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Weekly Roundup — Week 7 (Feb 9–15, 2026)

15 February 2026 ·

IR**SCIENCE & TECH****ECONOMY****ENVIRONMENT****SECURITY & DEFENCE****POLITY****GEOGRAPHY**

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Weekly Roundup — Week 7 (Feb 9–15, 2026)

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International Relations

Science Tech

Economy

Environment

Security Defence

Polity

Geography

WEEK OVERVIEW

A technology and diplomacy-heavy week that showcased India's accelerating strategic ambitions. **India-Malaysia relations** were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. India's **strategic balancing between the US and Russia** reached a flashpoint over oil imports. **Chandrayaan-4's south polar landing site** was confirmed. The **IndiaAI Mission** gained a flagship Indian model. **IT deepfake rules** created Asia's first mandatory AI labelling regime. The **Brahmaputra Tunnel** Cabinet approval marked a connectivity milestone. The **Indus Waters Treaty dispute** sharpened over the Sawalkot project. And **CCUS** received its first dedicated Budget allocation for India's hard-to-abate sectors.

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

Mission Aatmanirbharta in Pulses — Rs 11,440 Crore Self-Sufficiency Push

India launched the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** with a **Rs 11,440 crore outlay** — targeting production of **350 lakh tonnes of Tur (arhar), Urad (black gram), and Masoor (lentil)** by 2030-31, along with 1,000 pulse processing mills.

India's pulse paradox:

- India is the **world's largest producer AND consumer** of pulses — contributing ~25% of global production
- Yet imports **47.38 lakh tonnes** (FY2023-24) due to chronic demand-supply gap
- Price spikes in Tur and Urad are a leading driver of food inflation — directly affecting household budgets

Mission targets:

- Increase Tur yield: 1.2 → 1.8 tonnes/hectare

- Expand under-utilised areas (rainfed zones, inter-cropping with sugarcane/cotton)
- **1,000 pulse mills** for value addition and reducing post-harvest losses (currently 15–20%)
- Provide minimum support price (MSP) assurance + procurement through NAFED/NCCF

Nutrition context: Pulses contribute **20–25% of total protein intake** in Indian diets. WHO/ICMR recommend 85 grams/person/day; India's average falls significantly short, especially among low-income vegetarian households.

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy + Agriculture: India's pulse imports (from Myanmar, Canada, Australia); MSP architecture; PM Fasal Bima Yojana coverage of pulses; ICRISAT's role in pulse crop research; protein security as nutrition security component.

India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 — Strategic Technology Manufacturing

Budget 2026-27 allocated **Rs 1,000 crore** for **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)**, building on ISM 1.0's Rs 76,000 crore outlay. Simultaneously, India's first **Quantum Valley** foundation stone was laid in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**.

ISM 1.0 achievements:

- **10 projects** approved, total investment **Rs 1.60 lakh crore**
- **Tata Electronics** — semiconductor fab in **Dholera SIR, Gujarat** (N28 node; 50,000 wafers/month)
- **CG Power (Renesas/STARS JV)** — ATMP unit in Sanand, Gujarat
- **Micron Technology** — ATMP facility in Sanand (first US chip company in India)

ISM 2.0 focus: Domestic chip design ecosystem (fabless companies), compound semiconductors (SiC, GaN for defence/EVs), R&D subsidies for next-generation fabrication nodes.

Quantum Valley, Amaravati:

- First dedicated quantum technology hub in India
- Houses startups, national labs, QKD (Quantum Key Distribution) pilots under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** — Rs 6,003 crore (2023–31)
- Targets 50-qubit computer by 2028 (IISc + TIFR leading)

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / S&T + Economy: Semiconductor supply chain (design → fab → ATMP → packaging); India Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme; DPIIT vs. MeitY jurisdiction; PLI for electronics; Chips Act (US) and its implications for India partnerships; Compound semiconductors in EV/defence applications.

India's Aviation Sector — Duopoly Risk and Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024

India's **civil aviation sector** — the world's **3rd-largest domestic market** — faces structural risks: an **IndiGo + Air India duopoly controlling ~90% of routes**, nearly **50% DGCA vacancies**, and the challenge of implementing the new **Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam (BVA), 2024**.

Market scale:

- ~15 crore domestic passengers annually (FY25)
- 150+ operational airports (target 220 by 2030 under UDAN scheme)
- India needs **2,100+ new aircraft** in next 20 years (Boeing/Airbus forecasts)
- Fleet size: ~800 aircraft (underpowered for \$30 billion aviation market target)

Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024:

- Replaces **Aircraft Act, 1934** (90-year-old British-era law)
- Modernises safety standards, aligns with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) norms
- Empowers **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)** as independent technical regulator
- Addresses drone operations, electric aircraft, and space tourism in a future-ready framework

Duopoly concern: Competition Commission of India (CCI) examining IndiGo + Air India combined dominance. Go First collapse (2023) and SpiceJet's survival crisis reduced effective competition.

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy: DGCA's [mandate](#) (under Ministry of Civil Aviation); ICAO membership (India Category 1 rating); UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme; NABH Nirman (airport capacity expansion); CCI's market dominance thresholds.

CCUS — Budget Rs 20,000 Crore for Carbon Capture

Union Budget 2026-27 allocated **Rs 20,000 crore over five years** for a **Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)** scheme — India's first dedicated CCUS funding, targeting five **hard-to-abate industrial sectors**: power, steel, cement, refineries, and chemicals.

How CCUS works:

- 1 **Capture:** CO₂ separated at source (post-combustion, pre-combustion, or oxy-fuel combustion)
- 2 **Utilization:** CO₂ converted to useful products — synthetic fuels (e-methanol), urea fertilisers, concrete aggregates (mineralisation), or enhanced oil recovery
- 3 **Storage:** Injected into deep geological formations (depleted oil/gas fields, saline aquifers) — permanent sequestration

India's hard-to-abate challenge:

- Cement and steel cannot be decarbonised via electrification alone — chemical processes produce CO₂ as a byproduct
- India's **Net Zero by 2070** pathway (announced at COP26) requires CCUS in these sectors

Cost challenge: Global CCUS cost: **USD 30–100 per tonne of CO₂** captured — making it commercially unviable without subsidies. India's Rs 20,000 crore is a demonstration-scale investment to bring down costs.

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Environment + Economy: India's NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions); COP26 Net Zero pledge; hard-to-abate sectors' share of India's total emissions (~40%); IEA's Net Zero by 2050 roadmap; carbon credit markets (IETA, voluntary carbon markets); comparison with EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chandrayaan-4 — India's First Lunar Sample-Return Mission

ISRO identified **Mons Mouton-4 (MM-4)** — at **84.289°S, 32.808°E** — as the primary landing site for **Chandrayaan-4**, India's first mission to land on the Moon, collect samples, and return them to Earth.

Why MM-4? Located near the lunar south pole — a region of confirmed **water-ice deposits** in permanently shadowed craters (PSRs). Water-ice is scientifically invaluable (evidence of early solar system volatile distribution) and practically important (future in-situ resource utilisation for crewed missions).

Mission profile:

- Collect **~3 kg** of surface regolith (soil/rock)
- Return samples to Earth via a **sample return capsule**
- India would become only the **4th country** to achieve a lunar sample-return (after USA: Apollo programme 1969–72; USSR: Luna 16/20/24; China: Chang'e 5, 2020)

Technical challenge: Multi-stage mission requiring landing, ascent from Moon, rendezvous in lunar orbit, and reentry — far more complex than Chandrayaan-3's one-way lander.

Chandrayaan lineage:

- Chandrayaan-1 (2008): Discovered water molecules in lunar exosphere
- Chandrayaan-2 (2019): Orbiter (operational) + Vikram lander (crash-landed)
- Chandrayaan-3 (2023): Vikram soft-landed Aug 23 — India 4th country to achieve Moon landing

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / S&T: ISRO's planetary missions; NASA Artemis programme (Chandrayaan-4 coordination); lunar south pole significance; ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3); space cooperation with JAXA (LUPEX rover planned); India's space economy target.

Sarvam AI — India's Sovereign AI Push Under IndiaAI Mission

Sarvam AI's Vision model set benchmark records on Indian-language OCR tasks — outperforming Google Gemini 3 Pro and DeepSeek OCR v2 — underlining India's progress under the **Rs 10,300 crore IndiaAI Mission**.

IndiaAI Mission (2024):

- Rs 10,300 crore total outlay
- **10,000 GPU compute cluster** — India's first sovereign AI compute infrastructure
- Focus: foundational model development, startup ecosystem, AI in governance, safe AI framework

Sarvam AI:

- Builds foundation models tuned for **22 scheduled Indian languages**
- Products: Sarvam-1 (language model), Sarvam-Translate, Sarvam-Speech-to-Text, Sarvam-Vision
- IndiaAI Mission beneficiary — received compute access via government GPU cluster

Why sovereign AI matters:

- Most global AI models are English-dominant — poor performance on Indian-language tasks (code-switching, transliteration, domain vocabulary)
- India's linguistic diversity requires purpose-built models, not fine-tuning of Western models
- Governance: reduces dependence on US/China AI infrastructure; protects data **sovereignty** under India's DPDP Act 2023

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / S&T: AI policy frameworks; NITI Aayog's Approach to AI (2018) + National AI Strategy; IndiaAI Mission vs. US AI Safety Institute; EU AI Act risk classification; **data localisation** under DPDP Act 2023; National Language Translation Mission (NLTM/Bhashini); AI for Governance (PM-wani, DigiLocker, UMANG integration).

IT Amendment Rules 2026 — Deepfake Regulation

MeitY notified the **IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026** — effective February 20, 2026 — introducing India's first mandatory framework for **synthetic media (deepfakes)**.

Key provisions:

- **Mandatory AI content labelling:** All AI-generated text, images, audio, video must carry visible watermarks and metadata disclosure
- **2-hour takedown:** Platforms must remove deepfakes and non-consensual intimate imagery (NCII) within 2 hours of verified complaint

- **Safe harbour conditions revised:** Platforms retain Section 79 (IT Act) protection only if they implement labelling, reporting mechanisms, and automated detection tools
- **Grievance Appellate Committees (GACs)** — strengthened for synthetic media cases

Legal framework: Built on **IT Act 2000 Section 79 + IT Rules 2021** (parent rules — Significant Social Media Intermediaries, OTT regulation, Digital News Publishers).

Challenge: “Deepfake” not defined in IT Act — amendment relies on MeitY’s operational definition. Critics argue 2-hour window is technically challenging for large platforms receiving millions of reports.

UPSC Angle — GS-2 / Polity + GS-3 / S&T: IT Act 2000 architecture (Sections 66, 67, 79); intermediary liability; comparison with EU AI Act Article 52 (transparency for AI systems); [Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023](#) (data subject rights vs. deepfake creation); IT Rules 2021 vs. 2026 evolution; free speech vs. harm prevention in synthetic media regulation.

Gujarat–Starlink Lol — LEO Satellite Internet

Gujarat signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with **Starlink (SpaceX)** to provide broadband in tribal and Aspirational Districts including **Narmada and Dahod** — making Gujarat one of India’s first states to formally partner with a LEO satellite provider.

Starlink facts:

- **6,000+ satellites** in orbit (target: 12,000+; eventual: 42,000)
- **LEO altitude:** 340–1,200 km (vs. geostationary at 35,786 km) — provides lower latency (<20 ms vs. 600+ ms for VSAT)
- India DoT clearance: Starlink received Letter of Intent for GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite) licence — commercial operations imminent

India’s satellite internet landscape:

- **Jio Satellite** (Reliance + SES) — VSAT-based, awaiting spectrum
- **OneWeb (Bharti)** — LEO constellation; operational in India; government/enterprise focus
- **BSNL VSAT** — government broadband in tribal areas
- **Digital Bharat Nidhi** (USO Fund under DoT) — Rs 85,000 crore corpus for rural connectivity

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / S&T + Economy: Universal Service Obligation (USO) policy; PM-WANI (Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) scheme; [BharatNet](#) for optical fibre; satellite spectrum allocation (ITU/TRAI); space debris risk from LEO mega-constellations; India’s GMPCS licensing framework.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

HAPS for IAF — Stratospheric ISR and Ladakh Telescopes

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** approved a **Rs 3.60 lakh crore defence acquisition package** — including **High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS)** systems for the Indian Air Force (~Rs 15,000 crore) and funds for new **astronomical observatories at Hanle, Ladakh**.

HAPS — what they are:

- Unmanned platforms (solar-powered airships or fixed-wing aircraft) operating at **18–22 km altitude** (stratosphere)
- Fill the gap between low-orbit satellites and conventional UAVs/drones
- **Near-persistent surveillance:** can loiter over an area for **months** on solar power — unlike UAVs (hours) or satellites (minutes per pass)
- Applications: **ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance)**, communication relay, electronic warfare, border monitoring

Why IAF needs HAPS:

- High-altitude Chinese drone/satellite surveillance over Himalayan borders
- Persistent LAC (Line of Actual Control) monitoring without violating airspace regulations
- Communication relay in terrain-blocked northeastern sectors

Hanle Observatories (Ladakh):

- Hanle Dark Sky Reserve — world's highest optical observatory site (4,500 m altitude); minimal light/air pollution
- Budget 2026-27 funded **3 new telescopes** including a **13.7-metre optical telescope** — among the world's largest
- Existing facility: Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) — operated by IIA Bengaluru

UPSC Angle — GS-3 / S&T + Security: DAC's role in defence acquisitions; DPP (Defence Procurement Procedure); [positive indigenisation list](#); stratospheric surveillance in Sino-Indian border context; MAKE-I vs. MAKE-II defence manufacturing categories; IAO Hanle (IIA Bengaluru's high-altitude facility).

Indus Waters Treaty — Pakistan Invokes IWT Over Sawalkot Project

Pakistan formally invoked the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), 1960** seeking consultations on India's **Sawalkot Hydroelectric Project** (1,856 MW) on the **Chenab River** in Jammu & Kashmir's Ramban district — even as India continues to suspend the IWT following the Pahalgam terror attack.

IWT architecture:

- Signed **September 19, 1960** — Nehru + Ayub Khan + World Bank brokering
- **Eastern rivers** (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) → India's exclusive use
- **Western rivers** (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) → Pakistan's, but India can build run-of-river hydro projects with defined restrictions
- Chenab is a **Western river** — India can build hydro projects within IWT constraints (limited reservoir storage, no flood control structures affecting Pakistan)

India's IWT suspension (post-Pahalgam 2025): India cited Pakistan-sponsored terrorism as grounds to place the Treaty "in **abeyance**" — legally contested since IWT has no suspension clause.

Sawalkot project: NHPC-developed, **1,856 MW** run-of-river project; **Rs 5,129 crore tender** floated; bids due March 2026. Pakistan argues even run-of-river projects alter Chenab flow during construction phases.

UPSC Angle — GS-2 / IR: IWT's dispute resolution mechanism (Permanent Indus Commission → Neutral Expert → Court of Arbitration at PCA); India's position on Kishanganga and Ratle projects (PCA awarded India in Ratle, 2023); water as a strategic lever; Indus Waters Commissioners; World Bank's treaty-brokering role vs. current neutrality.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

India and Malaysia operationalised a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** during PM Modi's Kuala Lumpur visit — signing **11 agreements** including the **Malaysia-India Digital Council (MIDC)**, a **local currency (INR-MYR) trade settlement framework**, and Malaysia's accession to India's **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**.

Bilateral context:

- Trade: **USD 19.86 billion** (FY2024-25); Malaysia = India's **3rd largest ASEAN trading partner**
- **2.7 million Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)** — one of the world's largest Indian diaspora concentrations
- Malaysia is India's **largest palm oil supplier** (~3.5 million tonnes/year)

Key agreements:

- **MIDC:** Digital economy cooperation — UPI interoperability with Malaysia's DuitNow, AI governance, cybersecurity
- **INR-MYR settlement:** Reduces USD dependency in bilateral trade; part of India's broader Rupee internationalisation push

- **IBCA membership:** Malaysia joins India's big cat conservation initiative (tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, pumas, cougars — 8 species)

Malaysia-India in Act East: Malaysia is a strategic ASEAN partner for India's [Act East Policy](#) — providing access to Southeast Asia, semiconductor supply chains (Malaysia is 7% of global chip ATMP capacity), and maritime lanes through Malacca Strait.

UPSC Angle — GS-2 / IR: Act East Policy (2014) vs. Look East (1991); ASEAN-India trade; IBCA (launched 2023, India's [multilateral](#) conservation initiative); Malacca Strait strategic importance; Malaysia's Muslim-majority politics and India engagement; PM Modi's ASEAN/Southeast Asia diplomacy.

Colombo Security Conclave — Seychelles Joins, Now 6 Members

Seychelles became the **6th member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** — evolving the grouping from a trilateral (India-Sri Lanka-Maldives, 2011) to a hexalateral Indian Ocean Region security mechanism.

CSC members (2026): India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Seychelles.

Evolution:

- 2011: Trilateral founding — India, Sri Lanka, Maldives; focused on coast guard operations
- 2020: Revived as “Colombo Security Conclave” with expanded mandate; Mauritius joined
- 2022: Bangladesh joins
- 2026: Seychelles joins; permanent Secretariat in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

CSC mandate: Maritime security, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, cybersecurity, humanitarian assistance, disaster response.

India's MAHASAGAR Initiative (2025) — PM Modi's “MAHASAGAR” (Mutual and [Holistic](#) Advancement for Security And Growth Across Regions) framework specifically covers Indian Ocean Region states — CSC is one of its institutional vehicles alongside SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region, 2015).

UPSC Angle — GS-2 / IR: [SAGAR doctrine](#) (PM Modi, 2015, Mauritius); MAHASAGAR (2025 upgrade); IOR strategic importance; China's String of Pearls vs. India's necklace of pearls; Quad vs. CSC complementarity; Seychelles' EEZ (1.3 million sq km — maritime significance); India-Seychelles SESEL Joint Vision (bilateral, same week).

India-Seychelles SESEL Vision — Island Diplomacy

India and Seychelles announced the **SESEL Joint Vision** (Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages) during Seychelles President **Patrick Herminie's** 5-day State Visit — marking **50 years of diplomatic ties** and deepening India's western Indian Ocean strategic footprint.

SESEL five pillars: Maritime Security (joint patrols, surveillance), Digital Infrastructure (submarine cable, e-governance), **Blue Economy** (sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas), Capacity Building (scholarships, defence training), Health Cooperation (telemedicine, medicines).

Strategic significance of Seychelles:

- Seychelles' **EEZ**: 1.3 million sq km — one of the world's largest per capita
- Lies astride vital shipping lanes connecting the Gulf to East Africa and Asia
- India operates a **coast guard surveillance aircraft** and maritime patrol vessel at Seychelles' Assumption Island (COASTIN facility) — India's western IOR monitoring point

UPSC Angle — GS-2 / IR: India's island diplomacy framework; SAGAR doctrine; Assumption Island (Seychelles) agreement; India's Defence Cooperation Agreements with IOR states (Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Mozambique, Tanzania); blue economy and UNCLOS EEZ rights; Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and climate **vulnerability**.

★ FACTS CORNER — WEEK 7 KNOWLEDGEPEDIA (FEB 9–15, 2026)

INDIA-MALAYSIA:

CSP signed: 11 agreements; bilateral trade USD 19.86B (FY25); Malaysia = 3rd largest ASEAN partner

2.7 million PIO in Malaysia; Malaysia largest palm oil supplier to India (~3.5M tonnes/year)

MIDC: UPI ↔ DuitNow interoperability; INR-MYR settlement; IBCA: India's 8-big-cat conservation initiative (tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, snow leopards, pumas, cougars)

MISSION AATMANIRBHARTA IN PULSES:

Outlay: Rs 11,440 crore; target: 350 lakh tonnes (Tur + Urad + Masoor) by 2030-31; 1,000 pulse mills

India imported 47.38 lakh tonnes pulses (FY24); India = world's largest producer + consumer of pulses

Pulses: 20-25% of Indian dietary protein; WHO/ICMR recommend 85 g/person/day

INDIA SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION:

ISM 1.0: Rs 76,000 crore; 10 projects approved; Rs 1.60 lakh crore investment; up to 50% fiscal support

Tata Electronics Dholera: N28 node, 50,000 wafers/month; CG Power Sanand: ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking, Packaging)

ISM 2.0: Rs 1,000 crore (Budget 2026-27); compound semiconductors, chip design ecosystem

Quantum Valley Amaravati: NQM (Rs 6,003 crore 2023-31); 50-qubit (2028), 1,000-qubit (2031)

COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE:

Members: India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Seychelles (6th, Feb 2026)

Founded: 2011 (trilateral); revived 2020; Permanent Secretariat: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mandate: maritime security, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, cyber, HADR

SAGAR: 2015; MAHASAGAR: 2025 upgrade (PM Modi's IOR framework)

KIMBERLEY PROCESS:

India chairs 2026; KPCS est. 2000 (Kimberley, South Africa); formal ops Jan 2003

60 participants, 86 countries; targets rough diamonds ("blood diamonds/conflict diamonds")

India: world's largest diamond polishing/processing centre (Surat); 90%+ global rough diamonds processed in India

CHANDRAYAAN-4:

Type: Lunar sample-return; landing site: Mons Mouton-4 (MM-4), 84.289°S, 32.808°E (south polar)

Sample: ~3 kg regolith; 4th nation (USA/Apollo, USSR/Luna 16-24, China/Chang'e 5, India)

Chandrayaan-3: Aug 23, 2023; 4th nation to Moon-land; south pole landing site (Shiv Shakti Point)

SARVAM AI / INDIAAI MISSION:

IndiaAI Mission: Rs 10,300 crore; 10,000 GPU compute cluster (India's sovereign AI infra)

Sarvam AI: Indian startup; 22 scheduled languages; Sarvam-Vision outperformed Gemini 3 Pro + DeepSeek OCR v2

Bhashini: NLTM (National Language Technology Mission) — govt translation platform; feeds Sarvam's corpus

IT AMENDMENT RULES 2026 (DEEPFAKES):

Notified: Feb 2026; effective Feb 20, 2026; under IT Act 2000 Section 79 (safe harbour) + IT Rules 2021

Mandatory AI content labelling (watermarks + metadata); 2-hour takedown for deepfakes/NCII

Applies to SSIMs (Significant Social Media Intermediaries): >50 lakh users threshold (IT Rules 2021)

KAVACH (ADDITIONAL CONTEXT FROM WEEK 6 TRAJECTORY):

CCUS: Rs 20,000 crore over 5 years; hard-to-abate: power, steel, cement, refineries, chemicals

Net Zero 2070: India's COP26 pledge; LT-LEDS (Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy)

CCUS cost: USD 30-100/tonne CO₂; India's scheme = demonstration scale to reduce cost curve

INDUS WATERS TREATY:

Signed: Sept 19, 1960; India (Nehru) + Pakistan (Ayub Khan) + World Bank

Eastern rivers: Ravi, Beas, Sutlej → India exclusive; Western: Indus, Jhelum, Chenab → Pakistan primary

Sawalkot HEP: 1,856 MW; Chenab River; Ramban, J&K; Rs 5,129 crore tender; NHPC

India suspended IWT post-Pahalgam terror attack; Pakistan invoked treaty consultations

Dispute resolution: PIC (Permanent Indus Commission) → Neutral Expert → Court of Arbitration (PCA)

BRAHMAPUTRA TUNNEL:

Project: Rs 18,662 crore; Cabinet approved Feb 14, 2026

Gohpur (north bank) ↔ Numaligarh (south bank); 15.79 km dual-tube (rail + road)

India's first underwater rail-road tunnel; 2nd such combined structure globally upon completion

Strategic: reduces NE India vulnerability (Brahmaputra bridges have been bottlenecks)

HAPS:

Altitude: 18-22 km (stratosphere); solar-powered; near-persistent surveillance (months)

Gap-filler: above UAVs/drones, below LEO satellites

IAF HAPS: ~Rs 15,000 crore (part of Rs 3.60 lakh crore DAC package)

Hanle: 4,500 m altitude; Hanle Dark Sky Reserve; IAO (operated by IIA Bengaluru); 13.7m telescope (Budget 2026-27)

STARLINK GUJARAT:

Starlink: SpaceX LEO constellation; 6,000+ satellites; 340-1,200 km altitude; <20 ms latency

Gujarat LoI: Narmada + Dahod (tribal/Aspirational Districts); GMPCS licence (DoT)

Digital Bharat Nidhi (Universal Service Obligation Fund): Rs 85,000 crore corpus for rural connectivity

Competitors: OneWeb/Bharti (LEO), Jio Satellite (VSAT), BSNL VSAT

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India-Russia trade FY25: USD 68.72B (from ~\$11B in FY22); crude oil ~35-40% of India's imports from Russia; Russia = India's largest single crude oil supplier 2023

India-Seychelles SESEL: 50 years bilateral ties; Assumption Island COASTIN facility (coast guard aircraft/vessel)

Seychelles EEZ: 1.3 million sq km (one of world's largest per capita)

IBCA (International Big Cat Alliance): launched 2023; India host; 50 tiger-range nations invited; protects 8 big cat species

Sources: [PIB](#), [The Hindu](#), [Indian Express](#), [DD News](#)



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