

THE 8TH CPC — A CHANCE TO REFORM PAY COMMISSIONS

- As India moves towards the **8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)**, public attention has largely focused on salary revisions, fitment factors, and pension benefits.
- However, the more fundamental issue is whether the existing framework for public sector compensation remains equitable, transparent, and fiscally sustainable.
- Public compensation extends beyond employee welfare; it influences governance, institutional effectiveness, and public trust.
- Therefore, the 8th CPC presents an opportunity to address deeper structural concerns rather than merely revising pay scales.

Challenges in the Existing Compensation Framework

- **Lack of a Common Evaluation Framework**
 - The current system lacks a uniform mechanism for assessing **risk, responsibility, technical expertise, and career progression** across different public services.
 - While Pay Commissions play a significant role in determining compensation, decisions often rely on service-specific representations rather than objective benchmarks.
 - This creates difficulties in ensuring fairness and consistency.
- **Issues of Inter-Service Parity**
 - Maintaining inter-service parity remains a complex challenge.
 - Different services operate under distinct career structures and working conditions, yet compensation is often aligned without clearly defined principles.
 - Such an approach can create perceptions of inequity and weaken institutional coherence.
- **Civil Services and Armed Forces: Structural Differences**
 - The comparison between the civil services and the armed forces illustrates the limitations of the current framework.

- Military careers involve a sharply **pyramidal structure**, limited promotion opportunities, operational risks, and **early retirement**.
- In contrast, civilian services generally provide longer careers and broader avenues for advancement. Compensation parity between these services requires transparent and objective criteria that account for these structural differences.

The Path Forward: Towards a New Compensation Architecture

- **Learning from International Practices**
 - Many countries have shifted from periodic pay revisions to institutionalised review mechanisms supported by independent authorities and regular assessments.
 - Such systems promote stability, predictability, and better fiscal planning.
- **Establishing a National Compensation Authority**
 - A National Compensation Authority could provide a more coherent framework for evaluating responsibility, experience, hardship, and career progression across public services.
 - Rather than centralizing decision-making, it would establish common principles to enhance consistency and transparency.
- **Respecting India's Federal Structure**
 - Any reform must uphold federalism by allowing States sufficient autonomy in implementation.
 - At the same time, a common framework based on fiscal discipline, transparency, and accountability would promote comparability and strengthen institutional credibility.

Conclusion

- Addressing structural weaknesses in the existing framework can create a more transparent, equitable, and sustainable compensation system.
- The 8th CPC therefore offers a valuable opportunity to reform public sector remuneration in a manner that strengthens governance and enhances long-term public trust.

THE ANATOMY OF INDIA'S JOBS MARKET

- **Employment Rate (ER): A More Reliable Metric**
 - The Employment Rate measures the number of people with a job as a **percentage of the total working-age population** (15 years and above).
 - It bypasses LFPR fluctuations entirely. A falling ER — even when the UER appears low — reveals the true depth of joblessness.
 - This is the primary metric used in this analysis.

Overall Employment Rate: The Headline Finding

- India's overall ER fell from **42.7% in 2016-17** to **38.7% in 2025-26**.
- In absolute terms, employment rose from 406 million to 438 million — an addition of 32 million jobs.
- However, this was insufficient because India's working-age population grew **faster** than job creation.
- The ER hit its lowest point around **2020-21 and 2021-22** (COVID impact) and has partially recovered since, but remains well below the 2016-17 baseline.
- **Gender Dimension**
 - **For men**, it fell from 70.5% to 64.8%.
 - **For women**, it fell from 11.8% to 9.4% — already very low, now even lower — indicating that women are increasingly being pushed out of the labour market altogether.

Employment Rate by Age Group

- The ER declined across almost all age groups between 2016-17 and 2025-26. The only two cohorts showing marginal improvement were the **25-29** and **55-59 years groups**.
- The most dramatic decline was in the 15-19 age group — from 9.81% to 3.22% — suggesting that young people are either in education, or simply unable to find work.
- The 20-24 age group also saw a steep fall — from 33.28% to 21.36% — making youth unemployment one of the most pressing structural concerns.

Why Is This Happening - Structural Explanations

- **GDP Growth is Necessary but Not Sufficient**
 - India has maintained reasonable GDP growth over the decade, yet employment has declined.
 - This reflects a **lopsided growth model** — one that boosts aggregate output without generating proportionate jobs.
 - Economists argue that Indian policies are designed more to boost GDP than to create employment.
- **Slowbalisation and Trade Insularity**
 - Slowbalisation refers to the slowing down of globalisation — a trend where the pace of global economic integration (trade, investment, migration, supply chains) is decelerating or even reversing, after decades of rapid expansion.
 - A less open global trading environment — Brexit, Trump's tariff policies, India's own withdrawal from RCEP, rising import tariffs, and the "Swadeshi" growth model — reduces export-led job opportunities.
 - Countries with large young populations like India need open trade to generate the volume of jobs required.
- **The AI Threat**

Artificial Intelligence poses a growing threat to India's labour market — particularly in services, IT, and routine white-collar work — potentially disrupting job creation in the very sectors where India has been competitive globally.

Conclusion

India's employment data tells a sobering story: **more people, fewer jobs proportionally, across every gender, age, caste, religion, and education level.** GDP growth without job-rich growth is not development — it is statistics masquerading as progress.

For a country with the world's largest youth population, converting the demographic dividend into dignified employment is not just an economic imperative — it is the defining governance challenge of our time.

DRAFT BROADCASTING RULES 2026

- Broadcasting refers to the transmission of audio and audio-visual content through platforms such as television, radio, Direct-to-Home (DTH), IPTV, and digital broadcasting services.
- Since broadcasting influences public opinion, education, culture, and information dissemination, the sector is regulated through a legal and policy framework administered by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)**.

Need for a Unified Broadcasting Framework

- India's broadcasting ecosystem currently operates under several separate guidelines issued over different periods.
- For example, television uplinking and downlinking, DTH services, FM radio, IPTV, and community radio are governed by different policy documents and licensing systems.
- This fragmented structure creates several challenges:
 - Overlapping regulatory requirements
 - Multiple approval and licensing procedures
 - Higher compliance burden for broadcasters
 - Lack of regulatory consistency across broadcasting platforms
- The government argues that a unified framework would simplify administration, reduce ambiguity, and improve ease of doing business while ensuring stronger public service obligations.

Draft Broadcasting Rules 2026: Key Provisions

- The proposed **Draft Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026** seek to create a **single regulatory framework** for broadcasting services.
- The draft rules propose to consolidate multiple earlier guidelines, including:
 - Satellite TV Uplinking and Downlinking Guidelines (2022)
 - DTH Broadcasting Guidelines (2001)
 - Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS) Guidelines (2009)

- FM Radio Phase III Policy Guidelines (2011)
- Community Radio Policy Guidelines (2024)
- Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) Guidelines (2008)
- This consolidation aims to **establish a uniform regulatory structure for television and radio broadcasting under the Telecommunications Act, 2023.**
- The rules would apply to services such as:
 - Television channels
 - FM radio broadcasters
 - Community radio stations
 - DTH operators
 - IPTV providers
 - HITS platforms

Ease of Doing Business Reforms

- Digital authorisation and approval mechanisms to simplify licensing.
- Removal of the requirement for executing the Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) in some cases.
- Streamlined dispute-resolution and adjudication processes.
- Greater regulatory clarity for broadcasters operating across multiple services.
- The government believes these measures will improve investor confidence and reduce compliance costs.

Concerns and the Way Forward

- While the draft rules aim to modernise broadcasting regulation, some concerns remain.
- Critics argue that mandatory public service obligations may increase operational burdens for private broadcasters. Questions have also been raised about maintaining editorial independence while complying with prescribed themes.
- At the same time, supporters contend that broadcasters, as public communication platforms, should contribute to awareness regarding education, health, social welfare, and national integration.

VARYA AI MODEL



• It is a **distilled video model** built to make frontier video AI affordable, accessible and relevant for India's next generation of users.

- It is **developed with support from the IndiaAI Mission.**
- **Features:**
 - **Technique used:** Varya uses a **distillation technique** that reduces video generation from 50 steps to 4 steps, while maintaining comparable output quality.
 - **Cost:** It can generate **video at ₹0.48 per second**, making it upto 10x more cost-efficient than several leading global video models.
- **Working:**
 - Users can either **enter a text prompt or upload an image.**
 - The **model then generates a video clip**, and users can continue extending the sequence by generating additional clips.
- **Potential Uses-case:**
 - **Education:** A teacher can create a visual lesson in a village classroom.
 - **Industry:** MSME use it for creating product ads,
 - **Governance:** Citizen can access public information through video.

What is Distilled Video Generation?

- It is a **model compression technique from machine learning** where a compact "student" model replicates the outputs of a larger, slower "teacher" model transferring capabilities while **eliminating redundant computation.**
- Standard video models iterate through over 50 noisy steps before producing clean output; distillation teaches the student to skip most steps and deliver the same quality in just a few iterations.



CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition

Current Affairs - 13 June 2026



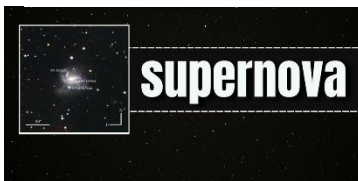
CROSS & CLIMB
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

GLOBAL PEACE INDEX



- It is produced by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank
- The GPI is the world's leading **measure of global peacefulness**.
- It ranks **163 independent states** and territories according to their level of peacefulness, covering 99.7 percent of the world's population.
- **Parameters used:** It uses **23 qualitative and quantitative indicators** to measure the state of peace across three domains: the level of Societal Safety and Security; the extent of Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict; and the degree of Militarisation.
- This year it is the **20th edition of the GPI**.
- **Top Performing Countries:** Iceland ranked first for the 19th consecutive year, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland.
- **Bottom Countries:** **Russia** is the **least peaceful country**, with Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Israel completing the bottom five.

SUPERNOVA



- A supernova is the name given to the **cataclysmic explosion of a massive star**.
- Supernovae (SNe) are one of the most **violent explosions in the universe**. It can emit more energy in a few seconds than our sun will radiate in its lifetime of billions of years.
- These spectacular events can be so bright that they outshine their entire galaxies for a few days or even months.
- They're also the **primary source of heavy elements in the universe**.

DIGIDUKAAN



• It is an **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC's)** initiative.

- It is aimed at **digitising kirana stores for B2B procurement.**
- It is designed to **improve efficiency across the value chain.**
- **Key Features of DigiDukaan:**
 - **For Kirana Stores:** It enables kirana stores to **improve margins** through direct procurement by offering better visibility of schemes, improved fill rates and enhanced working capital management.
 - **For distributors:** The **initiative facilitates wider market reach** without additional field costs through order and collection digitisation, while improving retailer coverage.
 - **For brands:** It **provides direct access to retailer demand signals**, retail counters, and more effective deployment and tracking of schemes.

Key Facts about Open Network for Digital Commerce:

- It was **launched in 2022.**
- It is a **network based on open protocol** and will enable local commerce across segments, such as mobility, grocery, food order and delivery, hotel booking and travel, among others, to be **discovered and engaged by any network-enabled application.**
- It aims to **create new opportunities, curb digital monopolies** and by supporting micro, small and medium enterprises and small traders and help them get on online platforms.
- It is an initiative of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- It envisions creating a **level playing field for sellers, buyers, and service providers** across India, particularly small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).