

24/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Padma awards:*

Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri Awards for the year 2026 at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (June 23, 2026).

About Padma awards:

- ❖ Padma Awards are among India's highest civilian honours, announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- ❖ The awards are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- ❖ Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.
- ❖ Padma Bhushan is awarded for distinguished service of a higher order.
- ❖ Padma Shri is awarded for distinguished service in any field.
- ❖ The awards recognize achievements across disciplines involving public service.
- ❖ The Padma Awards Committee is constituted annually by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Nominations are open to the public, including self-nominations.
- ❖ The committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and includes the Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and 4–6 eminent members.
- ❖ Committee recommendations are submitted to the Prime Minister and President for approval.
- ❖ Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan were first instituted in 1954 as India's highest civilian honours.
- ❖ Initially, Padma Vibhushan had three classes: Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg.
- ❖ In 1955, these classes were renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- ❖ The first Padma Vibhushan awardees in 1954 included scientist Satyendra Nath Bose and artist Nandalal Bose.
- ❖ The first non-Indian Padma Vibhushan awardee was Jigme Dorji Wangchuk in 1954.
- ❖ Padma Awards have been announced every year since 1954, except during 1978–79 and 1993–97.
- ❖ The awards are presented by the President of India, usually at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ Awardees receive a Presidential certificate and a medallion, but no cash prize.
- ❖ The awards are not titles and cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes to names.
- ❖ The annual number of awards is capped at 120, excluding posthumous awards and awards to NRIs, foreigners and OCIs.
- ❖ Government servants, including PSU employees, are generally ineligible, except doctors and scientists.

2. *National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED):*

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today launched the e-auction portal NAFEX.in of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED).

About National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED):

- ❖ NAFED is the apex cooperative organization for the marketing of agricultural produce in India.
- ❖ It was established on 2 October 1958 to promote the trade of agricultural and forest produce across the country.
- ❖ It is registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act.
- ❖ NAFED functions under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare as an apex cooperative institution.
- ❖ Its headquarters are located in New Delhi, with regional offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- ❖ It promotes the marketing, processing, and storage of agricultural, horticultural, and forest produce.
- ❖ It facilitates the distribution of agricultural machinery, implements, seeds, and other farm inputs, and undertakes domestic as well as international trade.
- ❖ It provides technical guidance and support to cooperative marketing, processing, and supply societies to strengthen the cooperative sector in agriculture.

3. *Five Eyes intelligence alliance:*

Context: The Five Eyes intelligence alliance issued a joint warning on 22-23 June 2026 on cybersecurity risks linked to advanced artificial intelligence models. The alliance comprises cybersecurity agencies from the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

About Five Eyes intelligence alliance:

- ❖ It is a multilateral intelligence-sharing network shared by over 20 different agencies of five English-speaking countries — Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ❖ Intelligence documents shared between the members countries are classified as ‘Secret—AUS/CAN/NZ/UK/US Eyes Only,’ which gave the group its title ‘Five Eyes.’
- ❖ The alliance’s origins can be traced back to the Second World War.
- ❖ The UK and the US decided to share intelligence after successfully breaking German and Japanese codes, respectively.
- ❖ In 1943, the Britain-USA (BRUSA) agreement laid the foundations for what would become the UK-USA (UKUSA) agreement.
- ❖ BRUSA was signed to share intelligence information between the two countries to support US forces in Europe
- ❖ Following this, the UKUSA (UK-USA) was signed in 1946.
- ❖ Canada joined it in 1949, and New Zealand and Australia did so in 1956, forming the alliance.
- ❖

4. *Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010:*

Context: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wanting to access foreign funds must now stick to a list of activities specified by the Centre, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, notified on Monday.

About Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010:

- ❖ This Act was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 amid apprehensions that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping money into the country through independent organisations.
- ❖ The FCRA requires every person or NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be: Registered under the Act, to open a bank account for the receipt of foreign funds in the State Bank of India, Delhi, to utilise those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
- ❖ The applicant should not be fictitious or benami.
- ❖ Should not have been prosecuted or convicted for indulging in activities aimed at conversion through inducement or force.
- ❖ Once granted, FCRA registration is valid for five years.
- ❖ NGOs are expected to apply for renewal within six months of the date of expiry of registration.
- ❖ Registration can be cancelled if an inquiry finds a false statement in the application.
- ❖ Once the registration of an NGO is cancelled, it is not eligible for re-registration for three years.
- ❖ The ministry also has the power to suspend an NGO's registration for 180 days pending inquiry and can freeze its funds.
- ❖ All orders of the government can be challenged in the High Court.

What are the new notified rules?

- ❖ NGOs seeking foreign funds must now register under one or more of five categories: Social, Economic, Educational, Cultural, and Religious.
- ❖ Separate activity lists have been prescribed for each category for the first time.
- ❖ NGOs must disclose their activities, geographical area of operation, website, social media accounts, and publications.
- ❖ NGOs must pay separate registration fees for each category and each State/UT in which they operate.
- ❖ All new registrations must comply immediately with the revised rules.
- ❖ Existing FCRA-registered NGOs must comply with the new provisions within one year.
- ❖ Violations of the revised rules attract a minimum penalty of ₹1 lakh.
- ❖ The definition of "key functionary" has been expanded to include trustees, partners, Karta of HUFs, governing body members, and others controlling the organization.
- ❖ NGOs having foreign nationals (except Persons of Indian Origin) as key functionaries will generally not be eligible for FCRA registration or prior permission unless specifically approved by the Central Government.
- ❖ NGOs must declare whether the organization or any key functionary has published books, magazines, newspaper articles, or other publications during the year.
- ❖ Educational-category NGOs conducting awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities must ensure such activities are strictly non-political.
- ❖ Religious activities permitted under FCRA now include specified activities such as religious education, satsangs, discourses, meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation), and maintenance of burial/cremation grounds.

- ❖ The government has notified a standardized list of permissible activities under Social, Economic, Educational, Cultural, and Religious categories.
- ❖ Excess administrative expenditure, speculative investments, misuse of foreign funds, and unauthorized receipt or utilization of foreign contributions now attract specified penalties.
- ❖ Use of foreign funds for purposes other than those approved can attract a penalty of 30% of the misused amount or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher.
- ❖ Use of foreign contributions in unapproved activities or unapproved States/UTs can attract a penalty of 30% of the amount involved or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher.
- ❖ The amendments aim to bring uniformity in FCRA forms, improve transparency, and prevent duplication of information.

5. *International Maritime Organisation (IMO):*

Context: International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has announced a plan to evacuate all the ships — and the 11,000 seafarers on them — stranded in the Persian Gulf due to the war in West Asia. This large-scale operation will be carried out in close cooperation with Iran, Oman, and all other coastal States in the region, the United States, and the maritime industry.

About International Maritime Organisation (IMO):

- ❖ The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized UN agency responsible for the safety, security, and environmental performance of international shipping.
- ❖ It serves as the global standard-setting authority for international maritime transport.
- ❖ Its primary mandate is to develop a fair, effective, and universally implemented regulatory framework for the shipping industry.
- ❖ The organization was established in 1948 as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), became a UN specialized agency in 1959, and was renamed IMO in 1982.
- ❖ The Assembly is the highest governing body, comprising all member states and meeting biennially to approve the work programme, budget, and elect the Council.
- ❖ The Council, consisting of 40 elected members, functions as the executive organ and supervises the organization's work.
- ❖ IMO has five policy-making committees responsible for formulating, reviewing, and updating maritime regulations and guidelines.
- ❖ It is funded through member-state contributions, voluntary donations, and commercial activities.
- ❖ IMO currently has 176 member states, and India has been a member since 1959.
- ❖ The headquarters of IMO is located in London.

6. *Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS):*

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its final directions on Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) for MSMEs to simplify the system. The banking regulator fixed a minimum net worth of ₹25 crore and certification by a statutory auditor to provide discounting services. Entities providing the service have been given a deadline of March 31, 2028 to comply with network norm.

About Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS):

- ❖ TReDS is an online platform which aids small businesses auction invoices or trade receivables to banks and other financial institutions to unlock working capital.
- ❖ The move seeks to aid MSMEs receive customer payments as they might face issues in converting trade receivables to cash.
- ❖ TReDS is an electronic platform that facilitates the financing and discounting of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers.
- ❖ It enables MSMEs to discount invoices raised on corporates, government departments, and PSUs, thereby improving cash flow and working capital management.
- ❖ The platform helps MSMEs receive faster payments against their receivables.
- ❖ MSMEs can participate only as sellers, while corporates, government departments, PSUs, and other entities can participate as buyers.
- ❖ Banks, NBFC-Factors, and other RBI-approved financial institutions act as financiers on the platform.
- ❖ Participation in TReDS is not mandatory, and the RBI has not made it compulsory for buyers, sellers, or financiers to join the platform.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ As a part of 107th Birth Anniversary of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh DFC, 7th edition of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial Hockey Tournament-2026 is being organised by Air Force Sports Control Board at Air Force Station Jalahalli from 23 Jun to 03 Jul 26. A total of 16 Teams will be participating in this tournament.
- ☐ In a significant step towards strengthening evidence-based policymaking and fostering high-quality research in the road transportation sector, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to establish the NHAI Centre for Economics of Transportation, Mobility and Logistics at NCAER, Delhi, India's first permanent and independent research centre dedicated to the economics of transportation, mobility and logistics.
- ☐ Shri Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, released the latest edition of the "Trade Watch Quarterly" publication for Quarter 4 of FY'2025-26 (Jan-Mar 2026) on 23rd June 2026, in New Delhi. The publication provides a comprehensive assessment of global and domestic trade trends at a time when global trade has demonstrated resilience despite persistent macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties. India's trade remained broadly stable, with total merchandise and services trade expanding by 5.4% year-on-year (y-o-y) during April–March FY'2025-26 to reach \$1.84 trillion.
- ☐ The Indori Malwi potato received the Geographical Indication tag after notification by the Registrar of Geographical Indication, Chennai, on 13 June 2026. Garadu tuber and balam cucumber from Ratlam district also received GI certification along with the Indori Malwi potato.
- ☐ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs designated Haldia seaport in West Bengal as an immigration post on 22 June 2026. The notification made Haldia the 41st seaport immigration post along India's coastline. An immigration post is a notified entry or exit point where immigration

clearance is carried out for foreign nationals and Indian citizens travelling across international borders.

- ☐ Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation stone for two high-altitude flower fields in Leh district, Ladakh, on 22 June 2026. The projects are being developed at Choglamsar and Stakna and are described as the first of their kind in India.
- ☐ A rare four-sided stone pillar with a Buddha Parinirvana sculpture was found in Bhimsari village in Adilabad district, Telangana, in June 2026. The pillar carries four half-relief carvings on its sides and combines Buddhist, Vaishnavite, and Shaivite motifs on a single monument.
- ☐ India launched four digital policing applications on 22 June 2026 in New Delhi. The applications are Abhigyan, Criminal Procedure Identification (CrPI), e-prosecution 2.0, and e-forensics 2.0. They are linked to the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), which connects police, courts, prisons, and forensic systems through digital platforms.
- ☐ Lakadong Turmeric is a turmeric variety from the Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and received Geographical Indication status in 2024. It is known for curcumin content of about 7% to 12%, compared with 2% to 3% in many commercial turmeric varieties. Curcumin is the principal bioactive compound in turmeric and is used in food, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.
- ☐ Sri Lanka has decided to appoint a military-led team to monitor the sudden surge in dengue cases across the island, even as hospitals report overcrowding and mounting pressure on the public health system.
- ☐ Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the El Niño situation and delayed southwest monsoon, noting that rainfall has been 43% below normal so far. The Centre identified 315 vulnerable districts, including 111 high-priority districts in 12 States, and is preparing district-wise contingency plans to mitigate potential drought impacts.

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