

16/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030:*

Context: On 17 February 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron elevated the bilateral relationship to a “Special Global Strategic Partnership” and jointly inaugurated the India-France Year of Innovation 2026, calling for expanded and diversified cooperation in areas such as artificial intelligence, innovation, research, technology, digital technology and cyber space, health, culture, economy, educational links and people-to-people ties.

Details about India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030:

- ❖ **Special Global Strategic Partnership:** India and France elevated bilateral ties on 17 February 2026 and launched the India–France Year of Innovation 2026 to deepen cooperation in AI, technology, research, health, education, culture, and economy.
- ❖ **Innovation as a Strategic Priority:** Both countries view innovation as a key driver of economic resilience, sustainable development, strategic autonomy, and technological sovereignty.
- ❖ **Alignment of National Visions:** The roadmap aligns India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision with France's France 2030 strategy to promote investments in critical and disruptive technologies.
- ❖ **Trusted AI Partnership:** Artificial Intelligence is identified as a central pillar, focusing on safe, secure, trustworthy, human-centric, and rights-based AI systems.
- ❖ **AI Governance Cooperation:** Both sides will collaborate on AI regulation, standards, risk-based governance frameworks, and responsible development of frontier and generative AI models.
- ❖ **Child Safety Online:** India and France will prioritize cooperation on AI-enabled child protection through privacy-preserving age verification, safety-by-design systems, and outcome-based safety standards.
- ❖ **Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing:** The roadmap promotes secure, consent-based data-sharing frameworks, combining India's DEPA and France's trusted data-space initiatives for AI, healthcare, and public services.
- ❖ **Academic Mobility and Talent Development:** Both countries aim to strengthen STEM education, research collaboration, and student mobility, supporting France's goal of hosting 30,000 Indian students by 2030.
- ❖ **Expansion of Mutual Recognition of Qualifications (MRQ):** The 2018 MRQ agreement will be broadened to include more disciplines, professions, dual-degree programs, and doctoral collaborations.
- ❖ **Industry–Academia–Startup Collaboration:** Institutions such as the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), India-France Innovation Network (IFIN), and Franco-Indian Campus in Life Sciences for Health will be strengthened to promote co-development of technologies.
- ❖ **New Innovation Initiatives:** Key initiatives include the Franco-Indian Campus for Aeronautics Training and Careers in Kanpur, the India–France InnoXchange Bridge for startup exchanges, SME cooperation, and enhanced collaboration between space ecosystems.
- ❖ **Health and Space Cooperation:** Both countries will develop AI-based health solutions through consent-based data sharing and deepen space cooperation in Earth observation, human spaceflight, Zero-G research, and India's future space station projects.

2. *April-May 2026-27 trade estimation:*

Context: India's total exports (Merchandise and Services combined) for May 2026* is estimated at US\$ 81.96 Billion, registering a positive growth of 15.83 percent vis-à-vis May 2025. Total imports (Merchandise and Services combined) for May 2026* is estimated at US\$ 92.47 Billion, registering a positive growth of 19.23 percent vis-à-vis May 2025.

More details:

		May 2026 (US\$ Billion)	May 2025 (US\$ Billion)
Merchandise	Exports	45.20	38.30
	Imports	73.41	60.86
Services*	Exports	36.76	32.46
	Imports	19.06	16.70
Total Trade (Merchandise +Services) *	Exports	81.96	70.76
	Imports	92.47	77.55
	Trade Balance	-10.51	-6.79

Fig 1: Total Trade during May 2026*



Table 2: Trade during April-May 2026-27*

		April-May 2026-27 (US\$ Billion)	April-May 2025-26 (US\$ Billion)
Merchandise	Exports	88.91	76.59
	Imports	145.35	126.24
Services*	Exports	73.79	65.30
	Imports	37.48	33.61
Total Trade (Merchandise +Services) *	Exports	162.69	141.89
	Imports	182.83	159.85
	Trade Balance	-20.13	-17.96

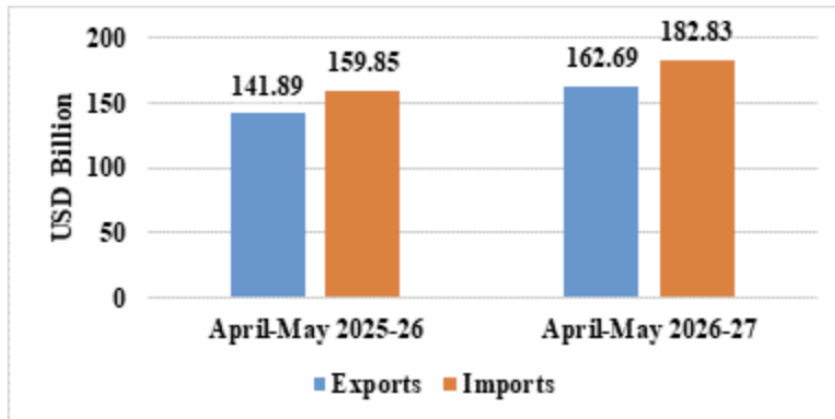
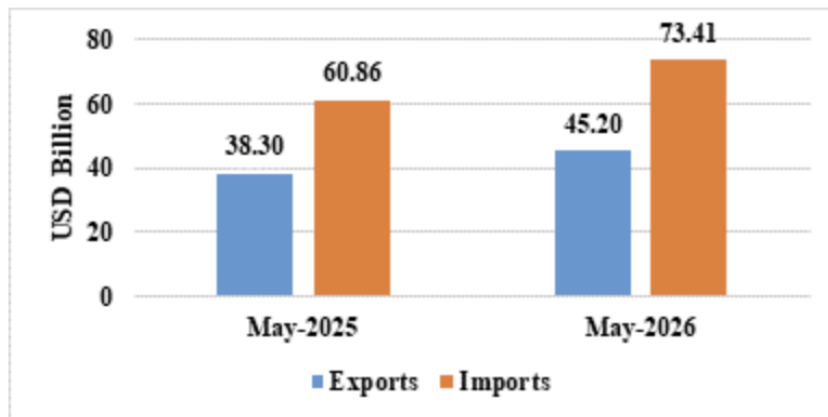
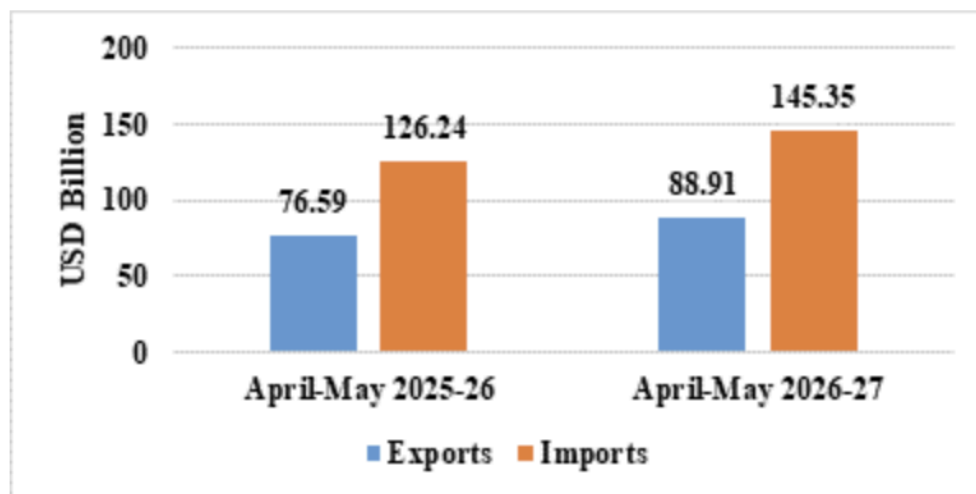
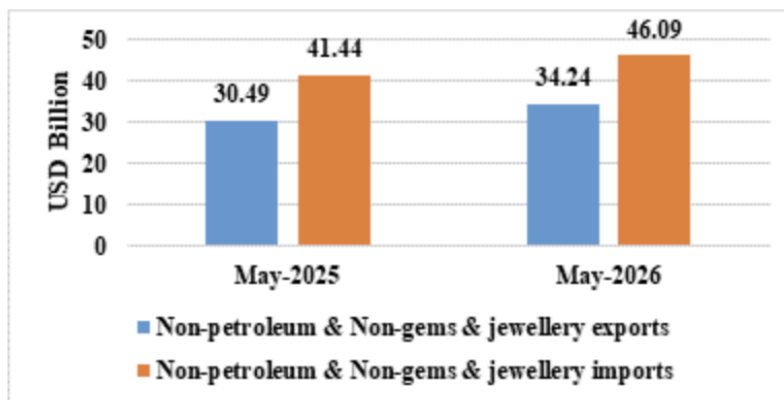
Fig 2: Total Trade during April-May 2026-27***Fig 3: Merchandise Trade during May 2026****Fig 4: Merchandise Trade during April-May 2026-27**

Table 3: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during May 2026

	May 2026 (US\$ Billion)	May 2025 (US\$ Billion)
Non- petroleum exports	36.78	32.87
Non- petroleum imports	50.73	46.11
Non-petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery exports	34.24	30.49
Non-petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery imports	46.09	41.44

: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during May 2026**Table 4: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during April-May 2026-27**

	April-May 2026-27 (US\$ Billion)	April-May 2025-26 (US\$ Billion)
Non- petroleum exports	70.74	64.03
Non- petroleum imports	104.05	90.79
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery exports	65.89	59.15
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery imports	91.97	81.19

Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during April-May 2026-27

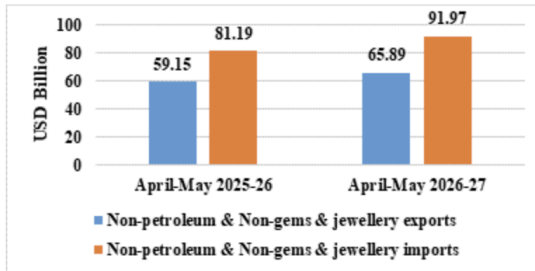


Fig 7: Services Trade during May 2026*

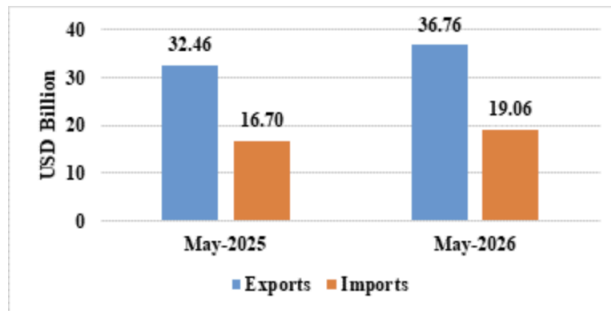
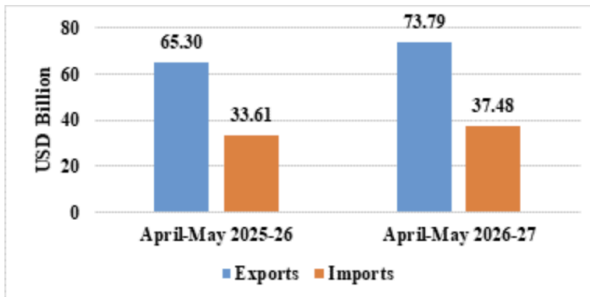


Fig 8: Services Trade during April-May 2026-27*



3. Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM):

Context: Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 15, 2026. All the test objectives were fully met, as per the data captured by various tracking instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range, Chandipur.

About Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM):

- ❖ Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) is an indigenously developed cruise missile of India.
- ❖ All its sub-systems have been developed within India by various DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.
- ❖ The Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru serves as the nodal laboratory for the project.

- ❖ The missile is designed for long-range precision strikes against land-based targets.

4. ***National Cadet Corps (NCC):***

Context: In a significant step towards empowering youth and expanding access to the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Ministry of Defence approved the creation of two new independent NCC State Directorates in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, increasing the total number from 17 to 19.

About National Cadet Corps (NCC):

- ❖ Established in 1948 with an initial strength of 20,000 cadets, NCC has grown into the world's largest uniformed youth organization with over 20 Lakh cadets.
- ❖ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces with its headquarters in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ It is open to school and college students on voluntary basis as a Tri-Services Organisation, comprising the Army, the Navy and Air Force.
- ❖ Cadets are given basic military training in small arms and drill.
- ❖ Officers and cadets have no liability for active military service once they complete their course.
- ❖ Mottos: Unity and Discipline
- ❖ The NCC in India was formed in 1948. It can be traced back to the 'University Corps', which was created under the Indian Defence Act 1917, with the objective to make up for a shortage of personnel in the Army.
- ❖ In 1920, when the Indian Territorial Act was passed, the 'University Corps' was replaced by the University Training Corps (UTC).
- ❖ The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presided over the function of raising the first NCC Unit at Delhi on the fourth Sunday of November in 1948. This day is traditionally celebrated as the NCC Day.
- ❖ A committee headed by H. N. Kunzru recommended a cadet organization to be established in schools and universities at a national level.
- ❖ The soldier youth foundation Act was accepted by the Governor General, and on 15 July 1950 the soldier youth foundation came into existence.

5. ***BHASHINI Sahayogi Program:***

Context: The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Government e Marketplace (GeM), the National Public Procurement Portal under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, have signed an MoU under "BHASHINI for Seva/Sanchalan - A BHASHINI Sahayogi Program" to strengthen multilingual digital capabilities across India's public procurement ecosystem through the BHASHINI Platform, India's National Language Digital Public Infrastructure.

About BHASHINI Sahayogi Program:

- ❖ The collaboration aims to promote multilingual access, multilingual governance, and multilingual service delivery across GeM's digital platforms, enabling stakeholders to access information and services in their preferred languages.

- ❖ The initiative seeks to advance Voice First language technology infrastructure and Generative AI solutions while supporting seamless interaction across 22 officially recognised Indian languages and other Indian languages.
- ❖ Under the collaboration, GeM and the BHASHINI team will work towards the co-creation, integration, and deployment of multilingual digital public resources through initiatives including BHASHINI Udyat, Mitra, Appmitra, Sahyogi, and Pravakta.
- ❖ The initiative will support the development of a more inclusive public procurement ecosystem by reducing language barriers and enabling inclusive and equitable language accessibility across procurement services, seller onboarding, platform navigation, communication, and stakeholder engagement.

About Government e Marketplace (GeM):

- ❖ The Government e Marketplace Special Purpose Vehicle (GeM SPV), a Section 8 non-profit company under the Ministry of Commerce, was incorporated on 17 May 2017 under the Companies Act, 2013 to develop, manage and maintain the GeM platform.
- ❖ Over the years, GeM has emerged as a major digital public procurement platform, promoting ease of doing business and wider market access for sellers across the country.
- ❖ It is an online platform for public procurement.
- ❖ It was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).
- ❖ It was created with the objective to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers to facilitate the online procurement of goods and services.

About BHASHa INterface for India(BHASHINI):

- ❖ It is an AI-based voice-first multilingual translation platform to bridge language, literacy, and digital divides.
- ❖ BHASHINI (BHASHa Interface for India) is an AI-powered language translation platform launched under the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ It aims to create a National Public Digital Platform for Languages using AI and emerging technologies.
- ❖ Its primary objective is to bridge India's language divide and promote digital inclusion.
- ❖ It enables translation of content across 22+ Indian languages.
- ❖ It seeks to increase the availability of Indian-language content on the internet, especially in governance, policy, science, and technology.
- ❖ It uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) technologies.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Digital India BHASHINI Division under the Digital India Corporation.
- ❖ It provides text-to-text translation services in multiple Indian languages.
- ❖ It supports Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) (speech-to-text).
- ❖ It offers Text-to-Speech (TTS) synthesis capabilities.
- ❖ It includes Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for text extraction from images/documents.
- ❖ It supports video translation and document translation.
- ❖ It provides language detection services.
- ❖ It enables voice-based digital payments in Indian languages.
- ❖ BHASHINI is available as a mobile application for public use.
- ❖ It offers API integration for startups and developers to build multilingual applications, chatbots,

and services.

- ❖ The platform includes 'Bhasadaan', a crowdsourcing initiative allowing citizens to contribute language data and resources.
- ❖ It is a key component of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) ecosystem aimed at making digital services accessible in local languages.
- ❖ 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.

6. *Kavach system:*

Context: Indian Railways Approves ₹201 Crore Kavach Project for Ambala Division of Northern Railway.

About Kavach system:

- ❖ Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- ❖ Kavach aids the Loco Pilot in running of trains within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the trains to run safely during inclement weather.
- ❖ It is certified with the highest railway safety standard, Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4), which means it has an extremely high reliability in preventing accidents.
- ❖ Kavach was adopted as the National ATP system in July, 2020.
- ❖ It is developed by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO).
- ❖ Implementation of Kavach System involves following Key Activities:
 - a. Installation of Station Kavach at each and every station, block section.
 - b. Installation of RFID Tags throughout the track length.
 - c. Installation of telecom Towers throughout the section.
 - d. Laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the track.
 - e. Provision of Loco Kavach on each and every Locomotive running on Indian Railways.

7. *Ballistic Missile Defence Programme:*

Context: India demonstrated Multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) capability. This places India among an elite group of nations (United States, Russia, China, and Israel) with advanced BMD capabilities including defence against Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).

About Ballistic Missile Defence Programme:

Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) is an integrated system of radars, command centers, and interceptor missiles designed to detect, track, and destroy incoming ballistic missiles.

The programme was initiated by DRDO in 1999 following Pakistan's nuclear tests and growing regional security challenges.

The BMD system provides two-tier protection:

- Endo-atmospheric interception (within Earth's atmosphere)
- Exo-atmospheric interception (outside Earth's atmosphere)

Phase-I employs Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) and Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptors to counter short- and medium-range ballistic missiles up to about 2,000 km range.

Phase-II includes AD-1 and AD-2 interceptor missiles, extending protection against ballistic missiles with ranges up to 5,000 km.

AD-1 is a long-range interceptor capable of both endo-atmospheric and low exo-atmospheric interception, while AD-2 is designed to intercept Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs).

Phase-III is under development and includes:

- AD-AH (Anti-Hypersonic) interceptor against hypersonic glide vehicles.
- AD-AM (Anti-Missile) interceptor against missiles carrying MIRVs (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles).

Key components of the BMD architecture include interceptor missiles, Swordfish radar, Launch Control Centres (LCC), Mission Control Centre (MCC), and secure communication networks.

Ballistic missiles are classified as:

- SRBM: Below 1,000 km
- MRBM: 1,000–3,000 km
- IRBM: 3,000–5,500 km
- ICBM: Above 5,500 km

What are Ballistic Missiles?

- ❖ Ballistic missiles are missiles that follow a ballistic (gravity-controlled) trajectory after their initial powered launch phase.
- ❖ They travel through three phases: Boost Phase, Midcourse Phase, and Terminal Phase.
- ❖ They can reach very high speeds and strike targets at ranges from a few hundred to several thousand kilometers.
- ❖ Ballistic missiles can carry conventional or nuclear warheads, making them key strategic deterrence weapons.
- ❖ Based on range, they are classified as SRBM (<1000 km), MRBM (1000–3000 km), IRBM (3000–5500 km), and ICBM (>5500 km).

8. GI Tags:

Context: Jharkhand's Bhagaiya silk, Kuchai silk, Munda jewellery and bamboo craft received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

More details:

Product	Key Features
Bhagaiya Silk	Traditional hand-spun silk textile of Santhal Pargana; woven mainly by Santhal tribal women; known for tribal motifs and indigenous weaving techniques.

Kuchai Silk	Produced in Kuchai (Saraikela-Kharsawan district) from Tasar silk; famous for its natural golden sheen and high durability.
Munda Jewellery	Traditional jewellery of the Munda tribe; crafted from silver, brass, and beads; reflects tribal identity and distinctive ethnic designs.
Jharkhand Bamboo Craft	Bamboo handicrafts made by rural and tribal artisans; includes utility and decorative items; supports sustainable livelihoods.

About GI Tags:

- ❖ A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- ❖ The GI tag ensures that only the authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory are allowed to use the popular product name.
- ❖ GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 w.e.f. September 2003.
- ❖ GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- ❖ The tag stands valid for 10 years.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh holds the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags among all Indian states, with over 79 registered products.
- ❖ First GI tag in India: Darjeeling Tea (2004–05).
- ❖ The Geographical Indications Registry is located at Chennai.

9. *Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl:*

Context: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will replace the modified image of the iconic “Dancing Girl” figurine of Mohenjo-daro in its Class 9 Arts textbook with the original version, following criticism over the ‘clothed’ depiction of the artefact.

About Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl:

- ❖ Dancing Girl is a famous bronze figurine of the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500 BCE).
- ❖ It was discovered in 1926 at Mohenjodaro by archaeologist Ernest Mackay.
- ❖ The sculpture was made using the Lost-Wax Casting Technique, demonstrating the advanced metallurgical skills of the Harappans.
- ❖ In the lost-wax process, a wax model is covered with a mould, the wax is melted out, and molten metal is poured into the cavity to create the final object.
- ❖ The figurine depicts a young girl standing confidently with a tilted head, elongated arms, and ornaments, reflecting artistic sophistication.
- ❖ Its graceful posture, realism, and sense of rhythm have made it one of the most iconic artworks of the Indus Valley Civilization, earning it the title “Dancing Girl.”

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Archaeological Survey of India, Underwater Archaeology Wing and the National Museum of Denmark: Njord - Center for Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage, Copenhagen, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake a collaborative underwater archaeological project aimed at locating and documenting the remains of the historic Danish ship Oresund, which was wrecked off the coast near Karaikal, Puducherry, in 1619 CE. The Oresund occupies a significant place in maritime history as the first Danish ship known to have reached India.
- ☐ The 19th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), India's premier festival for documentary, short fiction, animation and AI-generated films, commenced today with a grand inaugural ceremony at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Mumbai. Organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, MIFF is South Asia's oldest and largest festival dedicated to non-feature films.
- ☐ Padma Barrage is a proposed 2.1-km-long multipurpose barrage on the Padma River (the Bangladesh stretch of the Ganga) in Rajbari District, Bangladesh. Approved ahead of the expiry of the 1996 Ganga Water Sharing Treaty in December 2026, the project aims to address dry-season water scarcity and salinity intrusion, issues Bangladesh often links to reduced flows downstream of India's Farakka Barrage. The barrage is expected to generate 113 MW of hydropower and influence nearly 37% of Bangladesh's land area through improved water management and irrigation.
- ☐ Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a state visit to Slovakia from 14 June to 16 June 2026. It was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country became independent in 1993. The visit took place in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, during the second leg of a three-nation European tour.
- ☐ On 15 June 2026, the Indian Army selected the MEPRO X6 telescopic sight as the daytime optic for its in-service NEGEV Machine Gun. The programme will support indigenous manufacturing in India through a Transfer of Technology (ToT) arrangement between Meprolight and RRP Defense, with Bharat Electronics Limited serving as the prime contractor. The MEPRO X6 is a compact 6× magnification telescopic day sight with an effective range of up to 1,000 metres, enhancing long-range target acquisition and accuracy for machine-gun operators.
- ☐ The government on Monday hiked windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while retaining the levy on petrol for the fortnight beginning June 16. A windfall tax is a government-imposed levy placed on companies that experience sudden, unusually high profits due to favorable external events rather than their own business strategies.

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