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Polity & Governance

National Teachers Awards 2026

Recently, Ministry of Education has opened the application and online self-nomination process for the National Teachers Awards 2026.

- **Registration through –** *National Teachers' Awards Portal.*
- **Eligibility criteria**
  - Minimum of *10 years of regular service.*
  - Applicants must not indulge in commercial private tuitions.
- **Ineligible** –
  - Contractual teachers.
  - Shiksha Mitras.
  - Educational administrators.
  - Inspectors, and training institute staff.
- **Eligible schools –**
  - Schools managed by State Governments, UT Administrations, local bodies.
  - Government-aided schools.
  - Private schools affiliated with recognized boards.
  - Central Government schools like *Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), Sainik Schools, and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS).*
- **Award components** –
  - A certificate of merit.
  - A silver medal.
  - A cash prize of ₹50,000.

Modules for Telecom Service Authorisations and License Migration

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched online modules for Telecom Service Authorisations and License Migration.

- **Platform** – DoT eServices Portal.
- **Launched under** – *Telecommunications Act, 2023*.
- **Portal features** –
  - Fully automated, paperless application processing, document submission, tracking.
  - Seamlessly integrated with MeitY's Entity Locker, allowing companies to digitally store, verify, and share Saral Sanchar licenses.
  - **New registrations** – Done via the *Saral Sanchar Portal link*.
  - **License migration** – Existing licensees can navigate directly to the UL/VNO Migration Section to align with new rules.
- **Service covered** –
  - Unified Service Authorisation
  - Access Service (Service Area-wise)
  - Internet Service (Categories A, B, and C)
  - Long Distance Services (National & International)

Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM)

MoSPI signed Statement of Intent (SoI) with GRAAM for embark India development fellowship Proposal recently.

- **GRAAM** – It is a prominent, non-partisan public policy research and advocacy think-and-act tank based in India.
- **Founded in** – 2011.
- **Headquarters** – *Mysore, Karnataka*.
- **Focus areas –**
  - Indigenous community development.
  - Learning, skill development, and livelihoods.
  - Health and wellness.
  - Governance and democratization.
- **Activities –**
  - Policy research & Evaluation,
  - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) consulting
  - Academic & fellowship programs.
- **Objectives** –
  - To influence evidence-based citizen-centric public policies collaboratively.
  - To ensure the 'voices' of the communities at the grassroots are accounted for development.

Reforms in Wagon Design Policy

Union Railway Minister directed that a new Wagon Design Policy be issued within 15 days.

- **Implemented by –** Indian railway.
- **Key proposed reforms –**
  - **Industry-Centric Approach –** It allows industries to design wagons tailored to their commodity needs.
  - **Standards & Safety check by –** *Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety (CCRS).*
- **Objective** – To reduce logistics costs and lower carbon emissions across the country.
- **Significance** – It contributes to *Viksit Bharat* and sustainable economic growth.

Economy

Treasury Bills (T-Bills)

Recently, calendar for auction of treasury bills for the quarter ending September 2026 released recently by central government.

- **Treasury Bills** – Short-term, sovereign debt instruments.
- **Issued by** – Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Central Government.
- **Constitutional provisions** –
  - **Article 266 (Consolidated Fund)** – It dictates that all loans raised by the Central Government through the issuance of Treasury Bills.
  - **Article 110 (Money Bills).**
- **Features** –
  - Safest ***money market instruments***
  - Fully backed by the Government of India.
  - *Zero-Coupon Structure* – do not pay periodic interest or coupons.
  - They are issued at a discount to their face value and redeemed at par (full face value) upon maturity.
- **Investing in T-bills** – Done through
  - open a free *Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account* directly with the RBI (charges zero brokerage or maintenance fees).
  - Mainstream discount brokers and trading apps (such as Zerodha, Groww, or Upstox)
- **Note** – *Only the Central Government can issue*, not state governments.

Financial market instruments

- Money markets and capital markets are the two primary pillars of the financial system.
- **Money markets** –
  - Handle ***short-term***, highly liquid, low-risk investments (*under 1 year*).
  - **Instruments** –
    - Treasury Bills (T-Bills).
    - Certificates of Deposit (CDs).
    - Commercial Paper.
    - Repurchase Agreements (Repos).
    - Call Money.
- **Capital markets** –
  - ***Long-term*** wealth creation and financing (*over 1 year*),
  - carry higher risks but offer higher potential returns.
  - **Instruments** –
    - Equities (Stocks).
    - Bonds & Debentures.
    - Mutual Funds & ETFs.
    - Derivatives.
    - Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

Security

Kuki-Zo Council (KZC)

Recently, Kuki-Zo Council admitted six Naga civilians were killed by Kukis.

- **KZC** – Apex socio-political organization *representing the interests of the Kuki and Zo (Zomi) tribal communities*.
- **Founded in –** 2024.
- **Composition** – Presidents and representatives from various Kuki-Zo tribes and Inpis (traditional governing councils).

Science

Intra Circle Roaming (ICR)

Department of telecommunications activates intra circle roaming in four districts of Arunachal Pradesh amid heavy rainfall recently.

- It is a telecom arrangement where a *mobile subscriber connects to another operator's network within the same region*.
- **Objective** – To access mobile services even if their own operator has no coverage in that specific area.
- **Significance** – It plays a critical role during natural disasters when mobile infrastructure is damaged.

Steps to ensure ICR works

- Keep "Automatic Network Selection" enabled in your phone settings.
- If automatic connection fails.
  - Go to Settings > Mobile Networks > Network Operators.
  - Manually select another available network.

Health

SHATAYU Dashboard

Recently, SHATAYU Dashboard Expands Caregiver Network for Senior Citizens across the country.

- **SHATAYU** – Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility.
- **Launched by** – *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*
- **Key features –**
  - Coordinate with verified geriatric caregivers and support institutions down to the district level
  - Monitors training modules and certification benchmarks for caregivers to ensure standardized.
  - Consolidates data from NGOs, medical skill councils, and ecosystem partners.
- **Objectives** –
  - To map, verify, and track geriatric caregivers.
  - To provide families with reliable access to trained professional care providers.
- **Related platforms**
  - **JEEVAN App** – Citizen-facing mobile application for senior citizens, provides access to emergency SOS features, and geo-tagged welfare homes.
- **Assistance** – For immediate support at *National Elder Helpline at 14567.*

Vitamin B3

A surprising vitamin B3 strategy is showing early promise in helping the immune system greatly.

- **Vitamin B3** – Also known as *niacin* and is an essential *water-soluble nutrient*.
- **Two primary forms** – Niacin (nicotinic acid) and Niacinamide (nicotinamide).
- **Natural Food Sources –**
  - **Meat & Seafood** – Chicken, turkey, tuna, and salmon.
  - **Plant-based options** – Peanuts, legumes, and green vegetables.
  - **Fortified Foods** – Many cereals and breads are enriched with vitamin B3.
- **Benefits** – Body uses it to
  - Convert food into energy.
  - Repair DNA.
  - Support your nervous system.
  - Skin health.
- **Deficiency** – Leads to a condition called *pellagra* and skin problems.

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