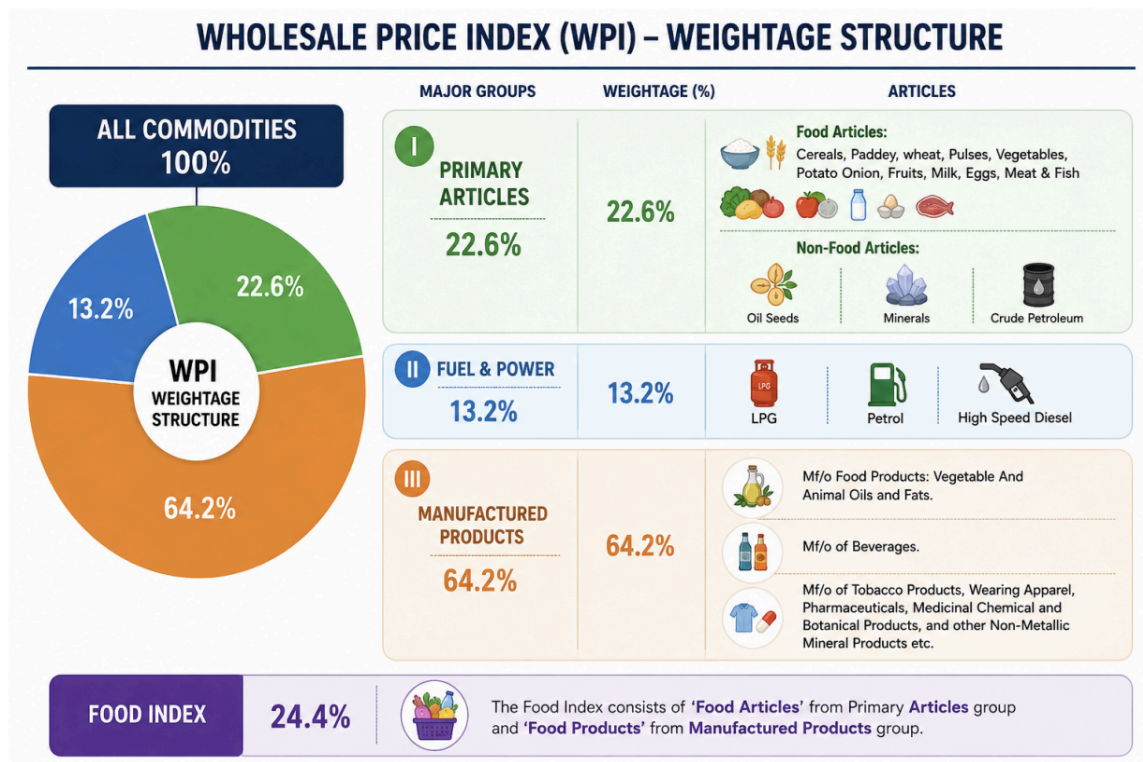


03/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. Wholesale Price Index:

Context: Base Year of Wholesale Price Index Revised from 2011–12 to 2022–23. The Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT will accordingly release the revised series of WPI with base year 2022-23 on 15.06.2026 at 12:00 noon, which would replace the existing series of WPI with base year 2011-12. In addition, the Office would also release new series of Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Input Producer Price Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services, viz., Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom with base year 2022-23.

About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):



- ❖ The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures changes in the prices of goods traded in bulk at the wholesale level.
- ❖ It tracks prices of goods sold by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- ❖ WPI is published by the Office of Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It is one of the most widely used indicators of inflation in India.
- ❖ A major criticism of WPI is that consumers do not purchase goods at wholesale prices.
- ❖ The base year of the All-India WPI was revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

Key highlights of the new series of WPI (2022-23):

- ❖ (a) **Increased number of Items:** The total number of items has increased from 697 to 957;

- ❖ (b) **Inclusion of New and Renewable Energy under Electricity:** New sources of energy, such as Solar and Wind, have been added under 'Electricity' Group. In addition, Nuclear Electricity has been included in the basket;
- ❖ (c) **Coherent and Integrated Structure for Tracking Energy Prices:** Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas has been shifted from the 'Primary Articles' to the 'Fuel and Power. This reorganization would lead to better alignment, as this group already houses other major fuels such as coal, electricity, and petroleum products;
- ❖ (d) **Improved Methodology for Derivation of Weights:** Gross Value of Output (GVO) has been used for preparing weights for WPI (2022-23) as compared to Net Traded Value *i.e.* GVO + Imports – Exports, used in WPI 2011-12 series since the weights based on GVO reflect the economic significance of commodities in a better way from the producer's perspective, as they represent domestic production;
- ❖ (e) **Improved Computation Methodology:** The elementary indices are being compiled using short-term formulation using chain-based method, in place of long-term formulation method (as practiced in the existing series; and
- ❖ (f) **Improved Method for Imputing Missing Price Data:** 'Targeted Mean Imputation' method has been used, in place of 'Carry-forward' method being used in the existing series of WPI.
- ❖ (g) **Linking Factor:** The Linking Factor has been computed as ratio of geometric means of the twelve month indices of old and new series of WPI for the financial year 2024-25. This will be available for All Commodities and the Major Groups.

2. **RudraM-II:**

Context: Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have conducted the successful flight-tests of RudraM-II. The tests were conducted under extreme release conditions with critical trajectory establishing the capability of all subsystems.

About RudraM-II:

- ❖ It is an Air-to-Surface Missile launched from an airborne platform.
- ❖ The missiles after release were guided to a predefined target with pin-point accuracy.
- ❖ All the test objectives were fully met as confirmed by the flight data captured by various range instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.
- ❖ Rudram-II has been indigenously developed by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad as the nodal DRDO laboratory in collaboration with other sister labs.

3. **Mission "Senehjori":**

Context: The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, together with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, today launched Mission "Senehjori" – Assam Muga Silk USP, a comprehensive cluster-based initiative aimed at transforming Assam's unique Muga silk sector into a globally competitive, high-value luxury textile ecosystem.

About Mission "Senehjori":

- ❖ Mission Senehgori is a flagship initiative led by MDoNER in convergence with the Government of Assam, the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, and other Central agencies.
- ❖ It aims to develop a complete and integrated Muga silk value chain from production to marketing.
- ❖ Muga silk is the world's only naturally golden silk and India's first GI-tagged silk.
- ❖ The sector supports about 2.6 lakh rearer and weaver families in Assam.
- ❖ The mission seeks to transform Muga silk into a premium, traceable, and export-oriented industry.
- ❖ It follows a cluster-based approach in major Muga-producing regions of Assam.
- ❖ The mission covers key districts including Jorhat, Sivasagar, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, and Majuli.
- ❖ It focuses on strengthening host-plant cultivation, silkworm seed production, reeling, and weaving infrastructure.
- ❖ The mission promotes Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Common Facility Centres (CFCs), and GI authentication.
- ❖ All activities will be marketed under the unified brand identity “Senehgori” to enhance global market access and exports.

4. Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026:

Context: The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, invites applications for the Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026.

About Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026:

- ❖ PMRC Scheme 2026 is a flagship national initiative to attract accomplished Indian-origin researchers, scientists, technologists, and professionals working abroad.
- ❖ The scheme aims to strengthen India's research, development, innovation, and technology ecosystem.
- ❖ It facilitates engagement of global Indian talent with premier government HEIs, national laboratories, and research centres in India.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on 13 thematic areas of national priority.
- ❖ Priority sectors include AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, cybersecurity, biotechnology, healthcare, space, defence, climate change, advanced materials, communications, manufacturing, agriculture, blue economy, and atomic energy.
- ❖ The scheme is built on three pillars: Lead Institutions, Host Institutions, and PMRC Fellows.
- ❖ Selection of institutions and fellows will be through a rigorous process overseen by an Empowered Committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.
- ❖ PMRC Fellows will receive fellowship support and research grants.
- ❖ Fellows will gain access to advanced laboratories, research infrastructure, and collaboration opportunities with leading Indian institutions.
- ❖ Host Institutions will benefit from international collaborations and enhanced research and innovation activities.
- ❖ The scheme provides three categories of engagement: Young Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, and Research Chairs.
- ❖ Eligible fellows include Indian Nationals working abroad, OCI cardholders, and Persons of Indian Origin with distinguished achievements.

- ❖ Eligible Host Institutions include top-ranked government HEIs and leading national laboratories under agencies such as Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Medical Research, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- ❖ Government HEIs eligible under the scheme include institutions ranked among the Top 100 in NIRF Overall/Engineering categories or Top 50 in the NIRF Research category.
- ❖ Seven Lead Institutions identified for implementation are Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, and Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru.

5. ***VYOMA Innovation Challenge:***

Context: The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with Current AI and Kalpa Impact, has launched the VYOMA Innovation Challenge.

About VYOMA Innovation Challenge:

- ❖ VYOMA Innovation Challenge is an innovation initiative to promote open-source, multilingual, voice-first AI solutions.
- ❖ The challenge focuses on AI systems that can function in offline and low-connectivity environments.
- ❖ It is built around Sunno Sutra, a multilingual, voice-first, open-source handheld AI reference device.
- ❖ Sunno Sutra was jointly developed by BHASHINI and Current AI.
- ❖ The device was unveiled at the IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026.
- ❖ Sunno Sutra integrates multilingual language technologies with on-device AI capabilities.
- ❖ It enables conversational AI interactions across Indian languages without relying on cloud infrastructure.
- ❖ The challenge combines BHASHINI's multilingual AI infrastructure with Current AI's open-source technology expertise.
- ❖ It aims to address challenges related to language accessibility, digital literacy, and internet connectivity.
- ❖ Participation is open to startups, researchers, students, academic institutions, MSMEs, industry partners, and independent innovators.
- ❖ Participants are encouraged to develop new use cases, hardware improvements, model optimization, and deployment-ready applications.
- ❖ The challenge also seeks innovations that make the device smaller, more efficient, and suitable for diverse field conditions.
- ❖ Twenty shortlisted teams will receive developer kits and access to the Sunno Sutra platform for solution development and testing.
- ❖ Shortlisted teams will receive technical mentorship from experts associated with BHASHINI and Current AI.
- ❖ Winning teams can receive prizes worth up to ₹80 lakh and opportunities for deployment with central and state government departments.

About Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD):

- ❖ The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is India's national initiative for AI-driven multilingual digital inclusion and language technology.
- ❖ Through the National Hub for Language Technology (NHLT), BHASHINI enables scalable speech and text-based AI services across Indian languages for governance, public platforms, and institutions.
- ❖ The platform powers over 800 government websites, processes more than 15 million inferences daily, and supports 36 Indian text languages, 23 Indian voice languages, and 35 international languages.
- ❖ DIBD also drives open-source innovation, multilingual AI research, dataset creation, startup enablement, and academic collaboration, strengthening India's digital public infrastructure ecosystem.

6. National Panchayat Awards 2025:

Context: The National Panchayat Awards 2025 Conferment Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 in New Delhi.

About National Panchayat Awards 2025:

- ❖ Ministry of Panchayati Raj annually confers the National Panchayat Awards to recognize and incentivize best-performing Panchayats.
- ❖ The awards promote inclusive, participatory, and sustainable rural development.
- ❖ The awards are institutionalised under the Incentivization of Panchayats component of the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).
- ❖ The initiative encourages Panchayats to improve local governance, service delivery, and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ In 2023, the awards framework was revamped and aligned with the nine themes of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).
- ❖ The revised framework aims to make assessment more holistic, transparent, and data-driven.
- ❖ The awards reinforce the role of Panchayats in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 through grassroots governance.
- ❖ The awards are conferred under two major categories: Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) and Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP).
- ❖ DDUPSVP recognises outstanding Gram Panchayats across nine LSDG themes.
- ❖ The nine themes include Poverty-Free & Enhanced Livelihoods, Healthy Panchayat, Child-Friendly Panchayat, Water-Sufficient Panchayat, Clean & Green Panchayat, Self-Sufficient Infrastructure, Socially Just & Socially Secured Panchayat, Panchayat with Good Governance, and Women-Friendly Panchayat.
- ❖ Under each theme, awards are given for Rank 1, Rank 2, and Rank 3 positions.
- ❖ Under National Panchayat Awards (NPA)-2025, 34 Gram Panchayats from 17 States and Union Territories were selected under DDUPSVP.
- ❖ The thematic awards are linked to Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 scores.

- ❖ NDSPSVP recognises the best-performing Panchayats at District, Block, and Gram Panchayat levels on an overall basis.
- ❖ Under NPA-2025, 8 Panchayats were selected under NDSPSVP categories.
- ❖ The awards included 3 Best District Panchayats, 2 Best Block Panchayats, and 3 Best Gram Panchayats.



NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS 2025



TOP THREE WINNERS IN ALL CATEGORIES

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY PANCHAYAT SATAT VIKAS PURASKAR-2025


1. POVERTY-FREE & ENHANCED LIVELIHOODS PANCHAYAT


2. HEALTHY PANCHAYAT


3. CHILD-FRIENDLY PANCHAYAT


4. WATER-SUFFICIENT PANCHAYAT


5. CLEAN & GREEN PANCHAYAT


6. SELF-SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN PANCHAYAT


7. SOCIALLY JUST & SOCIALLY SECURED PANCHAYAT


8. PANCHAYAT WITH GOOD GOVERNANCE


9. WOMEN-FRIENDLY PANCHAYAT

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Karnataka	Mudradi (Hebri, Udipi)	1.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	Chennamallapalli (Khajipet, Y.S.R.)	0.75
3	Sikkim	Gyalshing Omchung (Gyalshing)	0.50

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Tripura	Kanchanbari (Kumarghat, Unakoti)	1.00
2	Karnataka	Vandse (Kundapura, Udipi)	0.75
3	Kerala	Niranam (Pulikeezha, Pathanamthitta)	0.25
3	Odisha	Potalampur (Chatrapur, Ganjam)	0.25

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Maharashtra	Igaon (Pu) (Bhandara, Bhandara)	1.00
2	Karnataka	Halanyakanahalli (Bengaluru East, Bengaluru Urban)	0.75
3	Kerala	Ottor (Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram)	0.50

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Maharashtra	Khariwali (Khalapur, Raigad)	1.00
2	Karnataka	Madamakki (Hebri, Udipi)	0.75
3	Odisha	Padua (Champa, Kendujhar)	0.50

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Mizoram	Kawrbah North	1.00
2	Assam	Jumarmur (Kathiatoli, Nagaon)	0.375
2	Odisha	Hatibandha (Lathikata, Sundergarh)	0.375
3	Chhattisgarh	Sardih (Bagicha, Jashpur)	0.25
3	Himachal Pradesh	Lohardi (Bahi, Mandi)	0.25

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Kerala	Melukavu (Erattupetta, Kottayam)	1.00
2	Assam	Hoogrijan (Tengakhhat, Dibrugarh)	0.75
3	Andhra Pradesh	Gundamala (Kotha Patnam, Prakasham)	0.25
3	Karnataka	Sanoor (Karkal, Udipi)	0.25

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Himachal Pradesh	Shansha (Lahul, Lahaul and Spiti)	1.00
2	Maharashtra	Chambharli (Khalapur, Raigad)	0.375
2	Odisha	Mandar (Polosara, Ganjam)	0.375
3	Jammu & Kashmir	Wagoora (B.K. Pora, Budgam)	0.25
3	Karnataka	Hakkadi (Kundapura, Udipi)	0.25

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Srungavaram (Nathavaram, Visakhapatnam)	1.00
2	Maharashtra	Nimbale (Chandwad, Nashik)	0.75
3	Telangana	Mothukupalle (Kotapally, Vikarabad)	0.50

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Gram Panchayat (Block, District)	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Bokkasam Palem (Srikalahasti, Tirupati)	1.00
2	Jharkhand	Jhikarhati East (Pakur, Pakur)	0.75
3	Telangana	Fasalwadi (Sangareddy, Sangareddy)	0.25
3	Tripura	Baikunthapur (Hezamara, West Tripura)	0.25



Empowering Panchayats, Strengthening Rural India

NANAJI DESHMUKH SARVOTTAM PANCHAYAT SATAT VIKAS PURASKAR-2025


1. BEST DISTRICT PANCHAYAT


2. BEST BLOCK PANCHAYAT


3. BEST GRAM PANCHAYAT

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Panchayat	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Tripura	Sepahijala	5.00
2	Odisha	Ganjam	3.00
3	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	2.00

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Panchayat	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Kerala	Harippad (Alappuzha)	2.00
2	—	—	—
3	Andhra Pradesh	Kuppam (Chittoor)	1.50

Rank	State/UT	Name of Awardee Panchayat	Prize Money (₹ Crore)
1	Assam	New Napam (Gaboru, Sonitpur)	1.50
2	Bihar	Telcup (Rohtas, Rohtas)	1.25
3	Uttar Pradesh	Birahau (Saiyan, Agra)	1.00

★ These awards recognise the dedication, innovation and impact of Panchayats in building **Atmanirbhar** and **Viksit Bharat**. ★

7. Plas-Stick:

Context: Indian teenagers Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta were named the first-ever Global Winners of The Earth Prize 2026 on 1 June 2026. The 16-year-old innovators won for Plas-Stick, a biodegradable water filtration invention made from tamarind seed waste.

More details:

- ❖ Plas-Stick is a low-cost, electricity-free technology designed to remove microplastics from water.
- ❖ It uses a specially developed powder that attracts microplastic particles and causes them to clump together.
- ❖ The clumped microplastics can be easily removed using a handheld magnet.
- ❖ The technology utilizes tamarind seed waste, an agricultural by-product, as a key raw material.
- ❖ Tamarind seed waste is processed into a substance capable of binding or adsorbing microplastic particles.
- ❖ Plas-Stick was developed with a focus on rural and low-resource communities in India.

- ❖ The project received technical guidance from professionals at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.
- ❖ The team became Asia Regional Winners of The Earth Prize 2026.
- ❖ The project received a grant of US\$12,500 under The Earth Prize 2026.
- ❖ The Earth Prize is an annual environmental sustainability competition and ideas incubator for innovators aged 13–19, organized by the The Earth Foundation.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Delhi High court in ‘Laksh Vir Singh Yadav V. Union Of India & Ors’ recognized an individual's ‘Right To Be Forgotten’ as an integral facet of the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21. Right to be forgotten: Right to seek removal or restricted access to personal information from public accessibility that no longer serves legitimate purpose.
- ☐ Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve (ABR) is located in the southern part of the Western Ghats, spanning the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It is one of India's biodiversity-rich regions, known for its high levels of endemism and ecological significance. In 2016, it was included in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The reserve encompasses important protected areas, including the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve. Recently, the Supreme Court directed the immediate removal of encroachments and demolition of illegal structures across the Agasthyamalai landscape to safeguard its fragile ecosystem and biodiversity.
- ☐ Isobutanol is a four-carbon alcohol ($C_4H_{10}O$) and is classified as a higher alcohol compared to ethanol, which has only two carbon atoms. It can be produced from renewable sources such as biomass, agricultural residues, and processes associated with ethanol or sugarcane production, making it a potential sustainable biofuel. Due to its higher energy content and favorable fuel properties, India is considering blending isobutanol with diesel to help reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower emissions. Besides its fuel applications, isobutanol is widely used as an industrial solvent in products such as paints, coatings, inks, and chemicals, and is also considered a promising next-generation transportation biofuel.
- ☐ The second technical meeting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Group of BRICS is scheduled in Puri, Odisha, from 3 June to 5 June 2026.
- ☐ Mother Dairy launched India's first naturally degradable milk pouch on 2 June 2026. The pouch material is designed to transform into bioavailable wax. Microbes in soil break down the wax into natural elements within a few years. The pouch remains recyclable and is designed for packaging applications in the dairy sector. Mother Dairy is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

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