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Daily PIB summary**Legal Metrology Indian Standard Time Rules 2026**

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WHY IN NEWS

- Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 under the [Legal Metrology Act, 2009](#).
- Rules mandate Indian Standard Time (IST) as the uniform legal, commercial, and administrative time reference, enforcing compliance after a 180-day transition window.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL METROLOGY ACT, 2009?

- Central law enforcing standards of weights, measures, and numerical quantities in commercial transactions and industrial production.
- Administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs to ensure accuracy in trade measurements and protect consumer rights.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE 2026 RULES

- **Before:** Digital networks, financial institutions, telecom operators, and power grids utilized disparate foreign satellite-based timing signals (such as GPS).
- **After:** All digital, commercial, telecom, power, and government networks must synchronize accurate system timestamps using approved **Indian Standard Time** sources.
- Integrates indigenous timing infrastructure, including NavIC (Navigation with **Indian Constellation**) satellite signals and White Rabbit Technology networks, for precise time dissemination.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Enhances cybersecurity and forensic verification for digital banking, high-frequency stock trading, and critical national infrastructure by eliminating time drift.
- Reduces strategic dependence on foreign atomic clocks and foreign-controlled satellite positioning systems.

KEY TERMS

- **Indian Standard Time (IST):** The standard time observed throughout India, calculated on the basis of 82.5 degrees East longitude passing through Mirzapur, UP.

- **NavIC:** Independent regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO providing accurate positioning and timing service over India and surrounding regions.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) maintains India's Primary Time Standard through atomic clocks.
- **Legal Metrology Act** falls under the Department of Consumer Affairs within the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Discuss the strategic and cyber-security imperative of establishing indigenous time synchronization infrastructure under the 'One Nation, One Time' vision.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Legal Metrology Act, 2009** - Statutory foundation empowering the Central Government to frame legal measurement and timing standards.
- **Standard Meridian:** 82°30' E Longitude - Official longitude reference defining Indian Standard Time (UTC+05:30).

[Official source](#)

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