



July - 20

TNPSC BITS

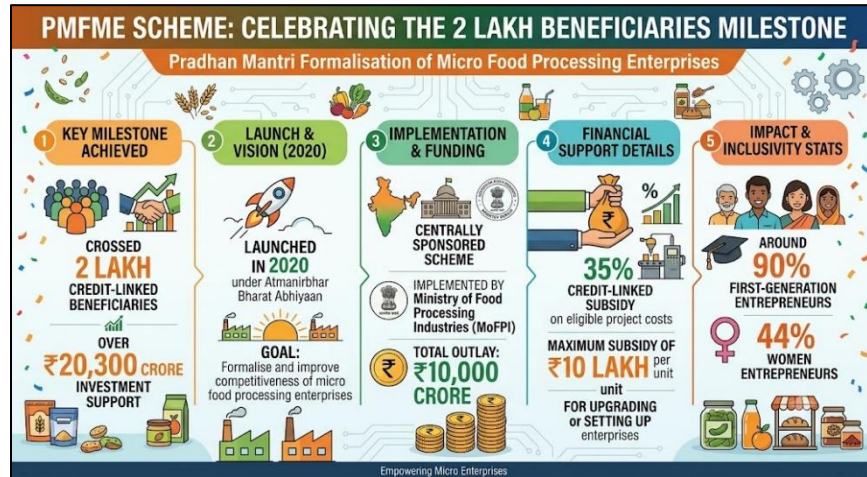
- ❖ The BRICS Ministerial Declaration 2026 was adopted during the third BRICS Transport Ministers' Meeting held in Nagpur, Maharashtra, to strengthen cooperation in the transport sector.
 - The declaration focuses on technological innovation, sustainable transport, connectivity, and resilience among BRICS countries.
- ❖ India secured joint first rank at the 56th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) 2026 after all five team members won gold medals in Bucaramanga, Colombia.
 - India shared the top position with China, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, and Taiwan among 381 students from 87 countries.
- ❖ MRF Tyres was ranked as India's Most Valuable and Strongest Tyre Brand in the Brand Finance India 100-2026 report.
- ❖ India launched the "Seafarer-First" emergency maritime safety plan after attacks on merchant vessels MT Al Bahiyah and MT Mombasa in the Strait of Hormuz.
 - The plan covers Indian seafarers operating in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ Harjit Singh Grewal was appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).
- ❖ India added a record 29 gigawatts (GW) of solar and wind capacity in the first half of 2026, including 26 GW of solar and 2.9 GW of wind, according to JMK Research.
- ❖ AI Appreciation Day is observed every year on 16 July to encourage reflection on the development, impact, and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Celebrating Intelligence with Purpose".

NATIONAL NEWS

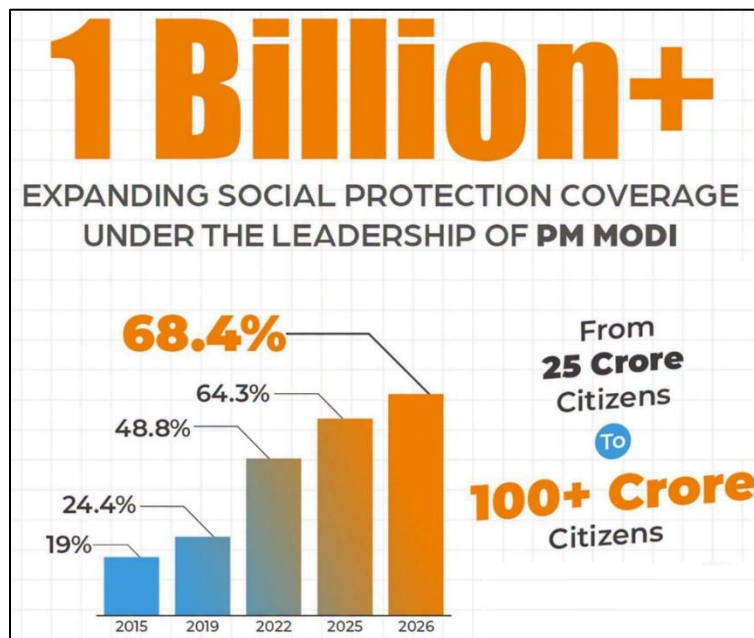
PMFME Scheme - 2 Lakh Beneficiaries Milestone

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme crossed 2 lakh credit-linked beneficiaries with over ₹20,300 crore in investment support.
- ❖ The scheme was launched in 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan to formalise and improve the competitiveness of micro food processing enterprises.

- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore.
- ❖ The scheme provides a 35% credit-linked subsidy on eligible project costs, with a maximum subsidy of ₹10 lakh per unit for upgrading or setting up enterprises.
- ❖ Around 90% of beneficiaries are first-generation entrepreneurs, while 44% are women entrepreneurs.



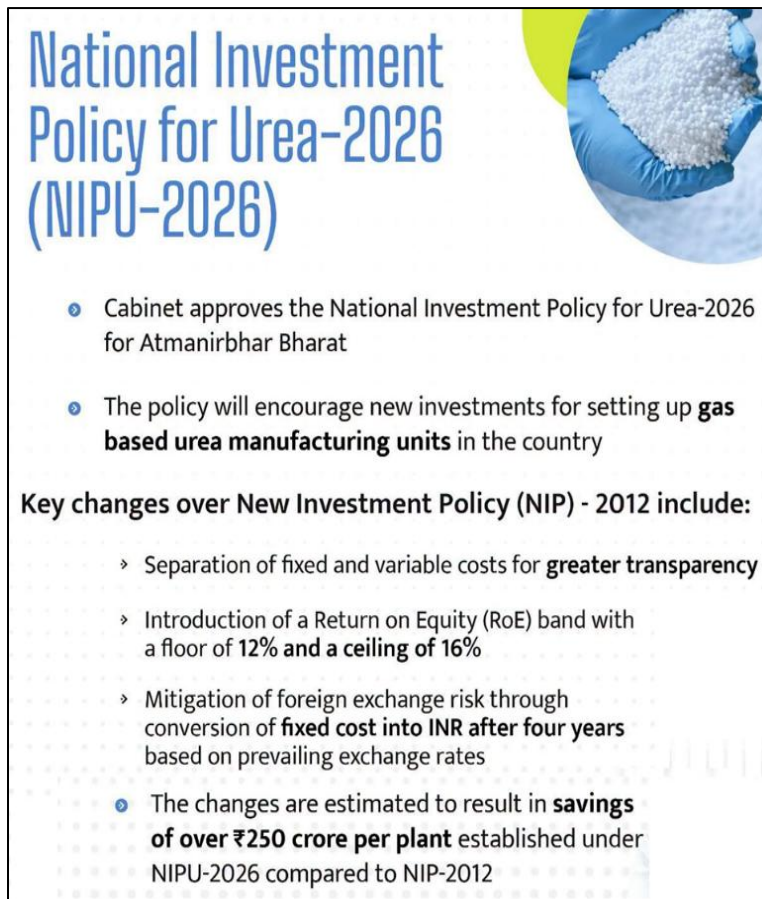
India's Social Security Milestone



- ❖ India's social security coverage crossed 100 crore beneficiaries, covering over 64% of the population in 2025.

- ❖ Major schemes include the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), and the e-Shram portal for unorganised workers.
- ❖ As of 14 July 2026, EPFO had over 8 crore active members and 80 lakh pensioners, while ESIC covered more than 15 crore insured persons and their dependants.
- ❖ The e-Shram portal has registered over 31.7 crore unorganised workers to connect them with social security benefits.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) aims to create 3.5 crore formal sector jobs through employment-linked incentives over the next two years.
- ❖ Social security protects against risks such as old age, sickness, unemployment, maternity, disability and workplace injury.

Urea Self-Reliance - NIPU-2026



National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 (NIPU-2026)

- Cabinet approves the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat
- The policy will encourage new investments for setting up **gas based urea manufacturing units** in the country

Key changes over New Investment Policy (NIP) - 2012 include:

- › Separation of fixed and variable costs for **greater transparency**
- › Introduction of a Return on Equity (RoE) band with a floor of 12% and a ceiling of 16%
- › Mitigation of foreign exchange risk through conversion of **fixed cost into INR after four years** based on prevailing exchange rates
- The changes are estimated to result in **savings of over ₹250 crore per plant** established under NIPU-2026 compared to NIP-2012

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026 for Atmanirbhar Bharat (NIPU-2026).

- ❖ The policy aims to add 10 million tonnes of domestic urea production capacity by setting up 8–9 natural gas-based urea plants.
- ❖ It replaces the New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012, whose investment window ended in 2019.
- ❖ The policy assures a Return on Equity (RoE) of 12%–16%, separates fixed and variable subsidy costs, and protects investors from foreign exchange risks.
- ❖ It aims to reduce urea imports, improve self-sufficiency, and attract public and private investment in the fertiliser sector.
- ❖ The policy is expected to save over ₹250 crore per plant compared with the New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012.

Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme

MOBILE PHONE MANUFACTURING SCHEME (MPMS)

- Cabinet approves the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budgetary outlay of **₹62,500 crore**
- The scheme will be implemented for **5 years** (FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31)
- It provides incentive support of **2.25%–5%** on **eligible sales** for manufacturing mobile phones in India.
- An additional incentive of up to **1.5%** is linked to domestic sourcing of key components and sub-assemblies

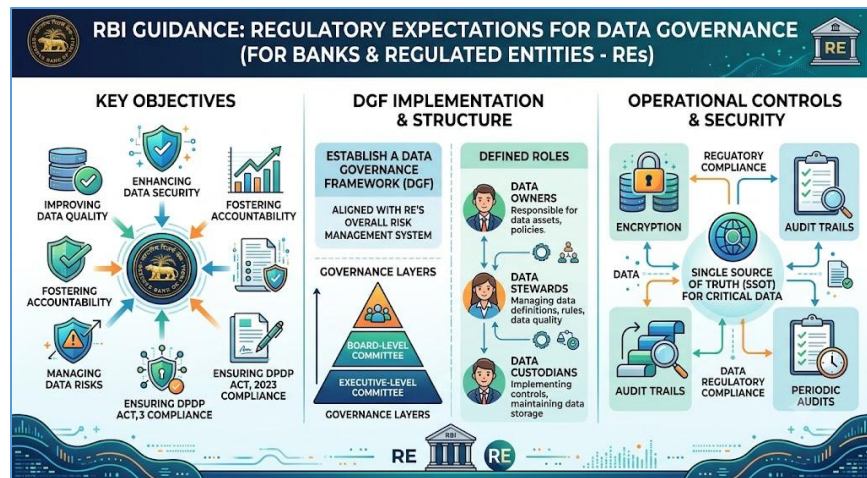
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) with a budget outlay of ₹62,500 crore.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented for five years (2026–27 to 2030–31) to boost mobile phone manufacturing and domestic value addition.
- ❖ It provides production incentives of 5%–25%, an additional 1.5% incentive for domestic component sourcing, and 3% for design, engineering and Research and Development (R&D).
- ❖ It promotes indigenous innovation, strengthens the electronics supply chain, and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India.

- ❖ MPMS succeeds the Production-Linked Incentive for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing (PLI-LSEM) scheme to further expand India's global smartphone manufacturing.

ECONOMY NEWS

Data Governance Framework - RBI

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Guidance on Regulatory Expectations for Data Governance for banks and other Regulated Entities (REs).
- ❖ The framework aims to improve data quality, security, accountability and risk management, while ensuring compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.
- ❖ It requires every Regulated Entity (RE) to establish a Data Governance Framework (DGF) aligned with its overall risk management system.
- ❖ The guidance mandates board-level and executive-level data governance committees, along with clearly defined roles for Data Owners, Data Stewards and Data Custodians.
- ❖ It introduces a Single Source of Truth (SSOT) for critical data and requires strong controls such as encryption, audit trails and periodic audits.

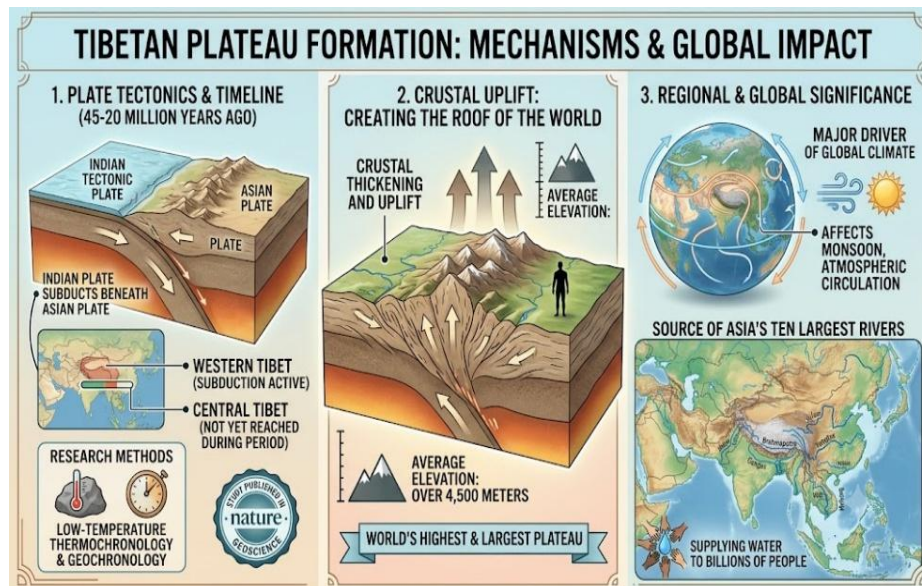


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Tibetan Plateau Formation

- ❖ A study published in Nature Geoscience explains how the Indian tectonic plate helped form the Tibetan Plateau, known as the "Roof of the World."

- ❖ Researchers found that the Indian plate moved beneath the Asian plate in western Tibet between 45 and 20 million years ago, but had not yet reached central Tibet during that period.
- ❖ The study used low-temperature thermochronology and geochronology to reconstruct the plateau's geological history and uplift.
- ❖ The Tibetan Plateau is the world's highest and largest plateau, with an average elevation of over 4,500 metres.
- ❖ It acts as a major driver of the global climate and is the source of Asia's ten largest rivers, supplying water to billions of people.



STATE NEWS

PVTG Habitat Rights - Odisha

- ❖ Odisha has recognised 10 habitat rights claims covering 8 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- ❖ Habitat rights under Section 3(1)(e) of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 recognise the traditional habitat of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), including forests, sacred sites, grazing lands and livelihood areas.
- ❖ Odisha is home to 13 PVTGs, the highest among all Indian states, spread across 14 districts.
- ❖ The first habitat rights title in Odisha was granted to the Paudi Bhuyan community in Deogarh district in March 2024, covering 32 settlements.
- ❖ So far, 10 claims covering 625 communities, 18,811 households, and nearly 1.65 million hectares of forest and revenue land have been recognised.

- ❖ India's first habitat rights title was granted to the Baiga community in Madhya Pradesh in 2015.



Women Farmers Act - Maharashtra

The Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026 is an important first step towards social change to address deeply entrenched inequalities in access to land, water and other natural resources.



- ❖ Maharashtra became the first Indian state to enact the Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026, giving legal recognition to women farmers.

- ❖ The Act recognises women engaged in crop farming, animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries, agroforestry, vermiculture, mushroom cultivation, and primary processing, whether as landowners or labourers.
- ❖ It introduces the Woman Farmer Certificate (WFC), enabling eligible women to access government schemes, crop insurance and institutional credit without land ownership.
- ❖ The Act provides for a digital registry of women farmers and a dedicated State Empowerment Fund for targeted welfare measures.
- ❖ It was introduced during the United Nations (UN)-observed International Year of the Woman Farmer.
- ❖ The Act aims to improve women's access to land, water, credit, agricultural services and decision-making in agriculture.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for International Justice 2026 - July 17



- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the adoption of the Rome Statute (1998), which established the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- ❖ The day aims to promote international justice, accountability, and action against crimes such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and aggression.
- ❖ It is observed every year on 17 July to mark the establishment of the ICC and the global commitment towards justice and the Rule of Law.
- ❖ The International Criminal Court (ICC) is located in The Hague, Netherlands.

- ❖ The ICC is the first permanent international court established to prosecute individuals responsible for the gravest international crimes.

Tamil Nadu Day 2026 - July 18

- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the day when the name “Tamil Nadu” was officially adopted for the state.
- ❖ The day marks the historic resolution moved by C.N. Annadurai (Arignar Anna) in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 18 July 1967 to rename Madras State as Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The name change was officially implemented in 1969 after the approval of the Government of India.
- ❖ Before this, the state was known as Madras State, even after the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, which created linguistic states.
- ❖ The state was formed as a linguistic state mainly for Tamil-speaking people and is known for its rich Tamil language, culture, literature, and heritage.
- ❖ November 1 is also observed in Tamil Nadu as the day the Madras State was formed in 1956 after the linguistic reorganisation of states.

