

MoSPI Releases the National Industrial Classification (NIC) – 2025

The NIC is a fundamental tool for statistical surveys, censuses, economic research, and policy formulation.

National Industrial Classification (NIC) – 2025

- NIC 2025 updates the previous NIC 2008. (It was first introduced in 1962).
- It was prepared by MoSPI in alignment with the **International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 5** developed by the **United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)**.

Major Changes

- **Structural Change:** It moves from the **5-digit coding structure of NIC 2008 to a new 6-digit coding structure**. It allows for greater granularity and flexibility, enabling better representation of emerging activities.
- **Recognition of indigenous sectors** such as **Ayush-based healthcare** and the **handloom industry**.
- It also includes sectors like **renewable energy, fintech, e-commerce, and digital intermediation**.

Salient Features of NIC 2025

- **Enhanced Classification of Intermediation Services:** New classes have been created to reflect the growing role of intermediaries in sectors such as power, retail, logistics, healthcare, and education.
- **Representation of Digital Economy:** Cloud infrastructure, blockchain, platform-based services, and web search portals are distinctly classified.
- **Integration of Environmental and Green Economy:** Expanded coverage includes activities related to carbon capture, waste management, and environmental remediation, better aligning with SDGs.
- **Classification is technology agnostic:** It means distinctions of activities are not made based on whether an activity is carried out by means of traditional or modern production techniques.

Government introduces new modalities under PMFBY to strengthen farmer protection

Revised framework for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will be rolled out from Kharif 2026.

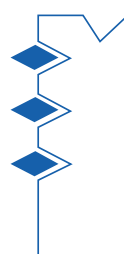
Key Changes introduced under PMFBY

- **New Coverage Added:** Crop loss due to **wild animal attacks is included** as the 5th add-on cover **under localised risks**.
- **Reintroduced Protection:** **Paddy inundation restored** as a localised calamity cover (**removed in 2018**).
- **State-Level Identification:** States will notify the list of **wild animals and vulnerable districts** based on historical data.
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Farmers must report losses **within 72 hours** via the crop insurance app with geo-tagged photos.

About PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- **Ministry:** Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- **Type:** Central Sector Scheme
- **Aims & Objectives:**
 - ⊕ Financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/ damage, stabilizing their income and ensuring flow of credit to the agriculture sector.
 - ⊕ Adoption of innovative & modern agricultural practices and crop diversification.
- **Eligibility:** Farmers, including **sharecroppers and tenant farmers, growing notified crops in notified areas**.
- **Premium Payable by Farmers:**
 - ⊕ For Kharif crops - 2%
 - ⊕ For Rabi crops - 1.5%
 - ⊕ For commercial and horticultural crops - 5%
- **Premium by Government:** **Shared equally (50:50)** by the Central and State Governments; Except for North-Eastern and Himalayan states (90:10).

PMFBY: Comprehensive Crop Risk Coverage



Total Risk Protection



Risk Exclusions



Prevented Sowing/Planting/Germination
Risk Coverage due to deficit rainfall or adverse seasonal conditions

Standing Crop Protection
(Sowing to Harvesting) Yield losses from Drought, Dry spell, Flood, Inundation

Post-Harvest Loss Coverage
Limited to two weeks after harvest for field-dried crops Protection against hailstorms, cyclones, unseasonal rains

Localized Calamities Protection
Losses from Hailstorm, Landslide, and other identified local risks

Add-On Wildlife Damage Coverage
States may offer coverage against losses due to wild animal attacks in high-risk areas.

General Exclusions:

- War Risks
- Malicious Damage
- Nuclear Risks
- Other Preventable Risks

Multiple Digital Initiatives launched to modernise warehousing and boost PDS Transparency

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution launched **major digital initiatives** to modernize warehousing operations, improve supply chain efficiency and enhance transparency across the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Initiative	Details
Bhandaran 360	- Introduced by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), it is a cloud-based ERP platform which integrates HR, finance, warehouse management, contract monitoring etc. Benefits: real-time monitoring of warehouse operations, Standardization across all CWC warehouses.
Smart EXIM Warehouse System	CWC has introduced the Smart EXIM Warehouse System for container freight stations (CFS/ICD) and general warehouses. - It uses technologies like AI, IoT, FASTag, OCR/ANPR, and GNSS to automate key processes. Benefits: Gate Automation and Yard Management, cargo tracking, Smart Inventory Management.
ANNA DARPAN	- Introduced by FCI, it is a new microservices-based (mobile-first) platform that replaces the existing Depot Online System. - It integrates procurement, storage, movement, sales, labour & contract management enabling real-time dashboards and faster decision-making across the food supply chain.
ASHA Platform	The Department of Food and Public Distribution has launched ASHA, Anna Sahayata Holistic AI Solution. - It is an AI-based platform that allows beneficiaries to share their feedback on ration distribution through AI enabled calls in their preferred language.

Significance

- Supports Government's mission to **reduce logistics cost, minimize turnaround time and strengthen supply chain efficiency.**
- Promotes **integrated logistics ecosystem** under **PM Gati Shakti.**
- Ensures **accurate, faster, dignified** delivery of subsidized foodgrains.

SC recalls judgment striking down ex post facto environmental clearances

The Vanashakti judgment had previously barred the granting of ex-post-facto environmental clearances (EC).

- Under Vanashakti Judgment, court had struck down a **2017 notification and 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) of Centre**, which in effect recognised the grant of ex post facto ECs.

Reasoning for Recalling the Vanashakti Judgment

- Legal precedents ignored:** CJI observed that the Vanashakti judgment was rendered without taking notice of previous judgments of coordinate benches, thus rendering it per incuriam.
 - E.g. D Swamy vs Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (2021)** held that post-facto EC can be granted in exceptional cases.
 - SC in Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (2020)** while discouraging post-facto EC, had regularized existing post-facto ECs with directions to pay monetary penalties.
- Economic costs:** Adhering to the Vanashakti ruling would lead to the **demolition of completed public projects.**
 - Also demolishing large structures may cause more pollution e.g. debris, reconstruction emissions etc.**

About Ex-Post Facto Environmental Clearance

- An ex-post facto EC essentially **allows a project proponent to continue with its project without obtaining an EC** prior to project commencement.
- The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006**, clearly requires '**prior environmental clearance**' before a project can start.
- Previously, in **Common Cause v. UoI & Ors. (2017)**, Supreme Court held that the concept of **ex post facto or retrospective environmental clearance** is completely alien to environmental jurisprudence.

Environmental Clearance (EC) in India

EC is required in India for projects that can significantly impact the environment.

- EIA Notification, 2006 lists over 39 types of activities** (mining, infrastructure, power plants, etc.) that need EC prior to start of a project.
- Categorization of Projects:**
 - Projects are divided into **Category A and Category B** under the EIA Notification.
 - Category A projects:** Considered at the Central level in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
 - Category B projects:** Handled at the State level by the State/UT Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2.0 launched

The Union Minister launched the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) (2025–29).

About NAP-AMR 2.0

- It builds upon the gaps identified in the **first National Action Plan (2017–2021)** and aligns with the **Global Action Plan on AMR** by the WHO.
- It includes **specific action plans of each key stakeholder ministry/department** with timelines and budget to enable effective monitoring of progress in implementation.
- **Key strategies:**
 - ⊕ **Increasing the ownership of AMR-related efforts** and Well defined mechanisms for strengthening inter-sectoral coordination.
 - ⊕ **Enhancing laboratory capacity** and infection control in healthcare facilities.
 - ⊕ **Ensuring stronger engagement with the private sector.**

About AMR and Impact of AMR

- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when microorganisms such as **bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites** evolve mechanisms to resist the drugs designed to kill them.
- **Impact:**
 - ⊕ **Global Health Threat:** It is associated with around 4.95 million deaths a year globally and 1.27 million deaths are directly attributed to it.
 - ⊕ **Higher Healthcare Burden:** Ineffective treatment leads to increased healthcare costs for families.
 - ⊕ **Growth and Economy:** AMR weakens productivity and increases financial losses, threatening national and global economic development.
 - ⊕ **Delays in Treatment:** Resistance to antimicrobial medicines causes delays in effective treatment.
 - ⊕ **Others:** Food production, Threat to Medical Procedures, Reversal of Medical Progress.

Also In News



Base Effect

As per some economists, Inflation rate in India has fallen low due to various reasons including a highly favourable base effect.

About Base effect

- **Definition:** The **base effect** refers to the impact of the **reference point (base year/month/data point)** used for comparison on the outcome of ratio or percentage-based indicators.
- It can **distort trends** if the **base period** had abnormally high or low values.
- **Uses:** To calculate **Inflation data (CPI/WPI), GDP growth rates, etc.**



Trade Intelligence and Analytics Portal

The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the Trade Intelligence and Analytics Portal

Trade Intelligence and Analytics Portal

- **Objective:** To deliver **transparent, accessible trade intelligence** that supports businesses and strengthens evidence-based policymaking.

Key Features

- **FTA Utilization:** Improves the **effective use of trade agreements by exporters.**
- **Country and commodity intelligence tools** help identify **focus products for each market.**
- **Efficiency:** Replaces **old fragmented portals** with a **unified, scalable system.**
- **Empowerment:** Helps **small and remote businesses** access clear market insights



Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

Recently, CCPI was released which compares climate performance of 63 countries and the EU, which together account for over 90% of global GHG emissions.

About Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

- Published by: **Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute & Climate Action Network (CAN).**
- **Ranking:**
 - ⊕ None of the countries are in the top 3.
 - ⊕ **Denmark: 4th**, followed by **UK & Morocco.**
- It measures climate mitigation performance in four categories of **GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy.**

Findings for India

- **India ranks 23rd**, going from a **high performer to a medium one in this year's CCPI.**
- There is **no national coal exit timeline** and new coal blocks continue to be auctioned.
- **Key demands:** Time-bound coal phase-down and eventually a phase-out and redirecting fossil subsidies toward decentralised, community-owned renewable energy.



CCPI
Climate Change
Performance Index

Codex Alimentarius Commission

India has been re-elected to the Codex Executive Committee for the Asia region at the 48th Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48).

About Codex Alimentarius Commission

- **Genesis:** Intergovernmental body established jointly by the FAO and WHO in 1963.
- **Objective:** Protecting consumer's health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
- **Membership:** Open to all **Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and WHO** interested in international food standards.
 - ⊕ **Current Members:** 189 (188 Member Countries (Including India) and 1 Organization i.e. EU).
- **Meetings:** Convenes **annually**, with sessions alternating between Geneva and Rome.

National Water Awards

In the category of best state, Maharashtra has been ranked 1st, followed by Gujarat and Haryana under **6th National Water Awards (2024)**.

National Water Awards

- **Instituted by:** By Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti
- **Aim:** To create awareness among people about importance of water and motivate them to adopt the best water usage practices.
- **Presented in 10 categories:** Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best School or College, Best Industry, Best Water User Association, Best Institution (other than school or college), Best Civil Society and Best individual.

Gaza Peace Plan

The UN Security Council has approved a US-backed Gaza peace plan.

Gaza Peace Plan

- Proposed framework to **end the Israel– Hamas conflict** through ceasefire, humanitarian relief, governance reform, and reconstruction.
- The Gaza Peace Plan was **primarily brokered by the United States**, with mediation support from Qatar and Egypt.

Key Features

- **Ceasefire Mechanism:** Immediate, internationally monitored halt in hostilities to stabilise Gaza.
- **Hostage–Prisoner Exchange:** Mutual release of hostages (Hamas) and detainees (Israel).
- **Other Features:** **Governance Reform in Palestine**, deployment of an international stabilization force etc.

Bot Mitigation Systems

A technical outage at Cloudflare, triggered by a latent bug in its **bot-mitigation system**, led to significant global service disruptions, affecting platforms such as X and ChatGPT.

About Bot-Mitigation System

- Bot mitigation is the **task of blocking bad bots** or botnet activity from accessing websites, servers, or IT ecosystems.
 - ⊕ Bots are **automated programs**, some aid tasks like indexing, while others steal data, spread spam, or trigger Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks.
- **Techniques:** Relies on **behaviour patterns, IP checks, CAPTCHA, and ML tools**.

Personality in News



Guru Tegh Bahadur ji

Maharashtra's Sikh community to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur with year-long events.

About Guru Tegh Bahadur ji (1621 - 1675)

- He was born in Amritsar (Punjab).
- He was the youngest child of Guru Hargobind Ji (sixth Sikh Guru).
- He was the **9th Sikh Guru** and was a great warrior, spiritual personality and lover of the motherland.

Key Contributions

- He founded the town of **Chak Nanki in Punjab**, later enlarged into the city of **Shri Anandpur Sahib**.
- He was crowned with the rare honour of '**Hind Di Chadar**'.
- He propagated the message of **universal brotherhood and religious freedom**.
 - ⊕ He fought against **superstitions, caste- based discrimination, and untouchability**.
- His hymns featured in the Guru Granth Sahib stress equality, peace, and courage.

Values

- Valour, Spirituality, Leadership etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI