



August - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Assam exported its first international consignment of Purabi Ice Cream to Bhutan, marking a milestone for the state's dairy sector.
- ❖ OmniCard has launched India's first Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based Flexi Benefits Wallet for tax-efficient employee benefits.
 - The wallet is built on a Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-licensed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) platform and supports UPI Scan-and-Pay transactions.
- ❖ India and Nepal jointly inaugurated the restored Shree Gusthal Mahavihar and Agam of Prathamshree Mahavihar in Lalitpur, Nepal.
 - Shree Gusthal Mahavihar and Agam of Prathamshree Mahavihar are ancient Buddhist heritage structures located in Guita Tole, Patan (Lalitpur), in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal.
- ❖ World Breastfeeding Week is observed from 1–7 August 2026 to promote breastfeeding and improve the health of mothers and babies.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works."
- ❖ World Wide Web Day is observed every year on August 01 to celebrate the invention of the World Wide Web (WWW) and its impact on global communication.
 - The World Wide Web (WWW) was invented by Sir Tim Berners-Lee in 1989, and it became publicly available in 1991.

NATIONAL NEWS

Expansion of India's Digital Platforms

- ❖ 24 countries have partnered with India to adopt India Stack, strengthening India's global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) initiatives.
- ❖ India Stack includes Unified Payments Interface (UPI), DigiLocker, Aadhaar, electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC), electronic Sign (eSign), and the Account Aggregator framework.
- ❖ DigiLocker has begun implementation in Kenya and Cuba, while UPI merchant payments are available in 10 international markets.
- ❖ India is also in discussions with countries such as Laos, Seychelles, Armenia, Fiji, Guyana, Colombia, and Venezuela to expand its digital governance platforms.

- ❖ The initiative aims to promote digital governance, financial inclusion, paperless public services, and international digital cooperation.



Television Rating Policy, 2026

- ❖ It was notified by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- ❖ It replaces the 2014 guidelines.
- ❖ The major reforms introduced under the Policy include:
 - Reduction of net worth criteria from Rs. 20 Crores to Rs. 5 Crores;
 - Technology-neutral audience measurement across multiple platforms including connected TVs and TV channels available on OTT Platforms;
 - Increased sample size by expansion of metered homes from 50,000 to 80,000;
 - Periodic establishment surveys every three years;
 - Exclusion of landing page in computation of viewership data;
 - Annual independent audits; and
 - A graded penalty framework for non-compliance.

- ❖ The Television Ratings Policy, 2026 places no restriction on the number of agencies that may be registered to provide TV rating services.



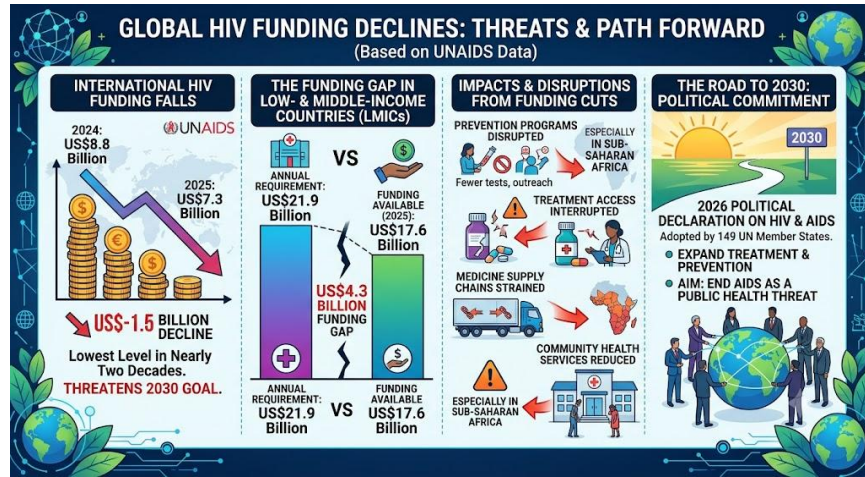
Government releases TV Ratings Policy 2026 to regulate television ratings in India

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

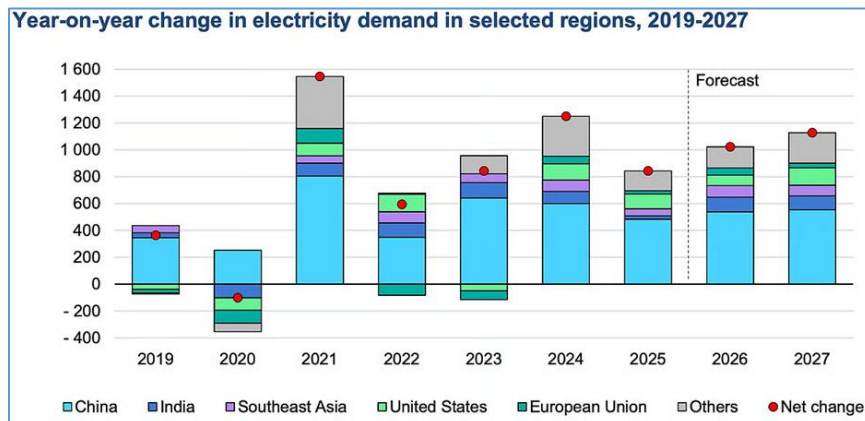
Global HIV Funding

- ❖ The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reported that global Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) funding fell by US\$1.5 billion in 2025, threatening the goal of ending acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) as a public health threat by 2030.
- ❖ International HIV funding declined from US\$8.8 billion in 2024 to US\$7.3 billion in 2025, the lowest level in nearly two decades.
- ❖ Low- and middle-income countries require US\$21.9 billion annually for HIV programmes, but only US\$17.6 billion was available in 2025, leaving a US\$4.3 billion funding gap.
- ❖ Funding cuts disrupted HIV prevention, treatment, medicine supply chains, and community health services, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

- ❖ The 2026 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, adopted by 149 United Nations (UN) Member States, aims to expand treatment and prevention to help end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.



IEA's Electricity Mid-Year Update 2026



- ❖ The IEA's Electricity Mid-Year Update 2026 says global electricity consumption is projected to rise from 28,600 terawatt hours in 2025 to 30,700 terawatt hours by 2027.
- ❖ It will be driven by industry, electric vehicles, cooling, appliances and data centres.
- ❖ The renewable electricity generation is set to overtake coal globally in 2026, after reaching near parity in 2025.
- ❖ Solar photovoltaic power remains the largest contributor to global electricity supply growth.
- ❖ Solar PV is to surpass wind power and become the world's second-largest renewable electricity source after hydropower.



- ❖ Global gas-fired electricity generation is forecast to remain broadly unchanged in 2026, breaking the growth trend seen through much of the past decade.
- ❖ Nuclear power generation is also expected to rise in 2026 and accelerate in 2027, supported by new reactors coming online in China and India, and strong output in the United States and France.
- ❖ India's electricity demand is forecast to rebound by 7% in 2026, supported by industrial activity, services growth and heatwave-driven cooling demand.
- ❖ India crossed 100 GW of variable renewable energy supply for the first time in July, even as rising evening peaks continue to strain the grid.
- ❖ The rapidly rising evening peak demand continues to require coal and gas-fired plants to increase generation.
- ❖ India's combined solar PV and wind generation rose by more than 25 per cent during the first half of 2026.
- ❖ Its share in total power supply reached 42.79 per cent, the highest recorded so far.
- ❖ Instantaneous ground-mounted variable renewable energy generation touched an all-time high of 103 GW.
- ❖ The renewable energy's share has ranged between 35 per cent and 42 per cent.
- ❖ When hydropower and nuclear power are included, non-fossil sources have accounted for nearly half of total electricity supply.
- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization, established in 1974.
- ❖ It provides policy recommendations, analysis and data on the global energy sector.
- ❖ The 32 member countries and 13 association countries of the IEA represent 75% of global energy demand.
- ❖ It was set up under the framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the aftermath of the 1973 oil crisis.
- ❖ Its publications include the annual World Energy Outlook, as well as the Net Zero by 2050 report.
- ❖ All IEA member countries have signed the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit warming to 1.5 °C, and two thirds of IEA member governments have made commitments to emission neutrality by 2050.
- ❖ But the United States has withdrawn twice.
- ❖ India officially declared its "Association" status with the International Energy Agency (IEA) on March 30, 2017.
- ❖ In July 2025, Brazil started the process to become a member country.

- ❖ Clean Energy Transitions Programme of the IEA has identified Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Africa as priority countries.

ECONOMY NEWS

5Rs of Responsive Tax Governance



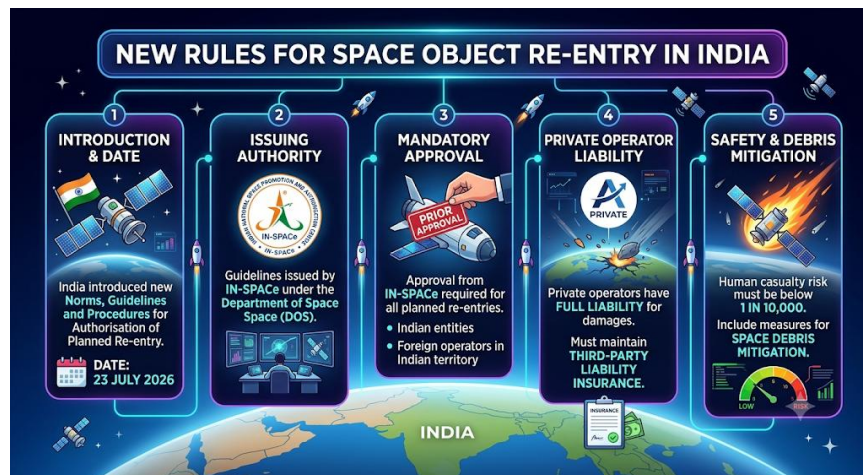
- ❖ The Union FM Sitharaman outlines 5Rs of responsive tax governance.
- ❖ The 5Rs of Responsive Tax Governance are Recognize, Respond, Redress, Reflect and Reform.
- ❖ The Union Finance Minister reiterates fair, efficient, transparent and taxpayer-centric administration.
- ❖ She was also calling for greater tax certainty and reduced litigation to strengthen taxpayer confidence and support India's economic growth.
- ❖ The Union Finance Minister also released six flagship publications of the Income Tax Department.
- ❖ These included:
 - Avlokan, the inaugural Annual Report of the FT&TR Division highlighting India's growing leadership in international taxation;
 - The Manual on Exchange of Information; the updated Guidance Note on FATCA & CRS;
 - India's first comprehensive Guidance Note on Crypto Asset Reporting Obligations for Crypto-Asset Service Providers;
 - The Annual Report of the APA Programme, showcasing the programme's progress; and

- Re-engineering Tax Governance, tracing the Department's journey of transformation from paper-based processes to an integrated, technology-driven and taxpayer-centric digital ecosystem.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

New Rules for Space Object Re-entry

- ❖ India introduced new Norms, Guidelines and Procedures for Authorisation for Undertaking Planned Re-entry of Space Objects on 23 July 2026 to regulate spacecraft re-entry activities.
- ❖ The guidelines were issued by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) under the Department of Space.
- ❖ Prior approval from IN-SPACe is mandatory for planned re-entry by Indian entities and foreign operators conducting re-entry in Indian territory.
- ❖ Private operators will have full liability for damages caused by re-entering spacecraft or debris and must maintain third-party liability insurance.
- ❖ The rules require spacecraft re-entry missions to maintain human casualty risk below 1 in 10,000 and include measures for space debris mitigation.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Habitat for Nilgiri Tahr

- ❖ Varayattumudy in Idukki district, Kerala, has emerged as a major habitat for the endangered Nilgiri tahr, with its population increasing significantly.
- ❖ The Nilgiri tahr population has risen from around 50 in 2022 to nearly 150 after habitat restoration efforts.

- ❖ The Kerala Forest Department completed eco-restoration across 22.5 hectares by removing invasive exotic plants and restoring natural grasslands.
- ❖ The area's grasslands, shola forests, rocky cliffs, and cool climate provide a suitable habitat for the species.
- ❖ The Forest Department has strengthened protection measures and proposed an eco-tourism trekking programme to support conservation and provide sustainable livelihoods for local tribal communities.



Japan's Active Volcano - Kikai Caldera



- ❖ Scientists have observed that a magma reservoir beneath Japan's Kikai Caldera is filling again, providing insights into how large volcanoes recover after major eruptions.

- ❖ Kikai Caldera is a massive submarine caldera located in the East China Sea, south of Kyushu Island, Japan.
- ❖ The caldera has a diameter of about 19 kilometres and includes three small islands that rise above sea level.
- ❖ Around 7,300 years ago, it produced one of the largest volcanic eruptions of the Holocene Epoch, with about 150 cubic kilometres of ash released.
- ❖ The eruption had a Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) of 7, and the caldera remains volcanically active, with recent studies indicating new lava dome formation.

REPORTS AND INDICES

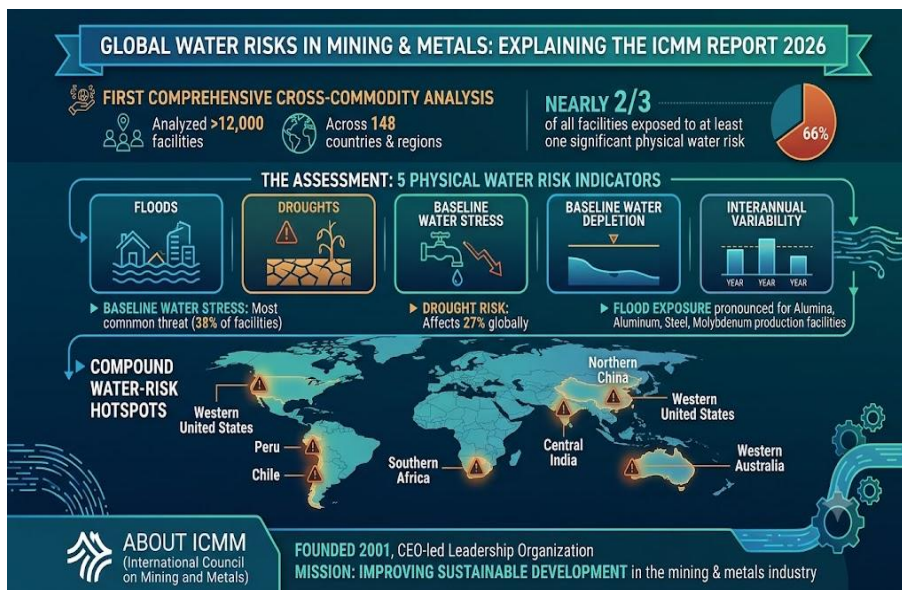
Market Distortions Performance Index



- ❖ India climbed from 82nd in 2010 to 57th in 2023 in the Market Distortions Performance Index, according to the Competere Foundation report.
- ❖ The report credits India's progress to reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), regulatory reforms, and trade facilitation measures.
- ❖ The index evaluates countries based on protection of ownership rights, domestic competition, and international competition.

- ❖ The report highlights that these reforms have improved ease of doing business, market competition, and investor confidence.
- ❖ The report was released during a discussion organised by the Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and the Competere Foundation in New Delhi.

ICMM report 2026



- ❖ Nearly two-thirds of the world's mining and metals facilities are exposed to at least one significant physical water risk.
- ❖ The study analyzed more than 12,000 facilities across 148 countries and regions.
- ❖ Baseline water stress is the most common threat, affecting 38% of facilities, while drought risk affects 27% globally.
- ❖ The report identifies compound water-risk hotspots in Chile, Peru, southern Africa, northern China, central India, western Australia and the western United States.
- ❖ It was the new report by the International Council on Mining and Metals.
- ❖ It was the first comprehensive cross-commodity analysis of water risks across the mining and metals sector.
- ❖ The assessment looks at five physical water risk indicators: floods, droughts, baseline water stress, baseline water depletion and interannual variability.
- ❖ Baseline water stress is the most common risk facing the mining and metals sector.
- ❖ Drought is the second most widespread water risk.

- ❖ Flood exposure is particularly pronounced for alumina, aluminium, steel and molybdenum production facilities.
- ❖ International Council on Mining and Metals was founded in 2001, as a CEO-led leadership organization, on the premise of improving sustainable development in the mining and metals industry.

STATE NEWS

Visakhapatnam Port - Marine Exports

Vizag Port now handles about half of India's marine product exports



**Government figures show that
Visakhapatnam Port accounted for
49% of India's marine product
exports during FY 2025-26.**

- ❖ Visakhapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh, handled 50.87% of India's total marine product exports in FY 2024-25.
- ❖ Visakhapatnam Port is a major port located on the eastern coast of Andhra Pradesh and acts as a key gateway for cargo movement.
- ❖ India's marine exports include frozen shrimp, fish, cuttlefish, squid, crab and other seafood products.

- ❖ India's marine product exports reached ₹72,325.82 crore (\$8.28 billion) in FY 2025-26, with a volume of 1.93 million tonnes.
- ❖ Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, supports seafood export promotion, quality control and market development.

SPORTS NEWS

ISSF World Cup 2026

- ❖ India finished the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2026 campaign with four medals (1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze medals) in rifle, pistol and shotgun events.
- ❖ China topped the medal tally with the highest number of medals at the ISSF World Cup 2026.
- ❖ Esha Singh won Gold in the Women's 25m Pistol event.
- ❖ Sainyam Vij won Silver in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event, while Manu Bhaker won Bronze in the Women's 25m Pistol event.
- ❖ Sonam Maskar and Himanshu Dhillon won Bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Harappan Civilization Decline

- ❖ A study by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) found that a weak Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) around 4,200 years Before Present (BP) contributed to the decline of the Harappan Civilization.

- ❖ Researchers analysed pollen records from Deoria Tal Lake, Garhwal Himalaya, to reconstruct past vegetation and climate changes.
- ❖ The study found that the 4.2 ka event caused a cooler and drier climate, weakening monsoon rainfall and affecting agriculture in the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra river regions.
- ❖ Due to reduced river flooding and water availability, Harappan populations migrated towards the eastern Ganga plains.
- ❖ The study linked the climate shift to factors such as changes in the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), El Niño, and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

