:** It had a material 2026 policy development — approved/restructured 22 Jun 2026.

> In simple words: many people, especially in rural areas, don't know their legal rights or can't afford a lawyer for basic legal help. DISHA 2.0 gives free pre-litigation legal advice over the phone (Tele-Law), connects people to pro-bono lawyers (Nyaya Bandhu), and runs legal-literacy campaigns — all through a new AI-powered digital backbone.

- DISHA existed earlier as a Central Sector scheme; restructured as DISHA 2.0 for **1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031**, approved 22 June 2026.
- Outlay: **₹255 crore**. Target: cumulative outreach of **3 crore** beneficiaries.
- Four components: Tele-Law (Reaching the Unreached); Nyaya Bandhu Pro Bono Legal Services; Legal Literacy & Legal Awareness Programme; VIDHI-Sanjeevani (a centralised digital platform with an AI-powered "Nyaya Setu" chatbot).
- Formal pan-India rollout followed in July 2026 (see Chapter 6); Tele-Law's toll-free number is 14454.

**Exam trigger:** the four components, and the June-approval → July-rollout chronology.

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## National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) — Additional Government Commitment

CABINET-APPROVED INVESTMENT COMMITMENT

**Status:** CABINET-APPROVED INVESTMENT COMMITMENT

**Ministry:** Finance

**Start/Origin:** Existing programme; additional Government commitment approved June 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Infrastructure and nationally important investment platforms/projects supported through NIIF funds.

**Why in News:** It had a material 2026 implementation development — a Cabinet-approved additional investment commitment in June 2026.

> In simple words: NIIF is India's own sovereign investment fund — the government puts money in, and NIIF invests it long-term into infrastructure and other strategically important sectors, the way a country's own investment arm would. This is simply a top-up to that existing commitment.

- Additional Government of India commitment: **₹30,000 crore**, taking the total Government commitment to NIIF to **₹60,000 crore**.
- Not a welfare scheme — an investment-platform commitment for infrastructure and nationally important sectors.

**Exam trigger:** ₹30,000 crore additional / ₹60,000 crore total — don't confuse with a grant scheme.

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## Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY — West Bengal Joins the Scheme

**EXISTING FLAGSHIP HEALTH SCHEME — MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION**

**Status:** EXISTING FLAGSHIP HEALTH SCHEME — MAJOR GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION

**Ministry:** Health & Family Welfare / National Health Authority

**Start/Origin:** AB PM-JAY launched September 2018; West Bengal joined June 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible poor and vulnerable families covered under PM-JAY — the June 2026 development concerned residents of West Bengal specifically.

**Why in News:** In June 2026, West Bengal moved to implement AB PM-JAY, becoming the 36th State/UT to join the national scheme.

> In simple words: West Bengal had stayed out of India's flagship health-insurance scheme for years, running its own separate State scheme instead. In June 2026 it agreed to join the national scheme, meaning eligible poor and vulnerable families in West Bengal now get PM-JAY's cashless hospital coverage too.

- AB PM-JAY itself was launched in September 2018; the June 2026 development is West Bengal's entry as the **36th State/UT** to join.
- National Health Authority and the Government of West Bengal moved to sign an MoU for implementation.

**Exam trigger:** 36th State/UT to join PM-JAY — a major national-coverage milestone question.

# Chapter 6 · July 2026

The biggest-ticket month — mobile manufacturing, semiconductors, offshore exploration, sports

## Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) CABINET APPROVED · 15 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 15 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** MeitY

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 15 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible mobile-phone manufacturers, component suppliers, Indian brands, designers, R&D teams, and workers.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: India already assembles a lot of phones, but many expensive parts inside — chips, cameras, batteries — are still imported. This scheme rewards companies for making those parts in India too, not just assembling them.

- Outlay: **₹62,500 crore**. Period: **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**.
- Base incentive: **~2.25% to 5%** of eligible sales.
- Additional incentive up to **1.5%** for domestic sourcing of key components/sub-assemblies.
- Objectives also include supporting Indian brands, technological sovereignty, design/R&D capability and Indian patents — not just assembly volume.

**Exam trigger:** base incentive range + the extra 1.5% domestic-sourcing bonus.

## Semicon 2.0 CABINET APPROVED · 15 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 15 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** MeitY

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 15 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Chip designers, fabs, packaging units, equipment/material suppliers, researchers, startups, and skilled professionals.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: building chip factories is hugely expensive, and companies won't invest without government help. Semicon 2.0 keeps funding chip design and factories in India, so the country depends less on imported chips.

- Outlay: **₹1,27,500 crore**. Six-pillar approach: design, manufacturing, broader ecosystem.
- Flat 30% incentive for manufacturing equipment, chemicals, gases, materials.
- Total mission investment (all phases) expected to reach **~₹4 lakh crore**, with ~₹2 lakh crore production, ~₹1 lakh crore exports.
- As of 15 Jul 2026: 12 semiconductor projects approved (cumulative investment >₹1.60 lakh crore) under the original ₹76,000 crore India Semiconductor Mission.

**Exam trigger:** ₹1,27,500 crore is Semicon 2.0's own outlay — don't confuse with the original ISM's ₹76,000 crore or the ~₹4 lakh crore total-investment projection.

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## National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 CABINET APPROVED POLICY · 15 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED POLICY · 15 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** Dept of Fertilizers

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 15 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Urea producers/investors and, indirectly, farmers dependent on secure fertiliser supply.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: India imports a lot of urea, a key crop fertiliser, because it doesn't make enough at home. This policy makes it more attractive for companies to build new urea factories in India.

- New investment policy explicitly aimed at **Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in urea**.
- Objective: strengthen domestic urea production, attract investment, improve fertiliser security.

**Exam trigger:** urea policy (July) vs NBS for P&K fertilisers (April, Chapter 3) — two separate fertiliser-sector decisions.

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## BHAVYA-Rasayan — Chemical Parks Scheme CABINET APPROVED · 24 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 24 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** Dept of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 24 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Chemical manufacturers, investors, and States developing dedicated chemical clusters.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: chemical factories need expensive shared facilities, like waste treatment plants, that are costly for one company to build alone. This funds three chemical parks with that infrastructure already built.

- Full name: **Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana — Rasayan**.
- Total outlay: **₹3,030 crore** — ₹3,000 crore for common infrastructure/basic utilities, ₹30 crore administrative expenditure. Period: **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**.
- Target: **3** dedicated Chemical Parks.
- Centre: up to **₹1,000 crore/park**, conditional on **≥₹500 crore** State contribution per park.
- Common infra can include CETPs, TSDFs, solvent-recovery units, steam networks, pipelines, warehousing.

> Distinct from BHAVYA (Mar, industrial parks, ₹33,660 crore, 100 parks, Chapter 2).

**Exam trigger:** ₹1,000 crore/park (Centre) vs ₹500 crore/park (State minimum), and the BHAVYA/BHAVYA-Rasayan distinction again.

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## Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) CABINET APPROVED · 31 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 31 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** MNRE

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 31 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Floating-solar developers, power utilities, States, and electricity consumers.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: this funds floating solar panels on reservoirs, plus batteries to store that power for use even after the sun goes down — adding clean energy without using extra land.

- Outlay: **₹5,070 crore**.
- Target: **5,000 MW** floating solar PV + minimum 2-hour co-located storage (~**10,000 MWh** total).
- Projects sanctioned FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31; financial support can continue up to FY 2032-33.
- NISE assessed floating-solar potential at ~**102.18 GWp** across reservoirs and suitable inland water bodies.
- Expected benefits highlighted by PIB: reduced land pressure, grid reliability, domestic manufacturing, emissions reduction.

**Exam trigger:** 5,000 MW / 10,000 MWh / 102.18 GWp — three separate numbers, don't conflate.

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## 'Samudra Manthan' — National Offshore Exploration Scheme

**CABINET APPROVED · 31 Jul 2026**

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED · 31 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** Petroleum & Natural Gas

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 31 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** India's offshore exploration ecosystem, upstream oil & gas companies, service firms, and energy-security stakeholders.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: India has oil and gas under the ocean floor that's barely been explored because deep-sea drilling is expensive and risky for private companies. This scheme funds the government to search for and develop these reserves, so India imports less oil and gas.

- Type: **Central Sector Scheme** (not Centrally Sponsored).
- Outlay: **₹84,084 crore**, implementation through FY 2030-31.
- Covers seismic data acquisition, deepwater/ultra-deepwater + scientific drilling, common offshore production/evacuation infrastructure, and an integrated Oil & Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone.

> Use 31 July, not 1 August, as the approval date — a separate Ministry release the next day referred to the approval "yesterday."

**Exam trigger:** "Central Sector Scheme" (100% Centre-funded) is a frequently tested classification distinction from "Centrally Sponsored Scheme."

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## Revamped Khelo India Scheme CABINET APPROVED / REVAMPED · 31 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED / REVAMPED · 31 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** Youth Affairs & Sports

**Start/Origin:** Cabinet approved, 31 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Young athletes, schools, academies, National Sports Federations, coaches, and elite/ Olympic athletes.

**Why in News:** Cabinet/CCEA approval during the Feb-Jul 2026 window brought the scheme into current affairs.

> In simple words: the earlier Khelo India mainly built grassroots sports infrastructure. The revamped version builds a full pathway from school sports all the way to international competition, with about eight times the earlier budget.

- Combined outlay (Khelo India + enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations, ANSF): **₹36,441 crore**. Period: **2026-27 to 2030-31**.
- New school-sports initiatives: **Khelo India Feeder Schools (KIFS)** and **Khelo India Utkrishta Vidyalayas (KIUV)**.
- New **Emerging Khelo India Athletes (E-KIAs)** category expands the structured athlete pool.
- Integrated network: NCOEs, KICoEs, SAI Training Centres, accredited academies, Khelo India Centres, Armed Forces Youth Sports Companies.
- Aligned with Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and NEP 2020.
- Links back to the decade-long Khelo India Mission announced in the Feb Budget (Chapter 1).

**Exam trigger:** ANSF full form + the ₹36,441 crore combined figure.

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## PM-KISAN — Continuation CABINET APPROVED / CONTINUED · 31 Jul 2026

**Status:** CABINET APPROVED / CONTINUED · 31 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Start/Origin:** PM-KISAN launched 24 Feb 2019; continuation approved 31 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible landholding farmer families across India.

**Why in News:** Cabinet approved continuation for 2026-27 to 2030-31 with a new multi-year outlay.

> In simple words: the government is simply promising, in advance, to keep paying the same ₹6,000-a-year farmer benefit for another five years, so it doesn't need fresh approval every year.

- Continuation period: **2026-27 to 2030-31**. Outlay: **₹3.15 lakh crore**.
- Original scheme launch: **February 2019**.

**Exam trigger:** original launch year (2019) vs this continuation's period (2026-31).

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## DISHA 2.0 — Formal Launch / Pan-India Rollout LAUNCHED · July 2026

**Status:** LAUNCHED · July 2026

**Ministry:** Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice

**Start/Origin:** Pan-India rollout highlighted July 2026, following the June approval.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Citizens requiring legal information, pre-litigation legal advice, pro bono support, and legal awareness.

**Why in News:** The restructured DISHA 2.0 scheme moved into formal pan-India rollout in July 2026.

> In simple words: this is the actual nationwide switch-on of DISHA 2.0 (approved in June, Chapter 5) — the point where the scheme moves from "approved on paper" to "running across the whole country."

- Pan-India rollout of the already-approved DISHA 2.0 (₹255 crore, 2026-31) highlighted in July 2026.

**Exam trigger:** approval (June) vs formal pan-India launch (July) — same chronology pattern as BHAVYA/BHAVYA Portal.

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## New Solar Power Scheme for PVTG & Tribal Habitations under PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA MAJOR IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE · 29 Jul 2026

**Status:** MAJOR IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE · 29 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** New & Renewable Energy; convergence with Tribal Affairs

**Start/Origin:** Implemented under PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA; 2026 update reported progress and CFA norms, 29 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Un-electrified PVTG/tribal households and eligible public/community institutions in remote areas.

**Why in News:** Government reported implementation progress and CFA norms in July 2026 for tribal/PVTG off-grid solar electrification.

> In simple words: some tribal villages — especially Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) — are so remote that connecting them to the electricity grid isn't practical. This gives those households their own small off-grid solar system instead, fully paid for by the Centre, so they get power without waiting for grid lines that may never come.

- Household component: **0.3 kW off-grid solar system** — up to ₹50,000 per household or actual cost, whichever is lower.
- PM-JANMAN component: solar lighting for Multi-Purpose Centres, up to ₹1 lakh each; target 1,500 MPCs solarised.
- DAJGUA component: ₹1 lakh per kW for public institutions, up to 20 kW per institution.
- Coverage target: 1 lakh un-electrified households. As of 30 June 2026: ₹57.10 crore CFA released, 11,838 households already electrified.

**Exam trigger:** 0.3 kW household system, ₹50,000 cap, 100% Central Financial Assistance, and the two parent programmes (PM-JANMAN + DAJGUA).

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## National Green Hydrogen Mission — Transport Pilot Projects

**MISSION IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE · 29 Jul 2026**

**Status:** MISSION IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE · 29 Jul 2026

**Ministry:** New & Renewable Energy

**Start/Origin:** Mission approved January 2023; transport-pilot update, 29 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Hydrogen-mobility developers, vehicle operators, transport agencies, and the clean-energy ecosystem.

**Why in News:** Twelve transport pilot projects covering 70 hydrogen-powered vehicles across 21 routes were highlighted in July 2026.

> In simple words: green hydrogen (made using renewable electricity) is being tested as a clean fuel for trucks and buses. This is the government actually putting hydrogen-powered vehicles on real roads to see how they perform, before scaling the idea up.

- National Green Hydrogen Mission itself was approved in January 2023; this is a transport-sector implementation update.
- **12 pilot projects** for deployment of **70 hydrogen-powered vehicles** across **21 routes**.

**Exam trigger:** 12 pilots / 70 vehicles / 21 routes — an implementation milestone under an existing 2023 mission, not a new scheme.

# Chapter 7 · Defence Acquisitions (DAC)

Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approvals — a distinct track from Cabinet-approved schemes, but core NDA/CDS/CAPF material

**What AoN means:** Acceptance of Necessity is only the first stage of India's defence procurement process — in-principle administrative approval, before tendering, technical evaluation, and contract award. An AoN figure is not money spent; it is the ceiling value of proposals cleared to move forward. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is chaired by the Raksha Mantri and was formed in 2001, post the Kargil War Group of Ministers report on national security reforms.

## DAC Meeting — 12 Feb 2026 AoN ACCORDED · ₹3.60 lakh crore

**Status:** AoN ACCORDED · ₹3.60 lakh crore

**Ministry:** Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Acquisition)

**Chaired by:** Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh

**Start/Origin:** Defence Acquisition Council meeting, 12 Feb 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Indian Air Force — procurement of Rafale (MRFA), combat missiles, and AS-HAPS surveillance system.

**Why in News:** AoN accorded at this DAC meeting, headlined by the Rafale (MRFA) procurement.

> In simple words: AoN means "we plan to buy this," not a signed deal yet. This meeting's big decision was clearing the way to finally buy the Rafale fighter jets India has wanted for years, plus missiles and a surveillance system.

- For the **Indian Air Force**: AoN for Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) — **Rafale**; Combat Missiles; Air-Ship Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (**AS-HAPS**).
- MRFA procurement will enhance air-dominance capability across the conflict spectrum; majority of MRFA to be manufactured in India.
- AS-HAPS to be used for persistent ISR, electronic intelligence, telecommunication and remote sensing.

**Exam trigger:** MRFA = Rafale; AS-HAPS full form; this is the single largest AoN figure in the Feb-Jul window.

## DAC Meeting — 27 Mar 2026 AoN ACCORDED · ₹2.38 lakh crore

**Status:** AoN ACCORDED · ₹2.38 lakh crore

**Ministry:** Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Acquisition)

**Chaired by:** Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh

**Start/Origin:** Defence Acquisition Council meeting, 27 Mar 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Indian Army (air defence, tank ammunition, artillery, surveillance) and Indian Coast Guard (patrol vessels).

**Why in News:** AoN accorded at this DAC meeting for Army air-defence/artillery systems and Coast Guard patrol vessels.

> In simple words: this meeting mostly approved gear to help the Army see and hit targets from further away, plus faster patrol boats for the Coast Guard.

- For the **Indian Army**: Air Defence Tracked System, Armoured Piercing Tank Ammunition, High Capacity Radio Relay, Dhanush Gun System, Runway Independent Aerial Surveillance System.
- For the **Indian Coast Guard**: Heavy Duty Air Cushion Vehicles — high-speed coastal patrolling, reconnaissance, search and rescue, logistics support.
- FY 2025-26 context (cited at this meeting): AoN for 55 proposals worth ₹6.73 lakh crore accorded during the year; capital procurement contracts signed for 503 proposals worth ₹2.28 lakh crore — both the highest in any financial year to date.

**Exam trigger:** Dhanush Gun System + the FY 2025-26 record figures (₹6.73 lakh crore AoN / ₹2.28 lakh crore contracts signed / 503 proposals) are frequently tested together.

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## DAC Meeting — 3 Jul 2026 AoN ACCORDED · ₹52,000 crore

**Status:** AoN ACCORDED · ₹52,000 crore

**Ministry:** Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence Acquisition)

**Chaired by:** Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh

**Start/Origin:** Defence Acquisition Council meeting, 3 Jul 2026.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Indian Army — anti-drone systems, anti-tank missiles, short-range air defence, and loitering munitions.

**Why in News:** AoN accorded at this DAC meeting, focused on anti-drone and short-range air defence systems.

> In simple words: this meeting focused on defending against drones and short-range aerial attacks, a growing worry after recent conflicts, plus missiles that let soldiers destroy tanks without needing their own tank.

- For the **Indian Army**: Anti-UAV Electronic Warfare System '**Akash Tarang**' (anti-drone protection for Army formations); Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (**MPATGM**) Systems; Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (**MRSAM**) Weapon System; Very Short Range Air Defence System (**V-SHORADS**); Active Protection System for Tanks; Jet-Based Kamikaze Drone System.
- Covers a mix of next-generation air defence, anti-armour, anti-drone, unmanned platforms and surveillance capability across Army, Navy and Air Force.

**Exam trigger:** Akash Tarang (anti-UAV) + MPATGM + MRSAM + V-SHORADS full forms — a strong "match the acronym to its role" set.

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Additional DAC-adjacent figures circulated in market/defence-press coverage during this window (e.g. a ~₹79,000 crore approval featuring QRSAM and Landing Platform Docks) trace back to a **Q3 FY26 (Oct-Dec 2025)** meeting — before this book's Feb-Jul 2026 scope — so it is excluded here despite appearing in some 2026-dated secondary summaries. If it comes up in a "recent DAC approvals" question, cite it separately with its correct Q3 FY26 date rather than folding it into the Feb-Jul 2026 window.

# Chapter 8 · Existing Flagship Schemes in the News

Not new 2026 schemes — older flagship programmes that hit a milestone, anniversary, or major update between Feb-Jul 2026

None of the entries below are new schemes from this window. They're included because a major milestone, anniversary, expansion, or beneficiary update made them current-affairs-relevant during Feb-Jul 2026 — and these are exactly the kind of "which scheme just crossed X crore beneficiaries" questions that get asked alongside genuinely new approvals.

## Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) — 2026 Financial Inclusion Milestone EXISTING FLAGSHIP SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING FLAGSHIP SCHEME

**Ministry:** Department of Financial Services | **Launched:** 28 Aug 2014

**Start/Origin:** Launched nationwide, 28 Aug 2014.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Unbanked and underbanked households, especially low-income, rural, semi-urban, and financially excluded citizens.

**Why in News:** PIB reported a major financial-inclusion milestone in March 2026 with updated account, deposit and women/rural participation figures.

> In simple words: PMJDY is the scheme that gets an unbanked household its first-ever bank account, no minimum balance required, so government payments can reach them directly instead of through cash or middlemen.

- As on 25 Feb 2026: **57.78 crore** Jan-Dhan accounts; deposit balance ~**₹2,94,702 crore**.
- Women account holders: **32.21 crore** (55.8% of total); rural/semi-urban accounts: ~**45.17 crore** (78.2%).

**Exam trigger:** the 57.78 crore account figure and the women/rural share percentages.

## Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) — 11-Year Milestone

EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

**Ministry:** Department of Financial Services | **Launched:** 9 May 2015

**Start/Origin:** Launched, 9 May 2015; annual renewable cover.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible bank/post-office account holders, particularly low-income and underserved citizens seeking affordable life insurance.

**Why in News:** The Jan Suraksha schemes completed 11 years in May 2026 and PIB reported fresh cumulative enrolment and claim figures.

> In simple words: for a small yearly premium, this gives a bank/post-office account holder ₹2 lakh life cover — so if they die for any reason, their family isn't left with nothing.

- Life cover: **₹2 lakh**, death due to any reason.
- Cumulative enrolments: **27.43 crore+** (29 Apr 2026); claims paid: **₹21,512.50 crore+**.

**Exam trigger:** ₹2 lakh cover figure — don't confuse with PMSBY's cover amounts below.

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## Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) — 11-Year Milestone

EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

**Ministry:** Department of Financial Services | **Launched:** 9 May 2015

**Start/Origin:** Launched, 9 May 2015.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible bank/post-office account holders seeking affordable accident insurance.

**Why in News:** PMSBY completed 11 years in May 2026 and PIB reported fresh nationwide enrolment and claim-settlement figures.

> In simple words: PMSBY is PMJJBY's sister scheme, but for accidents specifically — an even smaller premium gets an account holder cover if an accident kills or disables them.

- Accidental death/permanent total disability cover: **₹2 lakh**; permanent partial disability: **₹1 lakh**.
- Cumulative enrolments: **58.09 crore+** (29 Apr 2026); claims: **₹3,667.52 crore** paid for 1,84,662 claims.

**Exam trigger:** ₹2 lakh (death/total disability) vs ₹1 lakh (partial disability) — PMJJBY is life-only, PMSBY is accident-only.

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## Atal Pension Yojana (APY) — 9 Crore Enrolment Milestone

EXISTING PENSION SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING PENSION SCHEME

**Ministry:** Dept of Financial Services / PFRDA | **Launched:** 9 May 2015

**Start/Origin:** Launched 9 May 2015; operational from 1 Jun 2015.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Primarily poor, underprivileged, and unorganised-sector workers who need old-age income security.

**Why in News:** APY crossed the historic 9-crore gross-enrolment mark on 21 Apr 2026 and completed 11 years in May 2026.

> In simple words: mostly aimed at workers with no formal pension — like street vendors or daily-wage workers — APY lets them contribute small amounts regularly while working, in exchange for a guaranteed fixed pension once they turn 60.

- Guaranteed monthly pension options: **₹1,000 / ₹2,000 / ₹3,000 / ₹4,000 / ₹5,000**, depending on contribution.
- Gross enrolments crossed **9 crore** on 21 Apr 2026; FY 2025-26 alone saw 1.35 crore+ new enrolments — the highest annual figure since inception.

**Exam trigger:** the five pension slabs (₹1,000-₹5,000) and the 9-crore milestone date.

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## Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) — 11 Years / Tarun Plus Update

EXISTING CREDIT SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING CREDIT SCHEME

**Ministry:** Department of Financial Services | **Launched:** 8 Apr 2015

**Start/Origin:** Launched 8 Apr 2015; Tarun Plus category added 24 Oct 2024.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises, entrepreneurs, self-employed persons, and small income-generating businesses.

**Why in News:** PMMY completed 11 years in April 2026; PIB highlighted collateral-free credit, Tarun Plus, and cumulative lending milestones.

> In simple words: MUDRA gives small entrepreneurs a business loan without needing collateral — the loan category (and size) grows as the business grows and proves it can repay.

- Four loan categories: **Shishu** (up to ₹50,000), **Kishor** (₹50,000-5 lakh), **Tarun** (₹5-10 lakh), **Tarun Plus** (₹10-20 lakh, for successful repeat Tarun borrowers — added Oct 2024).
- By late March 2026: **57 crore+** loans, ~**₹40.07 lakh crore** sanctioned cumulatively; ~**60%** of accounts belong to women.

**Exam trigger:** the four category names and their loan-size bands — Tarun Plus is the newest addition.

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## NAMASTE — National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem

EXISTING CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME

**Ministry:** Social Justice & Empowerment, with MoHUA | **Launched:** FY 2023-24

**Start/Origin:** Launched FY 2023-24 as a Central Sector Scheme; waste pickers added as a target group FY 2024-25.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs), waste pickers, and sanitation workers needing safer working conditions.

**Why in News:** NAMASTE was repeatedly in PIB during Feb-Jul 2026, including worker profiling, PPE distribution, Ayushman coverage, and nationwide progress updates.

> In simple words: sewer and septic-tank cleaning by hand is dangerous and has killed workers for decades. NAMASTE aims to end that entirely by profiling every such worker, giving them safety gear and health cover, training them on machines instead, and pushing sanitation work toward mechanised cleaning.

- By July 2026: **89,000+** Sewer/Septic Tank Workers and **2.81 lakh+** waste pickers profiled; **87,000+** PPE kits distributed to SSWs, **1.84 lakh+** to waste pickers; health cards issued to 76,000+ SSWs and 1.04 lakh+ waste pickers.

**Exam trigger:** "zero fatalities" is the scheme's stated goal — and it covers both sewer/septic workers (SSWs) and waste pickers as two distinct target groups.

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## PLI Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) — 2026 Performance Update

EXISTING PLI SCHEME

**Status:** EXISTING PLI SCHEME

**Ministry:** Food Processing Industries | **Approved:** 2021, implementation 2021-22 to 2026-27

**Start/Origin:** Approved 2021, implementation 2021-22 to 2026-27.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Eligible food-processing companies and brands investing in incremental production, value addition, exports, and branding.

**Why in News:** PIB issued a detailed April 2026 review showing approvals, incentive payments, jobs and capacity created under PLISFPI.

> In simple words: this rewards food companies with cash incentives for actually increasing their production and sales, aiming to build large, globally competitive Indian food brands rather than just more small processors.

- Outlay: **₹10,900 crore**. As of Feb 2026: 165 applications approved across 274 project locations; **₹2,162.55 crore** incentives paid.
- Employment created: ~**3.39 lakh jobs** — above the original 2.5 lakh target; processing/preservation capacity up ~34 lakh metric tonnes/year.

**Exam trigger:** the 3.39 lakh jobs figure exceeding the original 2.5 lakh target.

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## Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) — 2026 Beneficiary Update EXISTING NUTRITION MISSION

**Status:** EXISTING NUTRITION MISSION

**Ministry:** Women & Child Development

**Start/Origin:** Restructured during the 15th Finance Commission period, bringing together Anganwadi Services, POSHAN Abhiyaan, and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and eligible adolescent girls served through the Anganwadi system.

**Why in News:** PIB reported fresh beneficiary figures as on 28 Feb 2026 and highlighted the mission during March parliamentary updates.

> In simple words: Poshan 2.0 merges India's Anganwadi (childcare centre) nutrition programme with early-childhood education, feeding pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, young children and teenage girls through a single nutrition-delivery system.

- Three sub-verticals: nutrition support; Early Childhood Care and Education; Anganwadi infrastructure (Saksham Anganwadis).
- Beneficiaries as on 28 Feb 2026: **7.68 crore children**; 57.90 lakh pregnant women; 56.44 lakh lactating mothers; 15.62 lakh adolescent girls.

**Exam trigger:** the four beneficiary groups and their approximate figures.

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## Mission Shakti — 2026 Women Safety & Empowerment Update EXISTING WOMEN-EMPOWERMENT MISSION

**Status:** EXISTING WOMEN-EMPOWERMENT MISSION

**Ministry:** Women & Child Development | **Implemented from:** April 2022

**Start/Origin:** Implemented from April 2022 as the Government of India's umbrella programme for women's safety, security, and empowerment.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women and girls requiring safety, protection, rehabilitation, maternity support, accommodation, childcare, or empowerment services.

**Why in News:** PIB repeatedly highlighted Mission Shakti during March-July 2026, including its Sambal and Samarthya architecture and nationwide implementation.

> In simple words: Mission Shakti bundles together most of the government's women's-safety and empowerment services under one umbrella — one arm (Sambal) handles crisis/protection, the other (Samarthya) handles longer-term support like shelter, maternity benefits and childcare.

- **Sambal** (safety/security): One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nari Adalat.
- **Samarthya** (empowerment): Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, Palna, SANKALP.
- Women Helpline **181** is linked with Emergency Response Support System **112**.

**Exam trigger:** Sambal vs Samarthya — which components sit under which vertical.

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## Mission Vatsalya — Revamped Portal & 2026 Child Protection Update

**EXISTING CHILD-PROTECTION MISSION**

**Status:** EXISTING CHILD-PROTECTION MISSION

**Ministry:** Women & Child Development

**Start/Origin:** Implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the child-protection framework, including support under the JJ Act, 2015.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP), Children in Conflict with Law (CCL), missing, orphaned, and vulnerable children.

**Why in News:** A revamped Mission Vatsalya Portal was highlighted 18 Mar 2026, integrating TrackChild and Khoya-Paya into a unified digital platform; further updates followed in July.

> In simple words: Mission Vatsalya protects children in difficult situations — orphaned, missing, in conflict with the law — through shelters and care institutions. The 2026 news is a digital upgrade that merges two older separate tracking tools (TrackChild and Khoya-Paya) into one unified system, so agencies aren't working off disconnected records anymore.

- Revamped Mission Vatsalya Portal highlighted **18 March 2026**, integrating TrackChild and Khoya-Paya into one digital child-protection platform.
- Stakeholders: State Child Protection Societies, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, Special Juvenile Police Units, Child Care Institutions.

**Exam trigger:** TrackChild + Khoya-Paya merger is the specific 2026 development to remember, not the scheme's original launch.

# High-Yield Revision

Must-memorise numbers — one final pass before the exam

- **PM RAHAT** — cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh; nationwide launch 13 Feb 2026; Golden Hour; Section 162, MV Act.
- **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0** — ₹10,000 crore.
- **PM-SETU** — 1,000 Government ITIs = 200 Hub + 800 Spoke.
- **Biopharma SHAKTI** — ₹10,000 crore over 5 years.
- **JJM 2.0** — ₹8.69 lakh crore total; ₹3.59 lakh crore Central assistance; extended to Dec 2028.
- **Small Hydro Power Scheme** — ₹2,584.60 crore; FY27–FY31; ~1,500 MW target.
- **BHAVYA** — ₹33,660 crore; 100 plug-and-play industrial parks.
- **Modified UDAN** — ₹28,840 crore; FY27–FY36.
- **IVFRT** — ₹1,800 crore; Apr 2026–Mar 2031.
- **National Ayush Mission update** — 203 Integrated Ayush Hospitals; 383 dispensaries.
- **PMGSY-III** — ₹83,977 crore; extended to Mar 2028.
- **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool** — ₹12,980 crore sovereign guarantee.
- **Four Labour Codes** — in force 21 Nov 2025; Central Rules notified 8–9 May 2026.
- **Mission for Cotton Productivity** — ₹5,659.22 crore; 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- **ECLGS 5.0** — targeted additional credit ₹2.55 lakh crore.
- **Coal/Lignite Gasification** — ₹37,500 crore; 100 MT coal-gasification goal by 2030.
- **SARTHAK-PDS** — ₹25,530 crore Central share.
- **PARIVARTAN (Delhi-NCR truck/bus replacement)** — ₹9,585 crore; guidelines finalised 16 Jul 2026.
- **ATF Price Stabilization Fund** — support up to ₹10,000 crore.
- **DISHA 2.0** — ₹255 crore, 2026-31; 3-crore outreach target; Tele-Law + Nyaya Bandhu + Legal Literacy + VIDHI-Sanjeevani.
- **Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme** — ₹62,500 crore; FY27–FY31.
- **Semicon 2.0** — ₹1,27,500 crore.
- **BHAVYA-Rasayan** — ₹3,030 crore; 3 Chemical Parks.
- **PM Surya Sarovar Yojana** — ₹5,070 crore; 5,000 MW floating solar + 10,000 MWh storage.
- **Samudra Manthan** — ₹84,084 crore; Central Sector Scheme; through FY 2030-31.
- **Revamped Khelo India** — ₹36,441 crore; 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- **PM-KISAN continuation** — ₹3.15 lakh crore; 2026-27 to 2030-31.

# Glossary of Terms & Acronyms

Every abbreviation used in this book, explained in plain language — alphabetical

Scheme names themselves (PM-RAHAT, BHAVYA, SARTHAK-PDS, etc.) are explained inside their own chapter entries. This glossary covers the smaller acronyms and technical terms used *inside* those entries — the ones a student is most likely to see again in a different question and not recognise.

- **AB PM-JAY** — Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. India's flagship health insurance scheme; hospitals empanelled under it double up as "designated hospitals" for PM-RAHAT.
- **AgriStack** — the government's digital data system for agriculture (farmer records, land records, crop data) that platforms like Bharat-VISTAAR draw on.
- **ALIMCO** — Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India. The government body that makes assistive devices for persons with disabilities.
- **ANSF** — Assistance to National Sports Federations. Central funding given to sports federations (the governing bodies of individual sports) to run their sport.
- **AoN** — Acceptance of Necessity. The first-stage "we intend to buy this" approval in India's defence procurement process — in-principle, not a signed contract yet.
- **AS-HAPS** — Air-Ship Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite. A balloon-like aircraft that floats very high and does a satellite's job (surveillance, communication) without actually going to space.
- **ATF** — Aviation Turbine Fuel. The fuel used by jet aircraft.
- **AVGC** — Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics. A media/entertainment sector the government is trying to grow as a job creator.
- **BS-IV / BS-VI** — Bharat Stage IV / VI. India's vehicle emission-standard levels — BS-VI is stricter and cleaner than BS-IV.
- **CBDC** — Central Bank Digital Currency. A country's official currency issued digitally by its central bank — in India's case, the e₹ issued by the RBI. Different from cryptocurrency, since it's government-backed.
- **CER** — City Economic Regions. Clusters of nearby cities/towns funded together around a shared economic strength.
- **CETP / TSDF** — Common Effluent Treatment Plant / Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility. Shared infrastructure that treats industrial waste so individual factories don't each need their own treatment plant.
- **CCUS** — Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage. Technology that captures CO2 from factories before it reaches the atmosphere, and reuses or buries it.
- **CIE** — Construction and Infrastructure Equipment. Heavy machines used in building roads, metros and tunnels — cranes, excavators, tunnel-boring machines.
- **DAC** — Defence Acquisition Council. India's top decision-making body for defence procurement, chaired by the Defence Minister (Raksha Mantri).

- **DBT** — Direct Benefit Transfer. Paying a government benefit straight into a person's bank account, skipping middlemen.
- **DPIIT** — Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. The department (under Commerce & Industry) that handles industrial policy, startups, and internal trade — runs schemes like BHAVYA and Startup India.
- **eDAR** — Electronic Detailed Accident Report. The digital system police and hospitals use to record a road accident's details, which feeds into PM-RAHAT's claims process.
- **ECLGS** — Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. The government guarantees emergency bank loans made to struggling businesses during a crisis, so banks keep lending.
- **e₹ (e-Rupee)** — India's official Digital Rupee, issued by the RBI. Used in the CBDC-PDS pilot.
- **ESS** — Energy Storage System. Equipment (usually batteries) that stores generated electricity (e.g. from solar) for use later, such as after sunset.
- **FSPV** — Floating Solar Photovoltaic. Solar panels that float on the surface of reservoirs or lakes instead of sitting on land.
- **FY** — Financial Year. India's financial year runs 1 April to 31 March, so "FY 2026-27" means 1 Apr 2026 to 31 Mar 2027.
- **GWp / MWp / MW / MWh** — Units of electricity. GWp and MWp measure a solar or power plant's maximum possible output ("peak capacity"). MW measures actual power. MWh measures energy stored or used over time — e.g. a battery's total storage capacity.
- **ICAR** — Indian Council of Agricultural Research. India's top government body for agricultural research, whose farming-practice knowledge feeds into Bharat-VISTAAR.
- **IVFRT** — Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking. The government's linked system for tracking a foreign visitor from visa issue to departure.
- **IVRS** — Interactive Voice Response System. An automated phone system that lets people get information or complete tasks by speaking or pressing keys — no internet or app needed.
- **JJM** — Jal Jeevan Mission. The government's rural piped drinking-water scheme.
- **MNRE** — Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The ministry handling solar, wind, and other renewable power schemes.
- **MPATGM** — Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile. A missile light enough for a single soldier to carry and fire, used to destroy enemy tanks.
- **MRFA** — Multi Role Fighter Aircraft. A fighter jet built to perform multiple combat roles — in this book's context, the Rafale.
- **MRSAM** — Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile. A ground-launched missile that shoots down aircraft at medium distances.
- **MSME** — Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. India's official classification for smaller businesses, based on their investment and turnover.
- **MT** — Million Tonnes. A measure of quantity, often used for coal, foodgrain, or cotton production/targets.
- **NBS** — Nutrient Based Subsidy. The government's subsidy system for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers like DAP.

- **NISE** — National Institute of Solar Energy. The government's technical body that assesses India's solar power potential.
- **OMC** — Oil Marketing Companies. State-run fuel-retail companies like IOC, BPCL and HPCL.
- **PDS** — Public Distribution System. India's ration-shop network that sells subsidised food grains to eligible households.
- **PIB** — Press Information Bureau. The Government of India's official media wing, and the primary source for this book.
- **PLI** — Production Linked Incentive. A scheme where the government pays a company based on how much it actually manufactures and sells — not just for setting up a factory.
- **PMGKAY** — Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. The scheme providing free/ subsidised food grains to poor households.
- **PMGSY** — Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The government's rural roads scheme.
- **PM-AASHA** — Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan. An umbrella scheme protecting farmer income through price support and deficiency payments when crop prices fall.
- **PV** — Photovoltaic. The technology that converts sunlight directly into electricity — i.e., solar panels.
- **QRSAM** — Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile. A fast-response missile system for shooting down sudden short-range aerial threats.
- **SAI** — Sports Authority of India. The government body that runs India's sports training infrastructure.
- **V-SHORADS** — Very Short Range Air Defence System. A missile system for shooting down low-flying, close-range aerial threats such as drones.
- **STEM** — Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics. The group of technical academic subjects referenced in the Girls' Hostel scheme.
- **TEU** — Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit. The standard unit for measuring shipping-container capacity; one standard 20-foot container = 1 TEU.
- **TMS 2.0** — Transaction Management System 2.0. The National Health Authority's digital platform that processes hospital claims under schemes like PM-RAHAT.
- **TOPS** — Target Olympic Podium Scheme. India's programme that identifies and specially funds athletes with strong Olympic medal potential.
- **TReDS** — Trade Receivables Discounting System. A digital platform where MSMEs sell their unpaid invoices to financiers to get paid faster, instead of waiting for the buyer to pay.
- **UAV** — Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. A drone — an aircraft flown without a pilot on board.
- **UDAN** — Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik ("let the common citizen fly"). India's regional air-connectivity scheme.
- **VGF** — Viability Gap Funding. A government payment that covers the gap between a project's cost and what it can realistically earn, making an otherwise-unviable project workable for a private operator.

# Appendix

Not new this window · just outside the window · still open for verification

## Not new in this window — but worth a line item

**Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** — Cabinet approval was **1 Oct 2025** (outside Feb-Jul 2026), despite several March-2026 news reports that read like fresh approvals. What actually happened in March 2026 (13/17-19 Mar) was a Lok Sabha written reply disclosing implementation progress — 1,000 processing units approved, 528 allotted to States/UTs in phase 1, 87.5 lakh seed kits targeted over 6 years. Outlay ₹11,440 crore, 2025-26 to 2030-31, linked to PM-AASHA price support with 100% NAFED/NCCF procurement of tur/urad/masoor for 4 years. Cite the Oct-2025 date if asked "when was it approved"; cite March 2026 only for the implementation/progress update.

**Agnipath/Agniveer retention** — no fresh Cabinet decision Feb-Jul 2026; ongoing debate on raising retention from 25% to 50-75% after the first batch's tenure ends later in 2026. Not yet a revised scheme as of July.

**iDEX / ADITI** — no change this window. iDEX (₹498.78 cr, FY22-26), ADITI (₹750 cr, FY24-26) still standing. By March 2026: 676 startups/MSMEs/innovators engaged, 551 D&D contracts signed.

## Just outside the window (flag for an August edition)

**GOBARdhan India's National Unified Scheme** (Compressed Biogas/Circular Bioenergy) — Cabinet approved 6 Aug 2026, ₹23,731 crore, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, consolidating CBG efforts previously spread across 4 ministries.

## Still open — verify before final print

**Rare Earth Corridors** — mentioned in Budget-reaction commentary; no standalone PIB scheme notification found. Treat as a watch-item, not a confirmed scheme name.

## Source base & verification note

Compiled from Press Information Bureau releases, Union Budget 2026-27 documents, Cabinet Secretariat decisions, PRS Legislative Research's Monthly Policy Review, and ministry sources. For exam preparation, always read figures together with the status/date — Budget announcements may be modified at the Cabinet-approval or implementation stage.

*Editorial note: This compilation intentionally includes both genuinely new schemes and major 2026 developments in existing schemes. It excludes routine publicity mentions that did not materially change a scheme.*

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