



July - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India has secured its first medal at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2026 as boxer Lovlina Borgohain is assured of at least a bronze medal in the women's 75 kg category.
- ❖ EnKash has launched India's first Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-enabled meal card, allowing employees to pay from their meal card balance by scanning eligible UPI Quick Response (QR) codes.
 - Under the revised Income Tax Rules (effective 1 April 2026), the tax-free meal allowance limit was increased to ₹8,800 per month or ₹200 per meal.
- ❖ DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) on July 23, 2026, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- ❖ India developed its first indigenous Expendable Turbo Jet Engine (ETJE) in the 350 kg thrust class by the DRDO.
- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned INS Malvan, the second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), to strengthen maritime security.
- ❖ DBS Group was named "World's Best Corporate Bank" at the 2026 Global Bank Awards by Global Finance.
- ❖ World Drowning Prevention Day is observed every year on 25 July to promote drowning prevention and raise awareness about measures to reduce drowning deaths worldwide.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Unite to turn the tide".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

New Findings at Keeladi

- ❖ The 11th phase of excavation at the Keeladi archaeological site in Tamil Nadu has uncovered new brick structures, drainage features, and many artefacts.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA) is excavating Keeladi near Madurai in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ The 11th phase began on 18 March 2026 and was carried out south of the on-site museum area.
- ❖ Continuous brick structures were found in all nine quadrants, and they extend towards the west and north beyond the dug area.

- ❖ A terracotta pipeline and a closed drainage system were found in one quadrant, showing planned settlement features.
- ❖ More than 1,300 artefacts were recovered, including terracotta beads, spindles, iron knives, chisels, swords, nails, semi-precious stones, ivory dice, and tiny gold ornaments.
- ❖ Intact pots were also found, including one with a fish symbol on it, and the organic remains will be sent for carbon dating.



NATIONAL NEWS

Bharat Tex 2026

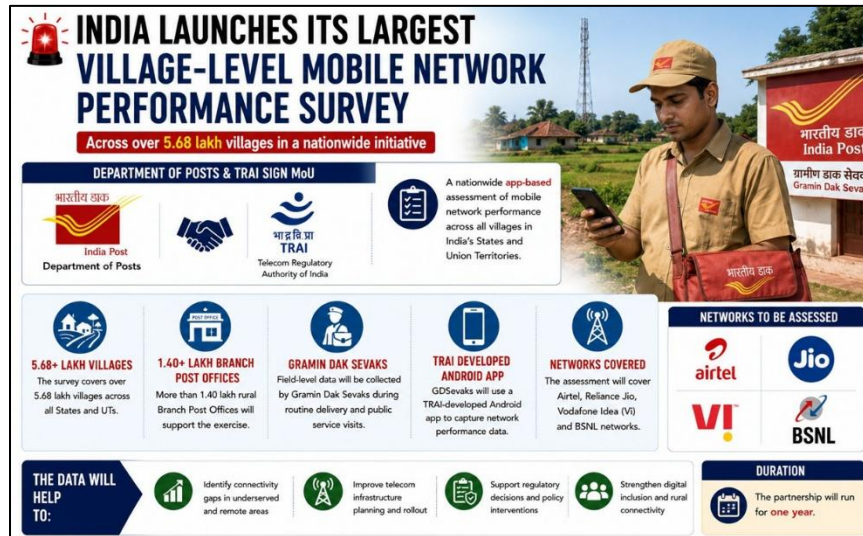


- ❖ It is India's Largest Global Textile Event, held in Delhi.
- ❖ It was opened with Record International Participation from 138 countries.

- ❖ It is the world's largest integrated textile value chain event, organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles.

India's Largest Village-Level Telecom Network Performance Survey

- ❖ The all-India survey is a joint venture of the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications and TRAI.
- ❖ It aims to execute India's largest village-level telecom network performance survey across 5.68 lakh villages.
- ❖ Over 1.4 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks (rural postal workers) will use a TRAI-developed Android app during routine deliveries to rate the coverage of Airtel, Jio, Vi, and BSNL.
- ❖ It aims to generate granular field-level data to identify "not-spots" (areas with no coverage) and guide future telecom infrastructure investments.



INDIA LAUNCHES ITS LARGEST VILLAGE-LEVEL MOBILE NETWORK PERFORMANCE SURVEY
Across over 5.68 lakh villages in a nationwide initiative

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TRAI SIGN MoU

India Post Department of Posts | TRAI Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

A nationwide app-based assessment of mobile network performance across all villages in India's States and Union Territories.

5.68+ LAKH VILLAGES
The survey covers over 5.68 lakh villages across all States and UTs.

1.40+ LAKH BRANCH POST OFFICES
More than 1.40 lakh rural Branch Post Offices will support the exercise.

GRAMIN DAK SEVAKS
Field-level data will be collected by Gramin Dak Sevaks during routine delivery and public service visits.

TRAJ DEVELOPED ANDROID APP
GDSevaks will use a TRAI-developed Android app to capture network performance data.

NETWORKS COVERED
The assessment will cover Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea (Vi) and BSNL networks.

NETWORKS TO BE ASSESSED
Airtel, Jio, Vi, BSNL

THE DATA WILL HELP TO:

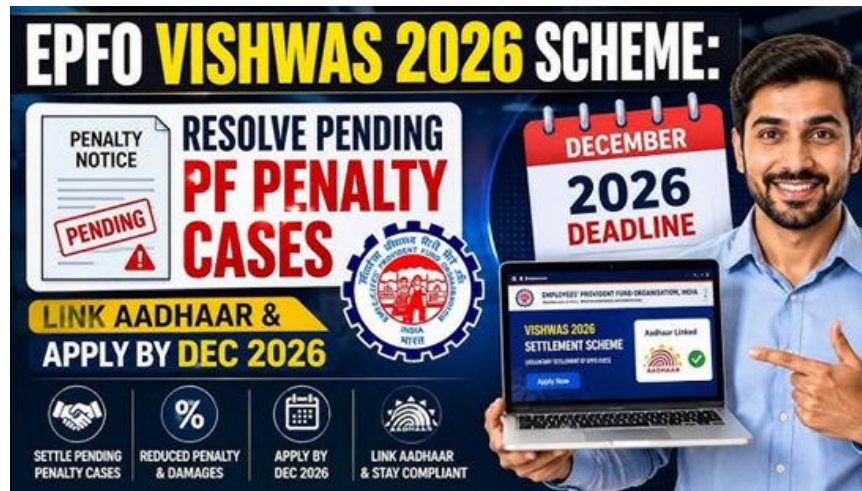
- Identify connectivity gaps in underserved and remote areas
- Improve telecom infrastructure planning and rollout
- Support regulatory decisions and policy interventions
- Strengthen digital inclusion and rural connectivity

DURATION
The partnership will run for one year.

Viswas scheme 2026

- ❖ It is a Voluntary Initiative for Speedy Hearing and Waiver of Adverse Surcharges or Viswas.
- ❖ The Ministry of Labour & Employment officially launched the Vishwas 2026 Scheme.
- ❖ It is a one-time dispute resolution scheme launched by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- ❖ It applies strictly to disputes concerning damages/penalties levied under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 or the Code on Social Security, 2020.

- ❖ It aims to promote voluntary compliance, curb prolonged litigation, and ensure fast-track digital settlement of long-pending employer disputes regarding penalties and damages.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting

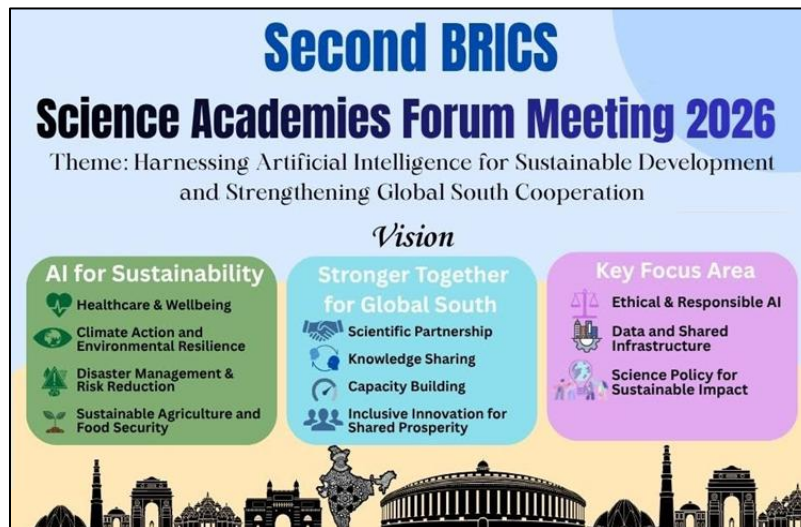


- ❖ India hosted the 3rd BRICS Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in New Delhi, where member countries adopted a Joint Statement.
- ❖ The meeting was organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as part of India's BRICS Chairship 2026.
- ❖ The Joint Statement reaffirmed commitment to implement the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Work Plan (2025–2028).

- ❖ India highlighted five priority areas, including early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, science and technology, nature-based solutions, and community resilience.
- ❖ Six flagship knowledge products on disaster risk reduction were launched to strengthen policymaking and capacity building across BRICS countries.
- ❖ The meeting also focused on climate-smart infrastructure, knowledge sharing, joint projects, and simulation exercises to improve disaster resilience.

BRICS Science Academies Forum 2026

- ❖ The BRICS Science Academies Forum 2026 concluded at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for sustainable development and Global South cooperation.
- ❖ The forum was organised by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- ❖ The theme was “Harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Sustainable Development and Strengthening Global South Cooperation.”
- ❖ The forum discussed ethical, inclusive, and human-centric AI approaches for global challenges.
- ❖ It identified five AI priority areas: advanced manufacturing, healthcare, climate change, agriculture, and disaster prediction & management.



16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting 2026

- ❖ The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting concluded in Chandigarh under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, with the adoption of the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Declaration.

- ❖ The meeting focused on public health cooperation, health equity, resilient healthcare systems, and global health challenges.
- ❖ BRICS countries supported the establishment of a BRICS Expert Working Group on Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) for research and knowledge sharing.
- ❖ The meeting launched the BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and endorsed the Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Roadmap (2026–2029).
- ❖ India announced the BRICS Network of Centres of Excellence on Mental Wellness with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) as the coordinating centre.



ECONOMY NEWS

RBI Financial Inclusion Index 2026

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported an improvement in the country's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index), with the index rising to 70.0 in March 2026 from 67.0 in March 2025.
- ❖ This steady rise reflects India's continued progress in expanding financial services and deepening financial engagement nationwide.

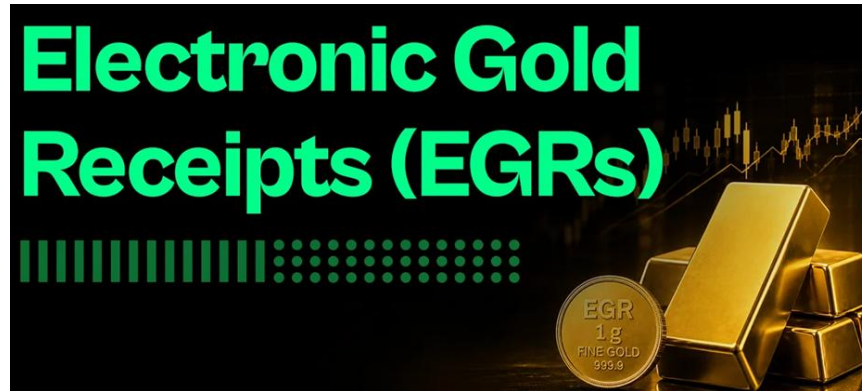
- ❖ This composite FI-Index tracks 97 indicators without a base year, evaluating India's financial ecosystem across three core parameters: Access with weightage of 35 per cent, Usage 45 per cent and Quality with weightage of 20 per cent.
- ❖ The index was first introduced in August 2021 for the financial year ending March 2021 and is published annually.



Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)

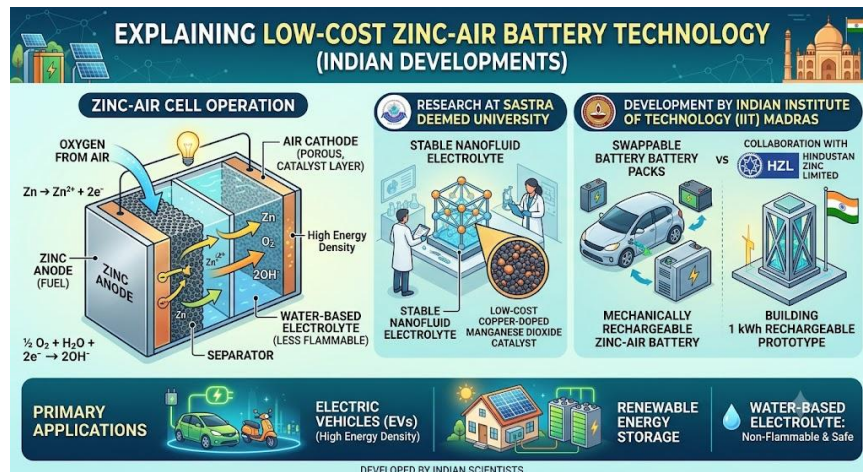
- ❖ The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has announced the launch of Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs).
- ❖ It is a new segment aimed at bringing greater transparency, efficiency and formalization to India's gold market.
- ❖ It is expected to bridge the gap between physical gold and financial markets by offering a regulated and secure platform for trading in gold.
- ❖ EGRs are dematerialised securities that represent ownership of physical gold.
- ❖ The Physical gold is stored in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) accredited vaults and held electronically through depositories.
- ❖ Each EGR is fully backed by physical gold and can be traded on the exchange, integrating gold into the formal financial system.
- ❖ EGRs will allow investors to hold gold electronically with assured quality and also enable seamless conversion between physical and digital formats.

- ❖ Investors can participate even with smaller quantities, providing improved liquidity and flexibility, similar to other financial instruments held in demat form.
- ❖ The NSE aims to create a robust and transparent ecosystem for gold trading, enabling efficient price discovery, improved market participation, and enhanced trust across stakeholders, including jewellers, refiners, traders, and institutional investors.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Low-Cost Zinc-Air Battery Technology



- ❖ Indian scientists developed low-cost zinc-air battery technologies for energy storage and electric vehicles.
- ❖ Zinc-air batteries use zinc as the anode and oxygen from air as the cathode reactant, offering high energy density.
- ❖ Researchers at SASTRA Deemed University developed a stable nanofluid electrolyte and a low-cost copper-doped manganese dioxide catalyst.

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is developing mechanically rechargeable zinc-air batteries, and with Hindustan Zinc Limited is building a 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh) rechargeable prototype.
- ❖ Zinc-air batteries use water-based electrolytes, making them less flammable than many lithium-ion batteries.

India's Indigenous Small Modular Reactors

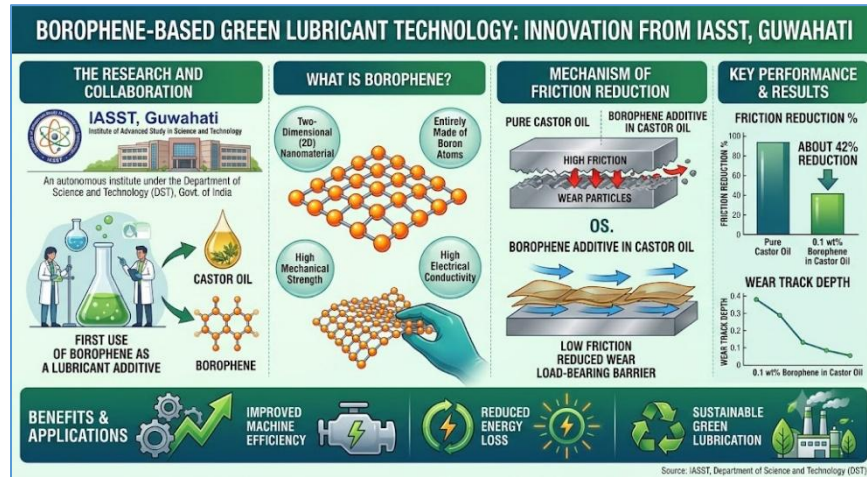
- ❖ India plans to develop and operationalise at least five indigenously designed Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.
- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is designing three reactor types: 220-megawatt electric (MWe) Bharat SMR, 55 MWe SMR, and up to 5-megawatt thermal (MWth) High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR).
- ❖ The Bharat SMR and SMR-55 use Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) technology, which uses high-pressure water as both coolant and moderator.
- ❖ The HTGR will be developed at Visakhapatnam to produce hydrogen using nuclear heat.
- ❖ India aims to achieve 100 gigawatts (GW) of nuclear power capacity by 2047, with about 22 GW targeted by 2031–32.



Borophene-Based Green Lubricant Technology

- ❖ Researchers from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, developed a borophene-based green lubricant additive using castor oil.
- ❖ IASST, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), demonstrated the first use of borophene as a high-performance lubricant additive.

- ❖ Borophene is a two-dimensional (2D) nanomaterial made entirely of boron atoms with high mechanical strength and electrical conductivity.
- ❖ Adding 0.1 weight percent borophene to castor oil reduced friction by about 42% compared to pure castor oil.
- ❖ The technology improves machine efficiency, reduces energy loss and wear, and supports sustainable green lubrication applications.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Campus Biodiversity Register initiative



- ❖ The Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), has launched the Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) initiative to document biodiversity on college and university campuses.
- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory body that regulates, advises, and promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

- ❖ The Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) is inspired by the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), which documents biodiversity and traditional knowledge at the village, town, and city levels.
- ❖ Under the initiative, students, faculty, and staff will document biodiversity through surveys, campus walks, and regular observations.
- ❖ The initiative uses citizen science platforms such as iNaturalist, eBird, and Season Watch to record biodiversity data.
- ❖ The Campus Biodiversity Register (CBR) aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation, improve ecosystem management, and enhance scientific awareness among students.

Rhino Population in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve



The rhino population in the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) has increased to 53, according to the fourth rhino census conducted between June 25 and 27. Their population has now grown more than seven-fold and coexists with tigers, elephants, leopards and sloth bears in Dudhwa. The latest census recorded 17 adult males, 25 adult females and 11 calves older than one year. Among them are eight rhinos aged 10-15 years.

- ❖ The Indian rhinoceros population in Uttar Pradesh's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) has risen to 53.
- ❖ The fourth rhino census was conducted in June 2026.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh remains one of only 3 states in India alongside Assam and West Bengal to support a wild population of the greater one-horned rhinoceros.

- ❖ Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is located on the Indo-Nepal border in the Lakhimpur-Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It comprises a unique Terai grassland and swamp ecosystem.
- ❖ To improve genetic diversity and combat inbreeding depression, 11 rhinos have been successfully released from the enclosures to roam completely free in the wild.
- ❖ It is home to endangered species like the Bengal tiger, swamp deer (barasingha), and Asian elephant.

India's First Night Safari



On 15 July 2026, the Supreme Court cleared the way for the Kukrail Night Safari & Zoological Park in Lucknow, subject to all environmental and statutory safeguards.

Once all statutory clearances are in place, the project will become India's first Night Safari—a landmark moment for the country's wildlife tourism landscape.

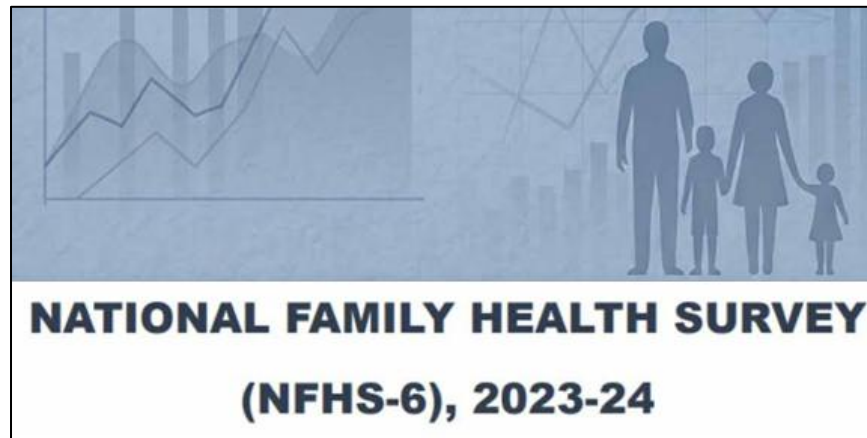
- ❖ The Supreme Court has cleared the Kukrail Night Safari project in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It is marking it as India's first night safari as well as India's first urban night safari.
- ❖ It is the world's fifth such project after Singapore, Thailand, China and Indonesia.
- ❖ It has received approval from the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ The forest is also home to the Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Centre.
- ❖ It is also home to India's first gharial conservation centre.
- ❖ It was established in 1975 to save the critically endangered gharial.
- ❖ Night Safaris in India are governed by CZA's Night Safari Guidelines and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- ❖ The Central Zoo Authority is the statutory body that regulates zoos in India under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

REPORTS AND INDICES

NFHS-6 Health Report 2026

- ❖ The latest National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) highlighted improvements in maternal and child health indicators along with a rise in lifestyle-related diseases among adults.
- ❖ Institutional deliveries increased from 88.6% (NFHS-5: 2019–21) to 90.6% (NFHS-6: 2023–24), while antenatal care coverage reached 95.9%.
- ❖ Child health indicators improved, with full immunisation increasing to 87.1% and stunting among children under five years declining from 35.5% to 29.3%.
- ❖ Overweight, obesity, and diabetes cases increased among adults, indicating a rise in lifestyle-related diseases.
- ❖ India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remained stable at 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1.



Investment Friendliness Index

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report on "Investment Friendliness Index".
- ❖ It is the first ever report on Investment Friendliness Index (IFI).
- ❖ It aims to benchmark and assess the readiness of Indian States and Union Territories (UTs) in attracting, facilitating, and sustaining domestic and foreign investments.
- ❖ It is a homegrown framework that assesses the investment readiness of States and UTs across eight pillars.

- ❖ Gujarat tops this Index as the best place to attract investment.
- ❖ It is followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Odisha.
- ❖ Hilly and North-Eastern States - Uttarakhand emerged as the highest-ranked, followed by Assam and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Union Territories and City States - Delhi and Chandigarh.

The eight core pillars are:

- ❖ Infrastructure: Physical logistics, power reliability, and digital connectivity.
- ❖ Business Climate: Efficacy of single-window clearances and operational continuity.
- ❖ Resources: Availability of industrial land, skilled labour pools, and raw materials.
- ❖ Government Policy: Policy predictability and stability over time.
- ❖ Regulatory Ease: Minimization of bureaucratic friction and compliance burdens.
- ❖ Institutional Environment: Capacity, transparency, and responsiveness of state institutions.
- ❖ Financial Health: Fiscal prudence and state-level macroeconomic indicators.
- ❖ Environmental Resilience: Sustainability and ecological compliance parameters.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Bharat Samman 2026 for Women's Empowerment

- ❖ It was prominently awarded to prominent social activist Dr. Nandini Azad.

- ❖ She was recognized for her decades-long grassroots efforts in uplifting hundreds of thousands of economically marginalized women through the Working Women's Forum (India) and the Indian Cooperative Network for Women.
- ❖ It was presented during a ceremony held in Dehradun by the International Institute of Education & Management and the Economic Growth Foundation.
- ❖ Nandini Azad is the president of the Working Women's Forum (India) (WWF-I) and the Indian Cooperative Network for Women (ICNW).
- ❖ WWF-I and ICNW are women-led grassroots movements that bring together more than 6 lakh members in four southern States.

