

**1. Hyderabad Pharma Blast: 36 Dead, Six Missing; Spotlight on Safety in Drug Manufacturing****Tragedy at Sigachi Industries**

An explosion at a pharmaceutical unit of Sigachi Industries in Pashamylaram, Telangana, has claimed 36 lives, with 6 workers still missing as of Tuesday. The blast occurred on Monday, with search and rescue operations continuing despite heavy rains and challenging conditions.

A total of 143 workers were present at the facility at the time of the explosion. So far, 74 have been affected. Overnight, 19 bodies were recovered from the debris, while 14 victims have been identified through autopsies and DNA samples.

**Compensation Announced**

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visited the accident site and met with victims' families. He announced:

- ₹1 crore compensation for each deceased worker's family
- ₹10 lakh for each injured worker

Most of the victims were young migrant workers from northern and eastern India, many lacking strong social or economic support.

**What Caused the Blast?**

Though the unit manufactured Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)—a chemically safe substance used in medicines and food—the production process involves heat-sensitive and high-risk equipment. Preliminary findings suggest a possible equipment malfunction due to poor maintenance, which could have caused an abnormal temperature rise, triggering the explosion.

**Recurring Accidents Raise Alarms**

This is not an isolated incident. Similar accidents have occurred:

- August 2024: Blast at a pharma unit in Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh
- April 2024: Another accident in Hyderabad

Such tragedies highlight ongoing lapses in safety practices across the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.

**Urgent Need for Stronger Safety Culture**

Experts stress that:

- Plants must follow HAZOP (Hazard and Operability) analysis
- Continuous monitoring of process data is essential
- Operators must be trained, safety-conscious, and supervised by competent staff



- Companies must embrace a safety-first culture, not just compliance on paper  
In an industry vital to India's exports and global image, such negligence not only endangers lives but also affects the credibility of the sector.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper III; Disaster Management

Source: The Hindu

## 2. Early Arrival in Kerala

### Introduction

The southwest monsoon arrived in Kerala on May 24, eight days earlier than usual. It covered the entire country by June 29, nine days ahead of the normal July 8 schedule. This is only the tenth time since 1960 that monsoon reached across India in June.

### Key Reasons Behind the Rapid Progress

#### 1. Frequent Low Pressure Systems

India saw five low pressure systems in June. These acted like magnets, pulling in moist winds and accelerating rainfall inland.

#### 2. Active Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)

The MJO — a moving system of clouds and winds — was in an active phase in both May and June. This enhanced cloud formation and rainfall over India.

#### 3. Favourable Monsoon Trough Position

The monsoon trough, a low-pressure belt from northwest India to the Bay of Bengal, stayed south of its normal position, helping draw in moist winds and aiding monsoon advancement.

#### 4. Neutral ENSO and IOD Conditions

- ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation): In a neutral phase, which typically allows for normal rainfall.
- IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole): Also in a neutral phase, with minimal impact on rainfall.

### How Was Rainfall in June 2025?

#### • All-India Average:

180 mm rainfall — 9% above normal

Ended the trend of deficient June rainfall seen since 2022.

#### • Central India:

Received 212.6 mm, which is 24.8% above normal — the first time this region performed well since 2022.

#### • East and Northeast India:

Continued to face rainfall shortage — 16.9% below normal, the third year in a row.



### • Other Regions:

- No major rainfall trend in Peninsular or Northwest India.
- States like Manipur (242.7 mm) and Mizoram (466.9 mm) saw normal rainfall for the first time in several years.
- Below-normal rainfall in: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Lakshadweep.

### Impact on Agriculture

Over 80% of meteorological subdivisions received normal or above-normal rainfall, benefiting areas crucial for kharif crop sowing.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper I; Geography

Source: Indian Express

## 3. Cabinet Approves Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme

### Goal: Create 3.5 Crore Jobs in Two Years

The Union Cabinet has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to:

- Promote job creation
- Enhance employability and social security
- Focus especially on the manufacturing sector

### Budget and Timeline

- Total outlay: ₹99,446 crore
- Duration: August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2027
- Jobs targeted: Over 3.5 crore, including 1.92 crore first-time employees
- Part of the PM's broader ₹2 lakh crore employment package for youth



The infographic features a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the top left. To his right, a blue banner reads 'Union Cabinet Approves Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme', followed by the text 'Enhancing Job Creation, Employability & Social Security Across Sectors'. Below this, a section titled 'COMPONENTS OF SCHEME:' is divided into two parts. Part A, 'Incentive to First Time Employees', includes a 'Benefit' box stating 'First Timers to get one month's wage up to ₹15,000/- in two installments', accompanied by an illustration of a woman at a laptop. Part B, 'Support to Establishments with Focus on Manufacturing Sector', includes a 'Benefit' box stating 'Incentive to employers, up to ₹3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee and upto 4 years for manufacturing sector.', accompanied by an illustration of three people working at a computer.

### Scheme Components

#### Part A: Incentives for First-Time Employees

##### • Who is eligible?

Employees joining formal work for the first time and registered with EPFO (salary up to ₹1 lakh/month)

##### • Incentive:

One month's EPF wage up to ₹15,000, paid in two installments:

- o 1st after 6 months of service
- o 2nd after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy course

• **Savings boost:**

Part of the incentive will be saved in a deposit account, withdrawable later.

**Part B: Incentives for Employers**

• **Who is eligible?**

Employers hiring additional employees (salary up to ₹1 lakh), especially in manufacturing

**Incentive per employee per month:**

EPF Wage Slab	Benefit to Employer
Up to ₹10,000	Up to ₹1,000
₹10,001 – ₹20,000	₹2,000
₹20,001 – ₹1,00,000	₹3,000

• **Minimum hiring requirement:**

- o 2 new employees for employers with < 50 workers
- o 5 new employees for those with ≥ 50 workers
- o (Must be employed for at least 6 months)

• **Duration:**

- o 2 years for all sectors
- o 4 years for manufacturing sector

**Payment Mechanism**

- Employees: Paid via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) using Aadhaar-based system
- Employers: Paid directly into PAN-linked bank accounts

**Expected Impact**

- Support for over 3.5 crore jobs
- Boost to formal employment and social security
- Strong push for manufacturing sector growth
- First-time workers get direct financial support and skill training

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: PIB

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