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Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Approved; Delimitation Debate Revives; PMGSY-III Extended

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The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore to safeguard India's shipping sector amid global uncertainties. At the same time, discussions around delimitation of constituencies have resurfaced ahead of the post-2026 Census scenario. Additionally, the government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III) to boost rural connectivity and infrastructure development.

Detailed Analysis:

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP):

The government has approved a sovereign-backed maritime insurance pool worth ₹12,980 crore to provide comprehensive insurance coverage to Indian-linked vessels. This decision comes in response to disruptions in global shipping routes due to geopolitical tensions, especially in West Asia.

The pool will cover multiple risks including hull, machinery, cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I), and war risks, ensuring uninterrupted maritime trade operations.

Significance:

Reduces dependence on foreign insurers.

Ensures continuity of oil and trade supply chains.

Strengthens India's maritime security and logistics

Delimitation of Constituencies

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Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthy Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

The issue of delimitation (redrawing of electoral boundaries) is gaining attention as the current freeze on delimitation is expected to end after the 2026 Census.

This process will redistribute Lok Sabha seats based on updated population data, potentially altering political representation across states

Key Concern:

Southern states fear reduced representation due to better population control

Northern states may gain more seats due to higher population growth

PMGSY-III Extension

The government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III (PMGSY-III) to 2028–29, with an increased financial outlay of around ₹83,977 crore.

The scheme focuses on upgrading rural roads and connecting villages to economic centers such as markets, schools, and hospitals

Objective:

Improve rural connectivity

Boost rural economy and access to services

Support inclusive development

Additional Key Facts:

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool:

Approved by Union Cabinet (2026)

Backed by sovereign guarantee

Covers Indian-flagged, controlled, and India-bound vessels

Important for energy security (oil transport routes)

Delimitation

Conducted by Delimitation Commission (appointed by President)

Constitutional basis: Article 82 & Article 170

Last delimitation based on 2001 Census (implemented in 2008)

Freeze based on 1971 Census extended till 2026 (42nd & 84th Amendments)

PMGSY:

Launched in 2000.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Rural Development.

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PMGSY-III focuses on through routes and major rural links.

Connects villages to GrAMs (Gramin Agricultural Markets).

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