



## National News

### I. Governance & Policy Updates

#### New National Cooperative Policy (2025-2045) Unveiled:

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled India's new National Cooperative Policy on July 24, 2025, replacing the 2002 policy.

**Objective:** To transform cooperatives into professional, sustainable economic entities and promote a "cooperative business ecosystem" in every village.

**Goals:** Triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP by 2034, bring 50 crore active members into the fold, and generate youth employment.

The policy aims for at least one cooperative organization per village and envisions five model cooperative villages in every 'tehsil'. It will be monitored by a National Steering Committee on Cooperation Policy.

#### Parliament Monsoon Session in Progress:

Both Houses of Parliament have seen continued uproar from the opposition over various issues, leading to adjournments.

On July 24, 2025, the Rajya Sabha briefly functioned to bid farewell to retiring members.

The Lok Sabha faced disruptions for the fourth consecutive day over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution in Rajya Sabha to extend President's Rule in Manipur for another six months, effective August 13, 2025.

#### India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Signed:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer signed a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at Chequers, UK, on July 24, 2025.

**Aim:** Reduce tariffs, create jobs, and enhance bilateral trade, investment, and economic collaborations.

They also agreed to negotiate a Double Contribution Convention to reduce the cost of doing business.

The leaders adopted the India-UK Vision 2035 document and finalized a Defence Industrial Roadmap for co-design, co-development, and co-production of defence products.

Southampton University opened its campus in Gurugram on June 16, 2025, becoming the first foreign university to open a campus in India under the New Education Policy (NEP).

#### 2025 Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (VOPPA) Regulation Order:

The Centre is set to issue this new regulation soon (after July 25, 2025) to enhance oversight and transparency in India's vegetable oil sector.





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It will replace the 2011 order and introduce mandatory digital reporting of edible oil production, sales, pricing, and stock data for real-time market monitoring.

### **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme (₹1 lakh Crore Corpus):**

Approved by the Union Cabinet on July 1, 2025, with a corpus of ₹1 lakh Crore.

**Aim:** Scale up R&D and innovation in strategic and sunrise domains with long-term, low-interest financing to encourage private sector investment.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), chaired by the Prime Minister, will provide strategic direction.

## **II. Economy & Infrastructure**

### **India's Green Energy Achievements:**

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced that India has reached 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025, five years ahead of its 2030 target.

He also stated that almost the entire country is now covered by clean energy.

India has also achieved 50% of its installed power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of its 2030 Paris Agreement target. Solar capacity alone has jumped 41-fold since 2014 to 116 GW by June 2025.

### **Indian Ports Evolving into Global Commerce Hubs:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that Indian ports are transforming through expansion, mechanization, digitalization, and Ease of Doing Business initiatives. This includes mega projects like the proposed Vadhavan Port.

### **Delhi Decongestion Plan - 'Super Six' Stage:**

Delhi and the Central government are collaborating on six major road projects in Delhi, covering 128 km at a cost of ₹23,850 crore.

These projects aim to decongest traffic, including extensions of expressways, new tunnels, and elevated corridors, with the Delhi government assisting with land acquisition and clearances.

### **Major Ongoing Infrastructure Projects (with 2025 milestones):**

**PM Gati Shakti Master Plan:** Continues to drive coordinated development of multi-modal infrastructure across the country.

**Delhi-Mumbai Expressway:** Expected to be completed in 2025, significantly reducing travel time.

**Mumbai Metro Expansion:** Several lines (Line 5, 6, 3, 4/4A) are expected to be operational or nearing completion by late 2025, improving urban connectivity.

**Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMI):** Scheduled to begin commercial flights in August 2025.







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**Noida International Airport (NIA):** Nearing completion, with operations starting by end-2025.

**Western Dedicated Freight Corridor:** 96.4% completed as of May 2025, set to improve freight logistics.

**Digital Highways:** NHAI is developing 10,000 km of Digital Highways with fiber optic infrastructure to boost internet connectivity and support 5G/6G rollout.

### MSME Sector Support Measures:

Credit guarantee cover for Micro and Small Enterprises increased from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore.

For Startups, it doubled from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore with reduced fees.

Term loans up to ₹20 crore for well-run exporter MSMEs.

A new Fund of Funds with ₹10,000 crore will expand support for startups.

### III. Social & Digital Initiatives

#### SOAR Initiative for AI Literacy in Schools:

Government launched the SOAR (Scaling Opportunities and Reaching aspirations) initiative to equip school students (classes 6-12) with AI skills.

**It features three structured 15-hour modules:** "AI to be aware," "AI to acquire," and "AI to aspire," along with a 45-hour module for teachers.

The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide, especially for students from rural areas, and aligns with NEP 2020.

#### Common Services Centres (CSC) 16th Establishment Day:

CSCs celebrated their 16th Establishment Day on July 16, 2025, with Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurating the event.

CSCs, under the Digital India programme, are expanding to integrate AI-based services, cloud solutions, and digitally enabled livelihoods, acting as engines of rural innovation.

#### Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS):

As of July 22, 2025, proposals for computerization of 73,492 PACS have been sanctioned, with 59,920 onboarded to a unified ERP platform.

This is part of the Ministry of Cooperation's efforts to digitalize and strengthen cooperatives. Additionally, 23,173 new multipurpose PACS, Dairy & Fishery cooperatives have been registered.

#### PM Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM-Poshan) Scheme:

Haryana approved a budget of ₹665.65 crore for FY 2025-26 on July 24, 2025, for this scheme (formerly Mid-Day Meal Scheme), benefiting over 1.5 million children.

#### Digital ID Cards for Persons with Disabilities (Delhi Government):





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Delhi CM Rekha Gupta announced the rollout of digital ID cards for persons with disabilities on July 21, 2025, to improve welfare delivery.

#### IV. Other Notable Developments

##### Hoax Bomb Threats to Airlines:

Minister of State for Civil Aviation informed Lok Sabha that 69 hoax bomb threats were received by airlines in India until July 20, 2025, compared to 728 in 2024.

##### Supreme Court Stays Bombay HC Order in 2006 Mumbai Train Blasts Case:

The Supreme Court of India has stayed the Bombay High Court's order that acquitted all 12 accused in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts case.

##### India Resumes Tourist Visas for Chinese Citizens:

After a five-year hiatus, India resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals from July 24, 2025

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## MCQS

**1. When was India's new National Cooperative Policy (2025-2045) unveiled?**

- a) July 1, 2025
- b) July 16, 2025
- c) July 24, 2025
- d) August 13, 2025

**Answer:** c) July 24, 2025

Under "New National Cooperative Policy (2025-2045) Unveiled," it states: "Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled India's new National Cooperative Policy on July 24, 2025..."

**2. What is one of the key goals of the New National Cooperative Policy (2025-2045) by 2034?**

- a) To open five model cooperative villages in every district.
- b) To bring 10 crore active members into the fold.
- c) To triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP.
- d) To establish a cooperative university in every state.

**Answer:** c) To triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP.

Under "New National Cooperative Policy (2025-2045) Unveiled," one of the stated goals is: "Triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP by 2034..."

**3. What is the primary aim of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed on July 24, 2025?**

- a) To establish a military alliance between India and the UK.
- b) To reduce tariffs, create jobs, and enhance bilateral trade.
- c) To jointly explore space technology.

d) To implement a common visa policy.

**Answer:** b) To reduce tariffs, create jobs, and enhance bilateral trade.

Under "India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Signed," it states the "Aim: Reduce tariffs, create jobs, and enhance bilateral trade, investment, and economic collaborations."

**4. What new requirement does the 2025 Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (VOPPA) Regulation Order introduce for India's vegetable oil sector?**

- a) Mandatory physical inspections of all storage facilities.
- b) Mandatory digital reporting of edible oil production, sales, pricing, and stock data.
- c) A complete ban on imported edible oils.
- d) Fixed pricing for all vegetable oil products.

**Answer:** b) Mandatory digital reporting of edible oil production, sales, pricing, and stock data.

The "2025 Vegetable Oil Products, Production and Availability (VOPPA) Regulation Order" section mentions it will "introduce mandatory digital reporting of edible oil production, sales, pricing, and stock data for real-time market monitoring."

**5. What is the main objective of the SOAR (Scaling Opportunities and Reaching aspirations) initiative launched by the Government?**

- a) To provide financial assistance to startups.
- b) To equip school students (classes 6-12) with AI skills.
- c) To promote traditional Indian languages in higher education.
- d) To facilitate international student exchange programs.





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**Answer:** b) To equip school students (classes 6-12) with AI skills.

Explanation: Under "SOAR Initiative for AI Literacy in Schools," it states: "Government launched the SOAR (Scaling Opportunities and Reaching aspirations) initiative to equip school students (classes 6-12) with AI skills."

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