

01/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar:*

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar on her birth anniversary.

About Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar:

- ❖ Ahilyabai Holkar was one of India's most visionary and capable women rulers, known for her wisdom, courage, and administrative excellence.
- ❖ She was born on 31 May 1725 in Chondi to Mankoji Rao Shinde, the village headman.
- ❖ Despite belonging to a humble family, she received education from her father and learned reading and writing.
- ❖ Her qualities impressed Malhar Rao Holkar, who arranged her marriage to his son Khanderao Holkar in 1733.
- ❖ After her husband's death during the Siege of Kumher Fort (1754), she considered committing sati, but Malhar Rao prevented her and trained her in administration and warfare.
- ❖ She suffered further personal losses with the deaths of Malhar Rao (1766) and her son Male Rao (1767), yet remained committed to public welfare.
- ❖ In 1767, with the approval of the Peshwa, she became the ruler of the Malwa Kingdom and ascended the throne of Indore.
- ❖ Ahilyabai established a reputation as a brave military leader and often led armies personally during campaigns.
- ❖ Under her rule, Malwa experienced peace, prosperity, stability, and efficient governance.
- ❖ She developed Maheshwar into a major center of literature, music, art, culture, and industry.
- ❖ She held daily public audiences to address citizens' grievances, ensuring accessible and people-centric administration.
- ❖ Ahilyabai founded the famous Maheshwari saree textile industry, which remains an important cultural and economic legacy.
- ❖ She constructed and renovated numerous temples, ghats, wells, tanks, roads, dharamshalas, and rest houses across India.
- ❖ Her most celebrated achievement was the reconstruction of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in 1780; she also rebuilt the Somnath Temple and supported many pilgrimage centers.
- ❖ She promoted education through gurukuls and schools, supported farmers and trade, and remarkably organized a women's army, advancing women's empowerment.
- ❖ Known as the "Philosopher Queen," Ahilyabai Holkar passed away on 13 August 1795, leaving behind a lasting legacy of good governance, social welfare, cultural revival, and nation-building.

2. *Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):*

Context: General NS Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, assumed charge as the third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs on May 31, 2026.

About Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):

- ❖ The post of Chief of Defence Staff was recommended by the Group of Ministers in 2001 after the Kargil Review Committee report, and later reaffirmed by the Shekatkar Committee in 2016.
- ❖ General Bipin Rawat became India's first CDS in 2019.
- ❖ The CDS is a four-star officer equivalent in rank to the three service chiefs and acts as "Primus Inter Pares" (first among equals).
- ❖ The CDS heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) under the Ministry of Defence and oversees the revenue budget of the three armed services.
- ❖ Administrative control over Cyber, Space, and Special Operations commands lies with the CDS, while the Defence Secretary manages the capital acquisition budget.
- ❖ The CDS is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister; eligible officers include serving three-star and retired four-star officers, with a maximum age limit of 65 years.
- ❖ The CDS serves as the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister, permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), and advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- ❖ The CDS is a member of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) and Defence Planning Committee (DPC), answers Parliament on tri-service matters, but does not exercise direct operational field command.

3. *PM SVANidhi Scheme:*

Context: PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), the flagship micro-credit scheme of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has completed six years of empowering street vendors through affordable collateral-free credit, digital inclusion and social security.

About PM SVANidhi Scheme:

- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 01, 2020.
- ❖ It aims to provide affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- ❖ It is a micro-credit facility that provides street vendors with a collateral-free loan of Rs 10,000 with low rates of interest.
- ❖ The duration of the scheme initially was until March 2022.
- ❖ It has been extended till December 2030, with a focus on increased adoption of digital transactions and holistic socio- economic development of the Street Vendors.
- ❖ All vendors who have been vending from or before (March 24, 2020) and with a certificate of vending can avail the loan.
- ❖ As per the Street Vendors Act 2014, the Town Vending Committees issue a certificate of vending after a survey has been conducted of all the vendors.
- ❖ Vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
- ❖ On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy @ 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries on a quarterly basis.
- ❖ The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.

- ❖ The vendors can avail the facility of escalation of the credit limit on timely/ early repayment of loan.
- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the Implementation agency.
- ❖ Since its launch in June 2020, PM SVANidhi has emerged as a transformative initiative for street vendors which has facilitated access to formal credit and enabling beneficiaries to strengthen and expand their livelihoods.
- ❖ The scheme has also facilitated more than 1.05 crore loan sanctions amounting to over ₹17,800 crore, benefiting street vendors across the country.

4. *India-Nepal Border dispute:*

Context: Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah said on Sunday that his country too had encroached upon Indian territory, in what is considered to be the first such public statement by a head of government of the neighbouring country. Nepal and India have a long-pending boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani and the dispute resurfaced recently when India announced the revival of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrimage via the Lipulekh route. Nepal then sent diplomatic notes to both India and China. India maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand.

More about the dispute:



- ❖ It is located close to the tri-junction of India, China (Tibet) and Nepal and is situated in Uttarakhand (Pithorgarh district).
- ❖ It is a major pass of Kumaun region situated in Kali Valley
- ❖ The Kalapani region is a disputed territory claimed by both India and Nepal.
- ❖ Kalapani derives its name from the Kali (Mahakali) River.
- ❖ The Kali River acts as a natural boundary between India and Nepal.
- ❖ In Nepal, the Kali River is called the Mahakali River and holds great cultural significance.
- ❖ The main dispute revolves around the exact source of the Kali River.

- ❖ India claims the river originates in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Nepal claims the river originates from Limpiyadhura or Lipulekh in its Sudurpaschim Province.
- ❖ The dispute traces back to the Treaty of Sagauli (1816) between Nepal and the British East India Company.
- ❖ The treaty identified the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.
- ❖ The Treaty of Sagauli did not clearly define the river's exact source or ridgeline.
- ❖ British survey maps later showed different origins of the Kali River, creating ambiguity.
- ❖ These cartographic inconsistencies led to the present India–Nepal boundary dispute.
- ❖ Nepal officially raised the Kalapani issue with India for the first time in 1998.

5. *James Webb Space Telescope (JWST):*

Context: Using the James Webb Space Telescope, astronomers have for the first time mapped weather patterns on the hot Jupiter exoplanet WASP-94A b, marking a major breakthrough in understanding the atmospheres, climate systems, and formation history of distant planets.

About James Webb Space Telescope (JWST):

- ❖ The telescope is the result of an international collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency.
- ❖ It was launched in December 2021.
- ❖ It's the largest, most powerful infrared space telescope ever built.
- ❖ It's the successor to Hubble Telescope.
- ❖ It can see backwards in time to just after the Big Bang by looking for galaxies that are so far away.
- ❖ It will examine every phase of cosmic history: from the Big Bang to the formation of galaxies, stars, and planets to the evolution of our own Solar System.
- ❖ It is placed around 1,500,000 km from Earth and directly opposite the Sun.

The goals for the Webb can be grouped into four themes:

- ❖ To look back around 13.5 billion years to see the first stars and galaxies forming out of the darkness of the early universe.
- ❖ To compare the faintest, earliest galaxies to today's grand spirals and understand how galaxies assemble over billions of years.
- ❖ To see where stars and planetary systems are being born.
- ❖ To observe the atmospheres of extrasolar planets.

6. *AUKUS:*

Context: Australia will only receive used nuclear-powered submarines from the United States as part of an agreement to “streamline” the AUKUS deal, with the move branded on Sunday as a “cost-effective” measure by Defence Minister Richard Marles. The two nations — together with the third partner in their

security pact, Britain — met at Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue, which brings together top defence officials and experts from about 45 countries.

About AUKUS:

- ❖ AUKUS is intended to be a strategic partnership among Australia, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States.
- ❖ It aims to bolster their allied deterrence and defense capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.
- ❖ It was established in 2021.

It has two pillars.

- ❖ Pillar I revolves around the acquisition and development of conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy;
- ❖ Pillar II calls for collaboration on advanced capabilities that will involve technology and information sharing.

Geelong Treaty signed under AUKUS:

- ❖ Also Known As: Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Treaty.
- ❖ Objective: Strengthen stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions.
- ❖ Supply Chains: Aims to develop resilient trilateral supply chains among partner nations.
- ❖ Compliance: Aligned with international nuclear non-proliferation obligations and the AUKUS Naval Nuclear Propulsion Agreement (ANNPA).

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2026. He succeeds Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM who superannuated after 41 years of distinguished service.
- ☐ Xenotransplantation is the transplantation of living cells, tissues, or organs from one species to another. Pigs are considered the most suitable donors because their organs are similar in size and function to human organs and can be bred in large numbers. Recent advances in genetic engineering have enabled scientists to modify pig genes to reduce immune rejection and improve compatibility with humans. In a major breakthrough, Chinese doctors performed the world's first simultaneous transplantation of two gene-edited pig kidneys and one pig liver into a brain-dead human patient in May 2026, highlighting the potential of xenotransplantation to address the global shortage of donor organs.
- ☐ Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the Padma barrage, on the Padma river, which is Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga, in Rajbari district. It is Bangladesh's

attempt to partially re-engineer the hydrology of its southwest region, which has become prone to drought after decades of reduced seasonal flows linked to the Farakka barrage upstream in India.

- ☐ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden Singapore Open title, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in the men's doubles final of the BWF Super 750 badminton tournament.
- ☐ The Odisha government has granted permission for the construction of a road connecting State Highway 44 and Sijimali hilltop to facilitate the transportation of bauxite in Kashipur block of Rayagada district. Sijimali, with an estimated 311 million tonnes of bauxite, was allocated to Vedanta in March 2023. The mineral is crucial for the Vedanta Group to keep its alumina refinery at Lanjigarh running.

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