07/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Government Securities (G-Secs):*

Context: The Government is undertaking sustained reforms to strengthen India's standing as a leading destination for global investment. To deepen the capital market, it has introduced a series of reforms to increase Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) participation in Government Securities (G-Secs). Key measures include tax exemptions on interest income, long-term capital gains (LTCG) and short-term capital gains (STCG), expansion of specified securities under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR), and streamlined investment norms.

Types of G-secs:

- Government securities (G-Secs) are debt instruments issued by the Government of India to borrow money. Based on whether they are traded on a stock exchange, they can be classified as listed or unlisted.

Feature	Listed Government Securities	Unlisted Government Securities
Meaning	G-Secs that are listed on recognized stock exchanges and can be traded publicly.	G-Secs that are not listed on stock exchanges.
Trading	Can be bought and sold in the secondary market.	Generally held until maturity; secondary trading is limited.
Liquidity	Higher liquidity due to exchange trading.	Lower liquidity.
Price Discovery	Market-determined through exchange transactions.	Limited market-based price discovery.
Investors	Banks, mutual funds, insurance companies, FPIs, retail investors, etc.	Mostly institutional investors and government entities.
Examples	Treasury Bills and dated securities listed on exchanges such as the NSE and BSE.	Newly issued securities before listing or certain special government securities issued directly to institutions.

Decoding FIIs, FPIs, G-Secs, BIS

- **Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)** is a category of FPI that refers specifically to investments made by foreign institutional investors such as mutual funds, pension funds, insurance companies, and hedge funds. These institutions invest pooled funds in financial markets and typically play a more active role in investment research and decision-making.

- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments made by foreign individuals, institutional investors, or funds in financial instruments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and government securities. FPIs do not participate in the management or decision-making of the companies in which they invest and are generally considered passive investors.
- **Government Securities (G-Secs)**, are tradeable debt instruments issued by the central/ state governments to fund public projects, manage fiscal deficits, control market liquidity.
- The **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** is an international financial institution owned by central banks. It serves as a forum for monetary and financial cooperation among central banks globally. It also acts as a banker and asset manager for central banks and international organizations.

What Changes in Taxation?

Classification of Capital Gains

Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) arise when a Government Security is held beyond the prescribed holding period.

- Listed G-Secs: More than 12 months.
- Unlisted G-Secs: More than 24 months.

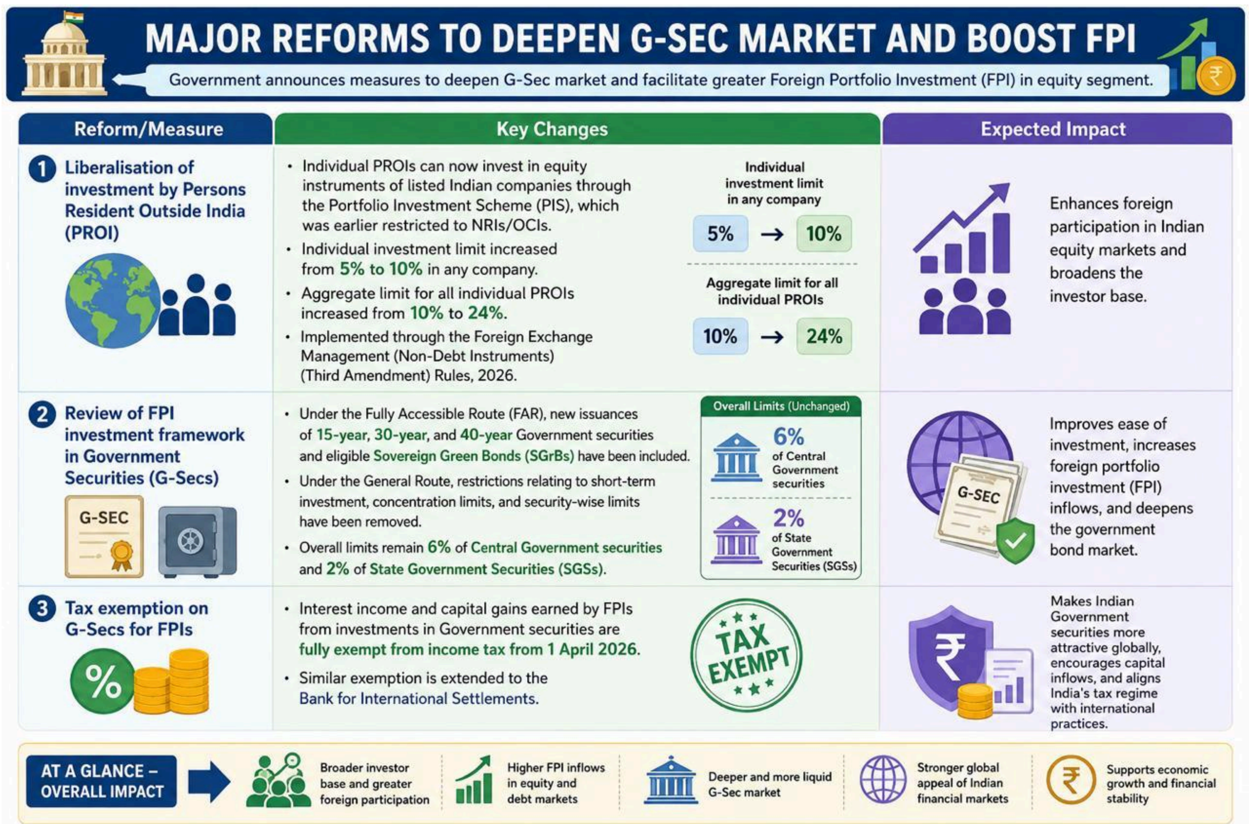
Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG) arise when a Government Security is held for less than the prescribed holding period.

- Listed G-Secs: Up to 12 months.
- Unlisted G-Secs: Up to 24 months.

- Earlier Regime: FIIs, including SEBI-registered FPIs, were taxed on income earned from investments in Government Securities (G-Secs) under Section 210 of the Income-tax Act, 2025.
- Interest Tax: Interest income from G-Secs was taxed at 20% for FIIs/FPIs.
- Short-Term Capital Gains Tax: Gains from short-term sale of G-Secs were taxed at 30%, depending on the transaction type.
- Long-Term Capital Gains Tax: Long-term capital gains on G-Secs were taxed at 12.5%.
- Impact of Earlier Regime: Foreign investors had to pay a portion of their returns as tax in India.
- Policy Reform: The Government introduced a tax exemption regime to enhance India's attractiveness for foreign capital inflows.
- Interest Income Exemption: FPIs/FIIs are now exempt from tax on interest earned from G-Secs.
- Capital Gains Exemption: Capital gains arising from the sale, transfer, exchange, or redemption of G-Secs are also exempt from tax.
- Effective Date: The exemption applies to income arising on or after 1 April 2026.
- Legal Basis: The exemption was introduced through the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, which inserted specific provisions for FIIs investing in G-Secs.

G-Sec Market Reforms:

- ❖ Foreign investors can invest in Indian G-Secs through routes such as the General Route and the Fully Accessible Route (FAR).
- ❖ General Route is the standard channel for foreign investors. It allows them to buy and sell permitted Indian G-secs, but comes with certain restrictions, such as caps on how much can be invested in a particular security, how long it must be held, and an overall investment limit.
- ❖ FAR is an open-access channel where foreign investors can invest in select G-Secs without restrictions that apply under the General Route.



2. *Economic Advisory Council:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today chaired a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister noted that they deliberated on a wide range of issues relating to India's economic transformation and long-term development priorities.

About Economic Advisory Council:

- ❖ EAC-PM is an independent advisory body that provides advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, particularly the Prime Minister.
- ❖ It analyzes issues referred by the Prime Minister and submits recommendations and policy advice.
- ❖ The Council addresses macroeconomic issues of national importance, either suo motu or on reference from the Prime Minister or other sources.
- ❖ It undertakes additional tasks assigned by the Prime Minister from time to time.

- The recommendations of EAC-PM are advisory in nature and not binding on the Government.
- Besides policy advice, EAC-PM promotes economic awareness and public understanding through reports, presentations, stakeholder consultations, and public events.
- The Council is headed by a Chairperson and comprises eminent economists, supported by officials and administrative staff.
- There is no fixed strength of members, and the Council is periodically reconstituted with different organizational structures; NITI Aayog acts as the nodal agency for its administrative, logistical, planning, and budgeting support.

3. *U18 Asia Cup 2026:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today praised a splendid accomplishment by India's young hockey players. The Prime Minister congratulated the Indian Men’s U18 Hockey Team on winning the Men’s U18 Asia Cup 2026.

About U18 Asia Cup 2026:

- The 6th edition of the Men's Hockey U18 Asia Cup was organized by the Asian Hockey Federation and held in Kakamigahara, Japan from 29 May to 6 June 2026.
- A total of nine Asian national teams participated in the men's tournament.
- India won the Men's U18 Asia Cup title, securing its third championship.
- In the men's competition, Japan finished as runner-up, while Pakistan secured third place.
- In the Women's U18 Asia Cup, China won the title, claiming its second championship.
- In the women's competition, Japan finished runner-up, while India secured third place.

4. *Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali:*

Context: The Executive Council of Barkatullah University, Bhopal, has proposed changing its name.

About Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali:

- Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali (1854–1927) was a prominent revolutionary nationalist, journalist, Islamic scholar, and international anti-colonial activist. Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali
- He was born on 7 July 1854 in Bhopal, present-day Madhya Pradesh.
- A renowned scholar of Arabic, Persian, and Urdu, he also learned German, French, and Japanese.
- He was associated with Indian revolutionaries at India House and became a leading member of the Ghadar Party.
- While in Japan, he published journals such as The Islamic Fraternity and El Islam to spread anti-colonial and nationalist ideas.
- In 1906, he co-founded the Pan-Aryan Association in the United States to mobilize support for India's freedom struggle.
- In 1915, along with Raja Mahendra Pratap and other revolutionaries, he helped establish India's first Provisional Government (Government-in-Exile) in Kabul, serving as its Prime Minister.
- He advocated the values of Hindu-Muslim unity, international solidarity, scientific temper, freedom of thought, and resistance to colonial rule.

5. *Abhilasha Biofuels (ABF):*

Context: The Technology Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology has supported a project to establish a commercial-scale facility for producing Abhilasha Biofuels (ABF).

About Abhilasha Biofuels (ABF):

- It is a second-generation (2G) biofuel that serves as a renewable alternative to conventional diesel and naphtha.
- It is produced from non-food biomass such as agricultural residues, crop stubble, rice straw, sugarcane bagasse, and forestry waste.
- Unlike first-generation biofuels, it utilizes lignocellulosic feedstock, reducing competition with food crops.
- It is a drop-in fuel, meaning it can directly replace petroleum diesel without modifications to engines or fuel systems.
- Existing fuel storage, transport, and distribution infrastructure can be used, facilitating easier adoption and reducing carbon emissions.

Generation	Key Features
First Generation (1G)	Produced from food crops (sugar, starch, vegetable oils, animal fats); examples: bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas; easy production but competes with food supply and may increase food prices.
Second Generation (2G)	Produced from non-food biomass and agricultural waste (husks, stems, wood chips, fruit peels); examples: cellulosic ethanol, biodiesel; lower GHG emissions but production is technologically complex.
Third Generation (3G)	Produced from algae and other microorganisms; example: butanol; does not compete with food crops and can use non-arable land, but fertilizer use may cause pollution.
Fourth Generation (4G)	Uses genetically engineered crops with carbon capture and geo-sequestration; some fuels are carbon-negative as they remove CO_2 from the atmosphere.

6. *Wolbachia bacteria:*

Context: Google's parent company Alphabet has proposed releasing 32 million Wolbachia-infected male mosquitoes in parts of Florida and California to reduce disease transmission by sterilizing wild Culex mosquitoes (West Nile virus). Only male mosquitoes are released because males do not bite humans.

About Wolbachia bacteria:

- ❖ Wolbachia is a naturally occurring bacterium found in many insect species.
- ❖ It does not naturally occur in Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which are the primary vectors of dengue, Zika, chikungunya, and yellow fever.
- ❖ When introduced into Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, Wolbachia blocks the multiplication of viruses inside the mosquito, reducing disease transmission to humans.
- ❖ This virus-blocking effect helps control mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya.
- ❖ Wolbachia-infected male mosquitoes mating with uninfected females produce non-viable eggs, leading to population suppression.
- ❖ Thus, Wolbachia-based strategies help control mosquito-borne diseases through both reduced virus transmission and reduced mosquito populations.

7. *BharatNet Udyami Scheme:*

Context: Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar inaugurated the Samriddhi Kendra at Narakoduru village in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. It was established as part of the Samriddhi Gram Project under the Centre's Bharat Net Udyami scheme of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

About BharatNet Udyami Scheme:

- ❖ Samriddhi Kendras are established under the scheme which provides 11 integrated public service divisions under one roof. Key facilities include a Health ATM, postal office, Jan Aushadhi Kendra, FTTH broadband, Quad Play services, PM-WANI Wi-Fi, skill development centre, and drone-based agricultural services.
- ❖ The Health ATM offers nearly 60 diagnostic tests at affordable rates.
- ❖ The Jan Aushadhi Kendra provides medicines at around 50% lower prices than market rates.
- ❖ Citizens can access passport services, Aadhaar updates, utility bill payments, and mobile recharge facilities.
- ❖ Farmers benefit from soil testing, drone spraying services, and expert agricultural guidance.
- ❖ The project aims to create rural employment opportunities and reduce migration to urban areas.
- ❖ It promotes a "phygital" model by integrating physical and digital service delivery through BharatNet infrastructure.
- ❖ The Samriddhi Gram Phygital Services Pilot is one of only three pilot projects being implemented across India.
- ❖ Pilot locations include Narakoduru (Andhra Pradesh), Chaurawala (Uttar Pradesh), and Ari & Umri (Madhya Pradesh).
- ❖ The initiative is supported by the Telecom Centres of Excellence and various implementation partners.
- ❖ The project seeks to transform rural aspirations into opportunities through technology-enabled governance and service delivery.

About BharatNet project:

- ❖ BharatNet was originally launched as the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) in 2011 and renamed BharatNet in 2015 under the Ministry of Communications.

- It aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to every Gram Panchayat (GP) in India.
- BharatNet is among the world's largest rural telecom projects, enabling e-health, e-education, e-governance, and digital services in rural areas.
- The project initially targeted connectivity to about 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.
- Phase I (completed in 2017) connected 1 lakh GPs using optical fibre cables and existing telecom infrastructure.
- Phase II (ongoing) seeks to connect 1.5 lakh GPs through optical fibre, radio, and satellite technologies with support from states and private partners.
- Phase III (ongoing) focuses on 5G integration, higher bandwidth, and improved last-mile connectivity, including the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) approved in 2023.
- Under ABP, optical fibre connectivity is being provided to 2.64 lakh GPs in ring topology, along with on-demand connectivity to non-GP villages, supported by MPLS networks and Remote Fibre Monitoring Systems.
- BharatNet is funded through the Digital Bharat Nidhi, implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited, while Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited acts as the Project Management Agency for operation and maintenance under the ABP.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Norway Chess 2026 was the 14th edition of the annual chess tournament, held for the first time in Oslo. The Open Section was won by R Praggnanandhaa. Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kazakhastan) won the women's section with a round to spare.
- ☐ Majorana 2 is Microsoft's next-generation topological quantum chip, developed with assistance from its Microsoft Discovery agentic AI platform. The chip marks a significant leap forward in quantum computing, overcoming key barriers related to reliability, speed, and size. Agenetic AI is a system that can independently plan, make decisions, perform tasks, and improve its actions with minimal human intervention.
- ☐ India’s shrimp exports faced export rejections in US, European Union and Japan markets due to presence of Chloramphenicol and nitrofurans. Both drugs are banned in all food-producing animal rearing systems.
- ☐ A **caracal**, one of India’s rarest wild cat species, was sighted in Kuno National Park during a wildlife survey on 6 June 2026, marking its first recorded presence in the region after several decades. The caracal is known for its long legs, powerful hind limbs, reddish-golden coat, and distinctive black ear tufts. Adapted to arid and semi-arid environments, it inhabits scrublands, grasslands, and dry forests and is an agile predator capable of remarkable leaps while hunting birds and small mammals.
- ☐ India clinched the SAFF Women’s Championships football title for the sixth time and its first in seven years with a dominant 3-1 win over Bangladesh in the summit clash.
- ☐ The Beaufort Castle sits right beside the Litani River in southern Lebanon, with an unobstructed view of northern Israel and the sweeping Beqaa valley. The 900-year-old structure, which literally

means "beautiful fort" in Old French, has come under renewed spotlight after the Israeli military invasion on June 1. Originally called Qalaat al-Shaqif, or the "Castle of the High Rock," Beaufort was built by European crusaders atop older fortifications in 1139.

- Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan is India's largest inland saltwater wetland. When they analysed satellite data from 1984 to 2023, scientists found the lake depends heavily on seasonal rain, with water levels peaking in late summer and shrinking significantly in the dry season.

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