01-06-2026

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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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

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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.

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- 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.

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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.

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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.

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- 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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02-06-2026

1. 2026 Asian U20 Athletics Championships:

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today congratulated the Indian contingent for its outstanding performance at the 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships.

About 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships:

- 22nd edition of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships, organized by the Asian Athletics Association held from 28–31 May 2026.
- Venue: Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground, Hong Kong.
- Participation restricted to athletes born between 2006 and 2009 (Under-20 category).
- Features 46 events in total: 22 men's events, 22 women's events and 1 mixed event
- Serves as a qualifying event for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships.
- The World Athletics U20 Championships will be held in August 2026 at Eugene, Oregon, United States.
- India finished 2nd at the 2026 Asian U20 Athletics Championships medal table with 19 medals (10 Gold, 5 Silver, 4 Bronze).
- China topped the standings with 25 medals (14 Gold, 9 Silver, 2 Bronze), while India secured its place as the second-best performing nation.

2. India's Seafood Exports:

Context: India's Seafood Exports Reach Record High of ₹73,890 Crore in FY 2025–26.

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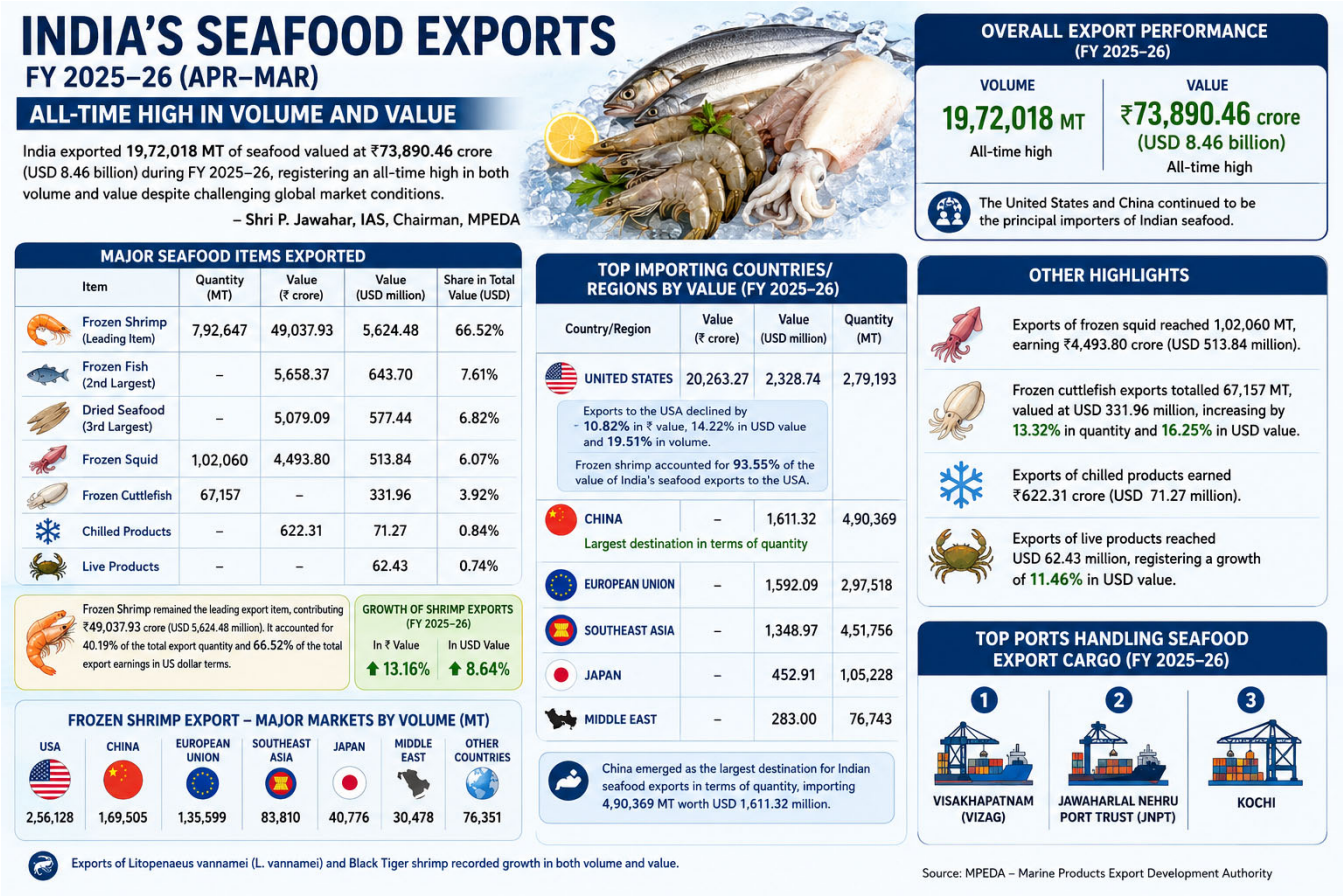
More details:



- India exported 19,72,018 metric tonnes (MT) of seafood valued at ₹73,890.46 crore (USD 8.46 billion) during FY 2025–26, registering an all-time high in both volume and value.
- The United States and China remained the principal importers of Indian seafood in FY 2025–26.
- Frozen shrimp was the top export item, earning ₹49,037.93 crore (USD 5.62 billion) and contributing 66.52% of seafood export earnings.
- Frozen shrimp exports grew by 13.16% in rupee terms and 8.64% in dollar terms during FY 2025–26.

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- India exported 7.93 lakh MT of frozen shrimp, with the United States being the largest importer, followed by China and the European Union.
- Exports of L. vannamei and Black Tiger shrimp recorded growth in both volume and value.
- Frozen fish was the second-largest seafood export, generating ₹5,658.37 crore (USD 643.7 million).
- Dried seafood products ranked third, earning ₹5,079.09 crore (USD 577.44 million) and recording 78.05% growth in rupee value.
- The United States remained the largest seafood importer from India in value terms, importing seafood worth USD 2.33 billion.
- Frozen shrimp accounted for 93.55% of the value of India's seafood exports to the United States.
- China was the largest destination by quantity, importing 4.90 lakh MT of Indian seafood.
- The European Union was the third-largest export destination in value terms, followed by Southeast Asia.
- Japan was the fifth-largest importer, while the Middle East ranked sixth.
- The top three seafood export ports in FY 2025–26 were Visakhapatnam Port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, and Cochin Port.

3. India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

Context: India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force marking a defining milestone in bilateral economic relations and opening a transformative new chapter in strategic trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. The India-Oman CEPA was signed on 18th December, 2025 in Muscat.

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Major highlights of India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):



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4. Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Water Mission:

Context: Launching the ₹200-crore "Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) – Ministry of Jal Shakti MAHA Water Mission to support StartUps in the Water sector, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is democratising research funding by expanding opportunities for StartUps, MSMEs, universities and innovators across the country.

About Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Water Mission:

- The MAHA Water Mission seeks to build on that vision by creating a collaborative platform that connects scientific institutions, industry, startups and grassroots stakeholders to develop scalable and sustainable solutions for the water sector.
- With a projected outlay of ₹200 crore over five years, jointly contributed by ANRF and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the programme will support multidisciplinary consortia involving universities, national laboratories, research organisations, startups, MSMEs and industry partners.
- Up to ₹20 crore support will be available for selected consortia to undertake technology development, field assessment, validation and deployment of high-impact solutions in the water sector.
- The mission will focus on five priority themes, Water Resource Assessment and Sustainable Management, Drinking Water, Water Quality and Ecological Health, Water Use Efficiency and Circular Economy, and Climate Resilience and Adaptation.
- It aims to support innovations from laboratory research to field deployment while generating scalable and localised solutions for strengthening India's long-term water security.

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About Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):

- Established under the ANRF Act, 2023 to promote research and innovation across India.
- Aims to seed, grow, and foster a research culture as envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP).
- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has been subsumed into ANRF.
- Funding target: ₹50,000 crore for the period 2023–2028.
- Anusandhan National Research Foundation was established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023.
- It functions under the Department of Science and Technology.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board has been merged into ANRF.
- Funding will be sourced through the ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, Science and Engineering Research Fund, and Special Purpose Funds.
- ANRF promotes collaboration among industry, academia, research institutions, and government departments.

5. Majuli Island:

Context: A new study has reconstructed nearly 4,000 years of climate and vegetation history of Majuli Island, Assam—the world's largest inhabited river island, culturally significant as the settlement of several tribes and as a major centre of Neo-Vaishnavite culture, a reformist Vaishnavism movement.

About Majuli Island:

- Majuli Island, perched between the Brahmaputra River to the south and east, the Subansiri River to the west, and a branch of the Brahmaputra to the north, has been severely affected by recurrent flooding and intense riverbank erosion.

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- Despite its global importance in acquiring UNESCO tentative status for cultural significance, the region lacked any comprehensive long-term palaeoecological reconstruction based on palynological evidence resting on integrated modern and fossil pollen records.
- Majuli is the world's largest river island, located in Assam.
- It is formed by the Brahmaputra River in the south and the Kherkutia Xuti branch of the Brahmaputra, joined by the Subansiri River in the north.
- The island is characterized by lush greenery, wetlands, water bodies, and extensive paddy fields.
- Rice cultivation is the primary occupation of the inhabitants.
- Famous local rice varieties include Komal Saul and Bao Dhan.
- The major tribes inhabiting Majuli are the Mishing, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari communities.
- Majuli is the cultural center of Assamese Neo-Vaishnavism.
- The Neo-Vaishnavite movement in Majuli was initiated in the 16th century by Srimanta Sankardeva and his disciple Madhavdeva.
- The island is renowned for its Satras, the Vaishnavite monastic institutions established by Sankardeva.
- The Satras have preserved the classical dance form Sattriya.
- Majuli is also known for preserving Bhaona (traditional theatre), literature, music, and dance traditions.
- The island is famous for its traditional mask-making art.
- Pottery making is another important traditional craft practiced in Majuli.
- Majuli also has a rich tradition of boat-making, reflecting its riverine culture.
- The island is often regarded as the cultural capital of Assam.

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6. Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised the base year of the All India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2011–12 to 2022–23 with the objective of making the index more representative of the current structure and dynamics of the industrial sector.

About Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures short-term changes in the volume of industrial production in India.
- It is an important indicator used to assess the growth or slowdown of industrial activity and overall economic performance.
- The IIP is published by the Central Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The previous base year of the IIP is 2011–12 and currently it is 2022-23,adopted to better reflect the modern industrial structure and production trends.
- The old IIP is divided into three major sectors: Manufacturing – 77.63% weight, Mining – 14.37% weight and electricity-7.99%. Where as the new IIP series weightage is as follows:

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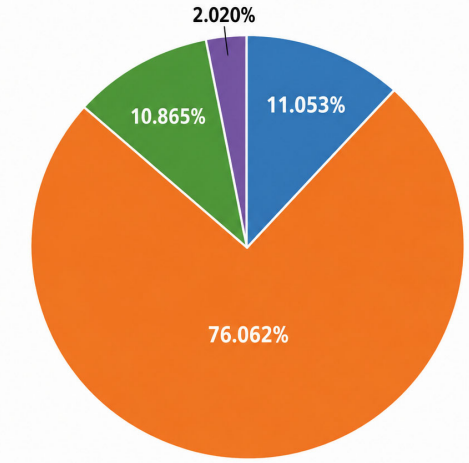
INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION – SECTORAL

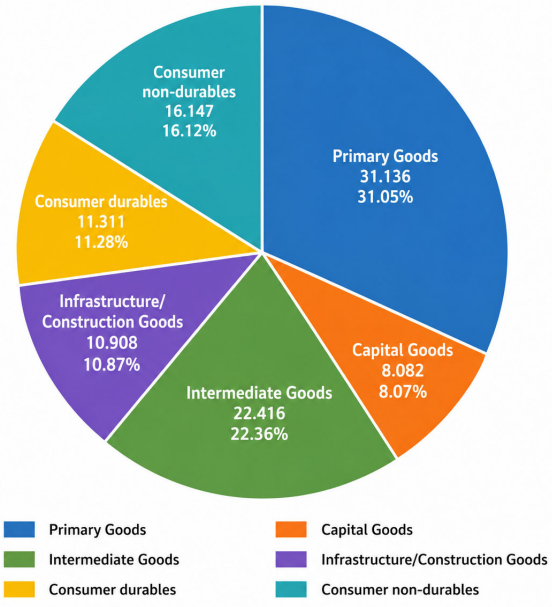
(Base: 2022-23=100)



Mining & Quarrying	11.053
Manufacturing	76.062
Electricity & Gas Supply	10.865
Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management	2.020
General	**100.000**

STATEMENT III: INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION – USE-BASED

(Base :2022-23=100)



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INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX (IIP)
WHAT'S NEW?
A More Comprehensive, Granular and Relevant Index for Today's Economy



Base year revised from 2011-12 to 2022-23.

Expanded scope & coverage by including Gas Supply, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Waste Management activities while retaining the existing sectors.

Greater granularity by providing separate indices for
- Electricity generation from Renewable and Non-renewable sources
- Fuel Minerals, Metallic Minerals and Non-Metallic Minerals

Item basket revamped to cover **463** item groups

ADDITIONS
- Cards with a magnetic stripe
- CCTV camera
- Articles of non-woven textiles
- Parts of aircraft and spacecraft
- Stents
- Vaccine (other than veterinary)

DELETIONS
- Kerosene
- Fluorescent tubes and CFLs
- Tubes for bicycle/ tricycle/ rickshaw tyres. Tubes for LMV tyres
- Printing machinery
- Sewing machines

1. EXPANDED SCOPE & COVERAGE
The new IIP series (2022–23) has been broadened by incorporating Gas Supply and Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management activities, while retaining the existing three core sectors—Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.

In the Mining sector, minor minerals and rare earth minerals are now included along with major minerals, making the index more inclusive and aligned with global standards.

Mining | Manufacturing | Electricity | Gas Supply | Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management

2. ENHANCED GRANULARITY
More detailed disaggregation of industrial activities enables better analysis of sectoral performance.

MINING & QUARRYING SECTOR
- (i) Fuel Minerals
- (ii) Metallic Minerals, including Rare Earth Minerals
- (iii) Non-Metallic Minerals, including Minor Minerals

ELECTRICITY INDEX
Now compiled based on source of generation:
- (i) Non-Renewable Sources
- (ii) Renewable Sources

3. REVAMPED ITEM BASKET
The item basket and weights have been revised to add relevant commodities and remove outdated ones.

NEW IIP SERIES (2022–23)		OLD IIP SERIES (2011–12)	
1,042 products	463 item groups	839 products	407 item groups

The number of item groups for which production data is collected in value terms has increased significantly to **234** item groups, up from **109** item groups in the old series.

4. UPDATED WEIGHTS
Weights are updated using latest data on Gross Value Added from National Accounts Statistics (base 2022-23) at sectoral level and Annual Survey of Industries at NIC-2/3/4 digit for FY 2022-23.

In Electricity sector, weights are based on the share of each source in total revenue generated during FY 2022–23.

In Mining & Quarrying sector, weights are updated according to share in GVA of each mineral received from IBM and NAS for FY 2022-23.

The new IIP series (2022–23) offers a more comprehensive, granular and up-to-date measure of industrial performance, supporting better policy decisions and aligning with global best practices.

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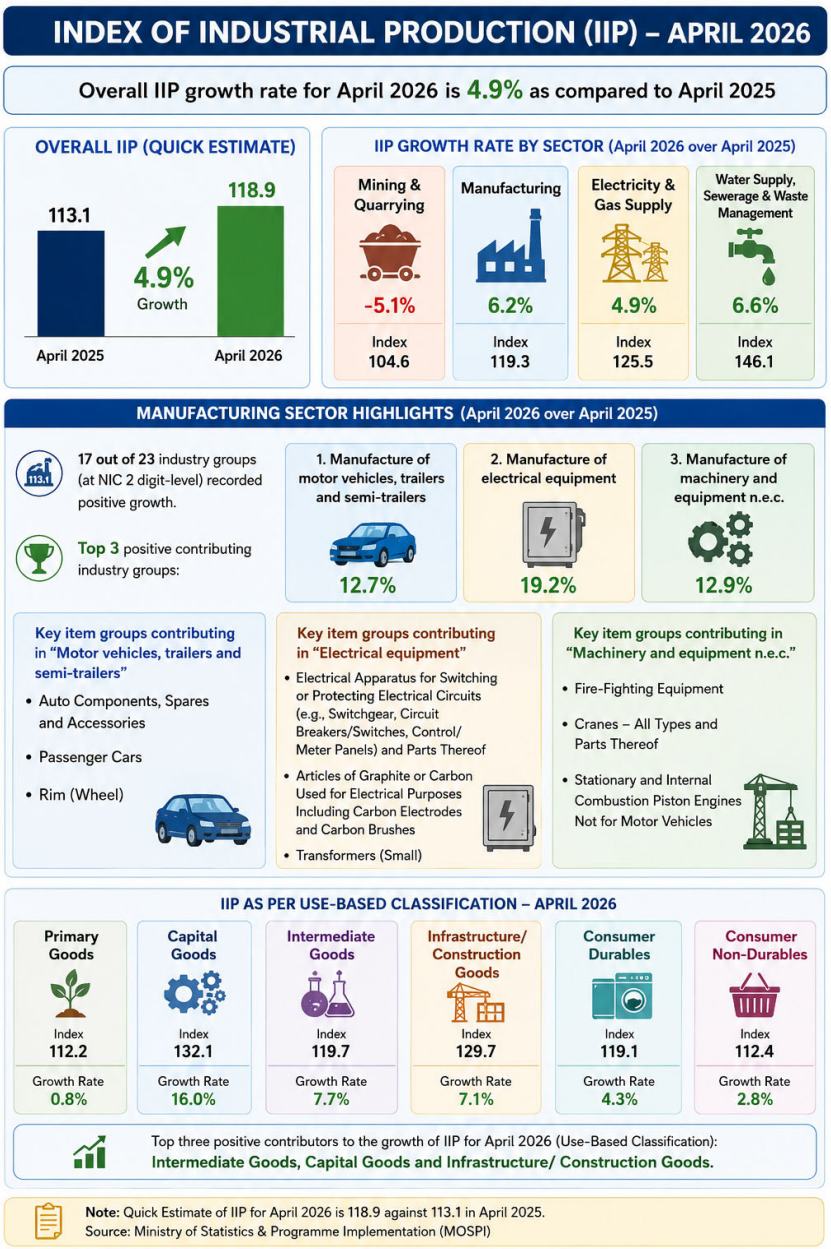
Major highlights:



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Major highlights: About Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is released by the Office of Economic Advisor under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The ICI measures the production performance of eight core industries: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- These eight industries together account for 40.27% weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), making them crucial indicators of industrial growth.
- Among the core industries, Refinery Products have the highest weight (28.04%), followed by Electricity (19.85%) and Steel (17.92%). The remaining sectors and their weights are:
  - Coal (10.33%)
  - Crude Oil (8.98%)
  - Natural Gas (6.88%)
  - Cement (5.37%)
  - Fertilizers (2.63%)

7. Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana relics:

Context: Relics of Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana, the two chief disciples of Lord Buddha, enshrined at Gandantegchenling Monastery, Mongolia These relics were preserved for centuries in the sacred stupas of Sanchi.

About Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana relics:

- Arhat Sariputta was one of the two chief disciples (Aggasāvakas) and Dhamma-Senapatis of Gautama Buddha.
- Sariputta is regarded as the first human disciple to directly learn the Abhidhamma from the Buddha.

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- He is considered the first teacher to propagate the Abhidhamma tradition in Buddhism.
- Maha Moggallana was the other chief disciple and Dhamma-Senapati of the Buddha.
- Moggallana was also known as Kolita.
- He served as the teacher of Rahula, the son of the Buddha.

8. Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel project:

Context: The Central government of India approved the Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel project in May 2026 as one of the major river-linking infrastructure projects connected with the Chenab river. The project is planned in Himachal Pradesh and has an estimated cost of ₹2,352 crore.

Details about Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel project:

- The project includes an 8.7-kilometre tunnel for diverting surplus water from the Chenab basin into the Beas river system.
- The diversion is linked to the Indus river system, which includes the Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers.
- Phase 1 of the project includes a proposed 19-metre-high barrage on the Chandra river near Koksar village in the Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Chandra river is a tributary in the upper Chenab basin in the western Himalayas.
- The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, or NHPC, will handle the project.
- The project is expected to facilitate nearly 4,000 MW of additional hydropower generation in Himachal Pradesh.

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9. Divyastra Mk-1:

Context: The Indian Army conducted an operational demonstration of the indigenous Divyastra Mk-1 tactical loitering munition in Jodhpur on 1 June 2026. The system is developed by Hoverit, a Lucknow-based defence technology startup, and it has a reported 95% indigenous component rate.

About Divyastra Mk-1:

- The Divyastra Mk-1 is an AI-powered tactical unmanned aerial vehicle used for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strike missions.
- It has an operational range of up to 500 km, an endurance of up to 5 hours, an attack speed of 300–400 km/h, and a payload capacity of 15 kg.
- A loitering munition is an aerial system that can remain over an area before striking a target.
- The Divyastra Mk-1 has AI and swarm capabilities for autonomous navigation, target recognition, and coordinated strike operations.

10. International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):

Context: There is an urgent need to explore and develop alternative connectivity options beyond existing trade routes, particularly maritime routes. New routes and corridors such as INSTC and IMEC must be developed that avoid the two 'C's — conflict zones and choke points.

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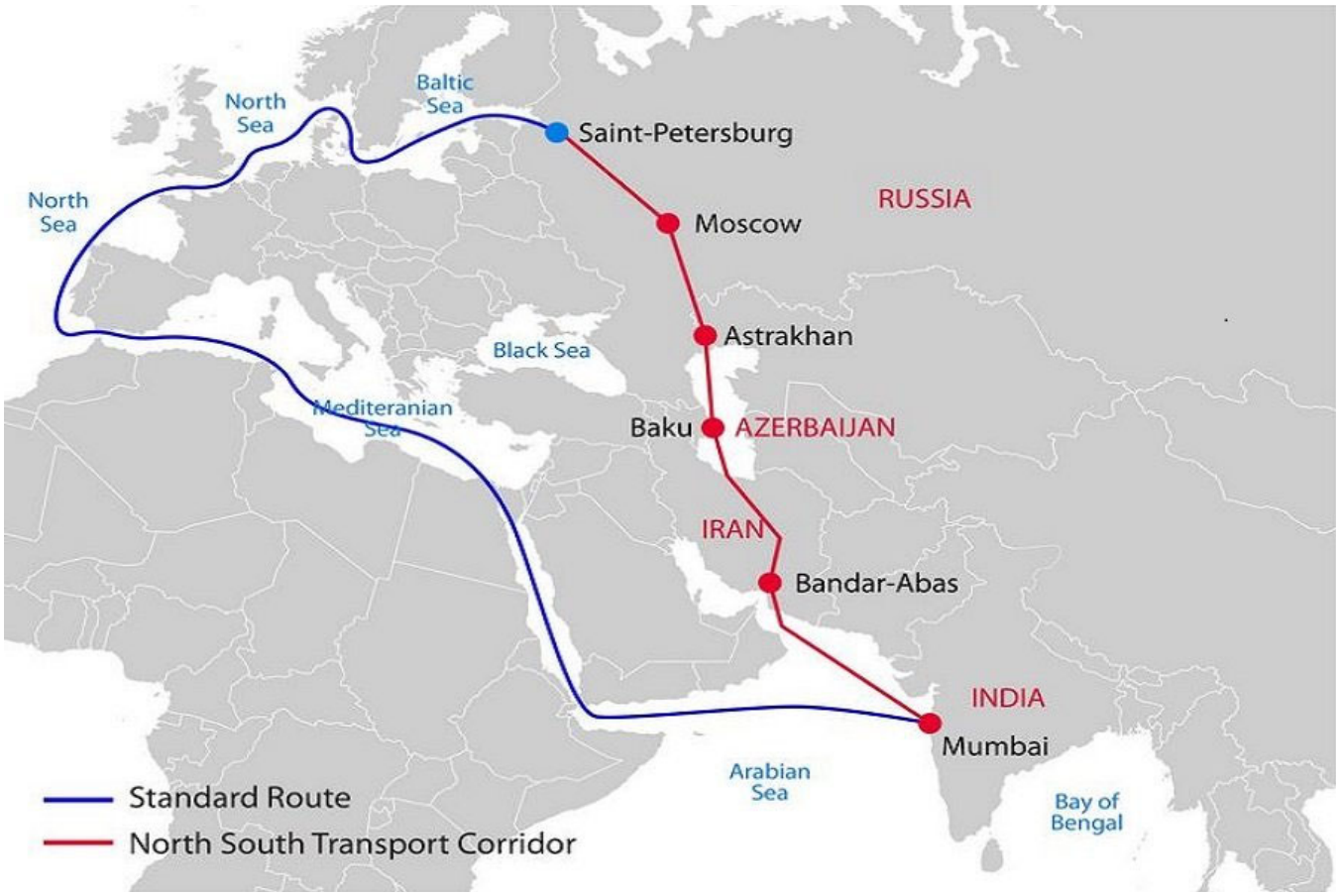
About International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):



- It is a multi-modal transportation network designed to facilitate trade between India, Russia, and Iran, along with Central Asia and Europe.
- The INSTC stretches for approximately 7,200 kilometers (4,500 miles) and involves a combination of ship, rail, and road routes.
- Currently, 13 countries are members of the INSTC: India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman and Syria

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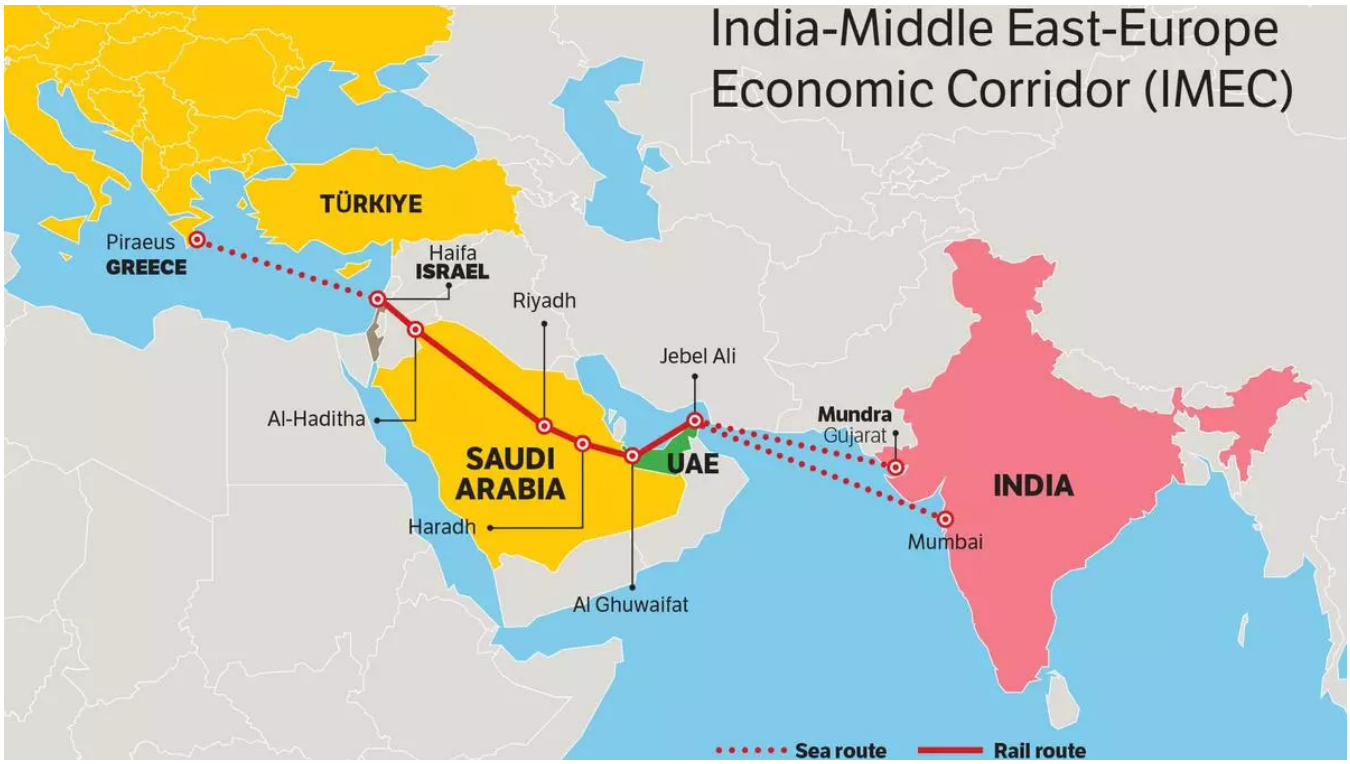
- The primary objective of the INSTC is to increase trade connectivity and reduce transportation costs between member countries.
- It aims to provide a faster and more efficient alternative to traditional routes, such as the Suez Canal.
- Compared to traditional routes, INSTC offers a potentially shorter route between India, Russia, and Europe, leading to cost and time savings.

About India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):



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- India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is a major connectivity initiative linking India, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe through integrated transport networks.
- Its primary objective is to boost economic growth, trade, and regional economic integration among participating countries.
- IMEC aims to strengthen manufacturing, enhance food security, and build resilient supply chains.
- The corridor involves India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany.
- IMEC will combine railways, ship-to-rail networks, and road transport routes for seamless movement of goods.
- It consists of two corridors: the East Corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and the Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- Key Indian ports under IMEC include Mundra Port, Deendayal Port (Kandla), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port.
- Major UAE ports in the corridor are Port of Fujairah, Jebel Ali Port, and Khalifa Port.
- Key Saudi Arabian ports include King Abdulaziz Port and Ras Al Khair Port.
- IMEC is envisioned as a strategic trade and connectivity corridor to improve transport efficiency and reduce logistics costs between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Quick Bites:

- Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from Ramasiya village in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, delivering a clear message to farmers that if the soil is protected, agriculture will thrive, farmers will become stronger, and the nation will prosper.
- 2nd BRICS Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will be held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 4th - 5th June 2026. The two-day meeting, scheduled for 4-5 June 2026, will facilitate structured

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multilateral dialogue on cultural cooperation in keeping with India's BRICS 2026 theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

- India is hosting the 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum on 11–12 June 2026 in New Delhi. The Urbanisation Forum will be held under the theme 'Cities for People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures'.
- The Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), Gurugram, an autonomous institution under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, organized the two-day Symposium-cum-Workshop "BIOPSF 2026: NextGen Bio-Inputs – Bio-based Pesticides, Stimulants and Fertilizers" at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi.
- Hindi Journalism Day is celebrated on 30 May to mark the first publication of 'Udant Martand', the world's first Hindi newspaper. Udant Martand, meaning 'the rising Sun', was published under the editorship of Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla (lawyer from Kanpur) in Calcutta (1826).
- Malaysia began enforcing a rule on 1 June 2026 that bars children below 16 years from owning social media accounts. Malaysia began enforcing rules barring millions of children younger than 16 from having social media accounts, joining a growing global effort to tighten safety protections. Not all families approved, and critics raised concerns about data protection and surveillance. Australia, Brazil and Indonesia have initiated similar regulations.
- Mesalina bishnoi is a newly described lizard species from Rajasthan and the first confirmed record of the genus Mesalina in India.
- Tyrannosaurus rex was a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. But it was not the only T. rex that terrorised the Cretaceous Period. There also was a marine reptile named Tylosaurus rex — the T. rex of the sea — that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity.

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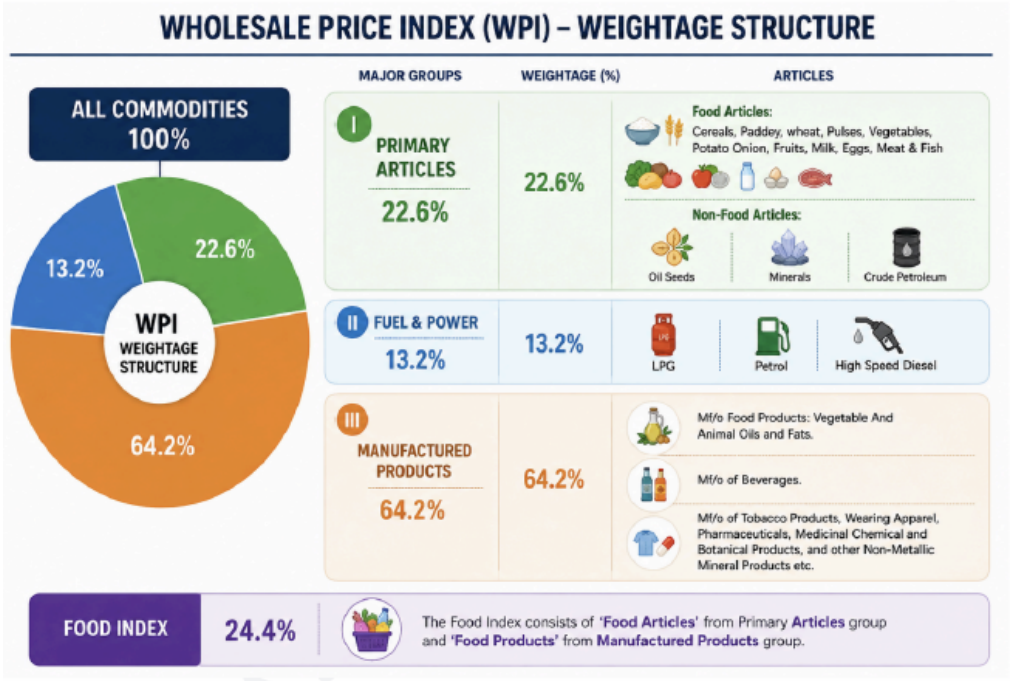
03-06-2026

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), Trial 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.



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- 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 business 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):

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

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- **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
- **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.
- **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

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transforming Assam's unique Muga silk sector into a globally competitive, high-value luxury textile ecosystem.

About Mission "Senehjori":

- Mission Senehjori 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 “Senehjori” 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.

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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.

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- 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. YOMA 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 India AI 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.

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- 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.

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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).

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- 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.

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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.

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- 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.

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- 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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04-06-2026

1. Varahaneri Venkatesa Subramaniam Aiyar:

Context: The Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, paid his respectful tributes to distinguished freedom fighter, scholar and writer, Shri V. V. S. Aiyar, on his death anniversary at Uprashtrapati Bhavan today.

About Varahaneri Venkatesa Subramaniam Aiyar:

- V. V. S. Aiyar was born on 2 April 1881 in Tamil Nadu.
- He was a prominent Indian revolutionary who fought against British colonial rule.
- He advocated militant resistance against the British rather than moderate methods.
- His contemporaries included Subramania Bharati and V. O. Chidambaram Pillai.
- He interacted and exchanged revolutionary ideas with V. D. Savarkar at India House.
- He studied law and was associated with Lincoln's Inn in London.
- In 1910, the British government issued a warrant for his arrest due to alleged involvement in revolutionary conspiracies.
- To evade arrest, he resigned from Lincoln's Inn and fled to Paris.
- Later, he secretly entered Pondicherry (then under French rule) on 4 December 1910, disguised as a Muslim.
- He lived in exile in Pondicherry for more than ten years.
- During exile, he worked closely with Sri Aurobindo and Subramania Bharati.
- Aiyar was associated with the revolutionary plot against Robert William d'Escourt Ashe.
- His disciple Vanchinathan assassinated Ashe in 1911.

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- After the bombardment of Madras by the German cruiser SMS Emden in 1914, British authorities suspected the Pondicherry revolutionaries.
- The French authorities investigated Aiyar and his associates but failed to secure convictions.
- During exile, he translated the Tirukkural into English, intending to leave a literary legacy.
- After World War I, he returned to Madras and became editor of the newspaper Desabhaktan (Patriot).
- In 1921, he was arrested on sedition charges and imprisoned for nine months.
- While in prison, he wrote A Study of Kamba Ramayana.
- Aiyar is regarded as the father/founder of the modern Tamil short story.
- He produced the first complete English translation of the Tirukkural by a native Indian scholar.
- He also translated Kamba Ramayanam into English.
- Along with Shuddhananda Bharati, he established the Bharadwaja Ashram at Cheranmadevi.
- During the Non-Cooperation Movement, he founded the Cheranmadevi Gurukulam with support from the Tamil Nadu Congress.
- A caste discrimination controversy in the Gurukulam (separate dining for Brahmin and non-Brahmin students) contributed to Periyar E. V. Ramasamy leaving the Indian National Congress in 1925 and joined the Justice Party.

2. Scheme for support to NCRPB for replacement of old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR area:

Context: Cabinet approves Scheme for support to NCRPB for replacement of old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR area.

About Scheme for support to NCRPB for replacement of old trucks and buses in Delhi-NCR area:

- The Union Cabinet approved a two-year scheme to reduce air pollution in the Delhi–NCR region and promote cleaner transportation.

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- The scheme will be funded through the National Capital Region Planning Board under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It will be implemented by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- The scheme covers the Delhi–NCR region in collaboration with Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Total financial outlay: ₹9,585 crore. Central Government contribution: ₹5,041 crore. Estimated State tax concessions: ₹1,601 crore.
- Targets trucks and buses registered in Delhi–NCR that comply with BS-IV or older emission norms.
- Encourages replacement of old vehicles with BS-VI-compliant vehicles or Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- Aims to accelerate the adoption of cleaner transport technologies.
- Seeks to significantly reduce vehicular emissions in Delhi–NCR.
- Provides 5% interest subvention on vehicle replacement loans for five years.
- Offers monthly fuel vouchers up to ₹4,800, depending on vehicle category.
- Provides lump-sum incentives for purchasing EVs.
- Also offers incentives through Certificate of Deposit (CoD) trading.
- State governments will waive registration fees for replacement vehicles.
- States will provide up to 100% motor vehicle tax concession on new vehicles for 10 years.
- States will provide a 50% motor vehicle tax concession on eligible used vehicles for 10 years.
- Pending liabilities on old vehicles participating in the scheme will be waived by State Governments.
- The scheme supports India's clean mobility, emission reduction, and sustainable urban transport objectives.

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3. Dark Patterns on Digital Platforms:

Context: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), headed by Chief Commissioner Smt. Nidhi Khare and Commissioner Shri Anupam Mishra, has imposed penalties on PhysicsWallah Limited and McAfee Software India Private Limited for using dark pattern practices that misled consumers and influenced their choices on digital platforms.

More details:

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority took suo motu cognizance of alleged dark patterns on the platforms of Physics Wallah Limited and McAfee Software India Private Limited.
- CCPA found that certain interface designs influenced consumers and affected their ability to make free and informed choices.
- On the Physics Wallah platform, a ₹10 donation to the PW Foundation was automatically added during checkout.
- The donation was pre-selected and included in the payable amount without explicit consumer consent.
- Users were shown emotional messages related to children's education, healthcare, and marriages to encourage keeping the donation selected.
- CCPA identified Basket Sneaking in Physics Wallah's checkout process due to the automatic addition of the donation.
- It also identified Confirm Shaming, as emotional messages discouraged users from opting out of the donation.
- Physics Wallah allegedly required users to provide personal information before accessing courses advertised as free. This practice was classified as Forced Action.
- In McAfee's subscription renewal process, users were prominently shown the options “Renew Now” and “Accept Risk.”

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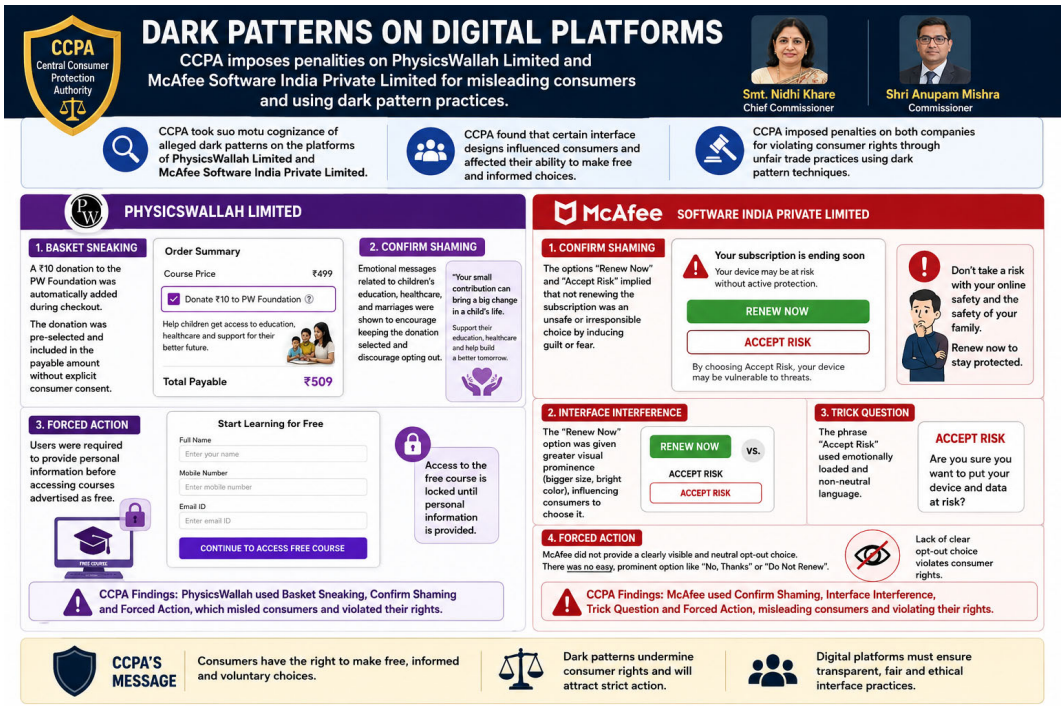
- The wording implied that not renewing the subscription was an unsafe or irresponsible choice.
- CCPA classified this as Confirm Shaming because it induced guilt or fear for choosing not to renew.
- The renewal option received greater visual prominence, amounting to Interface Interference.
- The phrase "Accept Risk" was considered a Trick Question because it used emotionally loaded and non-neutral language.
- McAfee was also found to employ Forced Action by not providing a clearly visible and neutral opt-out choice for consumers.



4. Small interfering RNA (siRNA):

Context: Scientists from Pune have reported a gene-silencing strategy that can drive effective tumor inhibition in breast cancer, highlighting its potential as next-generation precision nanomedicine.

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More details:

- Scientists from Agharkar Research Institute, Pune developed an innovative biodegradable nanocarrier platform for targeted breast cancer gene therapy.
- ARI is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology.
- The technology is designed to deliver small interfering RNA (siRNA) specifically to breast cancer cells.
- siRNA is a double-stranded non-coding RNA molecule that regulates gene expression.
- siRNA binds to complementary messenger RNA (mRNA) and triggers its degradation.
- This gene-silencing process is known as RNA interference (RNAi). RNAi prevents the translation of specific genes into proteins.
- The nanocarrier is based on biodegradable mesoporous silica nanoparticles.
- Mesoporous silica nanoparticles possess high drug-loading capacity and tunable surface chemistry.
- These nanoparticles enable efficient delivery of therapeutic siRNA molecules.
- The nanocarrier was functionalized with the protamine biopolymer to improve siRNA delivery.
- Researchers also attached an MUC1-specific aptamer for precise tumor targeting.
- MUC1 receptors are overexpressed on many breast cancer cells.
- The MUC1-targeting strategy enhances uptake of the therapeutic agent by cancer cells.
- The system reduces off-target effects, a major limitation of conventional cancer therapies.
- The platform offers a promising approach for precision medicine and targeted breast cancer treatment.

5. Navachar Mantra:

Context: Union Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary Launches 'Navachar Mantra', a National Initiative for Grassroots Innovators and Entrepreneurs.

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About Navachar Mantra:

- Navachar Mantra is a national initiative launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to promote grassroots entrepreneurship and innovation.
- The programme is implemented by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development.
- The Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer serves as the Technical Knowledge Partner.
- The initiative aims to identify, nurture, and support promising grassroots innovators and early-stage entrepreneurs across India.
- It focuses particularly on innovators from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, aspirational districts, and underserved regions.
- Navachar Mantra seeks to provide innovators with mentorship, visibility, networking, and growth opportunities.
- The programme creates a structured support ecosystem to help innovators transform ideas into successful enterprises.
- Priority sectors include Agritech, HealthTech, EdTech & Skilling, Climate & Sustainability, Rural Commerce, and MSME Enablement.
- Participants will gain access to policymakers, industry leaders, investors, and domain experts.
- The initiative aims to strengthen business models, accelerate innovation-led entrepreneurship, and promote inclusive economic development.

6. Yellow-throated Marten (Martes flavigula):

Context: Yellow-throated marten was recently sighted for the very first time in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

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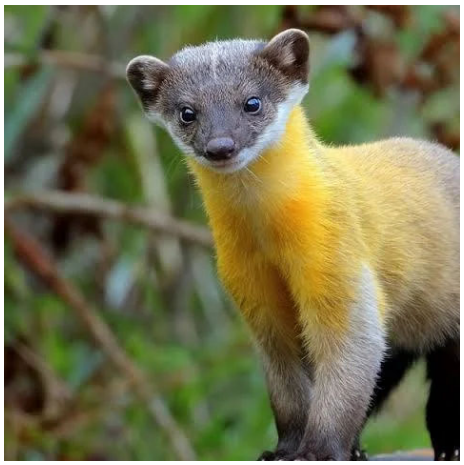
About Yellow-throated Marten (Martes flavigula):



- A diurnal and arboreal carnivorous mammal belonging to the mustelid family.
- Distinguished by its golden-yellow throat, long tail, and defensive scent glands.
- Known for being fearless, highly social, and often hunting in pairs or small groups.
- Acts as a mesopredator, helping control rodent populations and aiding seed dispersal.
- Distributed across Southeast Asia, eastern Russia, China, and the Korean Peninsula; in India, mainly found in the Himalayas and Northeast India.
- Conservation status: Yellow-throated Marten is listed as Least Concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; major threats include habitat fragmentation, deforestation, and human encroachment.

7. S-400 air defence system:

Context: India has received the fourth squadron of the Russian-made S-400 air defence system, strengthening the country's long-range air defence network. The system arrived from Russia as scheduled in May, and is expected to be deployed in an operational area shortly, sources in the defence sector said.

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About S-400 air defence system:

- The S-400 Triumf, also known in India as "Sudarshan Chakra," is one of the world's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems developed by Russia's Almaz-Antey.
- India signed a $5.4 billion deal with Russia in 2018 to procure five S-400 units, making it one of India's largest defence acquisitions.
- The S-400 was designed to replace the older S-200 and S-300 air defence systems and counter advanced Western systems like the MIM-104 Patriot.
- During the May 2025 India–Pakistan conflict, India used the S-400 system to intercept Pakistani missiles and drones targeting areas such as Jammu, Pathankot, and Amritsar.
- The system can engage multiple aerial threats including fighter aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles.
- The S-400's radar can detect targets up to 600 km away and simultaneously track around 300 targets while engaging 36 threats.
- Its missile variants include 9M96E/9M96E2 (120 km range), 48N6E3 (250 km range), and 40N6E (400 km range).
- The missiles can travel at speeds up to 17,000 km/h (around Mach 14) and operate at altitudes ranging from 10 metres to 30 km.
- The system is highly mobile, can be deployed within 5–10 minutes, and features "shoot and scoot" capability for rapid relocation after firing.
- The S-400 integrates advanced phased-array radars, electronic warfare resistance, multiple guidance systems, and interoperability with systems like S-300, Tor, and Pantsir, making it a powerful air defence shield.

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Quick Bites:

- The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today released the book When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference, edited by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Vinod Rai, at a function held at Uprashtrapati Bhawan.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved one-time budgetary support not exceeding Rs.10,000 crore for Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to provide ATF price stabilisation support to Scheduled Indian Airlines for their domestic and international operations. The budgetary support shall be in the form of interest-free advances to OMCs through the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has officially partnered with ACLEDA Bank Plc. to launch Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance in Cambodia. UPI is accepted in Eight countries - Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar and Sri Lanka - enabling Indian travellers to make seamless payments abroad through familiar platforms. Now, Cambodia is the ninth country joining the list.
- The 1st BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Meeting was held virtually on 2–3 June 2026 under India's BRICS Presidency, led by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India.
- Observed globally on June 3, this year's World Bicycle Day carries the theme "Cycling for a Greener Future", highlighting the bicycle's role in reducing carbon emissions, combating climate change and promoting healthy, sustainable mobility.
- A giant Potato Patch Coral Colony (Pavona clavus) has been discovered on the southeastern side of Kadmat Island. Covering approximately 4,250 square metres (1.05 acres), it is potentially the world's largest living Pavona clavus coral colony. The discovery is of immense scientific significance, as the coral serves as a natural time capsule that can help researchers study coral

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longevity, climate adaptation, and historical oceanic conditions, providing valuable insights into marine ecosystem resilience and climate change.

- A bolide is an exceptionally bright meteor, also known as a fireball, that enters Earth's atmosphere and explodes before reaching the ground. Recently, a meteor explosion illuminated the skies over Boston and Rhode Island, creating a spectacular display. Bolides produce intense flashes of light and are often accompanied by sonic booms caused by the rapid release of energy during their atmospheric explosion. These events help scientists study meteoroids and their interaction with Earth's atmosphere.
- Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi is ranked No. 8 in the June 2026 FIDE ratings with an ELO rating of 2761. He is the only Indian player in the FIDE Top 10 rankings in the latest list.
- The government’s wheat procurement rose 17% to over 35 million tonnes (MT) in the 2026-27 rabi marketing season, surpassing both the target of 34.5 MT and the previous year’s procurement of 30 MT, a senior Food Ministry official said

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05-06-2026

1. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

Context: PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has already crossed 40 lakh beneficiary households within 2 years and I am hopeful that by the end of 2026, we will cross 75 lakh households by December 2026, said Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi.

About PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana:

- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched by Narendra Modi on 13 February 2024 with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore.
- The scheme aims to install rooftop solar systems and provide up to 300 units of free electricity per month to one crore households.
- It offers Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of 60% for systems up to 2 kW and 40% for additional capacity between 2–3 kW, capped at 3 kW.
- Beneficiaries can apply for subsidies through the National Portal and select approved vendors for installation.
- Households can avail collateral-free loans at around 7% interest for residential rooftop solar systems up to 3 kW.
- The scheme includes a "Model Solar Village" component to establish one model village per district to promote rural solar adoption.
- ₹800 crore has been allocated for Model Solar Villages, with ₹1 crore awarded to each selected village to promote energy self-reliance.
- Launched on 13 February 2024 with an outlay of ₹75,021 crore, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has become the world's largest domestic rooftop solar programme.

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- Over 1 crore households have registered on the National Portal, with more than 33 lakh rooftop systems installed as of May 2026, adding over 12 GW capacity.

2. National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG):

Context: 17 Projects/ Initiatives selected for the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 across 7 Award categories.

About National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG):

- National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) are presented every year to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.
- The 29th NAeG 2026 awardees in seven categories include the Gram Panchayats category, recognising deepening and widening of service delivery at grassroots level through digitisation.
- The NAeG Awards, 2026 consist of: (i) Trophy, (ii) Certificate and (iii) an incentive of Rs 10 lakh for Gold Awardees and Rs 5 lakh for Silver Awardees to be awarded to Central Ministry/Department/State/UT/District/Organisation/Gram Panchayat for being utilised for implementation of project/programme or bridging resources gaps in any area of public welfare.
- The awards ceremony will be held during the 29th National Conference on e-Governance in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

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NATIONAL AWARDS FOR e-GOVERNANCE 2026 (NAeG 2026)

GOLD AWARDEES

S. No.	Name of the Project	Organisation Name
1.	Agri Stack	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
2.	e-jagriti	Ministry of Consumer Affairs
3.	Mahakumbh 2025	Prayagraj Mela Authority, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
4.	Blood Bag Traceability and Citizen Interaction portal for promoting speedy, safe and voluntary blood donation	Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)
5.	AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support system in eSanjeevani telemedicine service	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
6.	District Court Case Management System (DCMS)	High Court of Kerala
7.	ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on Integration of Screening and Management of Mental and Substance Use Disorders with other Non-Communicable Diseases (ICMR-MINDS)	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
8.	Security Product for Threat Intel Distribution and DNS Filtering Service	Space Application Centre-ISRO, Ahmedabad
9.	E Nagar Palika with cyber security	Urban Development and Housing Department M.P.
10.	Integrated Cyber Security framework for a resilient Digital Banking Ecosystem	Bank of Baroda

SILVER AWARDEES

S. No.	Name of the Project	Organisation Name
11.	E – Aarogya Dhamni – Transforming Healthcare through E - Governance	Health Department Zilla Parishad, Nandurbar, Maharashtra
12.	Pune 360	Pune Municipal Commission, Maharashtra
13.	Kadepur Gram Panchayat	Sangli District, Maharashtra
14.	Bijoy Nagar Gram Panchayat	West Tripura District, Tripura
15.	TRINETRA – AI based Video Surveillance system for Mahakal Rudrasagar Integrated Development Area (MRIDA) including Mahakaleshwar Temple	Mahakaleshwar Temple Trust, Samrat Vikramaditya Prashasnik Sankul Bhawan, Ujjain
16.	Panchayat Advancement Index - Data Driven Governance for Viksit Bharat	Ministry of Panchayati Raj

JURY AWARD OF NAeG 2026

S. No.	Name of the Project	Organisation Name
1	Real Time Precise Positioning Services through CORS Network	Survey of India

3. Flex-fuel vehicles:

Context: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri today launched India's first flex-fuel passenger vehicle by Maruti Suzuki in New Delhi, fuelling the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.

About Flex-fuel vehicles:

- Flex-fuel vehicles can operate on a range of ethanol–petrol blends, from E20 up to E100.
- **Definition:** Flex-fuel vehicles are vehicles designed to run on gasoline, ethanol, or any mixture of the two in varying proportions.

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- **Fuel Compatibility:** They can typically operate on blends ranging from pure petrol to E85 (85% ethanol and 15% petrol).
- **Technology:** FFVs use modified fuel systems, sensors, and engine-control software to automatically detect the fuel blend and adjust engine performance.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Higher ethanol use reduces dependence on fossil fuels and can lower greenhouse gas and carbon monoxide emissions.
- **Energy Security:** FFVs help reduce crude oil imports by promoting the use of domestically produced biofuels.
- **India's Initiative:** India is promoting FFVs under its biofuel policy to support the target of increased ethanol blending in transportation fuels.
- **Feedstock for Ethanol:** Ethanol used in FFVs is produced from agricultural sources such as sugarcane, maize, damaged food grains, and other biomass.

4. Fotu La Tunnel project:

Context: The Fotu La Tunnel project on National Highway-01 in Ladakh has been approved with an estimated cost of ₹1,196.22 crore.

More details about the project:

- **Project Length:** Covers a total alignment of 2.65 km.
- **Tunnel Length:** Includes a 1.96 km twin-tube tunnel.
- **Approach Roads:** Features 0.69 km of approach roads on both sides.
- **Location:** Situated at Fotu La Pass in Ladakh.
- **Altitude:** Fotu La Pass lies at an elevation of about 4,108 metres, the highest point on the National Highway 1 (Uri–Srinagar–Leh corridor).
- **Strategic Importance:** NH-01 is a vital route for civilian transportation, supply movement, and defence logistics in Ladakh.

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- **Tunnel Design:** The project uses a unidirectional twin-tube tunnel, with separate tubes for traffic movement in each direction.
- **Benefits:** Enhances road safety, improves traffic management, and ensures more reliable all-weather connectivity through the pass.

5. Capital gains tax:

Context: India is considering abolishing capital gains tax on foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) in government securities to attract greater foreign capital inflows. The move is aimed at supporting the Indian rupee, which has weakened by over 5% in 2026 due to rising oil prices and foreign portfolio outflows from equity markets. By making government bonds more attractive to overseas investors, the government hopes to strengthen capital inflows and improve currency stability.

About Capital gains tax:

- Capital gain refers to the profit earned from the sale or transfer of a capital asset.
- Capital assets include land, buildings, house property, vehicles, machinery, jewellery, patents, trademarks, and leasehold rights.
- Rights related to an Indian company, including management, control, or other legal rights, are also treated as capital assets.
- Since capital gains are considered income, they are subject to Capital Gains Tax (CGT).
- CGT is levied when a capital asset is transferred from one owner to another.
- The tax applies to both individuals and businesses.
- Capital gains are classified into Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG) and Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) based on the holding period.
- **STCG:** Assets held for less than 36 months (or less than 24 months for immovable property) are treated as short-term assets.

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- Profits from the sale of short-term assets are taxed as short-term capital gains.
- **LTCG:** Assets held for more than 36 months are generally treated as long-term assets.
- Listed shares, equity-oriented mutual funds, UTI units, securities, preference shares, and zero-coupon bonds become long-term assets if held for more than 12 months.
- Profits from the sale of long-term assets are taxed as long-term capital gains, usually at rates different from STCG.

Quick Bites:

- Prime Minister Inaugurates First World Yogasana Championship In Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The World Yogasana Sports Championship is the first global tournament to present yoga as a structured competitive sport focused on precision, flexibility, balance, and endurance. The inaugural five-day event is being held at EKA Arena in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and is organized by Yogasana Bharat in association with the World Yogasana Body and the Indian Olympic Association. Its main objective is to standardize competitive Yogasana rules and scoring systems and build a pathway for future inclusion in major international multi-sport events such as the Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games.
- In a significant boost to India's agri-food exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the flagging off of the first-ever sea shipment of botanical-infused ready-to-cook millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand on June 3, 2026.
- In a significant step toward internationalisation of higher education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Ministry of Education today handed over the Letter of Approval (LoA) to the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, to establish its branch campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The India–UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) was formally launched today in New Delhi by G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Government

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of India, and Yvette Cooper, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, United Kingdom. The Observatory is a joint initiative of TEXMiN(TTRP, DST, GoI),, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad and University of Cambridge, aimed at creating a data-driven platform for monitoring and analysing global critical mineral supply chains.

- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), the flagship youth engagement platform of the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, has been awarded the Guinness World Records [GWR] title for the "Most Users to Take an Online Quiz in One Week" after 390,812 participants successfully completed the full length of the quiz during the official assessment period.
- India's renewable energy sector achieved a major milestone in 2025, adding over 37 GW of solar capacity, surpassing the USA's 34 GW addition. The country's total installed solar capacity has now exceeded 155 GW, while non-fossil fuel sources account for 51.93% of India's total installed power capacity (December 2025). According to Renewable Energy Statistics 2026, India ranks as the world's third-largest renewable energy producer, behind only China and United States.
- A rare Blue Micromoon was observed worldwide, including in India, on 31 May 2026. The phenomenon occurs when a Blue Moon—the second full moon in a calendar month, usually occurring every 2–3 years—coincides with a Micromoon, which happens when the Moon is at its apogee, the farthest point in its orbit from Earth, causing it to appear slightly smaller and dimmer than usual. The simultaneous occurrence of these two events creates a Blue Micromoon, an exceptionally rare celestial phenomenon.
- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme won the Food Planet Prize 2026, the world's largest environmental award dedicated to transforming global food systems. Launched in 2016 by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha under the agriculture department of Andhra Pradesh, APCNF was designed to help farmers transition to natural farming practices. The Food Planet Prize, awarded by the Curt Bergfors Foundation, recognizes innovative solutions that

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promote food security, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation, and is open to individuals, institutions, startups, and civil society organizations worldwide.

- Ladakh's Chumur village in eastern Ladakh has become the site of India's first model border village near the India-China border. The project is being developed under the Union Government's Vibrant Villages Programme, which covers border settlements in high-altitude and remote areas.
- India's liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) import pattern changed in 2026, with the United States becoming India's largest supplier and the Middle East losing its earlier dominant share.
- Visakhapatnam, also called Vizag, has been selected for Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor project under the India Semiconductor Mission. The project is an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility proposed by Advanced System in Package Technologies Private Limited.

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06-06-2026

1. Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary:

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today expressed great happiness over India achieving a century of Ramsar sites, following the designation of the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, as the nation's 100th Ramsar site.

About Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary:

- Surha Tal Bird Sanctuary, officially known as the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, is a protected area situated in the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Established in 1991, the sanctuary is centered around Surha Tal, a large natural perennial lake.
- The sanctuary is located in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, near the confluence of the Ganges and Ghaghara rivers.
- The lake is an oxbow lake formed by the shifting course of the Ganges.
- The sanctuary is a critical habitat for both resident and migratory birds. During winters, it hosts species from Siberia and Central Asia, including the Greylag goose, Pintail, Common teal, and Bar-headed goose.
- Local species include Sarus crane, Heron, and Cormorant. The lake is also rich in various indigenous fish species

More developments:

- With this addition, India now has 100 Ramsar Sites, the highest number in Asia, and ranks third globally.

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- Globally, the United Kingdom leads with 176 Ramsar Sites, followed by Mexico with 144, while India occupies the third position.
- Four wetlands were added to the Ramsar List in India during 2026: Patna Bird Sanctuary (97th) – January 2026, Chhari-Dhand Wetland (98th) – January 2026, Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary (99th) – April 2026 and Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) (100th) – 5 June 2026

About Ramsar sites:

- The Ramsar Convention provides guidelines for the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide.
- It is the only international environmental treaty focused on a specific habitat (wetlands).
- The Convention was adopted at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and came into force in 1975.
- Cobourg Peninsula (Australia) became the world's first Ramsar Site in 1974.
- India's first Ramsar sites were designated on October 1, 1981. There were two sites recognized simultaneously: Chilika Lake in Odisha and Keoladeo Ghana National Park in Rajasthan.
- India joined the Ramsar Convention on February 1, 1982.
- The Montreux Record identifies Ramsar sites requiring priority conservation attention.
- The Montreux Record was adopted in Brisbane in 1996.
- Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur) were added to the Montreux Record in 1990 and 1993, respectively.

2. World Environment Day 2026:

Context: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that World Environment Day 2026 will be observed on 5 June 2026, with a global focus on climate action. The Republic of Azerbaijan will host the main international celebrations in Baku.

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About World Environment Day 2026:

- World Environment Day is a global environmental observance led by the United Nations Environment Programme and celebrated annually on 5 June to promote environmental awareness and action.
- **Theme (2026):** "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future".
- **Host Country (2026):** Azerbaijan will host the global celebrations in Baku on 5 June 2026.
- **Global Campaign:** UNEP's #NowForClimate initiative encourages individuals, communities, and institutions to take immediate climate action.
- **Establishment:** World Environment Day was established in 1972 following the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm.
- **First Observance:** World Environment Day was celebrated for the first time in 1973.
- **First Theme:** The inaugural theme of World Environment Day was "Only One Earth."

3. Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC):

Context: Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Jammu today and announced that a similar centre would soon be established in Lucknow, expanding India's regional weather forecasting network. The Jammu facility becomes the country's seventh Regional Meteorological Centre and will serve Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, providing specialised weather services, disaster warnings and climate support tailored to the Himalayan region.

About Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC):

- Regional Meteorological Centres (RMCs) are the regional headquarters of the India Meteorological Department responsible for coordinating meteorological services, weather forecasting, and warning dissemination across different regions of India.

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- They monitor weather conditions, collect meteorological data, and issue regional weather forecasts and warnings.
- RMCs provide early warnings for severe weather events such as cyclones, heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, heatwaves, and other extreme weather phenomena.
- They supervise and coordinate the functioning of Meteorological Centres and weather observatories within their respective regions.
- RMCs support sectors such as agriculture, aviation, shipping, disaster management, and water resources by providing weather-related information and advisories.
- India has six RMCs located at New Delhi (Northern Region), Mumbai (Western Region), Chennai (Southern Region), Kolkata (Eastern Region), Nagpur (Central Region), and Guwahati (North-Eastern Region).

4. Namo Oxygen Parks:

Context: The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated eighteen 'Namo Oxygen Parks' across Delhi and launched a series of environmental initiatives under the nationwide campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026.

About Namo Oxygen Parks:

- Namo Oxygen Parks are urban green spaces developed to act as "green lungs" by improving air quality, enhancing biodiversity, and providing recreational areas for citizens.
- On World Environment Day (5 June 2026), 18 Namo Oxygen Parks were inaugurated across New Delhi by Bhupender Yadav and Rekha Gupta.
- The initiative aims to increase urban green cover, improve air quality, promote environmental conservation, and encourage community participation in maintaining green spaces.
- The parks were launched under the nationwide Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign and are part of broader efforts to strengthen ecological sustainability in cities.

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- The concept of an oxygen park is to create densely vegetated urban areas that help absorb pollutants, moderate local temperatures, support biodiversity, and provide healthier public spaces.
- A notable example is NaMo Grand Central Park, inaugurated in 2024 in Thane, which was developed as a large urban green park with thousands of trees and recreational facilities.

5. G-Sec market and FPI:

Context: In a major reform, Government announces measures to deepen G-Sec market and facilitate greater Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) in equity segment.

Measures taken:

Reform/Measure	Key Changes	Expected Impact
Liberalisation of investment by Persons Resident Outside India (PROI)	Individual PROIs can now invest in equity instruments of listed Indian companies through the Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS), which was earlier restricted to NRIs/OCIs. Individual investment limit increased from 5% to 10% in any company, and aggregate limit for all individual PROIs increased from 10% to 24%. Implemented through the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) (Third Amendment)	Enhances foreign participation in Indian equity markets and broadens the investor base.

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	Rules, 2026.	
Review of FPI investment framework in Government Securities (G-Secs)	Under the **Fully Accessible Route (FAR)**, new issuances of **15-year, 30-year, and 40-year Government securities** and eligible **Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)** have been included. Under the General Route, restrictions relating to **short-term investment, concentration limits, and security-wise limits** have been removed. Overall limits remain **6% of Central Government securities** Improves ease of investment, increases foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows, and deepens the government bond market. and **2% of State Government Securities (SGSs)**.	Improves ease of investment, increases foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows, and deepens the government bond market.
Tax exemption on G-Secs for FPIs	Interest income and capital gains earned by FPIs from investments in Government securities are **fully exempt from income tax** from **1 April 2026**. Similar exemption is extended to the **Bank for International Settlements**.	Makes Indian Government securities more attractive globally, encourages capital inflows, and aligns India's tax regime with international practices.

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6. E85 fuel:

Context: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched E85 fuel at an IndianOil retail outlet in New Delhi today on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026.

About E85 fuel:

- E85 is a high-ethanol blended fuel comprising 80–85 per cent ethanol and 14–19 per cent petrol, specifically designed for use in flex-fuel vehicles.
- The initiative aims to facilitate the adoption of Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), which are capable of perating on ethanol blends from E20 to E100, without restricting consumers to a single blend.
- The rollout commences across 48 Public Sector OMC's retail outlets (ROs) in the country, enabling flex-fuel vehicle users to access this cleaner fuel.
- The initiative is slated for nationwide expansion. The same would be scaled up to 500 ROs by December 2026 and about 5000 ROs by December 2027 and help raise India's aggregate ethanol blending levels to nearly 26 per cent by 2030-31.
- E85 is priced nearly ₹20 per litre lower than conventional petrol to ensure that the economic benefits of domestically produced ethanol are passed on to consumers.
- Flex-fuel vehicles operating on E85 can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by around 61 per cent compared to conventional petrol vehicles.
- With a Research Octane Number (RON) of about 108, ethanol offers superior knock resistance that allows engines to operate at higher compression ratios and optimized ignition timing.
- Higher ethanol blends promote cleaner and more complete combustion, resulting in near-zero particulate matter emissions contributing to improved urban air quality.
- E85 fuel is meant exclusively for specially designed flex-fuel vehicles, not for normal petrol vehicles.

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7. Jan Samarth Portal:

Context: Launched on 6 June 2022, the Jan Samarth Portal marks 4 years of digital financial inclusion and seamless credit delivery.

About Jan Samarth Portal:

- Jan Samarth Portal is a unique digital platform for credit-linked government schemes.
- It is a first-of-its-kind initiative that directly connects beneficiaries with lending institutions.
- The portal was launched on 6 June 2022 by the Government of India.
- It was conceptualized with the twin objectives of expanding the reach of government-sponsored schemes and streamlining credit delivery.
- The platform provides a single-window digital gateway for availing benefits under multiple credit-linked schemes.
- It simplifies the loan application process through an integrated, transparent, and technology-driven framework.
- The portal enables users to check eligibility, identify suitable schemes, apply online, and track applications.
- Jan Samarth is available in 8 languages, improving accessibility for rural and underprivileged populations.
- It serves as a unified platform for applications under 16 Credit-Linked Central Government Schemes.
- The portal covers diverse sectors including agriculture, education, entrepreneurship, housing, infrastructure, and renewable energy.
- It promotes financial inclusion by improving access to institutional credit for eligible beneficiaries.
- Jan Samarth strengthens the government's vision of digital governance, ease of doing business, and inclusive economic development through seamless credit access.

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8. Provisional Estimates (PE) for the Financial Year (2025-26):

Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the Provisional Estimates (PE) of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the Financial Year (2025-26) along with its Expenditure components both at Constant (2022-23) and Current prices.

More details:

- Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹323.12 lakh crore in the FY 2025-26, against the First Revised Estimate (FRE) of GDP for the year 2024-25 of ₹299.89 lakh crore.
- The growth rate in Real GDP during 2025-26 is estimated at 7.7% as compared to 7.1 % in 2024-25. Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹346.36 lakh crore in the year 2025-26, against ₹318.07 lakh crore in 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.9%.
- Real GVA is estimated at ₹294.91 lakh crore in the year 2025-26, against ₹273.36 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, registering a growth rate of 7.9% as compared to 7.3% growth rate in 2024-25. Nominal GVA is estimated to attain a level of ₹314.87 lakh crore during FY 2025-26, against ₹288.54 lakh crore in 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 9.1%.

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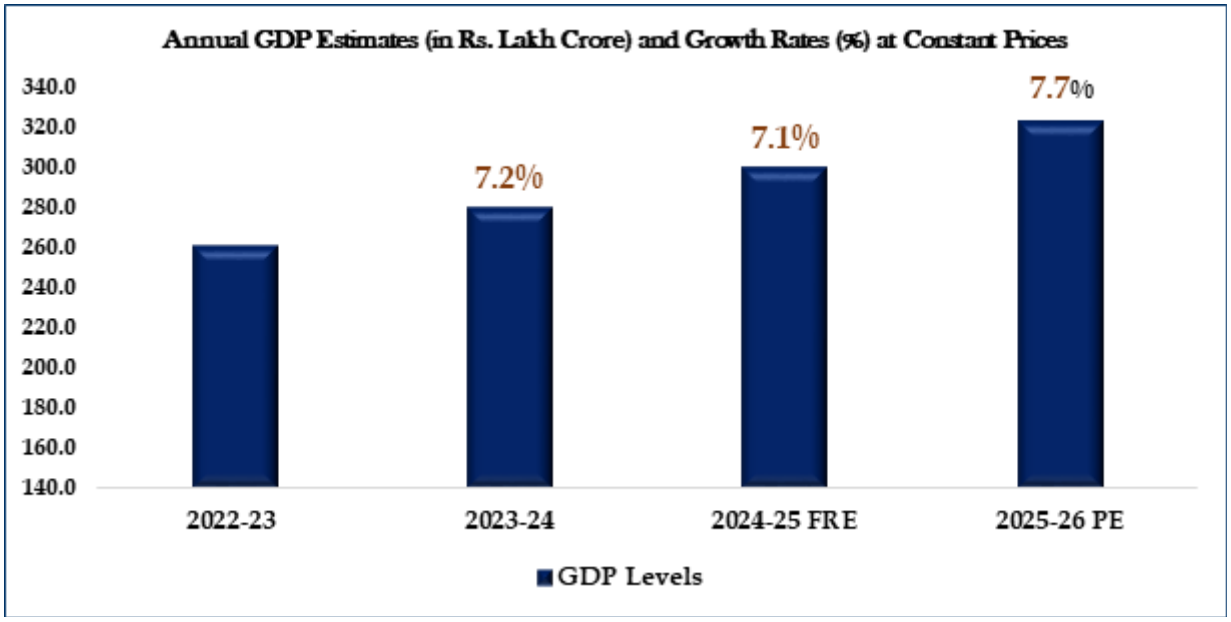

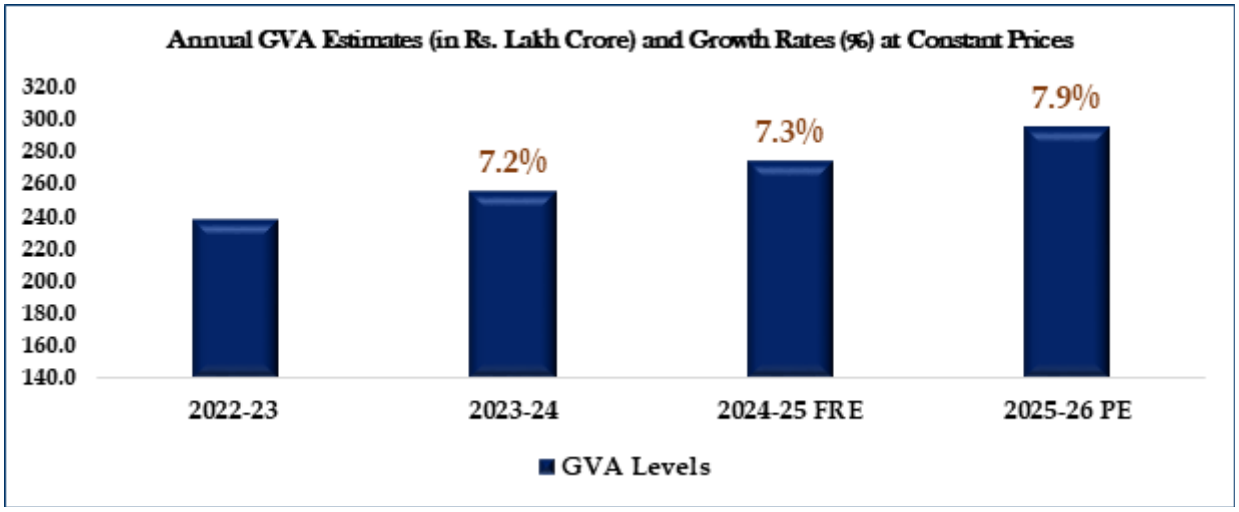

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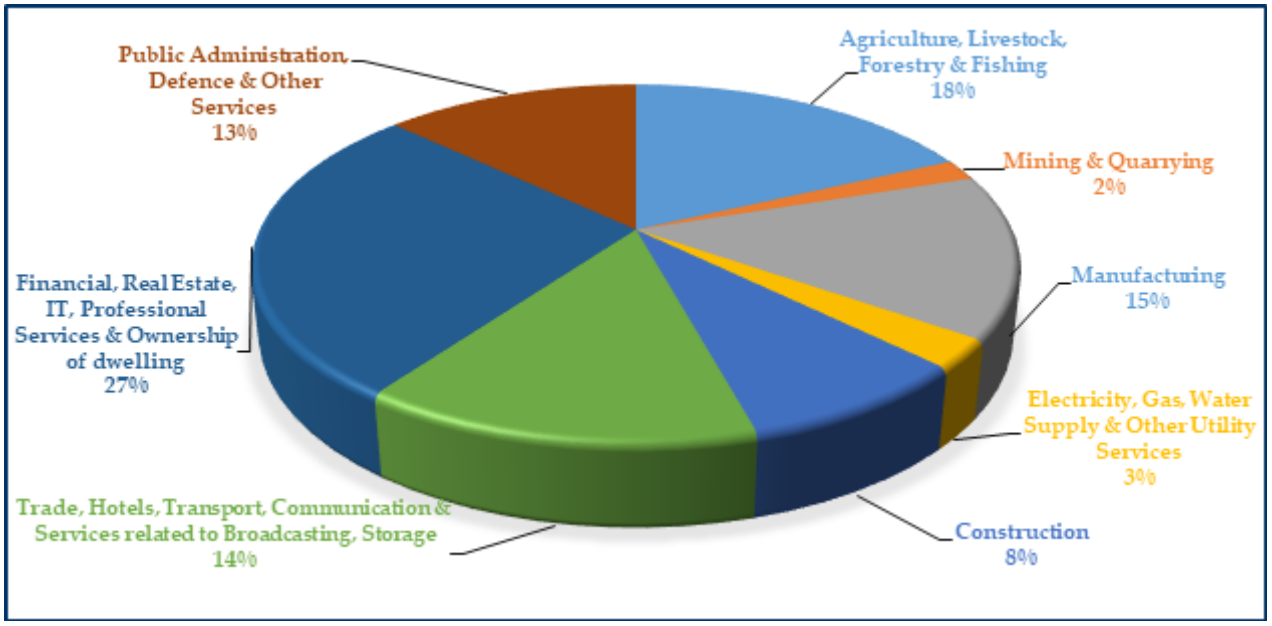
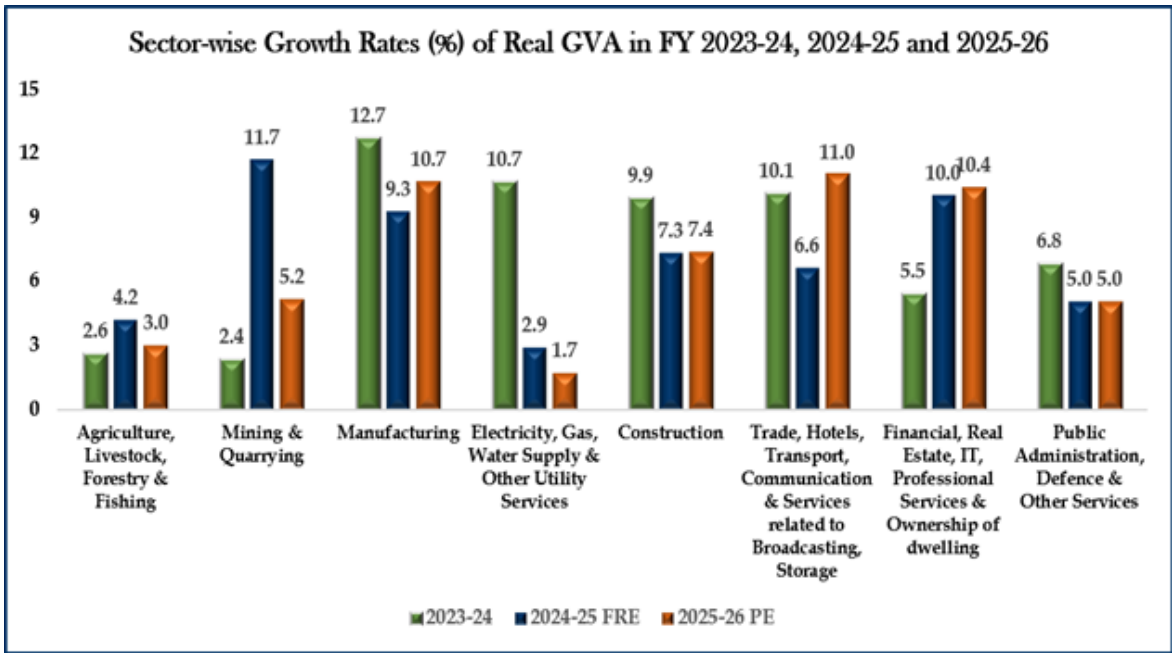


Sectoral Composition of Nominal GVA in FY 2025-26



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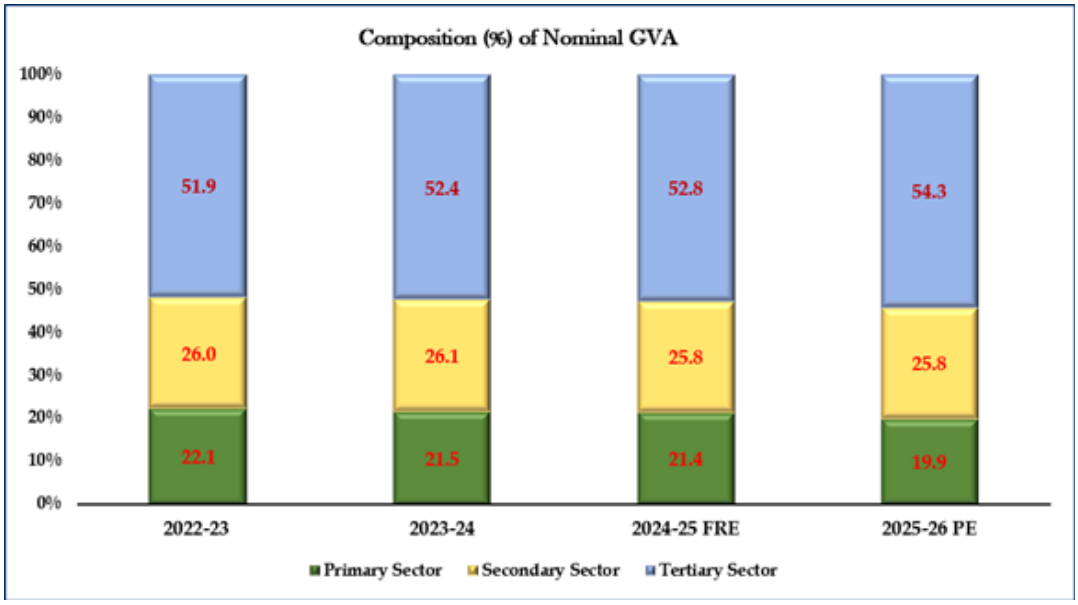

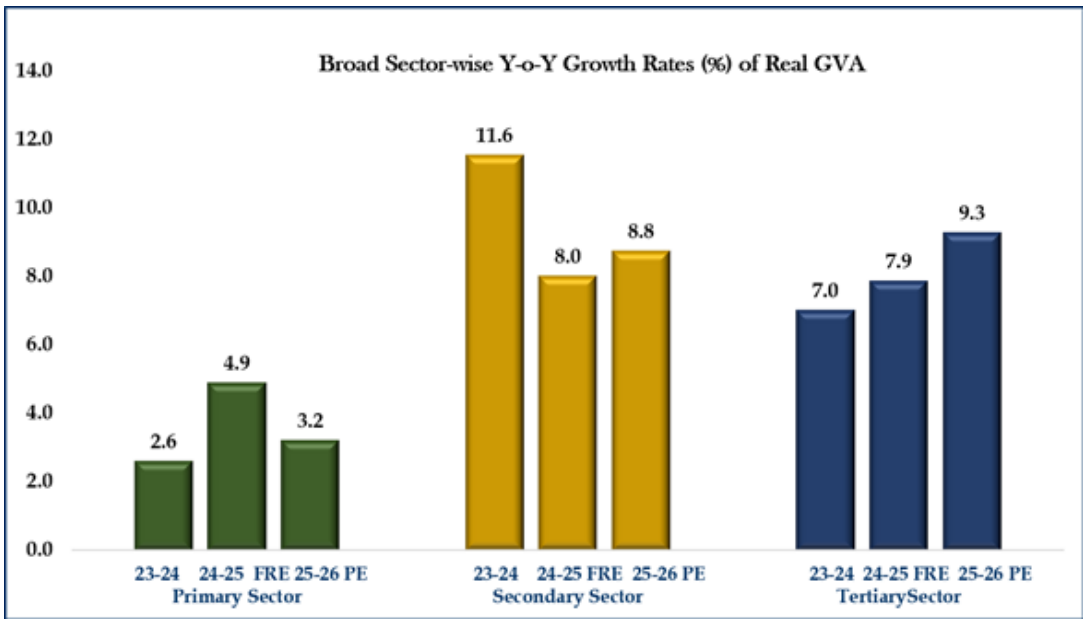

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9. NIRMAL-Sagar initiative:

Context: INCOIS to launch 'NIRMAL-Sagar' initiative to curb marine pollution.

About NIRMAL-Sagar initiative:

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, will launch 'NIRMAL-Sagar' on World Oceans Day (June 8).
- The initiative is designed to complement the Government of India's Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar mission.
- NIRMAL-Sagar will focus on operational oceanographic research and development to identify the sources, pathways, and sinks of marine litter in the Indian Ocean.
- The programme is planned for implementation from 2027 onwards, with long-term scientific monitoring and research activities.
- It will contribute to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Challenge 1 – "Understand and beat marine pollution."
- INCOIS will collaborate with leading scientific institutions and NGOs to support the science-based implementation of the Swachh Sagar mission.
- World Oceans Day 2026 is being observed with the theme "Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know—A New Relationship with Our Ocean," highlighting ocean conservation, marine ecosystem protection, and sustainable development.

10. Sea of Azov:

Context: Azerbaijani sailors killed as Ukrainian drones hit cargo ships in Sea of Azov.

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About Sea of Azov:



- **Location:** The Sea of Azov lies north of the Black Sea and is connected to it through the Kerch Strait.
- **Size:** It covers about 39,000 sq km, making it the smallest sea in the former Soviet region.
- **Depth:** It is the world's shallowest sea, with an average depth of 7 m and a maximum depth of 14 m.
- **Historical Names:** Historically known as Maeotis Swamp, Lake Maeotis, and Temarunda ("Mother of Waters"), while Ottomans called it Balük-Denis ("Fish Sea").
- **Formation:** Heavy river sediment deposition has created a flat seabed, sandbanks, limans, and spits such as the Arabat Spit.
- **Major Rivers:** The Don River and Kuban River provide over 90% of its freshwater inflow.

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- **Salinity:** Its low salinity (10–12 PSS) makes parts of the sea, especially Taganrog Bay, nearly freshwater.
- **Coastline:** The coast is low and flat, featuring lagoons such as Syvash and long sand spits like Arabat and Berdyansk.
- **Climate:** It experiences cold continental winters, warm summers, frequent storms, and seasonal ice cover.
- **Historical Significance:** The sea has been important for Greek colonization, the Bosporan Kingdom, Russo-Turkish conflicts, the Crimean War, and modern geopolitics.
- **Connectivity:** The Sea of Azov serves as a key transport link through the Volga–Don Canal, connecting inland waterways to global markets.

11. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

Context: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%. Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate at 5.50%.

More details:

- Real GDP growth for 2026-27 is projected at 6.6% down from earlier projection of 6.9% with Q1 at 6.6%; Q2 at 6.3%; Q3 at 6.5%; and Q4 at 6.8%.
- CPI inflation for 2026-27 is projected to be at 5.1% which is 50 basis points more than the earlier projection.
- The repo rate is the interest rate at which a country's central bank (such as the Reserve Bank of India) lends money to commercial banks in exchange for collateral like government securities.
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) is a monetary policy tool of the Reserve Bank of India that allows banks to deposit their surplus funds with the RBI and earn interest without requiring any collateral.

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It is used by the RBI to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system, help control inflation, and maintain stability in short-term interest rates. Introduced in April 2022, the SDF serves as the lower bound (floor) of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor.

- The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) is an emergency borrowing window created by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It allows scheduled commercial banks to access short-term funds overnight when inter-bank liquidity completely dries up.
- The bank rate is the standard interest rate at which a country's central bank (such as the Reserve Bank of India) lends money to commercial banks, typically on a long-term basis without requiring collateral or security. It is a vital monetary policy tool used to control money supply, manage liquidity, and curb inflation

About Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a statutory body constituted under the RBI Act, 1934 by the Central Government.
- The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was established based on the recommendations of the Urjit Patel Committee.
- It was formed with the objective of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate to keep inflation within a specified target range.
- The RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a six-member committee.
- It consists of three internal members from the RBI and three external experts nominated by the Central Government.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is required to meet at least four times a year.
- The quorum required for an MPC meeting is four members.
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of a tie, the RBI Governor has a casting vote.

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- Once every six months, the Reserve Bank of India is required to publish a document called the Monetary Policy Report.

Quick Bites:

- On the occasion of World Environment Day, India organized a special event titled "Showcase of India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and Standardization in Renewable Energy" during the WTO Trade and Environment Week 2026 in Geneva. The event highlighted India's efforts towards sustainable development, clean energy transition and achievement of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The session showcased key policy and regulatory initiatives aimed at supporting India's transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Forty two Labs, an Indian deep-tech cyber security company, has received India's first C-SAFE (Cryptographic Security Assessment and Functional Evaluation) recognition from the Data Security Council of India for its indigenously developed Quantum-Safe Algorithm. C-SAFE is India's first independent cryptographic evaluation programme developed by DSCI, a private not-for-profit industry body established by NASSCOM. A Quantum-Safe Algorithm, also known as post-quantum cryptography, is a cryptographic technique designed to protect digital communications and data from potential cyberattacks by future quantum computers, which could break many of the encryption systems currently in use.
- NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has detected methane on interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS for the first time, providing valuable insights into the chemical composition and origins of objects arriving from outside our Solar System. The James Webb Space Telescope is the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope and is designed to explore the origins and evolution of the Universe by studying the formation of stars, planets, and the earliest galaxies. It is a joint mission of National Aeronautics and Space Administration, European Space Agency, and

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Canadian Space Agency, and primarily observes the Universe in the infrared spectrum, enabling it to detect faint and distant celestial objects hidden from visible-light telescopes.

- Economist Neelkanth Mishra was appointed as India's Executive Director at the World Bank headquarters in Washington D.C., United States, on 4 June 2026.
- The growth in India's gross domestic product (GDP) has been estimated at 7.7% in 2025-26, according to data released by the government on Friday, compared with 7.1% in the previous financial year of 2024-25. GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2025-26 stood at 7.8%.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa defeated German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer in the final round of the 2026 Norway Chess tournament. This crucial classical win secured the historic title for Praggnanandhaa, making him the first Indian player to win the prestigious event.
- State-owned explorer-producer Oil India Ltd. (OIL) confirmed the presence of natural gas in the third exploratory well it drilled, that is, Vijayapuram-3, in the Andaman shallow offshore block.

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07-06-2026

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.

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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.

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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.

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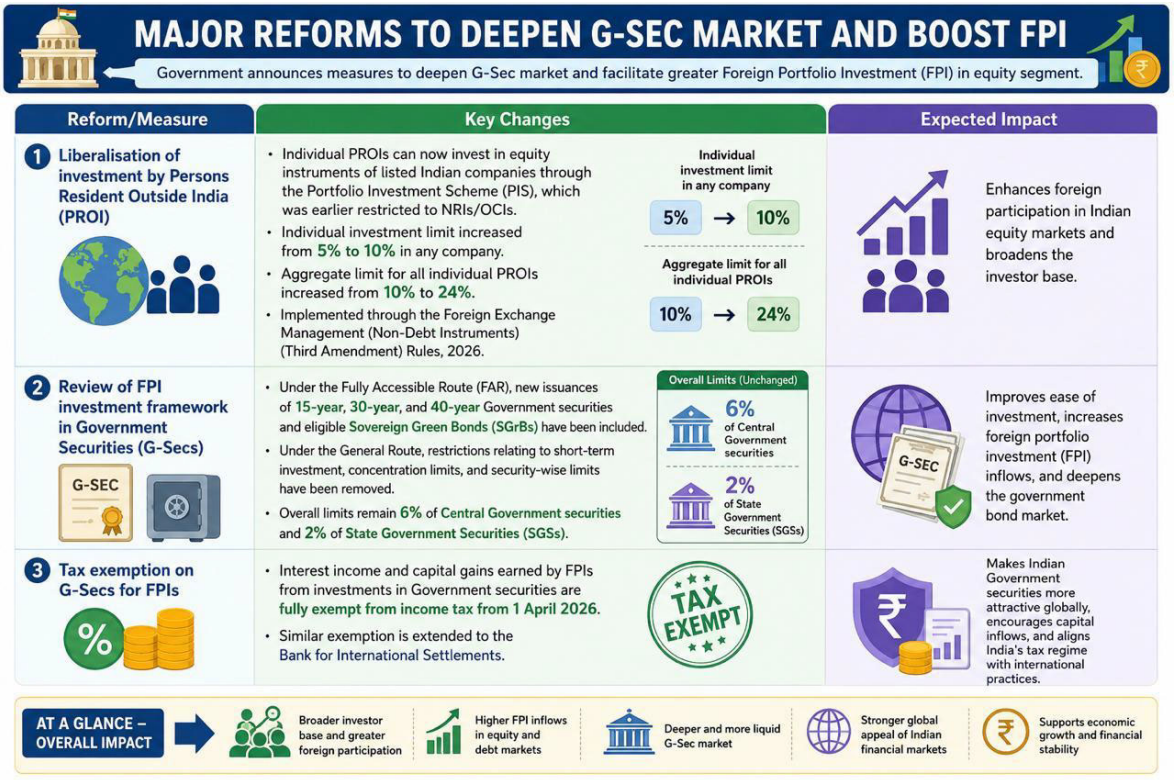
- **Legal Basis:** The exemption was introduced through the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, which inserted specific provisions for FIIs investing in G-Secs.

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.



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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.

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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.

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- 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.

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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.

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- 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.

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- 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

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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.

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- 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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08-06-2026

1. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL):

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today congratulated Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. The Prime Minister noted that Major Barak is serving as an Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

About United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL):

- **Established:** On 19 March 1978 by the United Nations Security Council through Resolutions 425 and 426.
- **Purpose:** Created to restore peace and security along the Israel–Lebanon border after the 1978 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.
- **Type of Mission:** It is a United Nations peacekeeping mission operating in Southern Lebanon.
- **Core Mandate:** Confirm withdrawal of Israeli forces from Southern Lebanon, Restore international peace and security and Assist the Lebanese government in re-establishing effective authority in the area.
- **Major Expansion:** Following the 2006 Lebanon War, UNSC Resolution 1701 (2006) significantly strengthened UNIFIL's mandate and responsibilities.
- **Blue Line:** UNIFIL monitors compliance along the Blue Line (UN-demarcated boundary between Israel and Lebanon) and works to prevent hostilities.
- **Current Strength:** As of 2025–26, UNIFIL comprises about 8,253 personnel from 48 countries, tasked with monitoring the ceasefire and facilitating humanitarian access.

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- **Recent Status:** Through UNSC Resolution 2790 (2025), the mission's mandate was extended until 31 December 2026, with a planned drawdown and withdrawal during 2027.

2. NZP Saathi App:

Context: MoS Environment, Forest and Climate Change Launches "NZP Saathi App" and Inaugurates Self-ticketing Kiosks at National Zoological Park.

About NZP Saathi App:

- It is a smart digital zoo guide, and inaugurated Self-ticketing Kiosks at the National Zoological Park (NZP), New Delhi.
- It aimed at enhancing visitor experience through smart navigation and easing online ticket booking.
- The "NZP Saathi App", available on both Android and iOS platforms, features an interactive digital map and smart navigation system that enables visitors to locate animal enclosures, washrooms, buggy points, exits and other facilities. The app also offers thematic tours, including Express Tour, Family Tour, Grand Zoo Tour and personalised "My Tour" options.
- The Self-ticketing Kiosks will facilitate online ticket booking through UPI-based digital payments with free Wi-Fi connectivity for on-the-spot ticket booking.

3. Land Port Management System (LPMS):

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah to launch Land Port Management System (LPMS) on Tuesday, 9th June 2026 in New Delhi.

About Land Port Management System (LPMS):

- LPMS is a digital platform that integrates operations of all land ports into a unified system.
- It enables secure, real-time exchange of logistics and regulatory information among stakeholders.
- LPMS brings land ports on par with the digital systems used at airports and seaports.

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- It functions as a neutral and open platform for coordination between government agencies and private operators.
- The system aims to reduce delays and improve operational efficiency at border crossings.
- LPMS provides end-to-end digital workflows for cargo and passenger processing.
- Key services include slot booking, online payments, tracking, and single-window clearances.
- It is integrated with major national platforms such as ICEGATE, ULIP, and the motor vehicle ecosystem.
- LPMS promotes interoperable, efficient, and transparent border management.

About Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI):

- The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), a statutory body under the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for developing and managing land ports to facilitate trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation.
- Currently, LPAI operates 15 land ports across India's international borders.

4. KAU Thejaswini:

Context: Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) released a new green chilli variety named KAU Thejaswini on 7 June 2026.

About KAU Thejaswini:

- KAU Thejaswini is a bush-type green chilli variety developed at the Kerala Agricultural University, College of Agriculture, Vellayani.
- It is specifically suited to Kerala's agro-climatic conditions and can be cultivated year-round in homesteads, kitchen gardens, and terrace gardens.

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- The variety has a high yield potential of 32.5 tonnes per hectare, producing about 84 fruits and 667 g per plant.
- Fruits are 11.29 cm long, smooth, glossy, dark green, and turn red upon ripening.
- It has medium pungency with a capsaicin content of 0.45%.
- The variety is rich in Vitamin C (121 mg/100 g) and contains 15.1% oleoresin.
- KAU Thejaswini is tolerant to bacterial wilt and viral diseases, making it suitable for sustainable cultivation.

5. Pyroprocessing:

Context: Article of Pyroprocessing was explained in the Hindu science edition.

About Pyroprocessing:

- Pyroprocessing is a way to change a solid material physically or chemically using high temperature. It is a dry process and very energy-intensive.
- The three sectors that use it most are cement-making, metallurgy, and nuclear power.
- Pyroprocessing refers to high-temperature industrial processes used in sectors such as cement manufacturing, metallurgy, and nuclear fuel reprocessing.
- In cement production, limestone, clay, and iron are heated in a rotary kiln; limestone releases CO_2 at about 900°C, and at around 1,450°C the mixture forms clinker, which is later ground into cement.
- In metallurgy, pyroprocessing is used to extract metals from ores through processes such as roasting (heating sulphide ores in air to form metal oxides) and smelting (melting ores to separate metals from slag).
- Calcining is another pyroprocessing technique in which limestone is heated to produce lime.
- In the nuclear industry, pyroprocessing is used to reprocess spent nuclear fuel using high-temperature molten salts.

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- Spent fuel is placed in a molten lithium-potassium chloride salt bath (around 500°C or higher), and an electric current separates elements based on their electrochemical properties, allowing recovery of useful materials.

6. French Open:

Context: Alexander Zverev finally secured his maiden Grand Slam title with a dramatic five-set victory over Italy's Flavio Cobolli in the French Open final.

About French Open (Roland Garros):

- Roland-Garros (French Open) is one of the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments, alongside the Australian Open, Wimbledon Championships, and US Open.
- It is held annually at Stade Roland Garros in Paris and is the only Grand Slam played on clay courts.
- The tournament is named after Roland Garros, the first person to fly across the Mediterranean Sea in 1913.
- It began in 1891 as a French national championship and was opened to international players in 1925.
- The event moved to its current venue in 1928 and became the first Grand Slam of the Open Era in 1968, allowing professionals and amateurs to compete together.
- Rafael Nadal holds the tournament records with 14 titles, 105 match wins, and a 98.2% winning percentage at Roland-Garros.

Winners of 2026:

Event	Winner (Country) → Runner-up (Country)
Men's Singles	Alexander Zverev (Germany) → Flavio Cobolli (Italy)
Women's Singles	Mirra Andreeva (Russia) → Maja Chwalinska (Poland)

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Men's Doubles	Marcel Granollers / Horacio Zeballos (Spain/Argentina) → Harri Heliovaara / Henry Patten (Finland/United Kingdom)
Women's Doubles	Katerina Siniakova / Taylor Townsend (Czech Republic/USA) → Anna Danilina / Aleksandra Krunic (Kazakhstan/Serbia)
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani / Andrea Vavassori (Italy) → Kristina Mladenovic / Manuel Guinard (France)

About Grandslam:

- Grand Slam tournaments (Majors) are the four most prestigious annual events in professional tennis.
- The four Grand Slams are the Australian Open (January), French Open (May–June), Wimbledon Championships (June–July), and US Open (August–September).
- Each Grand Slam tournament is typically played over two weeks.
- The Australian Open and US Open are played on hard courts, the French Open on clay courts, and Wimbledon on grass courts.
- Wimbledon (1877) is the oldest Grand Slam, followed by the US Open (1881), French Open (1891), and Australian Open (1905).
- **Correction:** Novak Djokovic with 24 Grand Slam singles titles has highest.

7. Char Dham Yatra:

Context: 161 More than 31 lakh pilgrims have visited Uttarakhand since the Char Dham Yatra began in April, while 161 fatalities have been reported among the devotees during the ongoing pilgrimage season, officials said on Sunday. According to the latest report, Kedarnath Dham recorded the highest footfall with 11,05,676 pilgrims.

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About Char Dham Yatra:



- Char Dham in Uttarakhand is a collective term used for religious circuit covering Holy hindu pilgrimage centres of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
- All four temple shrines are located in Garhwal Himalayas range of Uttarakhand.
- This is considered as most sacred religious places to be visited by Hindus, to get rid of their sins and pave path to ultimate goal of human life – the Moksha.
- **Yamunotri :-** This temple is dedicated to River Yamuna. It is situated in Garhwal Region of Uttarakhand State.
- **Gangotri :-** The temple is devoted to Goddess Ganges.
- **Kedarnath :-** The temple is devoted to God Shiva. There is 12 main Jyotirlinga of shiva & Kedarnath is one of the main jyotirling.
- **Badrinath:-** The temple is dedicated to God Vishnu.

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Quick Bites:

- In a significant development for agricultural exports from Jharkhand, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, flagged off the first commercial consignment of fresh mangoes from the State to the United Kingdom. The flag-off ceremony was held in Kolkata on 4 June 2026.
- A National Workshop on Seafood Exports was convened by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with support from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, on 5th & 6th June 2026 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Kerala Forest Department launched HAWK, or Hostile Activity Watch Kernel, on 6 June 2026 as India's first digital system that integrates the judiciary for wildlife offence management.
- National record-holder Animesh Kujur finished second in men's 200m at the New Taipei City Athletics Open as he breached the Commonwealth Games qualification mark on Sunday. The 23-year-old Indian clocked 20.47s, well inside the mark of 20.61s set by the Athletics Federation of India.

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09-06-2026

1. Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA):

Context: In a significant step towards the operationalisation of the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, launched the BHAVYA Portal today in New Delhi.

About Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA):

- The Scheme provides for development of 100 industrial parks over a period of six years from 2026-27 to 2031-32, with a total financial outlay of approximately ₹33,660 crore.
- In the first phase, up to 50 industrial parks will be taken up through a challenge-based competitive selection process.
- The scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure, unlocking manufacturing potential and driving India's growth story.
- Building on the success of Industrial Smart Cities developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) framework, BHAVYA will be implemented in partnership with states and private sector players.
- Under the scheme, industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1000 acres will be taken up for development.
- Financial support of up to Rs. One crore per acre will be provided for: Core infrastructure (internal roads, underground utilities, drainage, common treatment facilities, ICT and administrative systems), Value-added infrastructure (ready-built factory sheds, built-to-suit units, testing labs, warehousing), Social infrastructure (worker housing and support amenities)

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- Support for external infrastructure will also be provided up to 25% of the project cost, ensuring seamless connectivity and integration with existing networks.
- Parks will be developed in different sizes, ranging from 25 acres in hilly regions, smaller Union Territories and Northeastern States, to between 100 and 500 acres in mid-sized States and regions, and up to 1,000 acres in locations closer to cities and towns, depending on need assessment and the commitment of States.
- Parks will be provided by the State Governments, while the Government of India will support infrastructure creation through the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC), which will partner with States under a 51:49 model.
- NICDC has developed the BHAVYA Portal as a comprehensive digital platform to support the entire project lifecycle under the Scheme.

2. Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):

Context: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will launch nationwide celebrations from tomorrow (9th June 2026) to commemorate "10 Years of PMSMA – A Decade of Care", marking a decade of the successful implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), one of India's flagship initiatives aimed at ensuring safe pregnancy and healthy motherhood.

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About Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):



- **Launched by:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016.
- **Highlighted by:** Narendra Modi in Mann Ki Baat on 31 July 2016.
- **Objective:** To provide assured, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care (ANC) to all pregnant women.
- **Service Day:** Free ANC services are provided on the 9th day of every month.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** All pregnant women in their 2nd and 3rd trimesters.

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- **Special Focus:** Women from rural, poor, semi-urban, and underserved areas.
- **Key Goal:** Ensure at least one ANC check-up by an Obstetrician/Gynecologist during the 2nd or 3rd trimester.
- **Maternal Health Aim:** Reduce maternal mortality and ensure safer pregnancies.
- **Infant Health Aim:** Reduce infant mortality through improved prenatal care.
- **High-Risk Pregnancy Detection:** Early identification and follow-up of High-Risk Pregnancies (HRPs).
- **e-PMSMA:** Launched in January 2022 for digital tracking and monitoring of HRPs.
- **Services Offered:** Physical examination, blood pressure, weight, haemoglobin, and blood sugar testing.
- **Preventive Care:** Provision of Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) supplements and Tetanus-Diphtheria (TD) vaccination.
- **Additional Support:** Nutritional counselling, screening for HIV/syphilis/STIs, referrals for complications, and free ultrasound services for high-risk pregnancies.

3. Sukhoi Su-57:

Context: The Russian President has offered India Russia's fifth-generation stealth aircraft Sukhoi Su-57 and proposed its joint production in India.

About Sukhoi Su-57:

- **Airborne Command Centre:** Can function as a flying command post, coordinating operations and controlling unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- **Stealth Technology:** Designed to minimize radar, infrared, and visual signatures, making detection by enemy systems difficult.
- **Supercruise Capability:** Able to maintain supersonic speeds without using afterburners, enhancing range and fuel efficiency.

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- **Integrated Avionics:** Combines data from multiple sensors into a single operational picture for improved situational awareness.
- **Advanced Networking:** Provides secure, real-time communication and data-sharing with other military platforms.
- **Sensor Fusion:** Integrates information from radar, electronic warfare, and surveillance systems for faster decision-making.
- **Enhanced Survivability:** Features advanced electronic warfare and self-protection systems to operate in contested environments.
- **Other Fifth-Generation Fighters:** Include the F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning II, Chengdu J-20, Shenyang J-35, while India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is under development.

4. Imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids:

Context: In the 2026-27 rabi sowing season, from October to April, Indian farmers are set to begin the wide-scale cultivation of imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids. These hybrids are designed to overcome a parasitic weed called Orobanche, a major hurdle in oilseed production.

About Imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids:

- India's edible oil deficit remains high, with imports of about 16 million tonnes worth ₹1.6 lakh crore in 2024-25, making higher domestic oilseed production crucial.
- Mustard is India's most important oilseed crop, especially in the arid and semi-arid regions of North India, but its productivity is severely affected by Orobanche (Phelipanche), a parasitic weed.
- Orobanche attaches to mustard roots and siphons water and nutrients from the host plant, causing significant yield losses and making control difficult.

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- The newly introduced IMI-resistant mustard hybrids offer a technological solution by allowing the use of Imidazolinone (IMI) herbicides without harming the crop.
- These hybrids are not genetically modified (GM) crops; they were developed through mutation breeding, which selects and preserves naturally occurring beneficial mutations.
- The technology works through a mutation in the Acetolactate Synthase (ALS) enzyme, making it resistant to IMI herbicides. As a result, the herbicide kills weeds while the mustard plant survives.
- IMI herbicides are particularly effective against Orobanche because they move through the soil and plant tissues, reaching the parasite where manual weeding cannot.
- Farmers welcome the technology because it reduces labour requirements, especially during critical weeding periods when labour shortages are common, and helps protect mustard yields.
- Experts such as Deepak Pental caution that excessive reliance on a single herbicide can lead to herbicide-resistant weeds. Sustainable use requires Integrated Weed Management (IWM), including crop rotation, herbicide rotation, and continued manual removal of surviving weeds.

5. Gallantry awards:

Context: President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred seven Kirti Chakras, including two posthumously, on personnel of the armed forces for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery and total disregard for personal safety in the line of duty.

About Gallantry awards:

What are Gallantry awards?

- Gallantry Awards have been instituted to honour the acts of bravery and sacrifice of the officers/personnel of the Armed Forces, other lawfully constituted Forces and civilians.
- These gallantry awards are announced twice a year – first on the occasion of Republic Day and then on the occasion of Independence Day.

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Categorization of awards:

Gallantry awards are classified into two categories

- Gallantry in the Face of Enemy.
- Gallantry other than in the face of Enemy.

Gallantry in the Face of Enemy:

- ☐ Param Vir Chakra (PVC)
- ☐ Mahavir Chakra (MVC)
- ☐ Vir Chakra

Gallantry other than in the face of Enemy

- ☐ Ashok Chakra
- ☐ Kirti Chakra
- ☐ Shaurya Chakra

History of the awards:

- The first three gallantry awards namely the Param Vir Chakra, the Maha Vir Chakra and the Vir Chakra were instituted by the Government of India on 26th January 1950.
- Other three gallantry awards i.e., the Ashoka Chakra Class-I, the Ashoka Chakra Class-II and the Ashoka Chakra Class-III were instituted by the Government of India on 4th Jaunary 1952.
- These awards were renamed the Ashoka Chakra, the Kirti Chakra and the Shaury Chakra respectively in January 1967.

6. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

Context: Amid prevailing pressure on supplies of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) globally against the backdrop of the West Asia conflict, the Centre has reduced the number of subsidised refills available under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from nine to four cylinders a year.

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Under the scheme, the government provides a targeted subsidy of ₹300 a cylinder for up to nine refills in a year.

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

- **Launch:** Launched on 1 May 2016 by Narendra Modi with the slogan "Clean Fuel, Better Life."
- Objective: To provide clean cooking fuel (LPG) to poor households and protect women and children from health hazards caused by smoke from traditional fuels.
- Nodal Ministry: Implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Initial Budget: Launched with an allocation of ₹8,000 crore.
- Original Target: Provision of 5 crore LPG connections to BPL households during 2016–19.
- Financial Assistance: Government provides ₹1,600 per LPG connection to eligible beneficiary households.
- Target Expansion: The target was revised from 5 crore to 8 crore LPG connections in April 2018.
- Women-Centric Scheme: LPG connections are issued in the name of the adult woman of the household.
- Beneficiary Identification: Eligible families are identified using Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data.
- Recent Update: Government continued a ₹300 subsidy per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder (up to 12 refills annually) during FY 2024–25; PMUY beneficiaries exceeded 10.27 crore as of 1 March 2024.

7. Zojila Tunnel:

Context: India's ambitious, strategic, all-weather Zojila Tunnel in volatile seismic zone IV will witness the final breakthrough on June 9 as Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will oversee the final blasting from the Kargil side.

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About Zojila Tunnel:

- **Location & Connectivity:** The 13.14 km-long Zojila Tunnel connects Baltal (Kashmir) with Meenamarg/Drass (Ladakh), providing a crucial link between Kashmir and Ladakh.
- **Engineering Features:** It is a single-tube, bi-directional, two-lane road tunnel constructed at an altitude of 11,578 feet in Seismic Zone IV.
- **Cost & Construction:** Built at a cost of over ₹6,800 crore by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).
- **Travel Time Reduction:** The tunnel will reduce travel time across the region from about 3 hours to just 20 minutes.
- **Strategic Importance:** It ensures all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh and reduces dependence on the snow-bound Zojila Pass.
- **Defence Significance:** The project will facilitate faster movement of troops, defence equipment, and supplies to border areas, strengthening India's preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The 13.14-km-long tunnel cuts through the mighty Himalayas at an altitude of 11,578 feet and connects the Kashmir valley with Ladakh's Kargil.

Quick Bites:

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr.Jitendra Singh, today launched the new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Lucknow along with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath.
- Mindanao is the second-largest island and the southernmost major island of the Philippines. Recently, the region was struck by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake, highlighting its location along the seismically active Pacific Ring of Fire. The country's highest peak, Mount Apo (2,954 m), is

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located in Mindanao. The Philippines is also known for its active volcanoes, including Mayon Volcano, Taal Volcano, and Mount Pinatubo.

- Queshm (Qeshm) Island is the largest island in the Persian Gulf, located off the southern coast of Iran in Hormozgan Province, along the southern edge of the Zagros Mountains and near the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. Often called the "Island of Seven Wonders" for its unique geological and natural attractions, Qeshm holds significant geopolitical importance due to its location along one of the world's busiest oil-shipping routes.
- India's nuclear arsenal was estimated at about 190 warheads in January 2026, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The estimate placed India among the nine nuclear-armed states recognised in global arms-control studies. India is estimated to have modestly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025 and continued developing new nuclear delivery systems, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026 released. India also remained the world's second-largest importer of major arms during the 2021-25 period, accounting for 8.2% of global arms imports. SIPRI identified Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan as the five largest arms importers, collectively accounting for 35% of global imports during the period.
- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) secured a 10-year marine services contract on 8 June 2026 for Argentina's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project.
- The Bonn Climate Conference, also called SB64, is being held from 8 June to 18 June 2026 as the 64th session of the Subsidiary Bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.The Bonn Climate Conference is a preparatory meeting in the annual United Nations climate process. It takes place before COP31, which is scheduled in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9 November to 20 November 2026.

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10-06-2026

1. Bhagwan Birsa Munda:

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today paid tributes to Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda Ji on his martyrdom day.

About Bhagwan Birsa Munda:

- Birsa Munda was a tribal freedom fighter, religious reformer, and folk hero who led tribal resistance against British rule in India.
- He was born on 15 November 1875 at Ulihatu in a poor sharecropper family and belonged to the Munda tribe of the Chotanagpur plateau.
- His early name was Daud Munda because his father had briefly converted to Christianity; he studied in local and missionary schools, including at Chaibasa.
- Though initially influenced by Christianity, he later rejected it and was inspired by Vaishnavism and Anand Panre, eventually founding the Birsait sect.
- Birsa became known as "Bhagwan" among followers and was lovingly called "Dharti Aaba" (Father of the Earth).
- He promoted worship of Singhbonga (monotheism), opposed alcoholism, black magic, superstitions, and forced labour (beth begari), while encouraging hygiene, spiritual unity, and pride in tribal culture.
- British land policies destroyed the traditional Khuntkatti communal land system, while zamindars and thikadars exploited tribals and pushed many into bonded labour.
- To resist these injustices, Birsa educated tribals about their rights and launched the Ulgulan (Great Rebellion), urging people to stop paying rent to the British.

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- His famous slogan was: "Abua raj ete jana, maharani raj tundu jana" meaning "Let the Queen's rule end and our rule begin."
- The revolt began in 1895 against land encroachment and forced labour; Birsa was arrested in 1895, jailed for two years, and after release in 1897 continued mobilising tribals village to village.
- Birsa Munda died of cholera in 1900, bringing the active phase of the rebellion to an end.
- His struggle led to the 1908 Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, which protected tribal land rights and banned beth begari; since 2021, 15 November is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas in his honour.

2. Tezpur Litchi:

Context: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, facilitated the first export consignment of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai on 7 June 2026, marking a significant milestone in expanding international market access for agricultural products from the North Eastern Region.

About Tezpur Litchi:

- Tezpur litchi received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015.
- A GI tag is a form of intellectual property protection used for products linked to a specific geographical origin and having qualities or reputation associated with that place.
- Tezpur litchi is known for its distinctive taste, rich flesh, and attractive colour.
- The cultivation of litchi in Tezpur dates back to 1923, when Padmanath Gohain Baruah established litchi orchards.

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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.

3. South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING):

Context: The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, in collaboration with the World Bank Group-led SAPLING initiative, inaugurated the Regional High-Level Policy Dialogue titled "Unlocking Value: Advancing Food Processing for Employment Generation and Sustainable Growth in South Asia" in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 9th June 2026.

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About SAPLING initiative:

- SAPLING is a regional platform led by the World Bank Group to promote resilient and nutrition-focused food systems in South Asia.
- It aims to improve nutrition outcomes, strengthen food systems, and enhance climate resilience across the region.
- The platform brings together governments, private sector, innovators, researchers, and development partners for collaboration.
- It supports policy reforms, investment mobilization, and scaling up of technology and innovation in agriculture and food systems.
- SAPLING is aligned with the AgriConnect initiative of the World Bank Group.
- It encourages greater private-sector participation in food-system value chains.
- The platform helps countries identify and implement scalable, investment-ready, and innovation-driven solutions.
- Through its three thematic pillars, SAPLING promotes regional dialogue, knowledge sharing, and partnerships for sustainable food-system transformation in South Asia.

4. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:

Context: The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) continues to advance its commitment to maternal health and early childhood care through the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship maternity benefit scheme launched in 2017.

About Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:

- PMMVY provides financial assistance to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) to promote maternal health, nutrition, and positive health-seeking behaviour.
- Since 1 April 2022, the scheme has been implemented under Mission Shakti.

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- The benefit structure was streamlined from three instalments to two instalments after integration with Mission Shakti.
- Eligible beneficiaries receive ₹5,000 for the first living child and ₹6,000 for the second child if the child is a girl.
- Benefits are linked to key health milestones such as early pregnancy registration, antenatal care (ANC), childbirth registration, and immunisation.
- The scheme uses the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism to transfer funds directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts, ensuring transparency and timely payments.
- PMMVY provides partial wage compensation, helping women take adequate rest before and after childbirth.
- Achievements (as of 30 April 2026): 4.27 crore beneficiaries have received assistance, with a total disbursement of ₹20,150 crore.

5. Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G):

Context: Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday announced an interim allocation of ₹95,962 crore for the new rural employment scheme, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G). This sum does not include the State governments' share and most States will have to contribute an additional 40% of the sum allocated to them. The combined outlay for the scheme will be ₹1.25 lakh crore.

About Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G):

- The Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 replaces and comprehensively reforms MGNREGA, marking a major shift in rural employment policy.
- The Act aligns rural employment with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision by improving accountability, strengthening infrastructure creation, and enhancing income security in rural areas.

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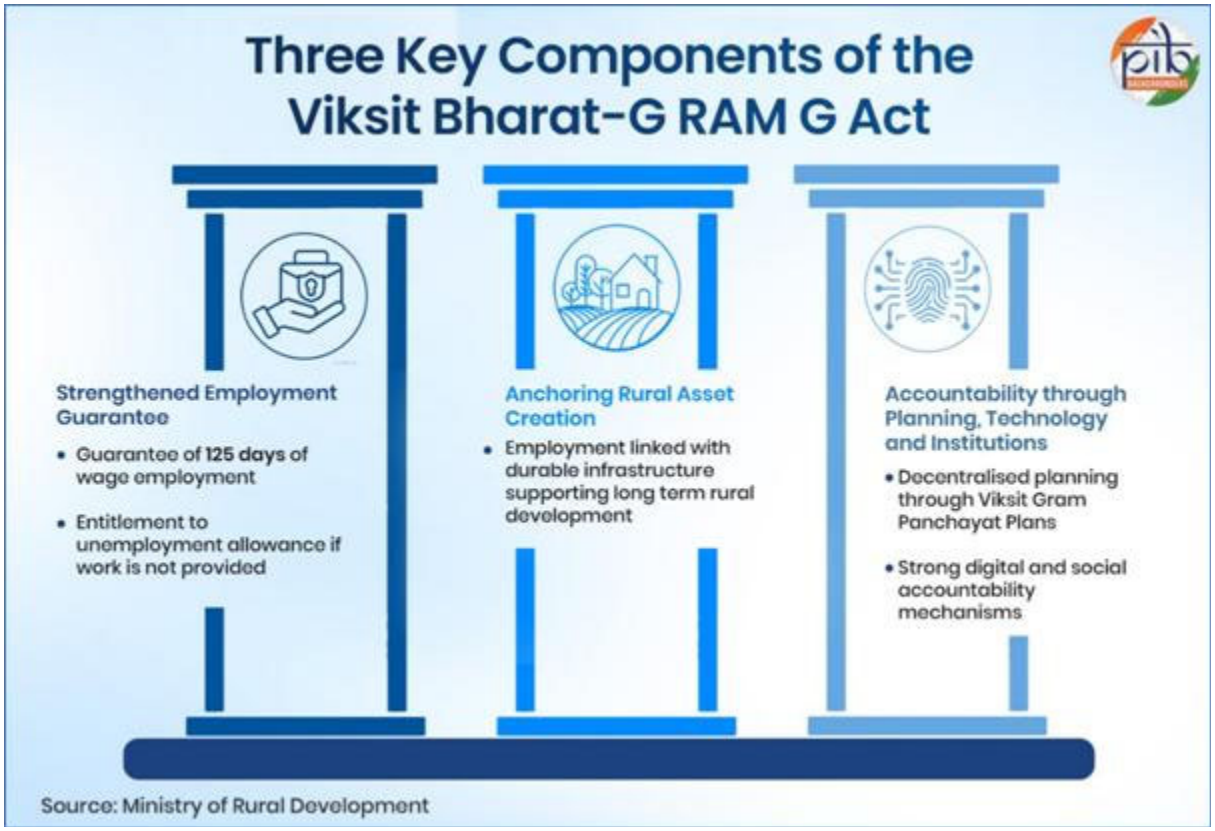
- Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin Act guarantees 125 days of wage employment per rural household annually (increased from 100 days).
- Employment is provided to adult members willing to undertake unskilled manual work, strengthening rural income security.
- A 60-day no-work period is built in to ensure availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons.



- Workers can still complete 125 days of employment within the remaining 305 days of the year.
- The design aims to balance the needs of farmers and rural labourers.
- Wages are to be paid weekly, and in any case within a fortnight of work completion.

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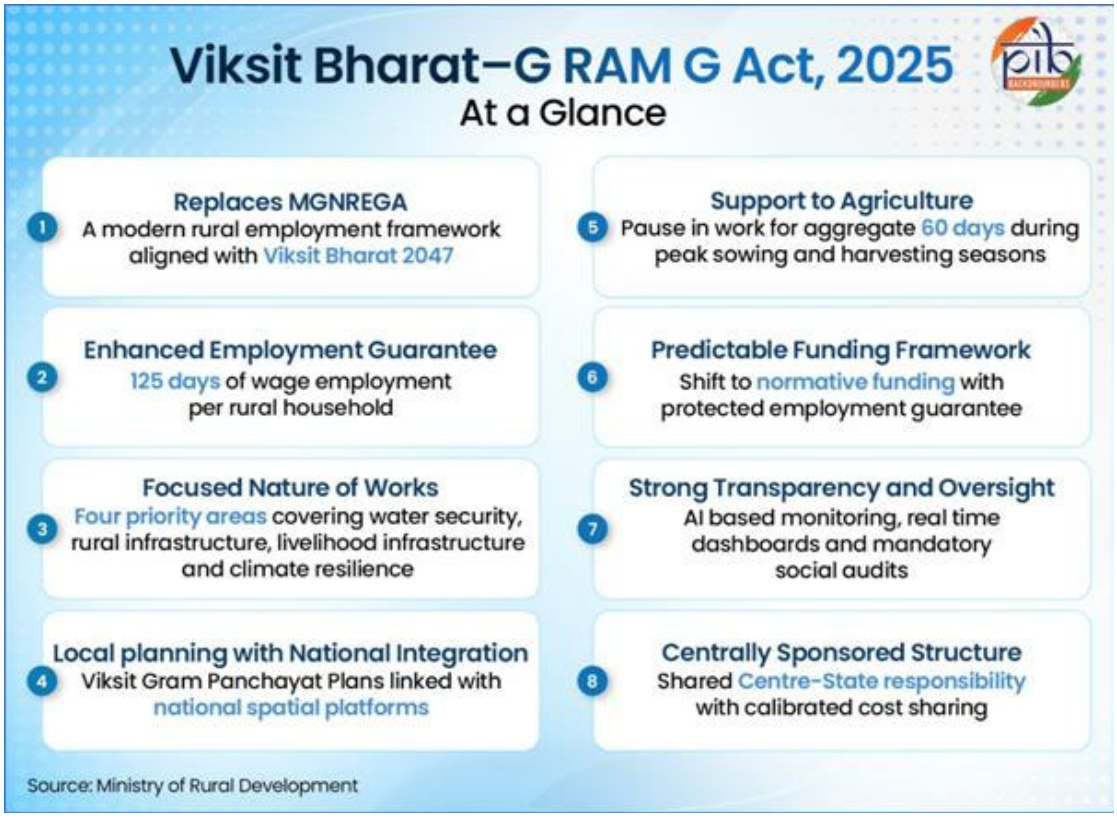

Quick Bites:

- In a major step towards enhancing energy security, promoting renewable energy and ensuring optimum utilisation of vacant defence land, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the establishment of a 250 MW Solar Power Project with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Sitapur (Ex-Cantonment), Uttar Pradesh, on approximately 850 acres of vacant defence land. This is the first-of-its-kind project undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), involving the development of a large-scale solar power generation facility with integrated BESS support on defence land.

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- The Indian National Science Academy (INSA), as part of India's BRICS Presidency 2026, convened the first meeting of the BRICS Science Academies Forum 2026. Held virtually under the theme "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development and Strengthening Global South Cooperation," the forum brought together science academies from ten nations, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, Belarus, Nigeria, and Vietnam, to advance a shared declaration on responsible and equitable AI development.
- The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index is one of the world's most widely followed bond indices, tracking investment-grade government and corporate bonds across major global markets. It serves as a key benchmark for international bond investors and passive investment funds. Inclusion in the index can attract significant foreign investment into a country's bond market. To qualify, countries must meet requirements related to market accessibility, liquidity, settlement systems, taxation framework, and ease of access for foreign investors.
- KABIL acquires five critical mineral blocks in Argentina. Argentina is part of the "Lithium Triangle" along with Chile and Bolivia, which holds more than half of the world's lithium resources. Argentina has the world's 2nd largest lithium resources, 3rd largest reserves and 4th largest lithium production.
- India hosted the inaugural World Yogasana Championship from 4 June to 8 June 2026 at TransStadia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. India topped the medal table with 114 medals, including 102 gold medals, at the event that featured athletes from 79 countries. Japan followed by Argentina placed 2nd and 3rd.
- The Centre is establishing mega leather, footwear and accessories clusters in Muzaffarpur in Bihar, Sitapur in Madhya Pradesh, Raigad district in Maharashtra, and Ranipet in Tamil Nadu.
- Sagittarius A* is the supermassive black hole located at the centre of the Milky Way galaxy. Using five years of data from the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array, astronomers found the first definitive evidence of an active wind blowing from it. The wind creates a cone-shaped cavity in surrounding gas, expelling material that would otherwise form stars. This process regulates star formation, preserves gas reserves, and helps sustain the long-term evolution of the galaxy.

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11-06-2026

1. Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS):

Context: The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹449-crore contract with Accord Software and Systems Private Limited (ASSPL) for the procurement of 20 Enhanced Capability Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS) Jammers for the Indian Navy under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category, with at least 75% indigenous content. The ECGNSS jammers are designed to disrupt, deceive, and spoof enemy GNSS receivers by degrading satellite signal acquisition and tracking, thereby enhancing the survivability and operational safety of Indian naval ships in a multi-threat environment.

About Global Navigation Satellite System (ECGNSS):

- A Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is a space geodesy technique that provides autonomous geospatial positioning with global coverage by using constellations of Earth orbiting satellites, ground control networks and receivers.
- It enables positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) across multiple sectors. GNSS receivers determine precise locations through trilateration using signals transmitted by satellites.
- **Satellite Constellations:** GNSS consists of satellites orbiting Earth that continuously transmit position and timing information for global navigation services.
- **Positioning through Trilateration:** Receivers determine their location by measuring distances from multiple satellites using the trilateration technique.
- **Trilateration Technique:** GNSS receivers determine their exact location by measuring the distance from at least four satellites and calculating the point where these distance measurements intersect.

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- **Multi-System Interoperability:** Compatibility among GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, BeiDou, and other systems improves accuracy, availability, and reliability of positioning services.
- **Ground Control Networks:** A network of monitoring stations and data centers maintains satellite health, orbit accuracy, and system reliability.
- **Signal Transmission:** Satellites broadcast ranging signals on radio frequencies, enabling receivers to calculate precise location and time information.
- **Global Data Infrastructure:** Organizations such as the International GNSS Service (IGS) collect and process GNSS data worldwide, supporting navigation, scientific research, and geophysical studies.

GNSS System	Key Features
GPS (USA)	24 satellites; 20,200 km altitude; 12-hour orbital period; provides global coverage with continuous visibility of multiple satellites.
GLONASS (Russia)	24 operational satellites; 19,140 km altitude; global navigation coverage with at least four satellites visible most of the time.
Galileo (European Union)	Planned constellation of 30 satellites (27 operational + 3 spares); 23,222 km altitude; operational since 2016; global positioning services.

2. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme:

Context: The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme, is facilitating the Yuva Sangam Phase VI initiative. The programme aims to promote cultural exchange, experiential learning, and national integration among youth from diverse regions of the country.

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About Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme:

- It is a flagship initiative of the GoI aimed at enhancing interaction and promoting mutual understanding between people of different states and union territories (UTs) of the country.
- The program focuses on celebrating the diversity of India while fostering unity and national integration.
- 16 participating Ministries/ Departments undertake activities throughout the year to promote sustained and structured cultural connect between paired States/UTs.
- It focus on the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices etc.
- Ministry of Culture organizes various cultural programmes/ activities through its Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) under EBSB taking into consideration the pairing States.

3. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):

Context: The Defence Ministry has approved its first-ever 250 MW Solar Power Project with BESS on vacant defence land in Uttar Pradesh.

About Battery Energy Storage System (BESS):

- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are advanced electrochemical devices that store electricity in chemical form and discharge it when required.
- They play a crucial role in modern power systems by ensuring grid stability, optimising energy use, and facilitating the large-scale integration of renewable energy sources.
- These are devices that enable energy from renewables, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when the power is needed most.

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- Batteries receive electricity from the power grid, straight from the power station, or from a renewable energy source like solar panels or other energy source, and subsequently store it as current to then release it when it is needed.
- Main components: Batteries: Store electrical energy (most commonly lithium-ion). Power Conversion System (PCS): Converts DC electricity from batteries to AC for use on the grid, and vice versa. Battery Management System (BMS): Monitors and controls battery performance, health, and safety. Energy Management System (EMS): Coordinates the operation of all components for optimal performance.

Battery Type	Key Features / Advantages
Lithium-ion Batteries	Most widely used in BESS; high energy density, fast charging/discharging, scalable, and long cycle life (up to 20 years).
Lead-acid Batteries	Traditional and cost-effective; widely available, recyclable, and commonly used for backup and off-grid applications.
Sodium-ion Batteries	Emerging technology; lower cost than lithium-ion, safer operation, and performs well at higher temperatures.
Zinc-air Batteries	Use oxygen from the air as a reactant; offer high theoretical energy density and lower-cost materials.
Nickel-Cadmium (NiCd) Batteries	Durable and reliable in extreme conditions; known for long operational life.
Flow Batteries	Use liquid electrolytes; long lifespan (up to 25 years), highly scalable, non-flammable, and ideal for long-duration energy storage.

4. Epichlorohydrin:

Context: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has for the first time set norms for tea bags prohibiting harmful chemicals like epichlorohydrin.

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About Epichlorohydrin:

- **Meaning:** Epichlorohydrin is a chlorinated epoxide compound used as an important industrial chemical.
- **Major Uses:** Used in the manufacture of epoxy resins, synthetic glycerine, elastomers, and specialty chemicals.
- **Appearance:** A clear, colourless liquid with a chloroform-like odor.
- **Properties:** It is highly volatile and flammable and can release toxic chlorinated fumes when heated or burned.
- **Health Hazards:** Exposure can irritate the eyes, skin, and respiratory system.
- **Carcinogenicity:** Classified as a probable human carcinogen.
- **Other Risks:** Long-term exposure may affect the blood and reproductive system.

5. Artemis III:

Context: NASA announced the four-person prime crew for Artemis III on 9 June 2026 at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

About Artemis III:

- Artemis III is a NASA-led crewed mission under the Artemis Program aimed at testing lunar mission technologies.
- The mission is scheduled for launch in late 2027 from Kennedy Space Center, Florida.
- It is part of NASA's Artemis programme that utilizes the Orion spacecraft and commercial human landing systems.
- The mission will test rendezvous and docking operations between Orion and lunar landers in low Earth orbit.

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- The prime crew includes Randy Bresnik (Commander), Luca Parmitano (Pilot), and Andre Douglas and Frank Rubio (Mission Specialists).
- Bob Hines has been designated as the backup crew member.
- The mission will evaluate docking with lunar landers developed by Blue Origin and SpaceX.
- The crew will spend about two weeks conducting tests in Earth orbit.
- Artemis III will also test the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU) lunar spacesuit.
- Following the February 2026 mission revision, the first human lunar landing is now planned under Artemis IV in 2028.

6. Article 142:

Context: The Supreme Court used its powers under Article 142 to overturn a POCSO conviction, noting the victim later married the man as an adult. The court observed that the couple should now be allowed to live "peacefully in society as spouses".

About Article 142:

- Constitutional Safety Valve: Article 142(1) empowers the Supreme Court to ensure "complete justice" by filling legislative gaps where existing laws provide no adequate remedy.
- Inherent and Residuary Power: Article 142 is an inherent constitutional power enabling the Supreme Court to transcend procedural limitations to prevent injustice.
- Supremacy Over Ordinary Laws: In Delhi Judicial Service Association vs. State of Gujarat (1991), the Court held that statutory restrictions cannot curtail its powers under Article 142.
- Precedence of Natural Justice: In Canara Bank vs. Debasis Das (2003), the Court emphasized that substantive justice and fairness must prevail when formal legal remedies are inadequate.
- Exclusive Power of Supreme Court: In Anil Kumar Jain vs. Maya Jain (2009), the Court clarified that High Courts' powers under Article 226 are not equivalent to the Supreme Court's extraordinary powers under Article 142.

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Quick Bites:

- Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, Sushri. Shobha Karandlaje, led the Indian delegation at the 114th International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland, underlining India's commitment to inclusive growth, gender equality, and social dialogue.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), today unveiled RISA - Timeless Tribal, a dedicated premium brand for tribal textiles, embroideries and handicrafts, and inaugurated the exclusive RISA Store at Gallery No. 2, Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhawan, Connaught Place, New Delhi.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Land Port Management System (LPMS) named VINIMAY in New Delhi on 9 June 2026. VINIMAY is a centralised digital platform for land ports in India and it integrates cargo, passenger and vehicle processing on a single interface.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister on 10 June 2026 after completing 4,399 continuous days in office.
- Meta Platforms Inc. and Reliance Industries Ltd. announced an agreement on 10 June 2026 to build and lease an artificial intelligence data centre in India. Reliance Industries will construct a 168-megawatt AI-enabled facility in Jamnagar, Gujarat, and Meta will lease the capacity.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands set a Guinness World Record for the "Tallest Human Stack Underwater" on 3 May 2026 at the Lighthouse dive-site on Swaraj Dweep, also known as Havelock Island. The underwater formation used 14 scuba divers and reached a height of 22.3 metres.
- The official mascots for the 2026 FIFA World Cup are Clutch the Bald Eagle (USA), Zayu the Jaguar (Mexico), and Maple the Moose (Canada). The primary official tournament theme and anthem is the hit song "Dai Dai" by Shakira and Burna Boy.

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- The Education Ministry issued three Letters of Approval (LoAs) to three Foreign Higher Education Institutions — University of Bristol, the University of York and the University of New South Wales (UNSW)

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12-06-2026

1. Horticultural Crop Area and Production:

Context: Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Releases Second Advance Estimates of Horticultural Crop Area and Production for 2025–26.

Total Horticulture	2024-25 (Final)	2025-26 (First Advance Estimates)	2025-26 (Second Advance Estimates)
Area (in Lakh Ha)	303.36	301.31	301.51
Production (in Lakh Tonne)	3707.38	3708.46	3777.76

Details:

- The horticulture area in the country is expected to be about 301.51 Lakh Ha in 2025-26, an increase of 0.14 Lakh Ha (0.05%) over 2024-25 (Final).
- The horticulture production in the country is expected to be about 3777.76 LakhTonne in 2025-26, an increase of 70.39 Lakh Tonne (1.90%) over 2024-25 (Final).
- An increase in production is envisaged in Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers and Aromatic & Medicinal crops.
- The production of Fruits is expected to increase from 1176.49 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25 by 3.25% (38.26 Lakh Tonne) to 1214.75 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26 due to increased production of Banana, Mango, Papaya, Apple and Guava.
- The area under Vegetable cultivation is expected to increase from 117.91 Lakh Ha in 2024-25 by 0.75% (0.88 Lakh Ha) to 118.79 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 where as the production of Vegetables is expected to increase from 2177.97 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25 by 1.47% (32.04 Lakh Tonne) to 2210.00 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26.

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- Increase is expected in production of Potato, Tomato, Okra/Ladyfinger, Peas, Cauliflower and Bottlegourd.
- The area under Onion cultivation is expected to increase by 2.31% (0.46 Lakh Ha) over 2024-25 i.e. to 20.14 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 from 19.68 Lakh Ha in 2024-25. The production of Onion is expected to be 307.37 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26 as compared to 307.67 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- The production of Potato is expected to be 598.89 Lakh Tonne, which is higher by 13.18 Lakh Tonne (2.25%) as compared to 585.71 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- The production of Tomato is expected to be 214.61 Lakh Tonne, which is higher by 8.62 Lakh Tonne (4.19%) as compared to 205.99 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- The production of Aromatics & Medicinal Plants is expected to increase from 9.01 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25 to 9.76 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26.
- The area under Plantation crops is expected to be about 46.56 Lakh Ha and production is expected to be about 169.34 Lakh Tonne during 2025-26.
- The area of Flowers is expected to increase by 0.66% over 2024-25 i.e. to 4.00 Lakh Ha in 2025-26from 3.97 Lakh Ha in 2024-25 whereas, around 7.47% increase in the production of Flowers is envisaged. The production of Flowers is expected to be 45.84 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26 compared to 42.65 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- The area under Spices is expected to increase to50.00 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 whereas production of Spices is expected to increase to 126.55 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26.An increase in production is envisaged in Garlic, Turmeric, Curry Leaf and Fenugreek.

2. Indian Standard — IS 20201:2026:

Context: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, has recently published a new Indian Standard — IS 20201:2026 Community Seed Bank Management - Requirements.

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About Indian Standard — IS 20201:2026:

- Formulated by the Biodiversity Sectional Committee (EED 06) under the Environment and Ecology Department (EED) of BIS, this standard introduces a comprehensive, structured management framework for Community Seed Banks (CSBs) across the country.
- By offering a standardised operating protocol for decentralised, community-led seed banks, IS 20201:2026 aims to promote conservation of these indigenous varieties, thereby enhancing agricultural resilience and securing long-term food safety.
- It reinforces central initiatives, such as the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) which provides a one-time assistance of ₹50 lakh for establishing community seed banks and statutory protections under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The standard outlines requirements relating to organisational arrangements, seed collection and acquisition, seed processing and storage. This protects the livelihoods of smallholders, builds grass-roots resilience, and ensures access to resilient,

3. One Station One Product (OSOP) initiative:

Context: Marketing of Divyangjan Vishwakarma Products through One Station One Product(OSOP) The OSOP initiative under the PMV scheme aims to provide resources and opportunities to enhance their skills, access markets and improve their livelihoods.

About PM Vishwakarma (PMV) scheme:

- PM Vishwakarma (PMV) is a flagship scheme of the Government, designed to support traditional artisans and craftspeople through the three pillars of Samman, Samarthya, and Samriddhi.
- It was launched on September 17, 2023 by the Ministry of MSME.

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- It aims to strengthen the Guru-Shishya Parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.
- The scheme also aims at improving the quality as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople.



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One Station One Product(OSOP):

- To promote Samriddhi (Prosperity) under the PMV Scheme, Ministry of MSME is implementing the One Station One Product (OSOP) initiative for Divyangjan Vishwakarma artisans.
- Under this initiative, dedicated retail outlets have been set up at selected high-footfall railway stations to showcase and sell their products.
- The OSOP is helping artisans to expand their market reach by increasing visibility and creating better sale opportunities and providing sustainable livelihoods.
- Recognizing the unique challenge being faced by Divyangjan artisans, the OSOP initiative under the PMV scheme aims to provide resources and opportunities to enhance their skills, access markets and improve their livelihoods.

4. Network Survey Vehicle (NSV):

Context: To enhance the riding experience of commuters on India's National Highways, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has announced a major leap forward: the deployment of Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) equipped with advanced 3D laser-based systems across all states and its network.

About Network Survey Vehicle (NSV):

- Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) — an innovation equipped with laser profilers, GPS and cutting-edge imaging technology.
- With every pass, it scans the road surface for cracks, potholes and unevenness, turning highways into living digital maps.
- These high-tech futuristic vehicles deployed at several National Highway corridors are more than survey machines. They are digital guardians of road quality.

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- By scanning every stretch of road, NSVs collect detailed data on road inventory and surface conditions, identifying defects in potholes and patches.

5. SARTHI — Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation:

Context: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will convene the first meeting of the SARTHI — Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation, on 12 June 2026 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

About SARTHI:

- SARTHI has been established as an apex advisory mechanism under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) to create a structured platform for strategic dialogue, policy convergence and coordinated action among key stakeholders involved in vocational education and training.
- The initiative aims to strengthen Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and ensure that vocational training systems remain aligned with evolving industry requirements and future workforce needs.
- CTS continues to serve as one of India's largest institutional skill development frameworks and currently operates through a network of 13,888 ITIs across the country, including 3,326 Government and 10,562 Private ITIs, delivering training across 169 NSQF-compliant trades.
- As the skill ecosystem expands and labour market requirements evolve, SARTHI aims to provide long-term strategic guidance for reforms across curriculum, assessment, governance, quality assurance, institutional development and industry engagement.

6. Shigellosis (bacillary dysentery):

Context: More cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery), a highly contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease caused by shigella, are being reported across Kerala, with a total of 34 cases reported in June alone.

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About Shigellosis (bacillary dysentery):

- Shigella is a genus of bacteria that causes shigellosis, a major diarrheal disease worldwide.
- It is the second leading cause of diarrhea globally (after Rotavirus Infection) and the third leading cause of death in children under 5 years.
- Globally, an estimated 164.7 million cases of shigellosis occur every year.
- Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, stomach cramps, and dysentery, usually lasting up to 7 days.
- Transmission occurs through contaminated food or water and through person-to-person contact, especially in areas with poor sanitation.
- The disease mainly affects crowded communities lacking safe water and sanitation facilities.
- The incubation period is generally 1–4 days after exposure.
- Disease severity varies by species: Shigella dysenteriae – usually causes severe dysentery, Shigella flexneri – may also cause dysentery and Shigella boydii and Shigella sonnei – generally cause self-limiting watery diarrhea.
- No vaccine is currently available against shigellosis; rising multidrug resistance has placed Shigella on the World Health Organization priority list for antibiotic research.
- Treatment focuses on oral rehydration and electrolyte replacement; recommended antibiotics include ceftriaxone, cefixime, and azithromycin, while handwashing and public hygiene measures help prevent transmission.

7. Sangeet Natak Akademi awards:

Context: The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi, elected seven (7) eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). The fellowship of the Akademi is a most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 at any given time. The General Council also selected 108 artists from various fields for the years 2024 & 2025. The General Council of the Akademi has also

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selected 106 young artists for Sangeet Natak Akademi, Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2024 and 2025. These awards will be conferred by the Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi in a special ceremony.

About Sangeet Natak Akademi awards:

- The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952.
- These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are the highest national recognition conferred on practising artists.
- Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are given to the artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music /Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts etc.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is the highest honour conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi without distinction of nationality, race, caste, religion, creed, or sex.
- The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs.3,00,000/- while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs 1,00,000/- , besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

About Sangeet natak academy:

- The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- It was created by a resolution of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 1952 with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman.
- It is presently an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.

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Quick Bites:

- Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra, the WhatsApp-based AI advisory service developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad, is emerging as a powerful tool bringing trusted, research-based knowledge about oilseed cultivation directly to farmers' mobile phones, anytime and in their own language. Farmers can save the number +91 4024598180 as 'Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra' on WhatsApp and ask questions in any Indian language about groundnut, mustard, sesame, sunflower, soybean, niger, and other oilseed crops.
- The Indian Navy successfully completed a complex operation involving the recovery of an unexploded missile warhead from the crude oil tanker MT Olympic Life. The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, which did not have any Indian nationals onboard, was on passage from Fujairah, UAE, to Kochi reported an explosion in its hull, while off the coast of Oman on 26 May 2026.
- In a major boost to digital financial connectivity and neighbourhood cooperation, India and Nepal officially launched a peer-to-peer (P2P) cross-border remittance mechanism on June 6, 2026. The newly operationalized system establishes a direct link between India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Nepal's National Payments Interface (NPI). This integration enables citizens of both nations to make seamless, real-time, and secure instant money transfers directly via mobile banking applications and digital wallets.
- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized a Scientific Conclave and Interactive Session on Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2026 "Strengthening Pharmaceutical Manufacturing through Pharmacopoeial Standards and Quality Compliance" at Haridwar yesterday, in collaboration with the Association of Devbhumi Pharma Industries (ADPI) and affiliated pharmaceutical manufacturing associations of Uttarakhand.
- The 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum was formally opened by Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, New Delhi.

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- Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, today virtually inaugurated a 20 kW Akashvani FM Transmitter at Ramgarh in Jaisalmer from the Akashvani Jaipur premises.
- India has validated Truenat HR-HPV-Plus, an indigenous human papillomavirus test developed by Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics for cervical cancer screening. The validation involved researchers from AIIMS New Delhi, Indian Council of Medical Research institutes, and the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer in France.
- India announced a 2.5 million contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) on 11 June 2026. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established in 1949 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- India's Gross Domestic Product growth has been projected at 6.6% for fiscal year 2026-27 by the World Bank in its Global Economic Prospects report released on 11 June 2026. The projection follows an estimated 7.7% growth in fiscal year 2025-26, and India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy during the period.
- France identified India as a top strategic priority on 11 June 2026 ahead of the G7 Summit.
- Mexico's Julian Quinones, scores the first goal of the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the inaugural match against South Africa at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.
- Scientists at CSIR–Indian Institute of Chemical Technology have developed an advanced electrospun nanofiber membrane for textile wastewater treatment. Led by S. Sridhar, the membrane combines polyvinylidene fluoride and polyethersulfone with nanomaterials such as graphene oxide, graphene nanoplatelets, and metal-organic frameworks. The technology achieved about 99.1% removal of crystal violet dye, a harmful textile pollutant, while offering high permeability, better adsorption, antifouling properties, and lower energy consumption.
- An overnight strike has cut off external electricity supply to the Ukraine's Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, the UN nuclear watchdog said.

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- Aiming to popularise the uptake of biofuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol. Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, (IIT-K) has hired the 19-year-old ethical hacker, Nisarga Adhikary, who exposed 'critical vulnerabilities' in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s IT ecosystem. Mr. Adhikary will work as an 'OSINT and threat intelligence engineer' in C3iHub, a not-for-profit Section 8 company housed in IIT-K. Founded six years ago, C3iHub employs 200 persons of whom 170-180 are engineers.

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13-06-2026

1. Bharat Innovates 2026:

Context: The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, along with the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron, is scheduled to jointly inaugurate Bharat Innovates 2026 on 14th June 2026 at Palais des Expositions de Nice, France.

About Bharat Innovates 2026:

- Being organized by the Government of India, Bharat Innovates 2026 is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Education.
- It will feature 120 Indian innovators, 15 odd Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and over 500 investors, including leading corporates and venture capital firms, along with global CEOs and industry leaders.
- The event will cover 13 key sectors such as advanced computing, semiconductors, space technology, biotechnology, energy, healthcare, and manufacturing, highlighting India's growing innovation and Deep Tech ecosystem.
- The maiden edition of Bharat Innovates 2026 will showcase India's deep tech innovators and start-ups to the global investors and industry in Nice.
- The event is expected to serve as a high-impact platform for advancing innovation-led partnerships between India and global stakeholders.

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2. Varya:

Context: India AI Mission launches Indigenous Varya, a Video Story Generating AI Model Claiming to Offer Quality at Affordable Price.

About Varya:

- Avataar, an AI-native transformation company, today announced the launch of Varya, a distilled video model built to make frontier video AI affordable, accessible and relevant for India's next generation of users.
- Varya has been designed for India's many contexts, not a generalized idea of India. The model has been built to understand and generate culturally rich visual outputs across India's regions, festivals, communities, food, clothing, public spaces and everyday life.
- From a teacher creating a visual lesson in a village classroom, to an MSME creating product ads, to a citizen accessing public information through video, Varya aims to turn a simple idea into a moving story.
- Avataar was among the companies selected by the IndiaAI Mission to build indigenous foundation AI capabilities.
- Developed with support from the IndiaAI Mission, Varya uses a distillation technique that reduces video generation from 50 steps to 4 steps, while maintaining comparable output quality.
- According to Avataar's internal inference-cost benchmarks, Varya can generate video at ₹0.48 per second, making it upto 10x more cost-efficient than several leading global video models.

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India AI Mission:



- **Vision:** Guided by the vision of "Making AI in India and Making AI Work for India," the mission aims to position India as a global leader in Artificial Intelligence.
- **Budget & Duration:** Approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024 with an outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore for a period of five years.
- **Implementation:** The mission is being implemented by IndiaAI, an independent business division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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- **AI Ecosystem Development:** It seeks to build a comprehensive AI ecosystem by fostering innovation through strategic programs and partnerships between the public and private sectors.
- **Democratizing AI Access:** The mission aims to improve access to high-performance computing resources, enhance data quality and availability, and support the development of indigenous AI models and technologies.
- **Supporting Innovation & Talent:** It promotes AI startups through funding and risk capital support, attracts and nurtures AI talent, and encourages industry-academia collaboration.
- **Responsible & Inclusive AI:** The mission emphasizes ethical and responsible AI development, while supporting socially impactful AI solutions to drive inclusive growth and public welfare.

3. Amarnath Yatra 2026:

Context: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah chaired a security review meeting in New Delhi today to assess the preparations for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. This year, the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will be conducted from July 3 to August 28, 2026.

About Amarnath Yatra 2026:

- **Location and Nature** - Amarnath Temple is a Hindu cave shrine located in Pahalgam tehsil of Anantnag district at 3,888 m altitude
- **Accessibility** - Situated about 141 km from Srinagar and 168 km from Anantnag, reachable via Pahalgam or Sonamarg routes
- **Geographical Setting** - Located in the Sind Valley, surrounded by glaciers and snow-covered mountains; accessible only during a short summer period
- **Religious Significance** - One of the holiest Hindu shrines and also considered a Shakti Peetha (associated with Sati)

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- **Duration of Yatra** - Annual pilgrimage duration varies between 20 to 60 days depending on conditions
- **Pilgrimage Season** - Amarnath Yatra is held during July–August when the ice lingam forms fully.

4. ECOFIX Technology:

Context: A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on 10 June 2026 for functional and structural evaluation of roads, construction quality supervision, and capacity building of MCD engineers and staff. On this occasion, a Bi-partite Technology Management Agreement was also signed for implementation of ECOFIX, an iron and steel slag aggregate-based instant pothole repair technology developed by CSIR-CRRI.

About ECOFIX Technology:

- ECOFIX is a rapid and durable pothole repair technology developed using processed iron and steel slag aggregates.
- The technology supports the national vision of waste-to-wealth by utilizing industrial by-products for sustainable road maintenance improving the durability and environmental impact such as air pollution.
- Improved road conditions and timely maintenance are expected to reduce road dust generation, while the use of steel slag and recycling-based technologies promotes conservation of natural resources and supports circular economy practices.
- Exchange of MoA between authorized representatives of CSIR-CRRI and MCD for utilization of ECOFIX Technology for Instant Poth hole repair.
- Steel Slag Road Technology, ECOFIX, Rejupave and MSS+ promote resource conservation, circular economy principles and reduced carbon emissions.

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5. Global Alliance for Human Rights:

Context: The UN human rights office (OHCHR) has launched Global Alliance for Human Rights. It is designed as a long-term effort leading up to the 80th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 2028. UDHR is a landmark UN declaration adopted in 1948 that sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms to which every person is entitled, regardless of nationality, race, gender, religion, or any other status.

About Global Alliance for Human Rights:

- **Vision:** To create a future where governments are accountable, societies are inclusive, economies are fair, innovation serves people, and respect guides relationships with one another and the planet.
- **Aim:** To place human rights at the center of decision-making at local, national, and global levels.
- **Purpose-Driven Initiative:** A long-term global effort with a major milestone in 2028, marking the 80th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **Inclusive and Participatory:** Engages governments, civil society, businesses, and communities across regions, while promoting gender equality and participation from people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Action-Oriented and Ecosystem-Building:** Focuses on measurable outcomes through collaboration, while strengthening and connecting human rights institutions, mechanisms, and networks.
- **Narrative Change and Guiding Principles:** Promotes accessible communication and innovative partnerships, guided by three principles—Imagine (envision a better future), Dialogue (encourage inclusive discussions), and Act (turn commitments into concrete action).

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6. Crude oil and natural gas agreement:

Context: Union Government signs Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam and Nagaland. The MoU aims to facilitate exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in the two states.

About Crude oil and natural gas reserves in India:

- Crude Oil Reserves: India has an estimated 672.07 million tonnes of crude oil reserves, with the largest share concentrated in the Western Offshore region (31%), including the Mumbai High oil field.
- Major Oil-Reserve States: Assam holds the largest share of onshore crude oil reserves (21.5%), followed by Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Important Oil Fields: Assam's major oil fields include Digboi Oil Field (India's oldest oil field), Naharkatiya, Rudrasagar, Lakwa, and Lakhmani. Rajasthan is known for the Barmer fields, while Gujarat has Ankleshwar, Khambat, Kalol, Mehsana, and Aliabet.
- Oil Consumption and Trade: India is the world's 3rd-largest consumer of crude oil, 4th-largest oil refiner, and 3rd-largest oil importer.
- Natural Gas Production: About 51.4% of India's total gas supply comes from domestic production, with gross production reaching 36.11 billion cubic meters (BCM) in 2024.
- Natural Gas Characteristics and Reserves: Natural gas consists mainly of methane (CH_4), along with small quantities of natural gas liquids, carbon dioxide, and water vapor. India's estimated natural gas reserves are around 1,000 BCM.
- Distribution of Natural Gas Reserves: The Western Offshore region has the largest natural gas reserves, followed by the Eastern Offshore region, while Assam is the state with the largest estimated natural gas reserves.

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7. Shree Jagannath Temple:

Context: In a first for any Indian shrine, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has obtained trademark protection for important terms and symbols. Wordmarks secured (Protects specific words): Patitapabana (Savior of the Fallen) and Ananda Bajara (the sacred Mahaprasad dining area within the temple) Logomark secured (Protects visual symbols/ designs): Neelachakra (sacred eight-spoked metal disc atop the temple spire)

About Shree Jagannath Temple:

- **Location:** The temple is situated in Puri, Odisha, and is one of the most revered Hindu pilgrimage sites in India.
- **Historical Background:** It is believed to have been built in the 12th century CE by Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.
- **Char Dham Significance:** The temple is one of the four Char Dham pilgrimage sites, along with Badrinath Temple, Dwarkadhish Temple, and Ramanathaswamy Temple.
- **Yamanika Tirtha:** Puri is known as "Yamanika Tirtha", as Hindu belief holds that the power of Yama, the god of death, is nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- **Architecture:** The temple is an outstanding example of Kalinga Architecture, a regional sub-style of the Nagara school of North Indian temple architecture, featuring massive walls, towers, halls, and shrines.
- **Presiding Deities:** The temple enshrines the holy trinity of Lord Jagannath (Vishnu/Krishna), Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra, whose idols are uniquely carved from wood rather than stone or metal.
- **Ratha Yatra:** The world-famous Ratha Yatra is the temple's most important festival, during which the three deities are taken out in a grand chariot procession.

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- **Mahaprasad Tradition:** The temple is renowned for its Mahaprasad, prepared in one of the world's largest temple kitchens and distributed among devotees as sacred food.
- **Unique Features:** Historically known as the "White Pagoda", the temple is also associated with the popular belief that its main structure does not cast a visible shadow on the ground at any time of the day.

8. Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil:

Context: Pt. Ram Prasad Bismil, born on 11th June, 1897 in Shahjahanpur was amongst the most notable Indian revolutionaries who fought against British colonialism.

About Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil:

- **Birth:** Born in 1897 in present-day Uttar Pradesh.
- **Arya Samaj Influence:** Deeply influenced by the teachings of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and his work Satyarth Prakash, which shaped his nationalist and revolutionary outlook.
- **Mainpuri Conspiracy (1918):** Played a key role in the Mainpuri conspiracy, where revolutionaries procured funds by looting government resources to support the freedom movement.
- **Founder of Matrivedi:** Along with Genda Lal Dixit, he founded Matrivedi, a revolutionary organization dedicated to India's independence.
- **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA):** In 1924, he co-founded the Hindustan Republican Association along with Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Jadugopal Mukherjee and other revolutionaries.
- **Kakori Conspiracy (1925):** He was one of the principal leaders of the Kakori Train Robbery, aimed at securing funds for revolutionary activities against British rule.
- **Literary Contributions:** A noted poet and writer, he wrote in Hindi and Urdu under the pen names Ram, Agyat, and Bismil. His works include Man Ki Lahar and patriotic poems such as Sarfaroshi Ki Tamanna and Mera Rang De Basanti Chola.

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- **Association with Revolutionaries:** Worked closely with prominent freedom fighters such as Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandra Shekhar Azad, and Bhagat Singh.
- **Martyrdom:** He was executed at Gorakhpur Jail on 19 December 1927 at the age of 30 for his role in the Kakori conspiracy, becoming a symbol of revolutionary patriotism.

9. Global Peace Index (GPI):

Context: The Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent and non-partisan think tank published Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026.

About Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026:

- **India's Rank:** India is ranked 127th in the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026.
- **Published By:** The index is released annually by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent and non-partisan think tank.
- **Coverage:** The 20th edition of the GPI assesses and ranks 163 countries and territories based on their level of peacefulness.
- **Purpose:** The index measures the state of global peace and evaluates its social and economic impacts.
- **Top-Ranked Countries:** Iceland retained the 1st position for the 19th consecutive year, followed by New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia, and Ireland.
- **Lowest-Ranked Countries:** Russia ranked last, followed by Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Israel.
- **Methodology:** Rankings are based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators grouped under three domains: Societal Safety and Security, Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict and Militarization.

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10. Approved List of Cell Manufacturers (ALCM):

Context: Mandate on solar cell manufacturing may hit projects on books.

More details:

- ALCM came into force on June 1, 2026, requiring solar PV module manufacturers to use only those solar cells that are listed in the Approved List of Cell Manufacturers (ALCM).
- The rule is linked to the Approved List of Module Manufacturers (ALMM) framework, which aims to promote domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.
- **Major concern:** India's solar module manufacturing capacity is about 190 GW, but domestic solar cell manufacturing capacity is only 25 GW, far below the annual installation requirement of around 50 GW.
- Due to this capacity gap, the industry fears a shortage of solar cells, which could delay the implementation of solar projects already in the pipeline.
- Before ALCM, manufacturers could import solar cells (subject to a 20% Basic Customs Duty), ensuring adequate supply for module production.
- With the mandatory Domestic Content Requirement (DCR), many EPC and manufacturing companies may face closure as module availability will become an issue.
- **Cost impact:** Imported cells reportedly cost around ₹5 per watt, whereas domestically produced cells cost about ₹13 per watt, significantly increasing project costs.
- The increased costs and limited availability may affect commercial and solar park projects, which account for nearly 70% of India's solar installations, while rooftop projects under PM Surya Ghar are less affected due to subsidy-linked domestic content requirements.
- Industry stakeholders argue for a phased implementation of ALCM until domestic cell manufacturing capacity expands substantially (around 100 GW), to avoid project delays, underutilization of module factories, and financial stress on EPC companies, developers, DISCOMs, and consumers.

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11. Project Kusha:

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence programme as a "game changer" for India's security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

About Project Kusha:

- Project Kusha is a long-range air defence missile system being developed by the DRDO to provide a comprehensive shield against a wide range of aerial threats.
- **Purpose:** Indigenous long-range air defence system for IAF, comparable to Israel's Iron Dome.
- **Timeline:** Deployment targeted for 2028–29.
- **Developer:** DRDO with an estimated budget of ₹21,700 crore.
- **Targets:** Capable of intercepting cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones.
- **Radars:** Equipped with advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars.
- **Interceptor Missiles:** Ranges of 150 km, 200 km, and 350 km for layered defence.
- **Effectiveness:** 80% single-shot kill chance; over 90% with dual-fire.
- **Coverage:** Provides both strategic and tactical air defence cover.
- **Integration:** Seamlessly connects with IAF's air command and military radar network.

Quick Bites:

- Indian shooting coach Jaspal Rana passes away at age 49. Jaspal Rana was an Indian sport shooter and coach. Rana won numerous medals at international competitions, including the Asian
- Games and Commonwealth Games, and had been instrumental in shaping India's presence in shooting sports
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will host the Global Wind Day 2026 Conference on 15th June 2026 in Goa, themed "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration.

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- The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), through its constituent laboratories CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) and CSIR-Fourth Paradigm Institute (CSIR-4PI) are going to organize the Research, Industry, Start-up and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave 2026 on 13–14 June 2026 at the VM Ghatage Convention Centre, HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru. With the theme "Innovation & Entrepreneurship Driven Growth for Viksit Bharat 2047," the conclave will serve as a national platform for fostering collaboration among research institutions, industry leaders, start-ups, academia, investors and policymakers to accelerate innovation-led growth and technology commercialization.
- The Semiverse platform, developed by Lam Research, is a digital twin-based semiconductor fabrication and training ecosystem that combines physical and virtual learning environments. A digital twin is a virtual replica of a physical object or system that uses real-time data to simulate and reflect its real-world behavior. Through an immersive 3D virtual environment, Semiverse enables students to study semiconductor chip structures, fabrication processes, and cleanroom operations, providing hands-on industry-oriented training without requiring access to actual fabrication facilities.
- The Muscat Plan of Action, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General, aims to counter hate speech, prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes, and promote peace through mediation, dialogue, and local peacebuilding efforts. It emerged from a multi-stakeholder initiative led by Oman, the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.
- The AFSPA, 1958 empowers the armed forces with special authority to maintain public order and conduct operations in areas declared as "disturbed areas." It allows security forces to search, arrest, and use force under specified circumstances to counter insurgency and restore law and order. According to the Union Home Minister, AFSPA is proposed to be withdrawn from most parts of

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Northeast India by next year, reflecting improved security conditions. At present, the Act remains in force in parts of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh.

- China rejected multiple consignments of Indian dried red chillies on 11 June 2026 and temporarily suspended three Indian exporting firms. The action followed detection of alleged excessive methamidophos, an organophosphate insecticide, in the consignments.
- In what could serve as a major boost to India's nuclear energy ambitions, the Finance Ministry in an order on Thursday, waived customs duty on specific imports required for spurring generation of nuclear energy. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced extending the basic customs duty exemption on imports necessary for nuclear power projects up to 2035.

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14-06-2026

1. National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA):

Context: National Institute of Urban Affairs marks 50 years of shaping India's urban transformation.

About National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA):

- It is a premier think tank under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, in supporting integrated and sustainable urban development.
- Established in 1976 as an autonomous institute under the Societies Registration Act to promote urban research and development in India.
- Headquartered in New Delhi and functions as a premier national institution for urban policy research, training, and knowledge dissemination.
- Supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), State Governments, urban development authorities, and other organizations dealing with urban issues.
- The Institute's policies and directions are determined by the Governing Council consisting of a President, who is appointed by the Government of India, two Vice-Presidents, three members of the Government of India in their ex officio capacity, twelve other members, and the Director, the Chief Executive of the Institute, as the member-secretary.
- Acts as a center for advanced studies on urban problems and provides training, capacity building, and research facilities to urban professionals and institutions.
- Evaluates urban development plans and programmes, including their social, administrative, financial, and implementation aspects.

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- Provides technical expertise and consultancy services by mobilizing specialists in urban affairs and supporting governments and agencies.
- Serves as a knowledge and information hub through documentation, publications, workshops, seminars, training programs, and dissemination of research on urban affairs.

2. ILO Convention No. 193:

Context: The ILO Convention No. 193 'Concerning Decent Work in the Platform Economy' was adopted at the 114th session of International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

About ILO Convention No. 193:

- International Labour Organization adopted the world's first binding international convention to establish labor standards for gig and platform workers.
- The convention covers all platform workers, including both online workers and location-based workers such as delivery personnel and taxi drivers, in formal and informal sectors.
- It will come into force 12 months after ratification by at least two member states, requiring countries to create effective enforcement and dispute-resolution mechanisms.
- Governments must ensure correct classification of gig workers, preventing their misclassification as independent contractors when they function as employees.
- Workers are guaranteed timely payment, and those classified as employees must receive at least the statutory minimum wage.
- The treaty protects fundamental labor rights, including freedom of association, non-discrimination, social security coverage, and the right to refuse unsafe work without penalties.
- It mandates algorithmic transparency, requiring platforms to disclose automated monitoring systems and provide workers the right to seek human review of major automated decisions such as account suspension or withheld payments.

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- The convention strengthens data privacy protections and includes special safeguards for migrant and refugee workers against recruitment and employment-related abuses.

About International Labour Organization:

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work.
- Its mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
- ILO's mandate as the basis for peace is expressed today as Decent Work for all.
- Its headquarters is at Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDP), a coalition of UN organization aimed at helping meet the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace can be accomplished only if it is based on social justice.
- In 1946, the ILO became a specialized agency of the newly formed United Nations.
- The ILO has 187 member states: 186 out of 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands.
- It is the only tripartite U.N. agency, that brings together governments, employers and workers' representatives of 187-member States.

3. Coral Translocation:

Context: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) Identifies Four News Sites for Coral Translocation in Great Nicobar Island. These sites would include Coral colonies and giant clams that will be impacted due to transhipment port proposed at Galathea under Great Nicobar Island (GNI) mega project.

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About Coral Translocation:

- Coral Translocation is the process of physically relocating corals from areas with unfavorable conditions to suitable habitats where they can survive and grow better.
- The objective is to restore degraded coral reefs, enhance biodiversity, improve reef quality, and increase the structural complexity of marine ecosystems.
- It is an important coral conservation and reef restoration technique, especially in regions affected by climate change, pollution, coastal development, or other environmental stresses.
- India's first coral translocation project was undertaken in the Marine National Park, Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, to transplant and restore corals in a turbid (sediment-rich) marine environment.

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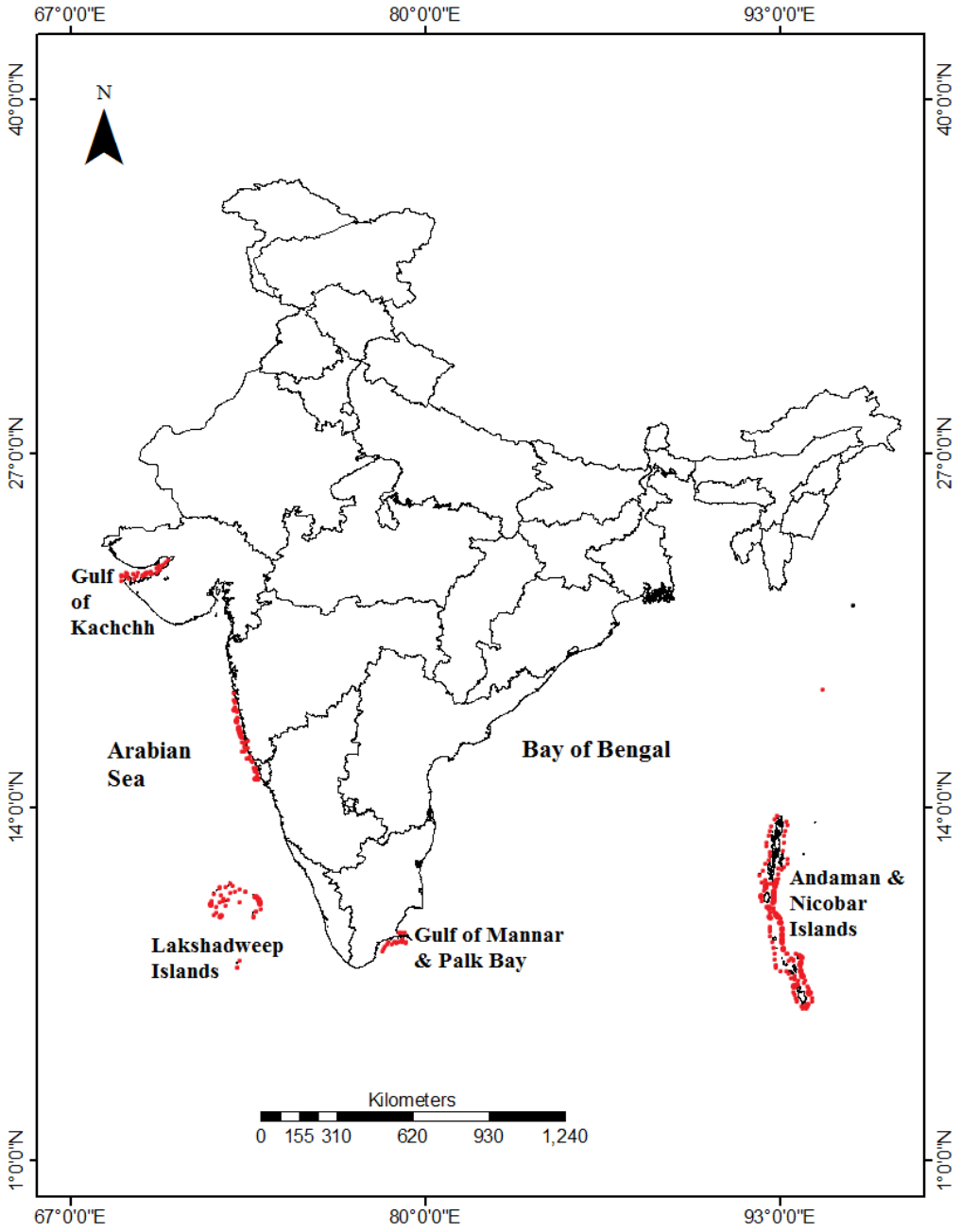
About Coral reefs:



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- Coral reefs are underwater ecosystems made up of the skeletons of colonial marine invertebrates known as coral.
- They are underwater formations composed of coral polyps bound together by calcium carbonate.
- Coral reefs serve a vital function in marine ecosystems by providing habitat for marine plants and wildlife.
- Coral has a symbiotic relationship with 'zooxanthellae,' microscopic algae that live on coral.
- Through their photosynthetic activities, zooxanthellae aid the coral in nutrient production.
- In exchange, the host coral polyp provides its zooxanthellae with a safe environment to live in as well as a steady supply of carbon dioxide for photosynthetic processes.

4. ANCHOR: Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human brainstem with 3D Reconstruction:

Context: Indian Institute of Technology Madras creates ANCHOR: Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human brainstem with 3D Reconstruction.

About ANCHOR:

- Scientists have developed the world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem, providing comprehensive multi-modal maps from the prenatal stage to childhood and adulthood.
- The atlas includes more than 200 brainstem nuclei and fiber tracts, reconstructed from hundreds of serial tissue sections, making it the most detailed brainstem mapping effort to date.
- The brainstem is the part of the brain that connects the cerebrum with the spinal cord and cerebellum.
- It consists of three major parts: Midbrain, Pons, and Medulla Oblongata (from top to bottom).
- The brainstem regulates vital functions such as breathing, consciousness, heart rate, blood pressure, and sleep, and contains important collections of white matter and grey matter.

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5. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK):

Context: Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is again in the throes of civilian unrest as protests for economic justice and equitable political representation rage across the region. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which called for the protests, has since been banned by the regional government, for "engaging in terrorism".

About Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK):



- **Definition:** Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) refers to the part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir that came under Pakistan's control after the 1947–48 India-Pakistan War.
- **Administrative Divisions:** PoK comprises two regions—Azad Jammu and Kashmir (capital: Muzaffarabad) and Gilgit-Baltistan.
- **Strategic Location:** Gilgit-Baltistan is geographically larger and shares borders with China and Afghanistan, making it strategically significant.
- **Accession to India:** In 1947, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India through the Instrument of Accession.

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- **First Indo-Pak War:** The 1947–48 war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir led to a ceasefire and division of the territory.
- **Line of Control (LoC):** A UN-mediated ceasefire resulted in the establishment of the LoC, which effectively divided the former princely state.
- **Karachi Agreement (1949):** The ceasefire line was formalized through the Karachi Agreement between India and Pakistan.
- **Continuing Dispute:** Subsequent conflicts, including the 1965 War, 1971 War, and the Kargil War, highlighted the continuing dispute over the region.
- **India's Constitutional Position:** India considers the entire erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir, including PoK, as an integral part of its sovereign territory.
- **1994 Parliamentary Resolution:** The Indian Parliament unanimously passed a resolution in 1994 declaring PoK an inseparable part of India and rejecting Pakistan's administrative control over the region.

6. Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO):

Context: The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) collaboration in China has published its first results. Based on 59 days of data collected in late 2025, the group calculated how often particles called neutrinos from nuclear reactors change their flavour, or type, as they travel.

About Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO):

- The observatory is located 700 meters underground to block interfering particles.
- The Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) is located 700 meters underground in Kaiping, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province, in Southern China
- Neutrino observatories are placed underground because Earth's crust shields them from most particles like muons.

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- JUNO's main goal is to determine the mass hierarchy among the three neutrino types.
- The three neutrino types are electron, muon, and tau neutrinos.
- JUNO also aims to precisely measure neutrino oscillation frequency (how neutrinos change from one type to another).

About neutrinos:

- Neutrinos are subatomic "ghost particles" with no charge, no size, and extremely tiny mass.
- They are the second-most abundant particles after photons in the universe.
- They are hard to detect because they interact only through the weak nuclear force and gravity.
- Neutrinos aren't affected by magnetic fields and travel in straight lines at nearly the speed of light.



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7. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

Context: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that the anomaly in the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had been resolved. Dr. Singh said on the sidelines of the Research, Industry, Start-up and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave 2026 in Bengaluru, that a national-level expert committee constituted to review the reason for the anomaly had submitted its report and the problem had been detected.

About Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

- PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) is India's 3rd-generation launch vehicle, developed indigenously by ISRO in the 1990s.
- It is the first Indian launch vehicle equipped with liquid stages.
- After its first successful launch in October 1994, PSLV became the "Workhorse of ISRO" due to its high success rate and reliability.
- PSLV is a four-stage launch vehicle that uses solid and liquid propulsion systems alternately.
- The 1st and 3rd stages are solid-fuelled, while the 2nd and 4th stages are liquid-fuelled.
- The 2nd-stage Vikas engine is derived from France's Viking engine.
- The PS4 (4th stage) is the uppermost stage and consists of two Earth-storable liquid engines.
- PSLV can place satellites into Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbits (SSO) and Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- It can carry up to 1,750 kg payload to a 600 km Sun-Synchronous Orbit and can launch small satellites into GTO.
- PSLV has launched around 345 satellites for 34 countries, showcasing India's commercial launch capabilities.
- Major missions launched by PSLV include Chandrayaan-1 (2008), Mars Orbiter Mission (2013), and AstroSat (2015).
- In PSLV-C37 (2017), PSLV created a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single mission.

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- PSLV launched all seven satellites of NavIC (IRNSS) and most recently launched XPoSat through PSLV-C58 (2024) to study cosmic X-rays.

Quick Bites:

- The BRICS Agriculture Ministers and officials-level meetings held in Indore concluded today with the adoption of a unanimous 'Indore Declaration' that includes several historic decisions giving new direction to food security, farmer welfare, climate-resilient farming, agricultural trade and digital agriculture.
- Department of Posts has launched drone-based transmission of mail and parcels between Mandi Head Post Office and Rehardhar Branch Post Office in Himachal Pradesh, effective from 12th June 2026.
- The Government has appointed Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30, 2026. The present Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM retires from service the same day.
- The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) successfully conducted a three-day offline Skill Training Programme on "Basics of Koha Software". Koha is a globally recognized open-source Integrated Library Management System.
- Supreme Court constituted the National Task Force in 2025 in Amit Kumar V. Union of India case. to address the Mental Health Concerns of students and prevent commission of suicides in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).
- The Masroor Rock Cut Temples, known as the "Ellora of the Himalayas," are early 8th-century monolithic rock-cut temples located in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra Valley. Built in the Nagara style, the complex is carved from a single rock and features shikharas, a sacred water tank, and temples arranged in a mandala pattern around a central shrine. Dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, Devi,

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and Surya, it showcases rich Vedic and Puranic carvings and is considered one of India's unique rock-cut architectural masterpieces.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an Advanced Weapon System Complex at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex within the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- India became the world's third-largest domestic aviation market in April 2024, with airline capacity of 15.6 million seats. The market moved ahead of Brazil and Indonesia and stood behind the United States and China in global domestic traffic.
- Divyanshi is set to become the first woman cadet trained at the National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune to be commissioned into the Ground Duty branch of the Indian Air Force, marking a significant moment in the armed forces' journey towards greater inclusion of women.

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15-06-2026

1. Global Wind Day 2026:

Context: Global Wind Day is celebrated annually on June 15 to promote wind energy and its role in combating climate change. India will host the Global Wind Day 2026 Conference on 15 June 2026 in Goa, under the theme "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration."

More details:

- India's estimated gross wind power potential is 695.5 GW at 120 metres and 1,163.9 GW at 150 metres above ground level.
- Majority of the assessed wind potential at 150 Meter is concentrated in eight high-resource states: Rajasthan: 284.2 GW; Gujarat: 180.8 GW; Maharashtra: 173.9 GW; Karnataka: 169.3 GW; Andhra Pradesh: 123.3 GW; Tamil Nadu: 95.1 GW; Madhya Pradesh: 55.4 GW, Telangana: 54.7 GW.
- More than 900 wind-monitoring stations have been installed nationwide to map wind resources and identify high-potential sites for wind energy development.
- Wind potential maps have been developed at 50 m, 80 m, 100 m, 120 m, and 150 m hub heights.
- India's vast wind resource base provides a strong foundation for achieving 100 GW wind capacity by 2030 and 156 GW by 2036.
- India ranks 4th globally in installed wind power capacity.
- Installed wind capacity increased from 21.04 GW in March 2014 to 56.09 GW in March 2026, a 2.66-fold increase.
- An additional 28 GW is under implementation.

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- India recorded its highest-ever annual wind capacity addition of 6.05 GW in 2025-26, surpassing the previous record of 4.15 GW in 2024-25.
- Nearly 45% of wind generation occurs during peak demand hours, complementing solar power and strengthening grid reliability.
- Wind Turbine Manufacturing Capacity has increased from 10 GW in 2014 to about 24 GW, as on March 2026.
- The sector has achieved 70-80% indigenisation across key components.

Government intervention:

- ₹6,853 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) approved for 1,000 MW of offshore wind projects, comprising 500 MW each off the coasts of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- ₹500 crore disbursed under the Generation Based Incentive (GBI) Scheme during 2025–26.
- A 500 MW pilot project launched under the Contracts for Difference (CfD). CfD is a mechanism designed to reduce price volatility and provide revenue certainty to renewable energy developers.
- A Task Force constituted in January 2026 to address regulatory, land, transmission, and implementation challenges.
- Dedicated wind component introduced under Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) to ensure sustained demand.
- Green Energy Open Access Rules introduced to facilitate direct procurement of renewable power by industries.
- Implementation of the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM), transparent bidding guidelines, and Late Payment Surcharge Rules has strengthened investor confidence.
- Promotion of hybrid and Round-the-Clock (RTC) Renewable Energy projects to improve grid efficiency.

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- **India–United Kingdom:** The India–UK Offshore Wind Taskforce was launched in February 2026 under Vision 2035 and the Fourth India–UK Energy Dialogue, focusing on market design, port infrastructure, supply chains, and blended finance for offshore wind development.
- **India–Belgium:** At the World Economic Forum 2026, India and Belgium reaffirmed cooperation in offshore wind energy, research & development, and green taxonomy, reflecting growing European support for India's clean energy transition.
- **India–Denmark:** India signed an offshore wind cooperation agreement with Denmark in 2019, renewed in May 2025. The partnership covers capacity building, power system modelling, integration of variable renewable energy, and expert training.

2. Butantan-DV and DengiAll:

Context: The recent deaths of two people in Brazil during its dengue vaccination campaign, leading to the shot's suspension on June 8, is a crucial wake-up call for India. This is because the dengue vaccine in Brazil, Butantan-DV, is pretty similar, if not identical, to India's upcoming dengue vaccine, DengiAll.

About Butantan-DV and DengiAll:

- Both have live but weakened (attenuated) versions of the dengue viruses (DENVs). And both vaccines are said to be tetravalent because each vaccine is a physical mixture of four live, weakened DENVs.
- DENVs come in four versions called serotypes: DENV-1, -2, -3 and -4. All four serotypes are known to be prevalent in Brazil and India. Each DENV serotype has an outer shell adorned with specialised envelope proteins, called E proteins — akin to the spike protein of coronaviruses.
- Even though the four DENV serotypes are very similar, their E proteins are different enough to warrant immunisation against each of the four serotypes.

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- When weakened DENV is used in a vaccine, it will prompt two broad types of antibodies: type-specific antibodies and cross-reactive antibodies. Type-specific antibodies are often made in small amounts and recognise only one particular serotype (based on its E proteins) and excel at blocking infections by that serotype alone.
- On the other hand, the cross-reactive antibodies are made usually in large amounts and can recognise any of the four serotypes and block an infection — provided they are present at adequate levels. When their levels drop, the cross-reactive antibodies don't just fail to block a new DENV infection: they enhance it, leading to a severe and potentially fatal form of dengue. This phenomenon is called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE).
- The risk of ADE during dengue vaccination is considered a serious adverse event. If untreated, it can lead to death.
- Brazil's tetravalent dengue vaccine (Butantan-DV) has been linked to 42 severe adverse events among about 5 lakh vaccinated individuals, raising concerns about its safety and the possibility of Antibody-Dependent Enhancement (ADE).
- The earlier dengue vaccine, Dengvaxia, caused severe adverse events in the Philippines because it effectively generated strong immunity mainly against one dengue serotype (DENV-4), rather than all four, increasing the risk of severe disease upon later infection.
- Phase-3 trials could not adequately assess protection against DENV-3 and DENV-4 because these serotypes were not widely circulating in Brazil during the study period, leaving uncertainties about the vaccine's true tetravalency and effectiveness.
- India's dengue vaccine candidate, DengiAll, and Takeda's Qdenga should undergo rigorous testing for type-specific immunity and long-term monitoring after rollout. Regulators must strengthen pharmacovigilance systems to quickly detect and manage rare adverse events, including ADE.

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3. Drop shipping model:

Context: The success of Amazon, the largest e-commerce retailer in the world, can be credited at least in part to drop shipping practices. In its earliest days, Amazon did not commandeer giant international warehouses packed with products; rather, the company was a web-based middleman that fulfilled many customers' orders by sourcing the books they wanted.

About Drop shipping model:

- This is a business practice where an online individual or agent — who does not hold any product — takes orders from customers and passes them on to another maker/seller who actually holds the product. The product is then delivered to the customers, either by the original maker/seller or a third-party delivery service.
- To put it simply, the drop shipper inserts itself into the transaction as a middleman. One or even multiple drop shippers might stand between buyers and the original makers of the product they want.
- In addition to promoting products and setting up online storefronts, drop shippers may also buy/sell courses that reveal current market trends, customer interests, trusted wholesalers, and useful AI tools, in order to generate further profits.
- Drop shipping is legal in most jurisdictions, as long as the participants involved ensure transparency and comply with their region's tax laws.

4. Merger under Anti-defection law:

Context: After days of speculation, 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs on Sunday met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his residence in New Delhi and submitted a letter announcing their decision to merge with the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI). The decision by the rebels to merge with a registered regional political party rather than form a separate bloc within the Trinamool Congress was to avoid any legal complications under the anti-defection law.

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What is Anti-defection law?

- **Purpose:** Prevents elected representatives from changing political parties for personal or political gain.
- **Background:** Introduced to curb the "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" culture of frequent party-switching.
- **Defection Trend:** Nearly 2,000 defections occurred between 1967 and 1972, with about half of legislators switching parties.
- **Constitutional Basis:** Added through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985.
- **Schedule:** Incorporated as the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Strengthened By:** 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- **Split Provision:** The earlier exemption for a split by one-third members was removed in 2003.
- **Merger Provision:** A merger is protected if at least two-thirds of legislators agree to it.
- **Voluntarily Giving Up Membership:** A member can be disqualified even without formally resigning if conduct indicates leaving the party.
- **Violation of Whip:** Voting or abstaining against party directions without permission can lead to disqualification.
- **Independent Members:** An independent legislator is disqualified if they join a political party after election.
- **Nominated Members:** A nominated member may join a party within six months of taking a seat; joining later attracts disqualification.
- **Decision-Making Authority:** The Speaker/Chairman of the House decides disqualification cases under the Tenth Schedule.
- **Judicial Review:** Such decisions are subject to judicial review as held in Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu.

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The case of merger:

- **Provision:** Merger exception is provided under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Protection:** Members are not disqualified if their original political party merges with another party.
- **Condition:** A valid merger requires support from at least two-thirds of the legislators of the legislature party.
- **Separate Group:** Members who reject the merger and function as a separate group are also protected from disqualification.
- **2003 Amendment:** The 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 removed the split provision (1/3 members) and retained only the merger provision (2/3 members).

5. Janakpur-Ayodhya Rail Link:

Context: India and Nepal held the 10th Project Steering Committee meeting and the 8th Joint Working Group meeting on 11-12 June 2026 in Kathmandu to review cross-border railway cooperation. The discussions covered passenger train connectivity on the Janakpur-Ayodhya section, the Final Location Survey report for the proposed Raxaul-Kathmandu broad gauge railway link, and technical support for Nepal's East-West Railway Link.

About Janakpur-Ayodhya Rail Link:

- The Janakpur-Ayodhya rail link connects Janakpur in Nepal with Ayodhya in India.
- Janakpur is associated with Sita, and Ayodhya is associated with Lord Ram in Hindu tradition.
- The route has been discussed as a passenger rail service between the two countries.
- Ayodhya is located in Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Janakpur is located in Madhesh Province, Nepal and is a major Hindu pilgrimage center dedicated to Goddess Sita.
- **Bilateral Cooperation:** The project is a symbol of growing India–Nepal cooperation in transport and cultural connectivity.

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Quick Bites:

- In a landmark achievement ahead of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, the Ministry of Ayush today created a new Guinness World Record for the Most Viewers for a YouTube Live Yoga Stream, with 4,35,831 viewers joining a special global online Yoga session streamed live through the official Ministry of Ayush YouTube channel.
- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, will lay the foundation stone of the Integrated Aqua Park at Bhojpur, with a total investment of ₹31.21 crore, and inaugurate the NFDB Regional Centre at Patna in Bihar on 15 June 2026.
- India and France adopted an 'Innovation Roadmap 2030' and established a Dialogue on Economic Security during bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron held in Nice. Earlier this year, the two countries had renamed their partnership a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' to reflect an enhanced level of cooperation.
- As the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) accelerates the deployment of technologies in Kusunpur, a remote village in Odisha's Kendrapara district, as part of the 'Smart Village' initiative, residents may soon receive alerts whenever crocodiles stray dangerously close to their homes. The CSIR laboratories are planning to introduce an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled wild animal detection and alert system. The system is likely to be installed at two key entry points to the village.

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16-06-2026

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.

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- **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.

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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*

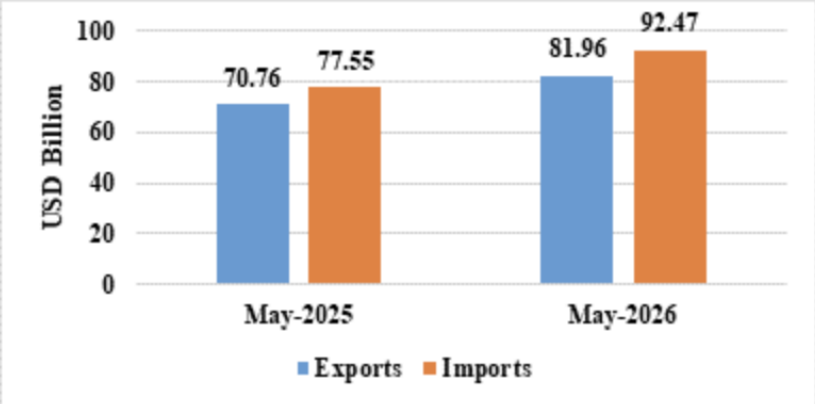

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Table 2: Trade during April-May 2026-27*

		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

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

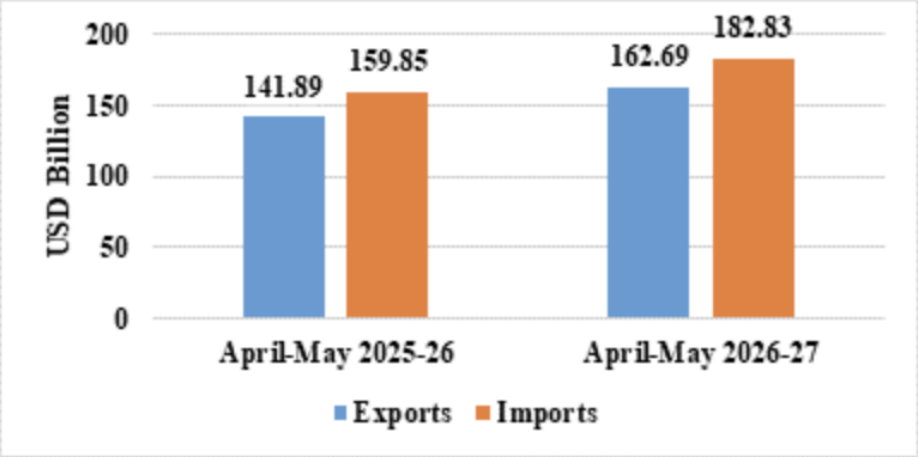

Fig 3: Merchandise Trade during May 2026



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Fig 4: Merchandise Trade during April-May 2026-27

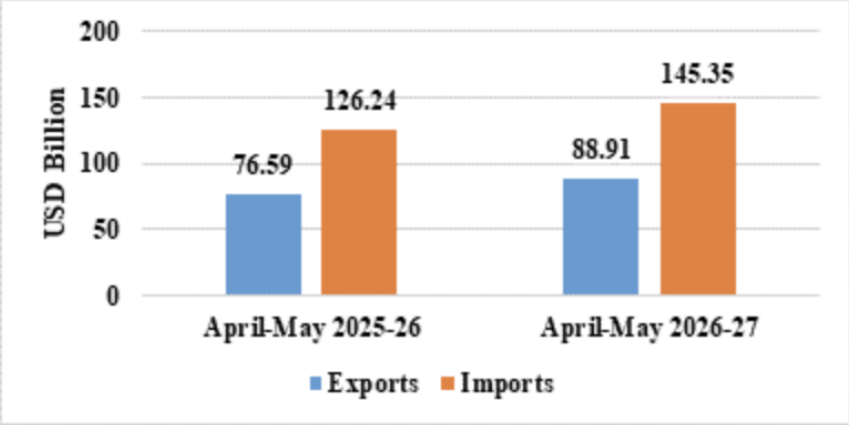

Table 3: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during May 2026

	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

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: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during May 2026

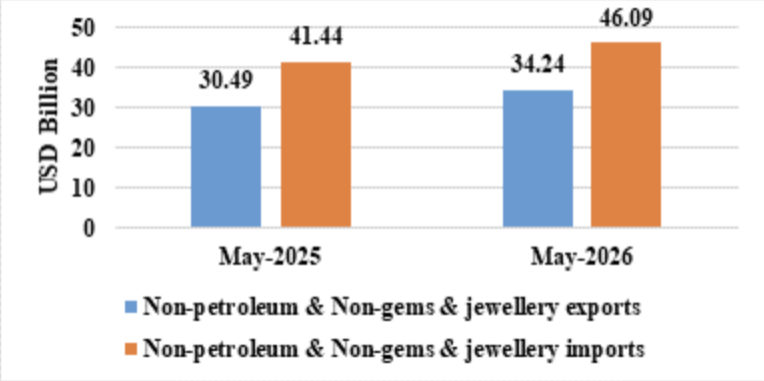

Table 4: Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during April-May 2026-27

	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

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

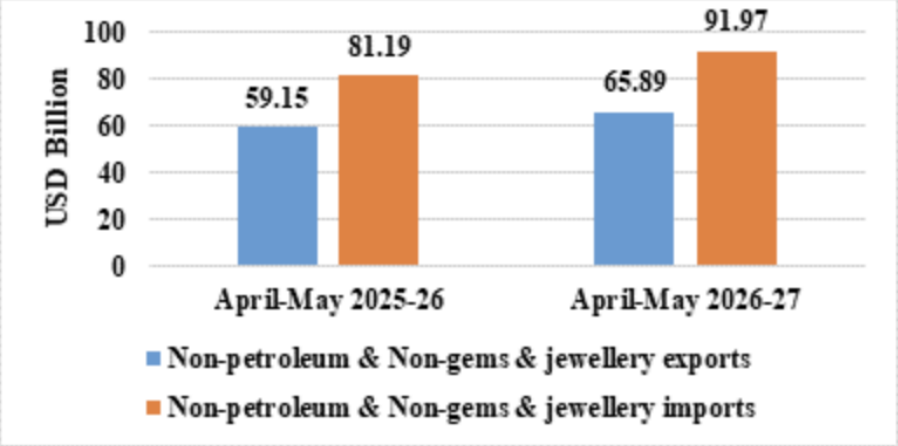

Fig 7: Services Trade during May 2026*



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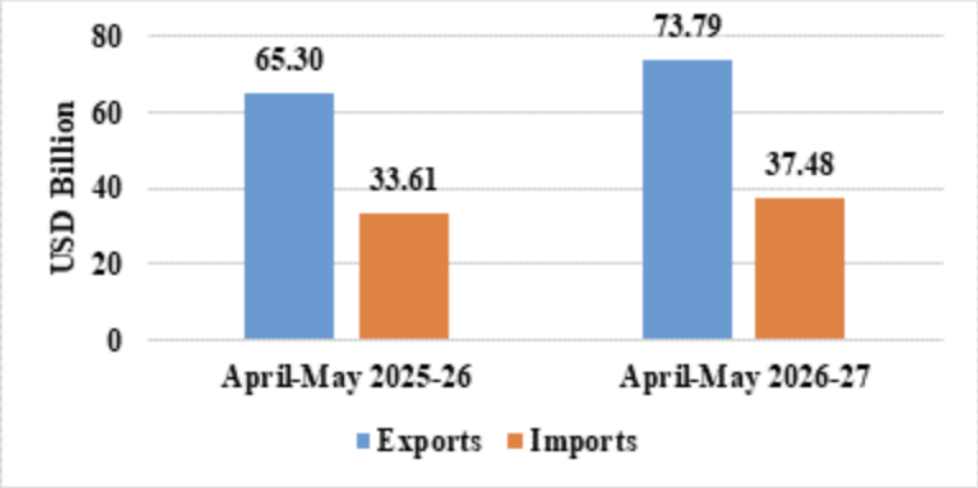
Fig 8: Services Trade during April-May 2026-27*



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.

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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.

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- 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.

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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.

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- 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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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- 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

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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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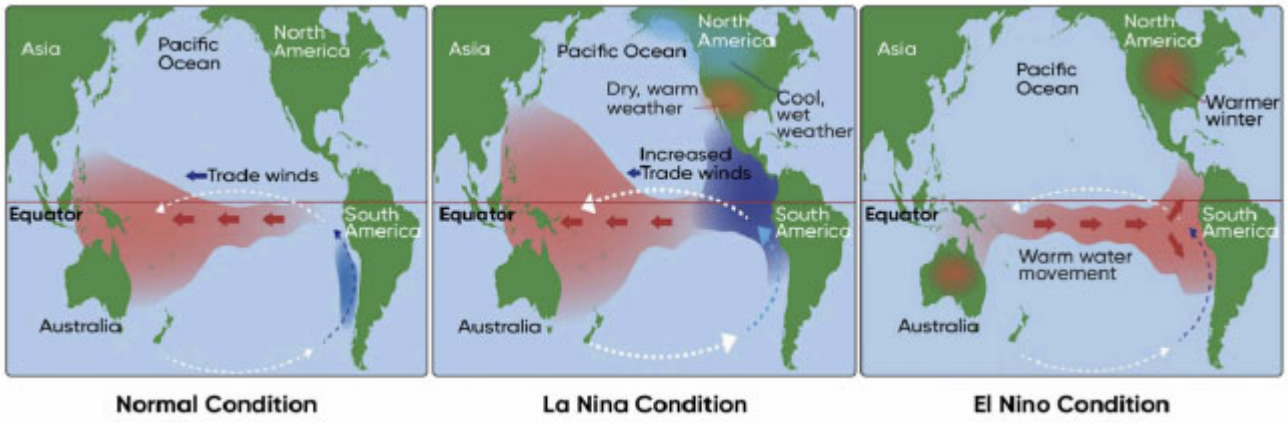
17-06-2026

1. Super El Nino:

Context: Over a week past the monsoon's normal arrival date, the rain clouds have yet to reach Mumbai, driving India's nationwide monsoon deficit to 35%. While a rainfall deficit in June, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year.

About Super El Nino:

- A "Super" El Niño is an informal term used by forecasters to describe an exceptionally strong phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It occurs when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean spike by 2°C or more above average.



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El Niño (Warm Phase)	La Niña (Cold Phase)
Warm waters shift eastward toward central & eastern Pacific	Cooler-than-normal waters spread across central & eastern Pacific
Weakening of trade winds	Stronger-than-normal trade winds
Reduced or reversed trade winds	Enhanced east-to-west water movement
Increased rainfall in Peru & South America; drought in Australia/Indonesia	Increased rainfall in Australia/Indonesia; drier conditions in western Americas
Warm phase of ENSO cycle	Cold phase of ENSO cycle

2. Group of Seven (G7) countries:

Context: With a message that trust was in short supply globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday participated in a session with the Group of Seven (G7) countries and others on "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity".

About G7 Group:

- The G7 originated from a 1973 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors in Paris, France.
- The origin of G7 lies in the oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.
- In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.
- These six nations were - the US, UK, France, Germany, Japan and Italy.
- These countries were joined by Canada in 1976 and G7 came into existence.
- The G7 is not based on a treaty and has no permanent secretariat or office. The agenda of G7 is set by the presiding nation.
- It cannot pass any laws because it is made up of separate nations with their own democratic processes.

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- However, decisions taken by G7 have global effects as the member countries are political and economic heavyweights.

3. Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR):

Context: Samagra Shiksha State Project Director (SPD) B. Srinivasa Rao on Tuesday said eight schools from Andhra Pradesh had won the national-level 'Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating' (SHVR)-2025.

About Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR):

- SHVR is an initiative of the Central government launched to promote safe water management, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and environmental sustainability in schools.
- The drive is conducted in alignment with the Centre's Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) principles, and the national assessment had recognised only 191 schools across the country.
- Swachh Evam Harit Vidyalaya Rating (SHVR) provides a ready opportunity to inculcate relevant fundamental duties; citizenship skills and values among the students with linkage to environmental awareness including water, sanitation and hygiene, resource conservation as visualized under the National Education Policy 2020.
- **SHVR package** – Water, Toilets, Handwashing with Soap, Operational and Maintenance, Behavior Change and Capacity building, Mission LiFE activities.
- **Functions** - Effective monitoring using ICT tools, behavior change communication, new financing options and forging partnerships.
- SHVR based situation analysis is instrumental to identify infrastructure and service level gaps leading to development of school level Swachhata Action Plan (SAP), as envisaged under Samagra Shiksha.

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- Key stakeholders (Rural/ Urban Local Body, Government Agencies such as Districts and States/UTs, Civil Society Organizations)
- SHVR is applicable to Government Schools, Government Aided Schools and Private Schools in both Urban and Rural areas.

4. GRAPES-3 experiment (or Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3):

Context: Researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the GRAPES-3 telescope to track how the earth's upper atmosphere temperature and the sun's magnetic field affect muons — subatomic particles from space. By analysing 22 years of data, they developed a way to use these measurements to monitor changes in the upper atmosphere in real-time with high accuracy.

About GRAPES-3:

- It is located at Ooty in India started as a collaboration of the Indian Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the Japanese Osaka City University, and now also includes the Japanese Nagoya Women's University.
- The GRAPES-3 telescope in Ooty, Tamil Nadu does not look at light like a traditional telescope.
- Instead, it is a muon detector. Muons are created when high-energy cosmic rays from deep space collide with the earth's upper atmosphere.
- The facility consists of 16 independent modules spread over a large area.
- GRAPES-3 is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.

5. Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test:

Context: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has said that no woman athlete shall be eligible to compete in any of its events from next year without undergoing the Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test. In order to ensure fairness, World Athletics (WA) introduced the once-in-a-

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lifetime test for athletes wishing to compete in the women's category at the Tokyo World Championships last year.

What is Sex-Determining Region Y (SRY) gene test?

- SRY (Sex-determining Region Y) gene is located on the Y chromosome and plays a key role in sex determination.
- The presence of a functional SRY gene generally triggers the development of a male fetus.
- Absence or mutation of the SRY gene can lead to female development.
- The SRY gene produces the SRY protein, a DNA-binding regulatory protein.
- The SRY protein activates genes required for male sexual differentiation.
- It promotes the formation of male gonads (testes) and suppresses the development of female reproductive structures.
- Human cells contain 46 chromosomes arranged in 23 pairs, including one pair of sex chromosomes.
- Females have two X chromosomes (XX), while males have one X and one Y chromosome (XY).
- Biological sex is determined at fertilization, depending on whether the fertilizing sperm carries an X or a Y chromosome.
- An X-bearing sperm produces a female zygote (XX), whereas a Y-bearing sperm produces a male zygote (XY), with the SRY gene directing male development.

6. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

Context: Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told.

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About Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):



- It is an intergovernmental organisation established to promote economic cooperation and regional integration among countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
- IORA member states work on various initiatives related to trade, investment, and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- It was established on 7 March 1997 with a secretariat based in Ebène, Mauritius.

Quick Bites:

- The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Japan have adopted the 'Rule of Implementation' of the Joint Crediting Mechanism on 08.06.2026, under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

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- Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the national launch of 'Viksit Bharat – Rozgar aur Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB - G RAM G)' will take place from Andhra Pradesh on July 1, 2026.
- The National Level of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 was inaugurated by the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Slovakia's highest state decoration, the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, in Bratislava on 15 June 2026.
- Sarvam AI, a Bengaluru-based full-stack sovereign AI startup, raised 234 million in the first close of its Series B funding round on 15 June 2026. The round valued the company at 1.5 billion post-money and placed it in India's unicorn club, which includes privately held companies valued at $1 billion or more.

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18-06-2026

1. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will disburse incentives worth around ₹2,400 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) at a special programme to be held on 19 June 2026 at 5 PM at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY):

- It is the Government of India's flagship employment-linked incentive scheme aimed at accelerating job creation, promoting formalisation of employment, enhancing employability, and expanding social security coverage across sectors.
- PM-VBRY is designed to encourage both workers and employers to participate in the formal economy. Under the scheme, first-time employees are eligible for an incentive of up to ₹15,000, providing crucial support as they enter the workforce.
- Employers generating additional employment are eligible for incentives of up to ₹3,000 per month per additional employee, thereby encouraging sustained job creation.
- Recognising the strategic importance of manufacturing in driving economic growth, employers in the manufacturing sector are eligible to receive incentives for a period of four years, while employers in all other sectors can avail incentives for two years.
- PM-VBRY came into effect on 1 August 2025. With a total outlay of ₹99,446 crore, the scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over a two-year period.
- Of these, approximately 1.92 crore beneficiaries are expected to be first-time entrants into the workforce.

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2. Defence production for 2025-26:

Context: Defence production soars to a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in Financial Year 2025-26.

Details about Defence production for 2025-26:

- India's indigenous defence production reached a record ₹1.79 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.
- Defence production grew by 15.6% over the previous year's output of ₹1.54 lakh crore.
- Defence production increased by 110% compared to ₹84,643 crore in FY 2020–21.
- Indigenous defence production has grown nearly fourfold since FY 2013–14 (₹43,746 crore).
- Defence PSUs and other public sector units contributed 76% of total defence production.
- The private sector accounted for 24% of defence production in FY 2025–26.
- The private sector's share rose from 22% in FY 2024–25 to 24% in FY 2025–26.
- Private sector defence production touched an all-time high of about ₹42,000 crore.
- Rising defence production supported record defence exports of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26.
- The achievement reflects the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in strengthening indigenous defence manufacturing.

3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

Context: The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17 June under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The day serves as a global platform to raise awareness and promote action against desertification, land degradation and drought. The theme for the 2026 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is "Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore."

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About United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- It was established in 1994.
- India for the first time hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019.
- It aims to protect and restore land and ensure a safer, just, and more sustainable future.
- It's committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification.

4. Battle of Haldighati:

Context: 450 years to the Battle of Haldighati in the Aravalli hills (present-day Rajsamand, Rajasthan), fought on 18 June 1576. Maharana Pratap, led Mewar's forces against the army of Mughal emperor Akbar, led byAsaf Khan I and Man Singh I of Amber. Chetak, Maharana Pratap's trusted horse, delivered him to safe grounds before breathing his last.

About Battle of Haldighati:

- The Battle of Haldighati was fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap and the Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh I.
- The battle took place at Haldighati Pass, located between present-day Pali and Rajsamand districts of Rajasthan.
- The conflict arose because Maharana Pratap refused to accept Mughal suzerainty, unlike many other Rajput rulers who allied with Akbar.

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- The roots of the battle lay in Akbar's policy of consolidating Rajput states and the Siege of Chittorgarh (1568), which weakened Mewar.
- After ascending the throne in 1572, Maharana Pratap rejected several Mughal diplomatic missions sent by Akbar, including those led by Man Singh, Raja Bhagwant Das, and Todar Mal.
- Another major cause was Akbar's desire to secure a strategic trade route connecting North India with Gujarat through Mewar.
- The Mughal army consisted of about 28,000 troops, including cavalry, infantry, elephants, and artillery.
- Maharana Pratap commanded a smaller force of about 4,000 Rajput cavalry and 3,000 Bhil warriors, supported by Hakim Khan Sur.
- The Rajputs initially gained an advantage by using the rugged terrain and guerrilla warfare tactics, causing heavy pressure on Mughal forces.
- Due to numerical inferiority and rising casualties, Maharana Pratap made a strategic retreat, avoiding capture and preserving his resistance movement.
- The battle ended without a decisive victory, though the Mughals secured the route to Gujarat and retained control of the battlefield.
- The Battle of Haldighati became a symbol of Rajput bravery, resistance, sacrifice, and the struggle for sovereignty, while also demonstrating the effectiveness of guerrilla warfare later adopted by leaders such as Shivaji and Malik Ambar.

5. Brain-eating Amoeba:

Context: Kerala seeing surge in 'brain-eating amoeba' cases mainly due to Acanthamoeba, a free-living amoeba found mainly in contaminated water.

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About Brain-eating Amoeba:

- Brain-eating amoeba refers to Naegleria fowleri, a free-living, single-celled organism found in warm freshwater and soil.
- It is commonly found in warm lakes, rivers, ponds, hot springs, and contaminated soil across the world.
- Among free-living amoebae, three medically important species are: Acanthamoeba – causes Granulomatous Amoebic Encephalitis (GAE), Naegleria fowleri – causes Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) and Balamuthia mandrillaris – causes severe brain infections.
- Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) is a rare but highly fatal infection of the brain and its surrounding membranes.
- Infection occurs when contaminated water enters the nose, usually during swimming, diving, or water-related activities.
- After entering through the nose, the amoeba travels along the olfactory nerve to the brain, where it destroys brain tissue and causes severe inflammation.
- The disease is called "brain-eating amoeba infection" because it rapidly damages and destroys brain tissue.
- Drinking contaminated water does not cause infection, as the amoeba must enter through the nasal passage.
- PAM is non-communicable and does not spread from one person to another.
- Early symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting.
- Advanced symptoms include stiff neck, confusion, seizures, hallucinations, coma, and rapid neurological deterioration.
- PAM has an extremely high fatality rate, and currently there is no consistently effective treatment, making early prevention and awareness crucial.

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6. Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project:

Context: Six states i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan agreed to sign MoU for Kishau Multi-Purpose Dam Project implementation.

About Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project:

- Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project is proposed on the Tons River along the Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border.
- The project involves construction of a 236-metre-high Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) gravity dam.
- It is one of the major storage projects planned in the Yamuna River Basin.
- The dam will have an installed hydropower generation capacity of 660 MW.
- The Central Government will provide 90% financial assistance for the water component of the project.
- The remaining 10% cost of the water component will be shared by six beneficiary states.
- The project aims to provide drinking water supply to water-deficit regions.
- It will enhance irrigation potential across beneficiary states.
- The dam is expected to play a significant role in flood moderation and flood control.
- It will also improve downstream hydropower generation through regulated water releases.
- Himachal Pradesh's share of water will be supplied to Delhi and Rajasthan.
- In return, Delhi and Rajasthan will share the cost of Himachal Pradesh's portion of the power component of the project.

7. Ganges Water Treaty 1996:

Context: 1996 Ganges Water Treaty is going to expire in December 2026.

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About Ganges Water Treaty 1996:

- The Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was signed between India and Bangladesh on 12 December 1996.
- The treaty governs the sharing of Ganga (Ganges) River waters during the dry season at the Farakka Barrage.
- Its main objective is to regulate water diversion to the Hooghly River for maintaining the navigability of Kolkata Port while ensuring Bangladesh receives its share.
- The treaty is valid for 30 years and can be reviewed every 5 years, or earlier if either country requests.
- Water sharing applies during the lean season (1 January–31 May) and is calculated for every 10-day period.
- If flow at Farakka is below 70,000 cusecs, water is shared equally (50:50) between India and Bangladesh.
- If flow is 70,000–75,000 cusecs, Bangladesh receives 35,000 cusecs, and India gets the remainder.
- If flow exceeds 75,000 cusecs, India receives 75,000 cusecs, while Bangladesh gets the balance.
- If flow falls below 50,000 cusecs, both countries must hold immediate consultations for emergency adjustments.
- A Joint Committee with equal representation from both countries monitors flows at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge, submits annual reports, and ensures implementation of the treaty, including the fail-safe provision guaranteeing at least 90% of Bangladesh's share.

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About Farraka Barriage:

- Farakka Barrage is built on the Ganga River in Murshidabad District, about 18 km from the Bangladesh border.
- The barrage became operational on 21 April 1975 after nearly 12 years of construction.
- The project was completed at an estimated cost of ₹130 crore.
- Its primary purpose is to divert water from the Ganga into the Farakka Feeder Canal.
- The barrage diverts approximately 40,000 cusecs of water into the feeder canal.
- The diverted water helps flush out silt from the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system.
- Desiltation improves river flow and ensures the navigability of Kolkata Port.
- Farakka Barrage plays a crucial role in maintaining inland water transport and port operations in eastern India.
- The barrage has been a key subject of water-sharing discussions between India and Bangladesh.
- Major agreements related to its operation include the 1977 Farakka Agreement and the 1996 India–Bangladesh Ganga Water Sharing Treaty.

8. Blending CBG with CNG:

Context: The Centre is on track to meet the goal of blending 3% compressed biogas (CBG) with CNG and domestic piped natural gas for FY27 with the blending percentage having already nearly doubled to about 2% at present.

More details:

- Compressed Biogas (CBG) is a purified form of biogas produced from agricultural residues, animal waste, municipal solid waste, sewage, and other organic matter.
- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is a fossil-fuel-based gaseous fuel primarily composed of methane.

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- Blending CBG with CNG involves mixing compressed biogas with conventional natural gas for use as a transport and industrial fuel.
- The initiative aims to reduce dependence on imported natural gas and promote indigenous renewable energy sources.
- CBG has properties similar to CNG, making it suitable for blending without major modifications to existing infrastructure.
- Blending helps lower greenhouse gas emissions and supports India's climate and clean-energy goals.
- It promotes waste-to-wealth conversion by utilizing agricultural, municipal, and organic wastes.
- The policy supports the objectives of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative.

9. Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS):

Context: The India-Russia bilateral Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), termed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year. There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of 3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance. However, it is like any LSA, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.

About Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS):

- RELOS defines procedures for supporting military formations, port calls of warships, and the use of airspace and airfield facilities by military aircraft of both countries and the organisation of logistics and technical support of military formations of warships, military aircraft, and other equipment.
- The agreement was signed in Moscow on February 18, 2025, and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the federal law ratifying it on December 15, 2025.

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- Broadly, RELOS covers joint military exercises, training, HADR missions, port and repair services, medical support, as well as delivery of food and technical resources and reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, to support ship and aircraft personnel.
- One important aspect is that RELOS gives access to Russian military facilities in the Arctic as both countries expand cooperation there, as new navigation routes open up, a fallout of global warming.
- A logistics agreement is a foundational military cooperation agreement between countries for administrative purposes that enables the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel.
- The agreement also stipulates the occasions on which this can be utilised, generally for exercises, joint training, port calls, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief situations.
- As defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement become vital in international relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.
- India has signed a series of logistics support agreements since the LEMOA in 2016. Currently, India has similar agreements with nine countries — the U.S., the U.K., France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia — concluded on similar lines, which provide logistics support and technical aid. The basic template and purpose for all these remain the same.

10. Mombasa declaration:

Context: 15 Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific adopted a declaration to step up efforts to combat illegal fishing. The Mombasa declaration calls on governments to improve access to information on fishing vessels, ownership and licensing.

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About Mombasa declaration:

- The Mombasa Declaration was adopted at the Our Ocean Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya.
- Fifteen countries endorsed the declaration to strengthen transparency in fisheries and combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- The declaration commits signatory nations to modernize vessel registries, publish fishing authorizations, and improve information-sharing.
- It aims to enhance accountability, monitoring, and enforcement across the global seafood value chain.
- The initiative was developed with support from the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency, established in 2022.
- The declaration supports implementation of the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency (2023) framework.
- IUU fishing is estimated to cost the global economy around USD 50 billion annually and contributes to fish stock depletion, food insecurity, and loss of livelihoods.
- Greater transparency is expected to help tackle human rights abuses, including forced labour and unsafe working conditions in the fishing industry.
- Signatory countries include Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and South Korea.
- The declaration promotes international cooperation, ocean governance, sustainable fisheries management, and a resilient blue economy.
- Signatories have pledged to implement the declaration and encourage more countries to join before the next Our Ocean Conference in Canada.
- The Mombasa Declaration highlights the growing global consensus that fisheries transparency is essential for sustainable oceans, food security, and coastal livelihoods.

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Quick Bites:

- The National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005 to serve as a nodal body for all core statistical activities of the country, to evolve, monitor and enforce statistical priorities and standards and to ensure statistical co-ordination. The Commission consists of a part-time Chairperson, four part-time Members having specialization and experience in areas of statistics, and the CEO, NITI Aayog as an ex-officio Member. Secretary, MoSPI is the Secretary to the NSC.
- ASKAP J1745−5051 is a newly discovered binary star system that may help scientists understand the mysterious Long-Period Transients (LPTs)—rare radio signals detected across the Milky Way. The system consists of a white dwarf (the dense remnant of a dead star) and a red dwarf (a small, low-mass star). These two stars orbit each other extremely closely, completing one orbit in just over an hour. The intense magnetic interactions between them generate powerful, repeating radio bursts that can be detected from Earth. Because its signals resemble those of previously unexplained LPTs, ASKAP J1745−5051 is being described as a "stellar Rosetta Stone" that could help decode the origin of these enigmatic cosmic radio emissions.
- The Reserve Bank of India launched “RBI Reelathon 2026” on 16 June 2026 at its office in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The campaign targets college students and covers cyber-enabled financial frauds, timely reporting, smart borrowing practices, and safe digital banking habits.
- The United States renamed the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command back to the U.S. Pacific Command on June 16 or June 17, 2026, depending on the local time of the announcement.
- India launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services at Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena in Nice, France, on 16 June 2026. Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena is a major retail destination in Nice and offers more than 600 brands.
- A new species of lynx spider, Hamataliwa mawlyngot, was discovered in Mawlyngot village in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya in June 2026.

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- Bengaluru-Karnataka ranked second among Asia's AI-native startup clusters in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2026, after Beijing.
- The Pentagon is restoring the name of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the U.S. Pacific Command, it said on Tuesday, reversing a 2018 decision. The renaming will not change the command's area of responsibility, which stretches from the western part of India to America's Pacific coastline, the Department of War said in a statement.
- Elon Musk's artificial intelligence tool Grok was used in strikes against Iran, the United States government revealed in a legal briefing. Grok is an artificial intelligence chatbot and large language model (LLM) developed by xAI, the AI company founded by Elon Musk.
- India and the United Kingdom have overcome last-minute differences over steel import duties to finally announce July 15 as the implementation date for the trade deal between the two countries, the two governments announced on Wednesday. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed by the two countries in July 2025 and was all set to be implemented by April or early May 2026. However, a fresh regulation by the U.K. announced in May and applicable to all countries cut the quota for duty-free steel imports by 60% and doubled the tariff on above-quota imports to 50%. These new rules are to come into effect from July 1, 2026.

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19-06-2026

1. M-KISAN scheme:

Context: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will release the 23rd instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme to the eligible beneficiaries on 20th June 2026 from Tarakeswar, located in Hooghly district, West Bengal.

About PM-KISAN scheme:

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a centrally sector scheme launched on 24 February 2019 to provide assured income support to landholding farmer families with cultivable land nationwide.
- Under the scheme, each eligible farmer family receives annual financial assistance of ₹6,000, disbursed in three equal installments of ₹2,000 through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts.
- The benefits of the scheme are provided to farmers upon seeding of land records in the PM-KISAN portal, linking bank accounts with Aadhaar, and completing e-KYC verification.
- The scheme seeks to increase the income of small and marginal farmers by providing financial support for agricultural inputs, thereby improving crop health and productivity.
- State Governments play a central role in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi by identifying eligible farmer households and developing a comprehensive beneficiary database.
- In September 2023, the Government introduced Kisan-eMitra, an AI-enabled chatbot integrated with the PM-KISAN digital ecosystem.

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2. Smart Seed Coating Technology:

Context: In a significant step towards strengthening climate-resilient agriculture and improving farm productivity, ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad, has developed and demonstrated an innovative biopolymer-based Smart Seed Coating Technology.

About Smart Seed Coating Technology:

- It is designed to enhance seed quality, crop establishment, and resilience against biotic and abiotic stresses across a wide range of agricultural crops.
- The Smart Seed Coating Technology (Indian Patent) developed by ICAR-IIOR utilizes biodegradable biopolymeric materials to create a multifunctional protective layer around seeds.
- The coating acts as a carrier system for beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, micronutrients, crop protection agents, and plant growth-promoting compounds, delivering them directly at the seed-soil interface.
- This protective microenvironment promotes rapid germination, vigorous seedling growth, enhanced root development, and improved tolerance to environmental stresses during the critical crop establishment phase.
- Unlike conventional seed treatments that serve a single purpose, the ICAR-IIOR platform functions as a comprehensive seed enhancement system capable of integrating multiple beneficial inputs into a single application.
- The technology can be customized for cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, fibre crops, fodder crops, vegetables, spices, and horticultural crops, making it a versatile solution for diverse farming systems across the country

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3. Exercise KHAAN QUEST:

Context: The Indian Army contingent is set to depart today to participate in the multilateral joint military exercise - Exercise KHAAN QUEST. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 20 June to 03 July 2026 at Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

About Exercise KHAAN QUEST:

- The Exercise will bring together military forces from across the world to collaborate and enhance interoperability in peace support operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.
- The previous edition of the exercise was conducted from 14-28 June 2025 at Mongolia.
- The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Defence Forces in the year 2003.
- Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multilateral Peacekeeping Exercise with the current one being the 23nd iteration.
- The Indian Army contingent comprising 40 personnel is being represented by troops from a Battalion of the JAT REGIMENT along with personnel from other Arms and Services.
- The aim of Exercise KHAAN QUEST is to prepare contingents of participating Defence Forces for peacekeeping missions while operating in a multilateral environment.

4. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):

Context: The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) will celebrate its 23rd Foundation Day on June 19, 2026, marking over two decades of strengthening India's internet infrastructure and supporting the nation's digital transformation journey.

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About National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI):

- The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit organization set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.
- NIXI plays a critical role in strengthening India's Internet infrastructure by facilitating efficient exchange of domestic Internet traffic, managing the '.IN' and '.भारत' (.Bharat) country-code top-level domains, and promoting adoption of Internet services across the country.
- Through its initiatives, NIXI supports a secure, resilient, and inclusive Internet ecosystem aligned with India's digital growth ambitions.
- Established under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, NIXI has played a pivotal role in managing the '.IN' domain, facilitating Internet Exchange services, and delegating IP addresses (IPv4/IPv6) through the Indian Registry for Internet Names and Numbers (IRINN).
- NIXI will launch an AI Powered WHOIS screening platform that will strengthen India's ".in" domain space for more trustworthiness.

5. Drunix:

Context: NPCI Rolled out Drunix, to support Blockchain and Tokenisation Ecosystems

About Drunix:

- Drunix is an enterprise-grade Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) platform developed by National Payments Corporation of India.
- It is designed to help organizations build and scale tokenization platforms, digital asset ecosystems, and multi-organization networks.
- Drunix is a custom-built private blockchain framework developed by re-engineering Hyperledger Fabric.

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- Hyperledger Fabric is an open-source enterprise blockchain framework developed under the Linux Foundation.
- Drunix is NPCI's second major open-source contribution in the blockchain and tokenization space after Falcon.
- The platform aims to support secure, scalable, and interoperable blockchain-based solutions for enterprises and financial ecosystems.

About Blockchain technology:

- Blockchain is an advanced database technology that enables secure, transparent, and decentralized sharing of information across a network.
- It stores data in blocks linked together in a chronological chain, where records cannot be altered or deleted without network consensus.
- Blockchain creates an immutable (tamper-proof) digital ledger, ensuring transparency, traceability, and data integrity.
- It is widely used for tracking transactions, payments, assets, and records, while reducing fraud and unauthorized modifications.

6. QS World University Rankings 2027:

Context: IIT-Delhi ranked (118th globally) highest among Indian institutions in QS World University Rankings 2027 for the 2nd consecutive year.

Highlights of QS World University Rankings 2027:

- The QS World University Rankings 2027 were released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- Universities are assessed across five broad parameters: Research & Discovery, Employability & Outcomes, Global Engagement, Learning Experience, and Sustainability.

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- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) secured the 1st rank globally for the 15th consecutive year.
- India has 52 universities in the rankings, making it the world's fifth most represented higher education system.
- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi emerged as India's highest-ranked institution.
- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Indian Institute of Technology Madras also featured among the top 200 universities globally.
- The rankings serve as a globally recognized benchmark for assessing the quality, reputation, and international competitiveness of higher education institutions.

Quick Bites:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, accompanied by the President of France, H.E. Mr. Emmanual Macron, today participated in VivaTech 2026 in Paris, Europe's largest technology and start-up event. India is the AI Country Partner in VivaTech 2026. This is also India's largest ever presence at VivaTech with pavilions set up to showcase its innovation ecosystem across Artificial Intelligence, digital public infrastructure etc.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Mr. Robert A. F. Thurman. The Prime Minister described Mr. Thurman as an eminent scholar of Buddhism, a distinguished teacher and a lifelong friend of India.
- Bharat Buildcon 2026 – One Nation, One Expo, an exhibition for the building materials and construction industry, was inaugurated today at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi by the Ministry of Commerce. The exhibition showcases products, technologies and innovations across 24 segments, including ceramics and stone, hardware, cement and steel, plywood and laminates, furniture, sanitaryware, electricals, paints, construction technologies and other allied sectors.

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- The first of the six indigenous Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs), being constructed by Chowgule & Company Private Limited for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), was inducted into service in Goa on June 18, 2026. The hovercraft aims to enhance ICG's operational effectiveness across a broad spectrum of maritime duties and reinforce its ability to respond to emerging challenges. Its induction would further the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and serve as a reflection of the growing strength of the maritime industrial base of the country.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will perform the Bhoomi Pujan for the state-of-the-art 10,000-Tons Aluminium Extrusion Press at Yantra India Limited (YIL), Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari in Nagpur, Maharashtra on June 19, 2026. The proposed extrusion press will be a major national asset for the defence manufacturing sector. It will strengthen the nation's capability to produce large, high-strength and precision aluminium alloy extrusions to cater to the requirements of defence & aerospace sectors
- A delegation from the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, participated in the 16th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP) and the accompanying Stakeholders' Meeting held in Brasília, Brazil, from 15th to 17th June 2026. The meeting, coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), brought together representatives from leading pharmacopoeias worldwide.
- Ministry of MSME to hold First BRICS MSME Forum and Third SME Working Group Meeting in Agra on 19th June 2026 under the overarching theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The Government of India has earmarked ₹18,907 crore during FY 2026-27 for the construction of 26,474 kilometres of rural roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and related rural connectivity initiatives.
- Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, reviewed preparations for the Asian Senior Fencing Championships 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, ahead of the prestigious continental

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championship scheduled to be held from 19 to 24 June 2026 at Hall No. 2-3, Bharat Mandapam (Pragati Maidan), New Delhi. The ceremony, themed "ONE DREAM | ONE BLADE | ONE PRIDE", will celebrate the spirit of fencing, sporting excellence and international unity. Fencing is a classic Olympic combat sport where two athletes use swords to attack and defend, scoring points by striking their opponent.

- Scientists from the western regional centre of the Zoological Survey of India in Pune announced a new forester moth species from Karnataka's Kali Tiger Reserve on 17 June 2026. The species has been named Mimeusemia kali Kalawate & László, 2026, and it is the first addition to the genus Mimeusemia in nearly 30 years.
- The United Arab Emirates announced a social media ban for children under 15 on Thursday, joining a growing group of countries including Australia, Britain and Canada to take similar measures.
- The government has ratified 8.25% rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2025-26, which is likely to be credited to over seven crore contributing members this month.

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20-06-2026

1. Indigenous naval platforms:

Context: The Indian Navy is scheduled to commission three indigenously built frontline platforms – Dunagiri, Sanshodhak, and Agray – in Kolkata on 21 Jun 2026.

About Indigenous naval platforms:

- Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, the vessels represent key operational capabilities across maritime combat, hydrographic surveying, and anti-submarine warfare.
- Dunagiri, the fifth Project 17A stealth frigate, is equipped with advanced weapons and sensors, including BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile system, significantly enhancing the Navy's combat capability.
- Sanshodhak, the fourth Survey Vessel (Large), is designed for coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys and collection of oceanographic and geophysical data for defence and civil applications, and is equipped with advanced survey systems including Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles.
- Agray, the fourth of the Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous rocket launchers, and shallow-water sonar systems to detect and engage underwater threats in littoral waters.

2. Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON):

Context: The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences signed an MoU on 18 June 2026 to strengthen collaborative climate

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research. The partnership focuses on long-term monitoring of climate variables, including meteorological parameters, greenhouse gases, short-lived climate forcers, and soil moisture. Under the agreement, a Climate Observation Station will be established at Devasthal. The station will become part of the Bharat Climate Observation Network, enhancing India's climate observation capabilities.

About Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON):

- **About BCON:** Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON) is a national climate observation initiative conceptualized and implemented by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- **Objective:** It aims to establish a long-term, high-precision climate monitoring framework across India.
- **Data Generation:** BCON will create a robust national database on climate variables and environmental parameters.
- **Climate Research:** The network will help detect long-term climate trends and strengthen climate change research.
- **Policy Support:** It will enhance India's capacity for climate assessment and evidence-based policymaking.
- **Model Validation:** High-accuracy datasets from BCON will be used to validate and benchmark Earth System Models, including IITM Earth System Model (IITM ESM), improving future climate projections.
- ARIES, Devasthal, a high-altitude hilltop, offers a unique environment for advanced atmospheric observations. Its relatively pristine setting provides ideal conditions for capturing baseline atmospheric features, studying the greenhouse gases, transport of climate-relevant pollutants, and understanding the dynamics of climate processes over the Himalayan region.

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3. Energy Transition Index 2026:

Context: World Economic Forum (WEF) released Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026 which tracks energy transition progress across 120 countries.

Major highlights:

- **Report Finding:** Global energy transition readiness declined for the first time in over a decade due to rising geopolitical risks.
- **Top Rank:** Sweden retained the 1st position in energy transition readiness.
- **Second Rank:** Finland secured the 2nd position.
- **Third Rank:** Denmark retained the 3rd position.
- **India's Rank:** India improved by two places to rank 70th.
- **Reason for India's Improvement:** Growth was driven by investments in energy security and affordability.
- **System Performance:** Assesses energy systems across equity, security, and sustainability dimensions.
- **Transition Readiness:** Measures a country's preparedness to achieve a successful energy transition.
- **Core Enablers:** Include regulation, political commitment, finance, and investment.
- **Enabling Factors:** Include innovation, infrastructure, education, and human capital.

4. Turquoise Nexus Initiative:

Context: Turkey's Presidency of 2026 UNFCCC COP31 and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have unveiled the Turquoise Nexus Initiative.

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About Turquoise Nexus Initiative:

- Aim: The initiative supports developing countries in integrating food-water-climate approaches into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate action plans under the Paris Agreement.
- **Implementation:** It is implemented under the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Partnership of the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- **Launch:** The FAST Partnership was launched at COP27 in Egypt.
- **Objective:** It seeks to accelerate the sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems through enhanced climate action.
- **Key Focus:** The partnership promotes collective action to increase both the quantity and quality of climate finance for agriculture and food systems.

5. Border Gateway Protocol hijacking:

Context: Telegram founder claimed that access to the app was being compromised through BGP (Border Gateway Protocol) hijacking.

About Border Gateway Protocol hijacking:

- **Border Gateway Protocol (BGP):** BGP is the Internet's routing protocol that enables networks worldwide to find the best path to reach specific IP addresses.
- **About BGP Hijacking:** Also known as prefix hijacking, route hijacking, or IP hijacking.
- **How it Works:** It occurs when a network falsely advertises ownership of IP address routes, causing traffic to be redirected.
- **Impact:** BGP hijacking can misdirect internet traffic, disrupt online services, enable data interception, and affect website accessibility.

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6. Yarsagumba:

Context: Yarsagumba Harvest Season Draws Thousands in Himalayas.

About Yarsagumba:

- **About:** Yarsagumba (Yartsa Gunbu) is a high-altitude entomopathogenic fungus used in traditional medicine.
- **Scientific Name:** It is scientifically known as Ophiocordyceps sinensis and belongs to the genus Ophiocordyceps.
- **Unique Growth:** The fungus grows from the larvae of ghost moth caterpillars, completing part of its life cycle inside the host.
- **Habitat:** It is found in cold alpine grasslands of the Himalayas at elevations above 3,000 metres.
- **Distribution:** Occurs in Nepal, India, Bhutan, and the Tibetan Plateau.
- **Harvest Season:** In Nepal, collection typically takes place from April to June in districts such as Mugu, Dolpa, Jumla, and Gorkha.
- **Economic & Medicinal Importance:** Yarsagumba is a highly valued medicinal product in traditional medicine, and recent studies are exploring its compounds for potential applications in cancer and tumour-related research.

7. Mekedatu project:

Context: The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday unanimously adopted a resolution moved by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, opposing the Karnataka government's proposal to construct a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery at Mekedatu.

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About Mekedatu project:

- It multi-purpose project involves building a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in Ramanagara district of Karnataka.
- The reservoir will have a capacity of 284,000 million cubic feet (TMC).
- Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the groundwater table in the region.



- It is named after the village where the project is expected to be constructed.
- The project is proposed at the confluence of Cauvery with its tributary Arkavathi.

8. Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

Context: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary has appointed Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal as the next Vice-President of the global anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing watchdog for the 2026-2027 term.

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About Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- It is an inter-governmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering. In 2001 its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- It is headquartered at Paris, France.
- FATF members include 39 countries, including the United States, India, China, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Germany, France, and the EU as such.
- India became a member of FATF in 2010.

Quick Bites:

- Ahead of the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026, Kolkata witnessed enthusiastic participation in "Daud Se Dhyan 2026 – From Movement to Stillness", a unique initiative organised under the Swachhata Se Swagat Programme, bringing together the core values of health, cleanliness, civic responsibility and overall well-being.
- The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of a Rs 25,016 crore coal gasification project at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda district, Odisha, on June 20, 2026. It will be India's First Commercial-Scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project in OdishaThe process converts coal into synthesis gas (syngas), which can be used to produce a wide range of value-added products such as methanol, urea, ammonium nitrate, synthetic natural gas, and other chemical feedstocks.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, facilitated the first export consignment of fresh Uttarakhand litchi from Dehradun to Italy on 18 June 2026.
- NHAI Successfully Launches Rajasthan's first Multi-Lane Free Flow Tolling System at Daulatpura Toll Plaza on the Delhi-Jaipur Section of NH-48

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- Report by UNICEF highlights globally, 1.1 billion children are exposed to at least three overlapping climate hazards and this combined with their physical vulnerabilities and gaps in the social services, increases their risk of harm. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) is a UN Fund established in 1946, with HQ in New York, responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- The Hunger Hotspots Report is a biannual assessment jointly released by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme through the Global Network Against Food Crises. The report identifies countries and regions at highest risk of acute food insecurity and hunger over the coming months, helping governments and humanitarian agencies prioritize early action and resource allocation. The latest edition covers the period from June to November 2026.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Northeast's largest organic spice processing plant on 19 June 2026 at Bhoirymbong in the Ri Bhoi District of Meghalaya. The facility was established by the Eastern Ri Bhoi Organic Farmer Producer Company and has an annual processing capacity of 10,346 metric tonnes of spices.
- Fossils dating back nearly 15 million years were discovered near Baripada in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district on 18 June 2026. The find includes shark teeth, shark vertebrae, fish bones, mollusc shells, and microscopic marine organisms from the Baripada Fossil Bed along the Budhabalanga river.
- The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Friday approved $1.5 billion financing to India to support structural reforms aimed at boosting private sector-led job creation and economic growth, it said in a statement. It added the financing, being provided under Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation, can create job opportunities for 11 million youth who would be entering the labour market every year over the next two decades. The Bank's DPF seeks to rapidly disburse financing to help a borrower country address existing or anticipated development financing requirements.

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21-06-2026

1. International Day of Yoga 2026:

Context: The 2026 edition, themed 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', carries this journey forward through nationwide participation, innovative initiatives and year-round engagement, while promoting preventive healthcare and active living.

About International Day of Yoga 2026:

- Recognising its universal appeal and benefits, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga in 2014.
- The proposal, introduced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the 69th session of the UN, was supported by 175 member states.
- The first observance was held on 21st June 2015.Yoga was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016.
- Yoga is among the world's oldest knowledge traditions, with roots tracing back to the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation (c. 2700 BCE).
- The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit, meaning to join or to unite — symbolising the union of body and consciousness.
- The Yogic tradition was systematised by Maharishi Patanjali through the Yoga Sutras, laying the foundation for its philosophical and practical framework.
- The Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) is a standardised 45-minute Yoga practice that serves as the core programme for International Day of Yoga celebrations worldwide, enabling people across countries and cultures to participate in a shared Yoga experience.

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- The protocol combines loosening practices, like Yogasanas, Kapalabhati, Pranayama, meditation and relaxation techniques into a simple, structured routine that can be practised by people of different age groups and backgrounds.
- The 2026 edition also allows institutions to incorporate an additional 15 minutes of Yogic practices such as Pranayama, Yoga Nidra, Dhyana and Satsang, where appropriate.
- The 12th edition of the International Day of Yoga is being observed on 21stJune 2026, with Kolkata hosting the main national celebration.

2. Nirbhay Chetna:

Context: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on Nirbhay Chetna from 17th–19th June 2026 in New Delhi under the Nirbhaya Fund project.

About Nirbhay Chetna:

- Recognised as the largest drive of its kind anywhere in the world, Nirbhay Chetna is a landmark national initiative on the sensitisation of men towards women-related issues, including women's safety and security that aims to strengthen gender-responsive governance at the grassroots level.
- The program also marked the launch of the Nirbhay Chetna training module, developed by Transform Rural India.
- The initiative seeks to create a cadre of master trainers who will engage male elected representatives on gender equality, women's safety, rights, and leadership within Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Nirbhay Chetna is a key intervention under the Nirbhay Raho initiative, launched on 11th March 2026, which comprises three complementary components. Nirbhay Netri focuses on capacity-building and legal awareness among elected women representatives; Nirbhay Chetna seeks to sensitise elected male representatives on gender equality and women's safety; and Nirbhay Drishti

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envisages the installation of CCTV cameras at strategic rural locations to strengthen technology-enabled safety infrastructure in Panchayats.

- Under Nirbhay Chetna, a cadre of 28,500 Master Trainers is being developed at the State, district, and block levels to reach over 17.5 lakh male elected representatives across the country.

3. Sickle Cell Anaemia:

Context: Indian President held that the country would eradicate sickle cell anaemia well before the target of 2047.

About Sickle Cell Anaemia:

- Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited haemoglobin disorder caused by a genetic mutation.
- In SCD, red blood cells become crescent or sickle-shaped instead of their normal round shape.
- These abnormal RBCs are rigid and sticky, obstructing blood flow and reducing oxygen supply to tissues.
- The disease often causes chronic anaemia, leading to fatigue, weakness, and paleness.
- Patients experience pain crises (painful episodes) characterized by sudden and severe pain in bones, chest, back, arms, and legs.
- Long-term complications may include organ damage, delayed growth and puberty, and premature death.
- Blood transfusions help manage anaemia and reduce the risk of pain crises.
- Treatment options include Hydroxyurea therapy to reduce painful episodes and bone marrow/stem cell transplantation, which can offer a potential cure.

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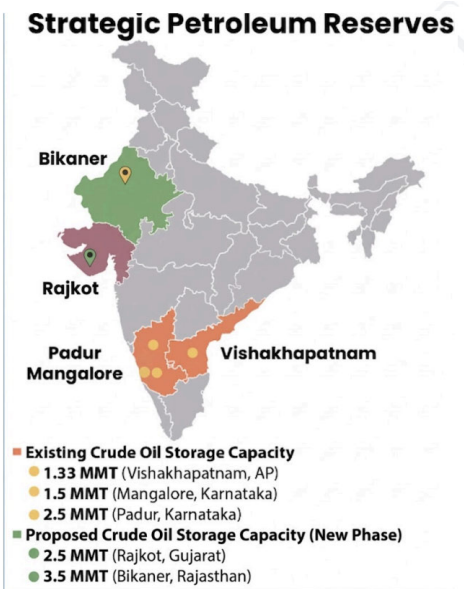
National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission:

- It was announced as part of the Union Budget 2023.
- It aims to eliminate sickle cell disease (SCD) as a public health problem in India before 2047.
- The mission will entail awareness creation, universal screening of seven crore people in the 0-40 years age group in affected tribal areas and counselling through collaborative efforts of central ministries and state governments.

4. Strategic Oil Reserves:

Context: India has assigned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to develop a new strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) facility in Mangaluru, Karnataka. The underground crude oil storage cavern is estimated to cost about ₹15,000 crore and will add 1.75 million metric tonnes (MMT) of storage capacity.

About Strategic Oil Reserves:



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- Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) are government-held crude oil stockpiles for energy security during supply disruptions.
- Maintained in addition to commercial reserves held by oil companies.
- Implemented by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle set up in 2004
- Comes under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Stored in underground rock caverns, typically located near coastal areas

5. Bolivia:

Context: Bolivia's crisis intensified on Saturday as President Rodrigo Paz declared a state of emergency, enabling wider military deployment to clear blockades and restore order after protests brought the economy to a halt over the past 50 days. The conflict initially erupted after Mr. Paz abruptly cut long-standing fuel subsidies to shrink the deficit, amid a worsening dollar crunch and talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

About Bolivia:

- Bolivia, officially the Bolivia, is a landlocked country located in western-central South America.
- The country is named after Simón Bolívar, a key leader of Latin America's independence movements.
- Bolivia's geography includes the Andes Mountains, highland plateaus, and lowland plains of the Amazon Basin; about one-third of its territory lies within the Andes.
- It shares borders with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru.
- Sucre is the constitutional capital, while La Paz serves as the executive and administrative capital.

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- Bolivia shares Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake for large vessels, with Peru and follows a mixed economic system combining private enterprise with government planning and regulation.



6. 'Super' El Niño:

Context: The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirmed this month that an El Niño has formed in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, and placed the odds at about 63% that it will strengthen into a "very strong" — colloquially, a "super" — event by the northern winter.

About 'Super' El Niño:

- El Niño is a climate phenomenon in which the surface waters of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean become unusually warm.
- This warming alters global weather patterns and generally tends to weaken the South-West Monsoon over South Asia, including India.

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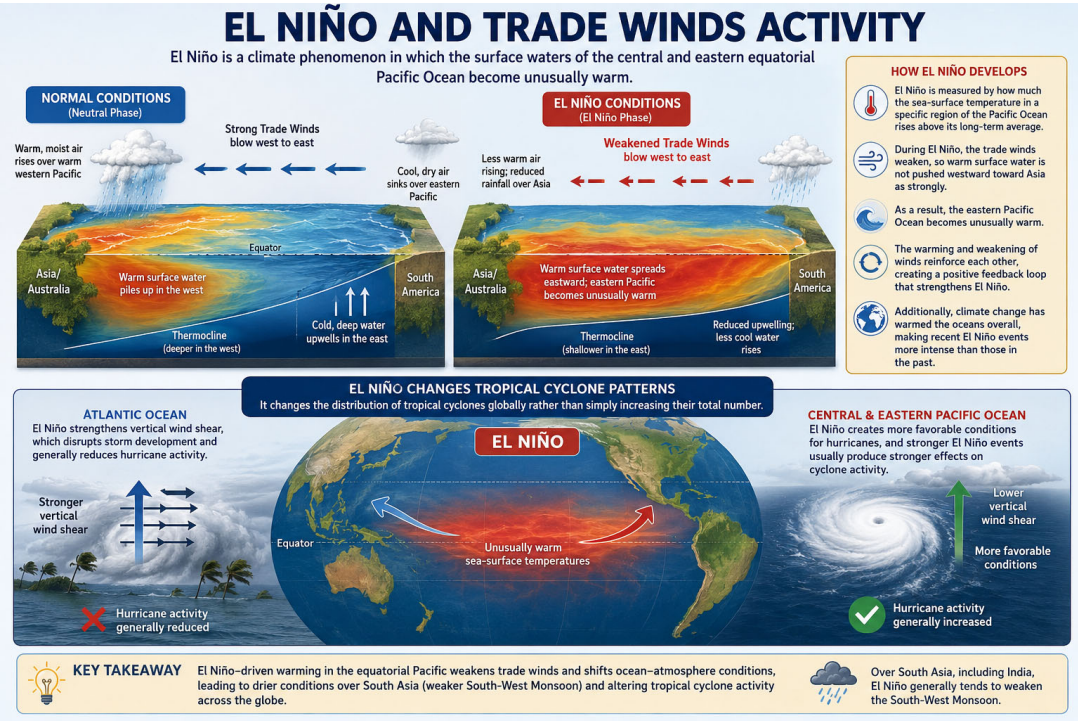
- The strength (potency) of an El Niño is measured by how much the sea-surface temperature in a specific region of the Pacific Ocean rises above its long-term average.
- During El Niño, the trade winds weaken, so warm surface water is not pushed westward toward Asia as strongly. As a result, the eastern Pacific Ocean becomes unusually warm.
- The warming and weakening of winds reinforce each other, creating a positive feedback loop that strengthens El Niño. Additionally, climate change has warmed the oceans overall, making recent El Niño events more intense than those in the past.
- El Niño changes the distribution of tropical cyclones globally rather than simply increasing their total number.



- In the Atlantic Ocean, El Niño strengthens vertical wind shear, which disrupts storm development and generally reduces hurricane activity.

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- In the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, El Niño creates more favorable conditions for hurricanes, and stronger El Niño events usually produce stronger effects on cyclone activity.

Quick Bites:

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, facilitated the first-ever commercial export shipment of dried whole egg powder from Balangir, Odisha, to Austria, marking a significant milestone in promoting value-added agricultural and processed food exports from India.
- Abhigyan App was launched by the Union Home Minister and has been developed by the National Crime Records Bureau to enable field police personnel to identify suspects from any location using a certified fingerprint scanner. The app is linked to the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System, a centralized fingerprint database implemented by NCRB that stores fingerprint records of accused persons, convicts, and prison inmates. By matching fingerprints against the national database in real time, the app enhances the efficiency of criminal identification, investigation, and law enforcement operations across the country.
- Rajasthan-born theoretical physicist Jainendra K. Jain won the 2025 Wolf Prize in Physics. The award was presented by Israeli President Isaac Herzog at a state ceremony in the Knesset in Jerusalem on 18 June 2026. Jain received the prize for the discovery of composite fermions, a concept linked to the fractional quantum Hall effect.
- India is set to acquire nine retired SEPECAT Jaguar fighter aircraft from the United Kingdom in 2026.

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Practice questions:

Objective questions:

01. The first-ever commercial export shipment of dried whole egg powder from India was exported from:

(a) Nashik, Maharashtra
(b) Balangir, Odisha
(c) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
(d) Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

02. Consider the following statements regarding the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP):

1. It is a standardized 45-minute Yoga practice.
2. It serves as the core programme for International Day of Yoga celebrations worldwide.
3. It is inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016 as part of Yoga.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

03. Consider the following statements regarding Sickle Cell Disease (SCD):

SCD is an inherited haemoglobin disorder caused by a genetic mutation.

In SCD, red blood cells become spherical and more flexible than normal RBCs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

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22-06-2026

1. Kuno National Park:

Context: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh today (June 21, 2026). She took a tour of the Cheetah Management Area of the National Park and was briefed by the Divisional Forest Officer about the Project Cheetah.

About Kuno National Park:

- The Project Cheetah, launched on September 17, 2022, under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, embodies India's steadfast commitment to biodiversity restoration. This project aims to reintroduce the cheetah in India after its extinction in the country.
- Under Project Cheetah, the Kuno National Park has been developed as India's first cheetah reintroduction site as it offers ideal habitat, abundant prey, and minimal human disturbance.
- In the Kuno National Park, the first batch of Cheetah arrived in September 2022 from Namibia, the second batch arrived in February 2023 from South Africa, and the third batch arrived in February 2026 from Botswana.
- Located in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh near the Vindhyan Hills.
- Named after the Kuno River, a tributary of the Chambal River, which flows through the park.
- Established as Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary in 1981 and declared a National Park in 2018.
- Features diverse terrain comprising plateaus, valleys, and seasonal rivers.
- Vegetation includes tropical dry deciduous forests, savannah grasslands, and riverine forests.
- Home to species such as leopard, sloth bear, Indian wolf, striped hyena, dhole, and over 120 bird species.

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- Selected as the site for India's Cheetah Reintroduction Project under the Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India.

2. Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup:

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has congratulated the Indian women's hockey team for emerging as winners of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup.

About Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup:

- The Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup is an international women's field hockey tournament organised annually by the International Hockey Federation.
- The tournament serves as the qualification tournament for the Women's FIH Pro League.
- The tournament was founded in 2019 and the first edition was held in December 2022 in Valencia, Spain.
- The tournament features the eight highest ranked teams in the FIH Women's World Ranking not participating in the Women's FIH Pro League.
- The winner of the tournament will be promoted to the following year's FIH Pro League to replace the bottom team who will be relegated.
- India has the most number of titles (2).

3. Deuterated compounds:

Context: Department of Atomic Energy & Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, inaugurated the Versatile Deuterated compounds Production Plant (VDPP) and commissioned the 24 kA Prototype Sodium Cell at the Heavy Water Board Facilities (HWBF), Vadodara, on 21 June 2026.

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More details:

- Deuterated compounds are chemical compounds in which one or more ordinary hydrogen atoms (^1H) are replaced by deuterium (^2H or D), a stable isotope of hydrogen.
- Research & Analysis: Used as tracers in chemical/biological studies and as solvents in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance(NMR) spectroscopy for clearer results.
- Pharmaceutical Applications: Deuterated drugs can have slower metabolism and longer therapeutic action.
- Nuclear Energy: Heavy water (D_2O), a deuterated compound, is used as a moderator in certain nuclear reactors.
- The development of indigenous nuclear-grade sodium production capability is particularly important for supporting the future growth of India's Fast Breeder Reactor Programme.
- The Versatile Deuterated Compounds Production Plant has been established to enhance the country's indigenous capability for the production of specialised deuterated compounds required for advanced scientific research, strategic applications and frontier technological programmes.
- The facility is aimed to play a vital role in meeting national requirements in this critical domain through the indigenous production of high-purity deuterated solvents.
- The commissioning of the 24 kA Prototype Sodium Cell marks a major technological achievement towards the indigenous industrial-scale production of nuclear-grade sodium, a critical material for India's Fast Breeder Reactor Programme.

4. Layering in banking:

Context: 7 held for defrauding a man of ₹95 lakh in online trading scam. Police analysis revealed that the fraud proceeds had been routed through 45-layered bank accounts and subsequently arrested the seven accused.

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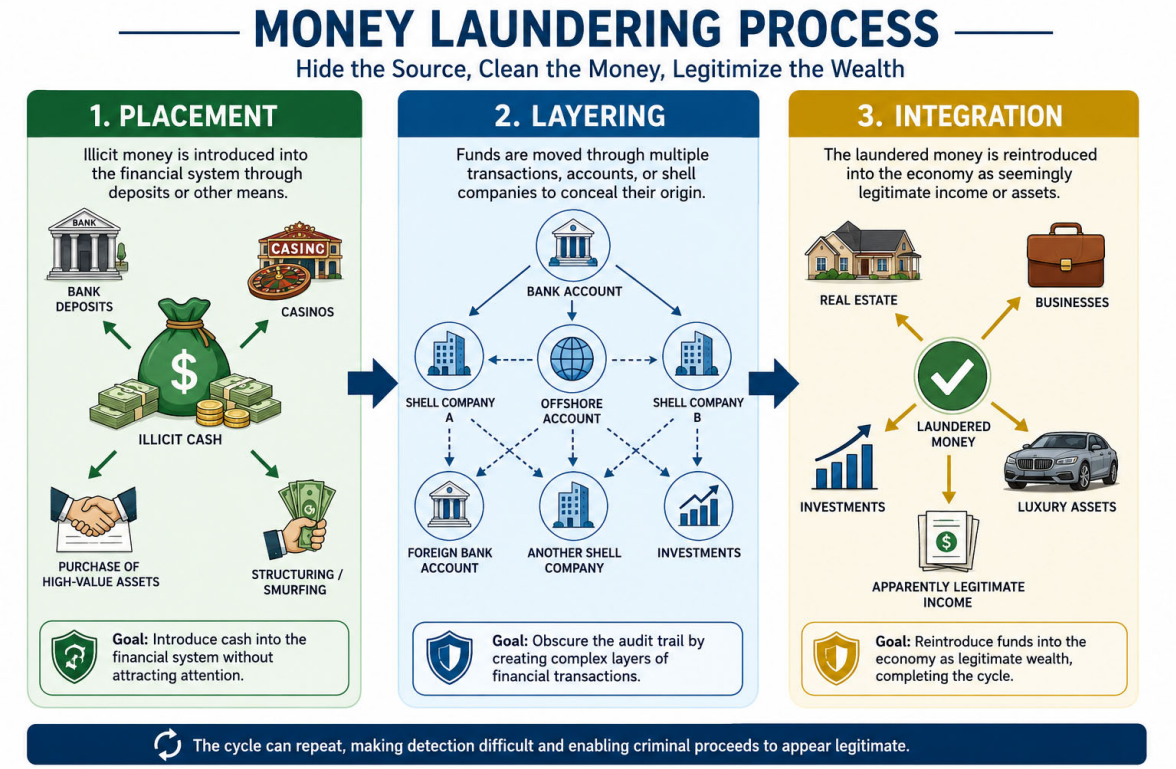
About Layering:

- Layering is the process of conducting multiple complex financial transactions to conceal the origin and ownership of illegally obtained funds during money laundering.
- Layering is the second stage of money laundering, where illegally obtained money is moved through multiple complex financial transactions to hide its original source and make tracing difficult.



5. Seed pelletisation:

Context: With the possibility of erratic weather conditions due to El Nino posing a challenge to rainfed agriculture, farmers have been advised on climate-resilient farm practices.

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About Seed pelletisation:

- Seed pelletisation is the process of coating seeds with inert materials (such as clay, lime, charcoal powder, gypsum, polymers, nutrients, biofertilizers, or pesticides) to increase their size, improve shape, and enhance sowing efficiency.
- The pellets protect seeds from birds and insect pests and can germinate even when the soil receives only 10 to 15 mm of rainfall.
- The pellets could remain viable for up to six months under low-moisture conditions and that seedlings emerging from them could withstand water stress for 25 to 40 days, making the technique suitable for drought-prone areas.
- Improves seed handling and precision sowing.
- Enhances seed germination and seedling establishment.
- Enables delivery of nutrients, biofertilizers, or plant protection chemicals directly with the seed.
- Protects seeds from pests, diseases, and adverse environmental conditions.

6. Project Nimbus:

Context: On June 14, Google CEO Sundar Pichai's speech at Stanford was disrupted as more than 100 students walked out in protest. Some carried Palestinian flags, others draped black-and-white patterned keffiyeh as scarves, and they shouted, "Free, free Palestine!" The students were protesting against Google's Project Nimbus, a tech contract between the search giant and the Israeli government that is linked with violence against Palestinian civilians.

About Project Nimbus:

- Project Nimbus is a $1+ billion cloud computing contract between the Israeli government and tech companies Google and Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- Launched in 2021, the project provides cloud infrastructure, data storage, and digital services to Israeli government ministries, authorities, and state-owned enterprises.

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- The contract has an initial duration of 7 years, with provisions for extension by the Israeli government for up to 23 additional years.
- Investigations in 2024 reported that the Israeli military stored surveillance-related data on AWS servers and increasingly relied on cloud and AI services from Google, AWS, and Microsoft Azure.
- Critics argue that Project Nimbus could facilitate surveillance of Palestinians, strengthen state monitoring capabilities, and support military operations in occupied territories.
- The project has triggered significant employee protests within Google, Amazon, and Microsoft, with workers opposing the companies' involvement due to concerns over human rights and the Israel–Palestine conflict.

7. Right to vote in India:

Context: The right to vote should be recognised as a fundamental right to ensure the highest level of judicial review and protection, along with safeguards against voter suppression or arbitrary exclusions during exercises such as the special intensive revision (SIR), senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh

About Right to vote in India:

- Article 325 prohibits exclusion from electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex, ensuring a single general electoral roll.
- Article 326 provides for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies on the basis of universal adult suffrage (currently 18 years and above).
- The Right to Vote is a Constitutional Right flowing from Article 326 and governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- The Right to Contest Elections (Right to be Elected) is a statutory right, not a fundamental or constitutional right, and is subject to qualifications and disqualifications prescribed by law.

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- In Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal, the Supreme Court held that the right to vote and the right to contest elections are statutory rights. Later, in Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India, the Court reiterated that voting rights are not fundamental rights but are exercised under constitutional and statutory provisions.

Quick Bites:

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, successfully hosted the First BRICS MSME Forum and the Third SME Working Group Meeting on 19 June 2026 at Agra, Uttar Pradesh, under the overarching theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
- India will host the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting on 25–26 June 2026 in Gurugram, Haryana, under its BRICS Chairship 2026. The meeting will bring together Energy Ministers and senior officials from all BRICS member countries to advance cooperation on energy security. India's BRICS Chairship in 2026 is guided by the overarching theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)."
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has sent a 30-member Team India (15 competitors and 15 experts) to participate in the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) 2026 in Australia from 23–29 June 2026. Organised by WorldSkills Australia, the event is a full-scale international simulation of the 48th WorldSkills Competition to be held in Shanghai, providing Indian participants with valuable exposure and preparation ahead of the global competition.

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Practice questions:

Objective questions:

01. Right to vote and to be elected in India is a (CSP 2017)

(a) Fundamental Right (b) Natural Right

(c) Constitutional Right (d) Legal Right.

02. Consider the following statements regarding Kuno National Park:

1. It is located in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is named after a tributary of the Chambal River.
3. It was declared a National Park in 2018.
4. It is India's first cheetah reintroduction site.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

03. What is the significance of Deuterated Compounds, often mentioned in science news?

1. They are used as tracers in chemical and biological studies.
2. They are used in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy.
3. Deuterated drugs can have longer therapeutic action.
4. Heavy water used in some nuclear reactors is a deuterated compound.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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23-06-2026

1. Rakhigarhi:

Context: Human skeletal remains excavated from the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana recently have been formally handed over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a national research institute of repute under Ministry of Culture

About Rakhigarhi:

- Rakhigarhi, spread across approximately 550 hectares in Haryana, is widely recognized as the largest known settlement of the Indus-Saraswati Civilization.
- Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan periods, including planned settlements, drainage systems, craft production centres, trade networks, and burial grounds.
- Location: Rakhigarhi is located in Hisar district, Haryana, in the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain.
- Harappan Site: It is one of the largest and oldest settlements of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization, dating back to around 6500 BCE.
- Significance: Along with Dholavira, it is one of the two major Harappan cities located within present-day India.
- Discovery: The site was discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India in the 1960s and consists of seven archaeological mounds spread over about 350 hectares.
- Harappan Features: Excavations revealed a planned township with mud-brick and burnt-brick houses, a well-developed drainage system, and evidence of Early and Mature Harappan occupation.

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- Major Findings: Artifacts include Harappan seals, red ware pottery, terracotta objects, shell bangles, beads, copper objects, animal figurines, toy carts, and fire altars, indicating advanced craftsmanship and ritual practices.
- DNA Evidence: Rakhigarhi is renowned for yielding the only DNA evidence recovered so far from the Harappan Civilization, making it crucial for understanding the ancestry and genetics of Harappan people.

2. 'Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice' (DISHA):

Context: Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law and Justice Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal has approved the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme 'Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA)' restructured as DISHA 2.0 for a period of five years from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2031 co-terminus with the XVI Finance Commission cycle.

About 'Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice' (DISHA):

- DISHA 2.0 (2026–31) is a Central Sector Scheme of the Department of Justice aimed at ensuring Access to Justice for all citizens.
- The scheme has a total outlay of ₹255 crore, funded entirely through 100% Gross Budgetary Support of the Government of India.
- It was appraised and recommended by the Standing Finance Committee chaired by the Secretary, Department of Justice.
- DISHA 2.0 is a restructured and rationalized version of the existing DISHA Scheme.
- The scheme seeks to fulfil the constitutional mandate under Articles 14, 21, and 39A and the Preamble of the Constitution.
- It supports the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

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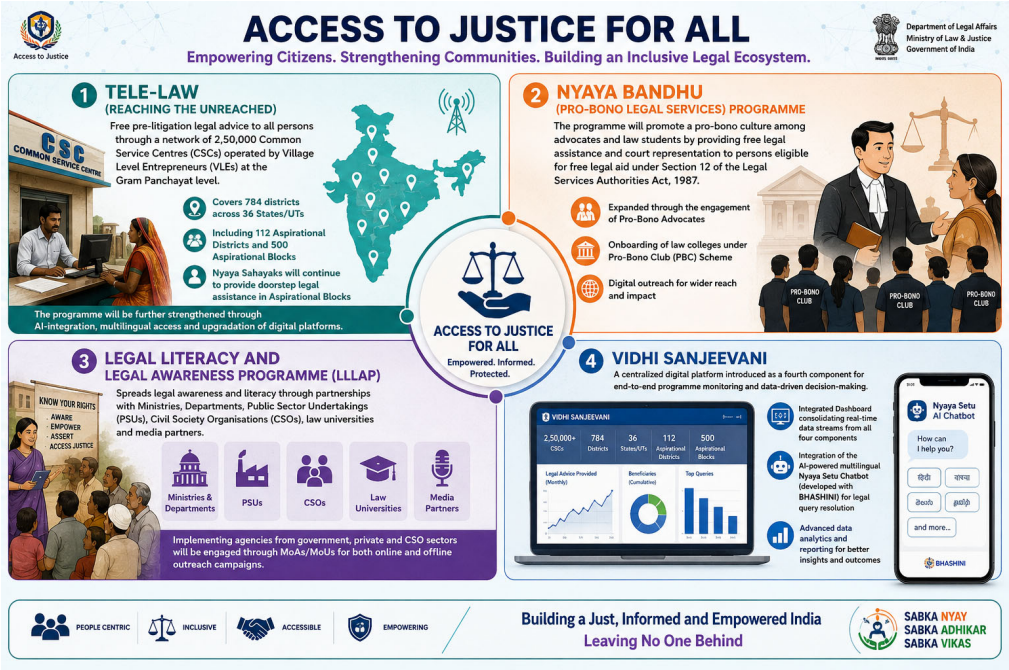
- A new component, VIDHI (Vision for Integrated Delivery of Harmonized Legal Initiatives) Sanjeevani, has been added.
- VIDHI-Sanjeevani will provide a centralized digital platform for technology-enabled justice delivery.
- The scheme will introduce an AI-powered "Nyaya Setu" chatbot to improve legal information and citizen access to justice.
- DISHA 2.0 combines legal empowerment with digital and AI-based innovations to strengthen justice delivery in India.



3. Kavach system:

Context: In a major step towards strengthening railway safety through indigenous technology, Indian Railways has approved the provision of Kavach on 631 Route Kilometres (RKm) of East Coast Railway at a cost of ₹270 crore.

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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.

4. Khurasani Imli:

Context: Khurasani Imli (fruit of the Baobab tree) from Mandu, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The fruit is rich in Vitamin C and antioxidants and is used in traditional medicine for digestive ailments.

About Baobab tree:

- Baobab is popularly known as the "Upside-down Tree" because its leafless branches resemble roots growing upwards.
- It is native to Africa and is highly adapted to arid and semi-arid environments.

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- The tree is characterized by a massive water-storing trunk, enabling it to withstand prolonged drought conditions.
- Baobab is considered a keystone species, meaning it has a disproportionately large impact on ecosystem functioning by providing food, shelter, and resources to many organisms.
- In India, Baobab trees are found in states such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

5. Lead Bank Scheme:

Context: The Reserve Bank of India issued a revised circular on the Lead Bank Scheme on 19 June 2026 through Press Release 2026-2027/502. The circular supersedes earlier instructions on the Lead Bank Scheme and sets revised norms for district-level credit planning, committee meetings, and financial inclusion work.

About Lead Bank Scheme:

- Lead Bank Scheme (LBS) was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India in December 1969 based on the recommendations of the Nariman Committee.
- It aims to coordinate banks and development agencies to increase the flow of credit to priority sectors and rural areas.
- Under LBS, one bank is designated as the Lead Bank for each district.
- The Lead Bank acts as a coordinator between banks, government agencies, and development institutions in the district.
- The scheme promotes district-level credit planning and financial inclusion.
- A Lead Bank Officer, now called the Lead District Manager (LDM), was introduced in 1979.
- The LDM is responsible for preparing District Credit Plans and monitoring their implementation.
- LBS links branch-level banking activities with district and state-level development planning.
- Under the revised framework, every district must have one exclusive Lead District Manager.

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- Lead District Manager offices are required to have dedicated staff, IT infrastructure, vehicles, and separate budgets.
- Multi-district assignments for LDMs are allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

6. Jonnagiri Gold mine:

Context: India is set to witness its first large-scale private gold mining project at Jonnagiri in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.

About Jonnagiri Gold mine:

- **Location:** The Jonnagiri Gold Mine is located in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Significance:** It is being developed as India's first major private-sector gold mining project.
- **Developers:** The project is led by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd. with support from Thriveni Earthmovers and Deccan Gold Mines Ltd..
- **Scale:** The mine spans approximately 598 hectares and has attracted investments exceeding ₹400 crore.
- **Production Capacity:** It is expected to produce 750–1000 kg of gold annually for about 15 years based on certified reserves.
- **Technology:** The project employs modern techniques such as open-pit mining, crushing, carbon-in-leach (CIL) processing, and smelting for gold extraction.

Quick Bites:

➢ India has emerged as the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, ranking first globally. India's share of global ship recycling increased to 35.4% in 2025 from 30.1% in 2024, according to the latest report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

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- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the re-appointment of Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India for a further term of three years.
- India uses administrative and population-based criteria to classify urban areas, and a new category for functional urban settlements is under consideration in 2026. The existing framework includes Census Towns with a population above 5,000 and Statutory Towns with municipal bodies.
- India won the gold medal in the women's 4x100m relay at the Asian Relays Championships 2026 in Shangyu, China, on 21 June 2026.
- The Meghalaya State Zoo recorded its first successful birth of a Stump-tailed Macaque, or Macaca arctoides, in June 2026. The Stump-tailed Macaque is a primate species found in South and South-East Asia. Its scientific name is Macaca arctoides, and it is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. The species faces threats from habitat loss and human disturbance. It is one of the macaque species used in conservation breeding programmes in zoological parks.
- A 90-kilogram bronze statue of Maharshi Sushruta was unveiled at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in Scotland, United Kingdom, on 19 June 2026.
- WhatsApp will be headed by Cred founder Kunal Shah, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform announced, marking elevation of the serial fintech entrepreneur to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.

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24-06-2026

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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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 networth 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.

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- 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

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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

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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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25-06-2026

1. BHARATI (Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Innovation):

Context: APEDA Successfully Concludes First Cohort of BHARATI Programme to Accelerate Innovation-Led Growth in Agri-Food Exports.

About BHARATI:

- APEDA has launched BHARATI to support Agri Food Startups and boost India's agri Food Export.
- Aims to support 100 agri-food startups and achieve $50 billion exports by 2030.
- 3-month acceleration programme for startups on product development, export readiness, and market access.
- Attracts startups using AI, blockchain, IoT, and agri-fintech technologies.
- Promotes innovation in GI-tagged, organic, superfoods, livestock, and AYUSH products.
- Seeks to resolve export challenges like quality, perishability, wastage, and logistics.

2. Index of Services Production (ISP):

Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is preparing to launch Index of Services Production (ISP) in July, 2026, which shall be a new macro indicator to measure the short-term changes in the growth of the services sector. As counterpart of the IIP which measures the economic growth of the industrial sector, ISP will cover the formal services sector and will be released on a monthly basis.

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About Index of Services Production (ISP):

- MoSPI envisages to release an overall ISP alongwith sub – sectoral indices on a trial basis. The sectoral coverage of ISP includes sub sectors like wholesale and retail trade, transport, banking, insurance, telecommunications, hotels & restaurants, real estate, professional, scientific and technical services, arts, entertainment & recreation, etc.
- The base year of ISP is selected as 2024 -25. The trial monthly indices for the year 2025 -26 and for the month of April, 2026 are slated for release on 14th July, 2026.
- The Index of Services Production (ISP) is a short-term indicator designed to measure changes over time in the volume of output produced by the services sector relative to a specified base period. It measures changes in the real output of service-producing industries over time.
- ISP will provide timely information on the performance of services industries, thereby, strengthening monitoring of economic activity and supporting evidence-based policy decisions.
- In addition, ISP will serve as a high-frequency indicator of services sector growth and will provide time series data to enable better economic forecasting and business cycle analysis.
- ISP will primarily reflect the formal sector as it is compiled using outward supply of enterprises registered under GST.
- Some of the services which are not covered in ISP are those which are either related to core government activities or are dominated by non – market activities and the informal sector.
- The proposed base year of trial ISPs is 2024 -25 which meets both the recency and normal year criteria.

3. National Innovation Challenge 2026:

Context: Six youth-led startups from across India have been recognized as winners of the 8th edition of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge 2026 for developing innovative

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solutions that advance sustainability through circular economy innovations, sustainable textiles and fashion, and sustainable food systems and water conservation.

About National Innovation Challenge 2026:

- Co-led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India and Citi Foundation, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), and implemented by T-Hub Foundation, the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge has emerged as one of India's foremost platforms for empowering youth-led innovation that accelerates progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The five-day immersive programme brought together ecosystem leaders, sustainability experts, investors, government stakeholders and entrepreneurs through masterclasses, mentorship sessions, site visits and peer learning opportunities designed to strengthen business models and scale impact.
- The three winning startups received seed grant support of ₹3,50,000 each, along with capacity-building opportunities and ecosystem access. The three runners-up were awarded ₹2,20,000 each in recognition of their promising contributions and potential for scale.
- T-Hub is the world's largest startup hub, supporting founders from ideation to scale through programs, partnerships, and global access anchoring some of the world's most significant incubation and innovation initiatives.
- The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyse job opportunities for youth and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant communities.

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4. QS World Future Skills Index 2027:

Context: India ranked 13th globally in AI-economy readiness in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027, which was released by QS Quacquarelli Symonds on 23 June 2026. India scored 89.4 out of 100 in the index and ranked fifth in the Future of Work category with a score of 96.0.

About QS World Future Skills Index 2027:

- The QS World Future Skills Index is a global ranking framework that assesses countries on readiness for future skills and AI-linked economic change.
- The 2027 edition used a revised methodology, and QS stated that year-on-year comparison with the 2025 pilot edition is not meaningful.
- AI-economy readiness refers to the capacity of a country to support artificial intelligence adoption through education, workforce preparation, and digital capability.
- The report estimated that successful AI adoption could add nearly $500 billion in economic value to India by 2030.
- USA, Australia and UK are top three countries in the list.

5. C295:

Context: The Indian Air Force is scheduled to receive its first Made-in-India C295 transport aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat, on 22-23 September 2026. The aircraft is part of a 56-aircraft procurement contract signed by the Ministry of Defence with Airbus in September 2021.

About C295:

- The C295 is a twin-engine turboprop military transport aircraft used for tactical airlift, troop transport, and logistics missions.

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- The aircraft has a rear ramp for loading cargo and can operate from short and semi-prepared runways.
- The programme is being executed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus at a Final Assembly Line in Vadodara.
- Under the contract, 16 aircraft are delivered in fly-away condition from Seville, Spain, and 40 aircraft are manufactured and assembled in India.
- The Made-in-India C295 aircraft will replace the Indian Air Force's Avro transport aircraft, which entered service in the early 1960s. The Avro HS 748 was manufactured in India under licence by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

6. International Atomic Energy Agency:

Context: On 24 June 2026, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi stated in Tokyo that IAEA inspectors will visit Iranian nuclear enrichment sites.

About International Atomic Energy Agency:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central organization for cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- It is popularly associated with the motto "Atoms for Peace and Development."
- The IAEA was established in 1957 to promote peaceful nuclear applications and prevent the misuse of atomic energy.
- Its headquarters is located in Vienna.
- The agency aims to ensure that nuclear technology is used safely, securely, and exclusively for peaceful purposes.
- The IAEA is an international intergovernmental organization, not a military body or a treaty.
- It facilitates international cooperation in nuclear science, technology, safety, and security.

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- Its three core functions are nuclear safety and security, nuclear science and applications, and safeguards & verification.
- Through its safeguards system, the IAEA helps verify that nuclear materials are not diverted for nuclear weapons programmes.

Quick Bites:

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier telecom R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH), a leading institution of national importance, to advance research and innovation in next-generation communication technologies.
- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) successfully conducted the 2nd Hands-on Training Programme on the Determination of Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in Oral Liquid Preparations by Gas Chromatography (GC) from 22nd to 23rd June 2026 at its campus in Ghaziabad. Ethylene Glycol (EG) and Diethylene Glycol (DEG) are highly toxic substances that are not permitted in pharmaceutical formulations. These contaminants may be introduced through adulterated or substandard excipients such as glycerin, propylene glycol, sorbitol, and polyethylene glycol. Even trace quantities can pose serious health risks, including acute kidney injury, central nervous system depression, and death. Therefore, their accurate detection, quantification, and control are essential for safeguarding public health and ensuring pharmaceutical quality.
- China's LineShine supercomputer ranked first in the 67th edition of the TOP500 list on 23 June 2026. The system is installed at the National Supercomputing Center in Shenzhen and recorded a performance of 2.198 exaflops, equal to more than 2 quintillion calculations per second.
- The European Union agreed on 3 June 2026 to join Pax Silica, a United States-led initiative on artificial intelligence supply chains and export controls. The accession was announced at a Pax

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Silica summit in Washington, D.C., in June 2026, and the initiative was launched by the United States in December 2025 as a strategic framework for allied coordination on the AI ecosystem.

- India and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 23 June 2026 for cooperation in public sector auditing. The agreement was signed between the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Supreme Audit Institution of Israel.

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26-06-2026

1. SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility):

Context: The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched SHATAYU (Senior Holistic Care Assistance and Training for Your Utility) Dashboard on 22.05.2026.

About SHATAYU:

- The dashboard provides a platform to all trained Geriatric caregivers to register themselves on the dashboard for providing their services to the needy senior citizens.
- The SHATAYU dashboard is managed by National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment which is also mandated with the training of geriatric caregivers.
- It is stated that under the training of geriatric caregivers, the number of enrollment of the candidates depends on the location of the training centre.
- Candidates are mobilized from areas nearby to the training centre. Therefore, a large number of trainees may belong to a particular district/city/town.

2. BrahMos missiles:

Context: As of 25 June 2026, about 40 Indian Air Force Su-30MKI fighters have been integrated with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

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About BrahMos missiles:

- The BrahMos missile, an Indo-Russian joint venture, has a range of 290 km and is the fastest cruise missile in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8.
- BrahMos is named for the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- It is a two-stage (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second) missile.
- It is a multiplatform missile i.e., it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It operates on the "Fire and Forgets" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.

3. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

Context: Bangladesh joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) on 24 June 2026 as its 27th member nation.

About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

- The IBCA, an inter-governmental international organisation headquartered in India, has been established for the conservation of seven big cats - Lion, Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.
- IBCA launched in 2023 is a first-of-its-kind platform bringing together countries home to the seven big cats, reflecting India's belief that conservation challenges must be addressed collectively through cooperation, knowledge sharing and mutual support.
- Launch: International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- **Approval:** It was formally approved by the Union Cabinet in February 2024.
- **Implementation:** IBCA is established through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

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- **Global Platform:** It serves as a platform for sharing conservation expertise, funding initiatives, and creating a technical knowledge repository.
- **Objective:** To promote conservation of seven big cat species—Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- **Membership:** Open to all UN member states, including both range and non-range countries.
- **Ratifying Countries:** India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, and Liberia have ratified the IBCA Framework Agreement.
- **Need:** Addresses threats such as habitat loss, poaching, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict.
- **Funding Support:** India has committed ₹150 crore (2023–2028) and is exploring additional international funding sources.
- **Goal:** Strengthen global cooperation to halt and reverse the decline of big cat populations.

4. e-Zero FIR:

Context: On 24 June 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 52nd PRAGATI meeting and directed states to implement the integrated digital e-Zero FIR system for cyber fraud cases. The system is linked to the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is designed for high-value cyber financial fraud complaints.

About e-Zero FIR:

- e-Zero FIR is a digital mechanism that converts verified cyber financial fraud complaints into Zero FIRs.
- Zero FIR can be registered at any police station irrespective of territorial jurisdiction.
- The FIR is later transferred to the police station having the appropriate jurisdiction for investigation.

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- It is designed to ensure quick registration and prompt investigation of cyber financial fraud cases.
- Applicable to cyber financial fraud complaints involving amounts above ₹10 lakh.
- Complaints must be filed through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or the 1930 Cyber Helpline.
- The initiative aims to improve the speed of law enforcement response and increase the chances of recovering defrauded funds.
- It is part of India's efforts to strengthen the cybercrime response framework and digital policing ecosystem.
- The mechanism supports coordination among police agencies across different jurisdictions in tackling cyber fraud.
- It complements the work of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

5. Tungabhadra River:

Context: Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana on Thursday signalled a "historic" consensus on protecting the interests of farmers in the Tungabhadra basin and pursuing long-term solutions to irrigation and water-sharing issues.

About Tungabhadra river:

- **Location:** Tungabhadra is a major peninsular river flowing through Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Tributary:** It is the largest tributary of the Krishna River.
- **Religious Significance:** Considered sacred by Hindus and referred to as Pampa in the Ramayana.
- **Origin:** Formed at Koodli (Shivamogga district, Karnataka) by the confluence of the Tunga and Bhadra rivers.
- **Source Rivers:** Both the Tunga and Bhadra originate on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.

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- **Length & Confluence:** Flows for about 531 km before joining the Krishna River at Sangamaleshwaram (Andhra Pradesh).
- **Course:** Flows 382 km in Karnataka, forms the Karnataka–Andhra Pradesh boundary for 58 km, and continues 91 km in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Catchment Area:** Drains a basin of about 69,552 sq. km up to its confluence with the Krishna.
- **Raichur Doab:** The land between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers is known as the Raichur Doab.
- **Tributaries:** Major tributaries include the Varada and Hagari (Vedavathi) rivers.
- **Dams:** Important projects include the Tungabhadra Dam, Bhadra Dam, Tunga Anicut, and Hemavathi Dam.
- **Historical Importance:** Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, is situated on its banks.
- **Drainage:** The Krishna River, after receiving the Tungabhadra, ultimately drains into the Bay of Bengal.

6. 'Netra' Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system:

Context: The indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system, which played a pivotal role as a force multiplier for the Indian Air Force in the 2019 Balakot strikes and Operation Sindoor last year, was accorded final operational clearance (FOC).

About Netra:

- Developed indigenously by the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), the Netra AEW&C is integrated on the Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I aircraft platform.
- The system encompasses a sophisticated suite of mission equipment, including an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), mission computer,

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secure communication networks, electronic support measures (ESM) and communication support measures.

- India is the fifth country in the world to develop this capability, as Netra can detect, track, identify and monitor airborne and maritime targets enhancing the network-centric operations capabilities of the IAF.
- The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) for the Netra was accorded in 2015 and it was inducted into the IAF in 2017.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the development of six more AEW&C Mk-1A systems by the CABS.

Quick Bites:

- Mamallapuram recently became the first UNESCO World Heritage site in South Asia to achieve the prestigious Green Destinations Silver global certification, setting a benchmark for responsible destination management.
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has facilitated the export of a 40 metric tonne (MT) consignment of biscuits from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, to Oman.
- In a significant boost to India's fresh produce export sector, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with the ICAR–Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow, has successfully facilitated the first commercial sea shipment of premium Banganapalle mangoes from India to Singapore.
- The Ministry of Culture commemorated Samvidhan Hatya Diwas through a special programme organised by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry, at its campus in New Delhi. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat graced the event as the chief guest. The event marked the completion of

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fifty years of the Emergency imposed in 1975 and sought to reinforce public awareness about the importance of democracy, constitutional values and citizens' rights.

- The 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting was successfully convened on 25 June 2026 in Gurugram, Haryana, under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 under the overarching theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- The Central Bureau of Investigation launched Operation Chakra-VI on 25 June 2026 against digital arrest fraud networks in India.
- A pair of powerful earthquakes that rocked Venezuela have killed at least 188 people and left more than 1,500 hurt, officials said on Thursday as residents searched for loved ones trapped under rubble after many buildings were flattened within minutes. An international outpouring of aid quickly followed the tremors on Wednesday evening, which the United States Geological Survey (USGS) measured as magnitude 7.2 and 7.5, centred west of the capital Caracas. Tremors from the earthquakes were also felt in neighbouring Colombia and Brazil.
- The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 42.2 million small-expenditure financing facility to develop the bamboo industry in India's northeastern States. It will support community-based projects that enhance the usage of bamboo resources across Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura.

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27-06-2026

1. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay:

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today, paid tributes to the great Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on his Jayanti, remembering him as a towering literary luminary whose writings ignited the spirit of patriotism and cultural pride among generations of Indians.

About Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay:

- Born in 1838, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was a novelist, poet, journalist, and one of the leading intellectuals of 19th-century India.
- He is widely regarded as the Father of Modern Bengali Literature for pioneering the Bengali novel.
- As a member of the Brahmo Samaj, he supported social and religious reforms within Hindu society.
- His writings combined literary excellence with themes of social reform, nationalism, and Indian identity.
- Though influenced by European literature and philosophy, his works remained deeply rooted in Indian culture, history, and Hindu mythology.
- His novels portrayed realism, human emotions, and the conflict between tradition and modernity.
- His philosophical and literary works inspired the growth of Indian nationalism and resistance against colonial rule.
- Rajmohan's Wife (1864) was his first novel and the first Indian novel written in English by an Indian author.
- Durgeshnandini (1865) and Kapalkundala (1866) established him as a pioneering Bengali novelist through historical and social themes.

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- Anandamath (1882), based on the Sannyasi Rebellion, is his most celebrated work and introduced the patriotic song "Vande Mataram."
- Vande Mataram, first sung at the Indian National Congress session in 1896, later became India's National Song and a symbol of the freedom movement.

2. 'Easy Connect' flight:

Context: In a significant milestone towards realising the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on June 25, 2026 launched India's first 'Easy Connect' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Varanasi.

More details:

- The Hub-and-Spoke strategy aims at making India the aviation hub of choice for Indian passengers by 2030 and for the world by 2047.
- The benefits extend beyond aviation. Improved international connectivity is expected to facilitate trade, tourism, investment and regional economic development.
- Under the Hub-and-Spoke model, international passengers complete check-in, immigration, and customs formalities at the spoke airport itself.
- The spoke airport becomes the first point of departure for the passenger's international journey.
- Passengers then travel to a designated hub airport (e.g., Delhi) to board the international flight without repeating departure formalities.
- Both the domestic and international flight segments are treated as international operations.
- Separate boarding passes with 'D' (Domestic) and 'I' (International) identifiers are issued to prevent passenger intermixing.

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- International passengers under this model do not have access to customs declaration facilities at the hub airport.
- The model enhances operational efficiency, passenger convenience, and security for international travel.

3. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Notification of Threatened Species:

Context: In a major step towards strengthening biodiversity conservation in the country, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Notification of Threatened Species under Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

More details:

- The SOP aims to facilitate a uniform, transparent and scientifically robust process for the identification, assessment and notification of threatened species by States and Union Territories.
- Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 empowers the Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State Government, to notify any species that is on the verge of extinction or is likely to become extinct in the near future as a Threatened Species.
- The notification regulates or prohibits its collection and provides for appropriate measures for its rehabilitation and conservation.
- The Central Government may also delegate these powers to the State Governments.
- So far, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified 159 plant species and 173 animal species as threatened species pertaining to 17 States and 3 Union Territories.
- The SOP has been developed to assist State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils in undertaking the identification of threatened species in a consistent, transparent and scientifically rigorous manner and recommending the same to the State Government for notification.

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- The SOP promotes the use of the best available scientific evidence, field-based assessments and traditional knowledge while ensuring the participation of local communities, Biodiversity Management Committees.

4. SARAS Aajeevika mela:

Context: SARAS Aajeevika to Showcase the Spirit of Women-Led Rural Enterprise at Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan. To provide a permanent retail platform for quality SHG products, the Ministry established the SARAS Aajeevika Gallery at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi

About SARAS Aajeevika mela:

- SARAS Mela is an initiative under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- It aims to provide a platform for rural women Self-Help Group (SHG) members to showcase and sell their products and establish market linkages.
- The event is organized by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).
- DAY-NRLM is the Government of India's flagship rural poverty alleviation programme, targeting 10 crore rural poor households by organizing one woman member from each household into SHGs.
- SHGs promote financial inclusion by facilitating access to bank credit, livelihood opportunities, and government entitlements.
- The mission aims to ensure household food security and multiple sustainable livelihood sources for every rural poor family.
- DAY-NRLM is implemented through four core pillars: social mobilization and institution building, financial inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and social inclusion with convergence.

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5. Project Hawk Eye:

Context: Project Hawk Eye is a surveillance and security initiative launched in Anantnag district, Jammu and Kashmir, for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

About Project Hawk Eye:

- Project Hawk Eye was launched on 25–26 June 2026 for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.
- The Amarnath cave shrine is located in the Himalayas in Jammu and Kashmir, and the pilgrimage route includes the Pahalgam and Baltal axes.
- The arrangement uses drones, CCTV cameras, facial recognition systems, elevated observation posts, and sniper teams for route security and monitoring.
- The project uses a multi-layered security and surveillance grid for round-the-clock monitoring. Five drones are deployed at key locations for aerial surveillance and real-time observation.
- The deployment also includes 28 Machan Morchas, which are elevated observation posts, and 22 specially trained sniper teams at designated points along the route.
- HawkEye 360 is a United States-based technology company known for radio-frequency geospatial intelligence.
- In 2025, the United States approved the sale of HawkEye 360 technology to India, and the approval was reaffirmed in June 2026.
- The system is intended to strengthen maritime domain awareness and detect vessels that disable their tracking systems, often called dark ships.

6. Toshakhana:

Context: The Ministry of External Affairs has opened about 300 Toshakhana gifts for public e-auction under the revised Toshakhana Rules, 2024. The auction began on 8 June 2026 and is scheduled to end on 30 June 2026.

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About Toshakhana:

- Toshakhana is a system for the receipt, valuation, and disposal of gifts received by public officials during official visits and diplomatic engagements.
- In India, the Toshakhana Section functions under the Establishment Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The e-auction is being conducted through the Ministry of External Affairs' Toshakhana Auction Portal.
- The proceeds from the auction are credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, which is the principal government account under Article 266 of the Constitution of India.

7. Kirthai-II hydroelectric project:

Context: The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recommended in-principle approval of forest land for the 820 MW Kirthai-II hydroelectric project.

About Kirthai-II hydroelectric project:

- Kirthai-II is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric project proposed on the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir.
- The project involves the construction of a 121-metre-high concrete gravity dam.
- It is the third hydroelectric project on the Chenab River to receive approval after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- The project will be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd (CVPPL), a joint venture of NHPC and the Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC).
- Kirthai-I lies upstream, Kiru Hydroelectric Project lies downstream, and other major Chenab projects include Sawalkote, Dulhasti-II, Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kwar, Kiru, and Kirthai-I.

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8. Sustainable Development Report 2026:

Context: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026 Implementing Sustainable Development: 2030 and Beyond was released recently.

About Sustainable Development Report 2026:

- It reviews progress made each year on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015.
- It is published by the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- Prepared by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); ranks all UN Member States based on progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The SDG Index is a composite score (0–100) measuring a country's overall progress across all 17 SDGs. A score of 100 indicates full achievement of all SDGs.
- The index uses multiple indicators covering the economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions of sustainable development.
- Top 3 Countries (SDR 2026): Finland (1st), Sweden (2n^{d}), and Denmark (3rd).
- Bottom 3 Countries (SDR 2026): Central African Republic (164th), South Sudan (165th), and Chad (166th).

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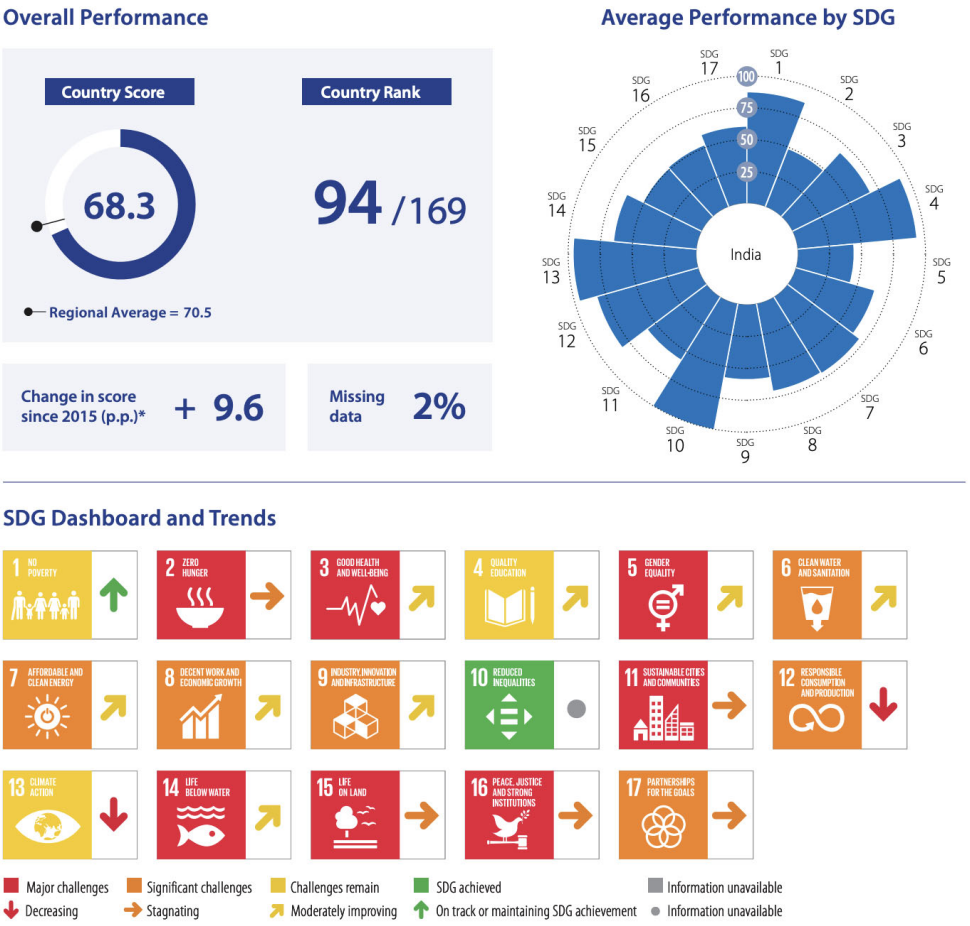
India's performance:



9. Katchatheevu Islands:

Context: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday targeted the Congress over what it called the "surrender" of Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka during its rule on June 26, 1974, without taking any stakeholders into confidence.

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About Katchatheevu Islands:



- Katchatheevu is an un-inhabited offshore island in the Palk Strait.
- The island is located between Neduntheevu, Sri Lanka and Rameswaram, India.
- It was formed due to volcanic eruptions in the 14th century.
- Today, the uninhabited island is administered by Sri Lanka.
- Fishermen of both countries have been fishing in each other's waters without conflict for a very long time.
- The issue emerged when both countries signed four Maritime Boundary Agreements between 1974-76.
- The agreement marked the international maritime boundary of India and Sri Lanka.
- In 1974, then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi accepted Katchatheevu as Sri Lankan area under the "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime Agreement" aimed at resolving the maritime boundaries in the Palk Strait.
- Another agreement signed in 1976 restricted both the countries' fishermen from fishing in the other's exclusive economic zones.

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- The agreement aimed to facilitate resource management and law enforcement in the Palk Strait.
- Now, Indian fishermen were only allowed to use the island for resting, net drying and the annual St. Anthony's festival.
- They are not permitted to use the island for fishing.
- However, Indian fishermen continued trespassing the Sri Lankan water boundary, searching for better catch in the area.

10. National Food Security Act (NFSA):

Context: The story so far: The Union Food and Public Distribution Department on Wednesday published a draft of the proposed amendments to the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The draft is uploaded on the department's website. The public can comment on the amendments till July 13.

About National Food Security Act (NFSA):

- It is a Central Sector Scheme enacted in 2013 by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Consumer Affairs Ministry.
- The scheme aims to provide subsidized food grains to poor families.
- Union procures food grains from farmers at MSP and sells it to the states at Central Issue Price (CIP).
- States then sell the grains to the beneficiaries through fair price shops/PDS shops.
- 67% of the Indian population is covered under the scheme, including 75% rural population and 50% urban population (both Below Poverty Line and few Above Poverty Line families are covered).
- The beneficiaries are provided rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg, and coarse grains at Rs 1/kg

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New proposed changes:

- **Proposed Change:** Under the amended Section 3 of the National Food Security Act, 2013, each AAY beneficiary will receive 7 kg of free foodgrains per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household.
- **Earlier Provision:** Previously, every AAY household received a fixed 35 kg per month, irrespective of the number of family members.
- **Reason for Amendment:** The fixed household allocation created inequity, as smaller families received more food per person than larger families.
- **Objective:** The amendment aims to ensure fairer per-capita distribution, align foodgrain allocation with nutritional needs, and remove disparities among AAY households.
- **Benefit:** Larger AAY families will receive a more equitable allocation, while the 35 kg household ceiling continues to apply.

Quick Bites:

- The Embassy of India in Reykjavik, in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), organised Indian Mango Promotion Events on 24 June 2026 in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, and on 25 June 2026 in Akureyri, North Iceland, showcasing the rich diversity and export potential of Indian mangoes. These were the first-ever Indian mango promotion events held in Iceland.
- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi addressed the SCO Women's Forum 2026 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic today , through a video message, reaffirming India's commitment to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and its principles of mutual respect, equality, and consensus, and to strengthening the partnership and advancing the Organisation's shared development goals.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) signed a Statement of Intent with the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) on 25 June 2026 in New Delhi

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to launch a fellowship initiative. The partnership is linked to the Embark India Development Fellowship and involves two fellows for policy research and governance-related work.

- Airport developer GMR Airports Ltd. took over the operations of Nagpur's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport on Friday.

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28-06-2026

1. Char Dham Yatra 2026:

Context: The Ministry of Civil Aviation proudly takes note of the safe and successful conduct of helicopter operations during the first phase of the Char Dham Yatra 2026, reaffirming the Government's unwavering commitment to ensuring safe, seamless and reliable air connectivity for the pilgrims. The first phase of helicopter operations commenced with the opening of the Char Dham Yatra in April 2026 and concluded on 26 June 2026. During this period, approximately 400 helicopter movements were conducted daily.

About Char Dham Yatra:

- Char Dham in Uttarakhand is a collective term used for the religious circuit covering Holy hindu pilgrimage centres of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
- All four temple shrines are located in Garhwal Himalayas range of Uttarakhand.
- This is considered as the most sacred religious place to be visited by Hindus, to get rid of their sins and pave path to the ultimate goal of human life – the Moksha.
- **Yamunotri :-** This temple is dedicated to River Yamuna. It is situated in Garhwal Region of Uttarakhand State.
- **Gangotri :-** The temple is devoted to Goddess Ganges.
- **Kedarnath :-** The temple is devoted to God Shiva. There is 12 main Jyotirlinga of shiva & Kedarnath is one of the main jyotirling.
- **Badrinath:-** The temple is dedicated to God Vishnu.

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2. ICGS Akshay:

Context: Bharatiya Tatrakshak marked another milestone in its force modernisation with the commissioning of ICGS Akshay, a new-generation Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), at Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, on June 27, 2026.

About ICGS Akshay:

- Named Akshay, meaning Indestructible, the Fast Patrol Vessel embodies the enduring spirit, resilience and unwavering commitment of Bharatiya Tatrakshak towards safeguarding the nation's maritime interests.
- The ship reinforces the Service's resolve to ensure safe, secure and clean seas while protecting India's vast maritime domain.
- The vessel is equipped to undertake a wide range of Coast Guard operations, including maritime law enforcement, coastal security, search and rescue, marine environmental protection and assistance to mariners in distress, thereby enhancing the operational capability of Bharatiya Tatrakshak.
- Designed and constructed by Goa Shipyard Limited, ICGS Akshay is another significant achievement in indigenous shipbuilding and reflects the Government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

3. Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP):

Context: GCMP has been launched by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

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About Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP):

- **Aim:** Reduce global pollution by strengthening developing countries' capacity to monitor hazardous chemicals and support evidence-based policymaking.
- **Funding:** US$23.5 million initiative financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with US$50 million in co-financing.
- **GEF:** Established during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit as the financial mechanism for five major international environmental conventions.
- **Supports:** Minamata Convention, Stockholm Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- **Projects:** Six projects will generate scientific evidence on chemical pollution, improve data, strengthen cooperation, and enhance long-term monitoring of POPs and mercury.
- **WHO Concern:** World Health Organization lists POPs and mercury among the top chemicals of major public health concern.
- **POPs:** Toxic, carbon-based synthetic chemicals that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate in food chains, and spread over long distances.
- **Mercury:** A naturally occurring toxic element that damages the nervous, digestive, and immune systems, as well as the lungs, kidneys, skin, and eyes.

4. Seismic Doublet:

Context: Two powerful earthquakes (Magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5), known as doublets, struck western Venezuela near Yumare, about 160 km west of Caracas region.

More details:

- **Earthquake:** Sudden shaking of the Earth's surface caused by the rapid release of energy when rocks slip along a fault.

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- **Hypocentre (Focus):** The point inside the Earth where the earthquake rupture begins.
- **Epicentre:** The point on the Earth's surface directly above the hypocentre.
- **Typical Earthquake Sequence:** A major earthquake is usually followed by a series of smaller aftershocks.
- **Earthquake Doublets:** Two earthquakes of similar magnitude occurring in quick succession from closely related but distinct fault ruptures.
- **Cause of Doublets:** Stress transferred by the first rupture triggers a second major earthquake on a nearby fault segment.
- **Venezuela's Seismic Vulnerability:** Due to its location along the Caribbean–South American plate boundary, with active strike-slip faults such as the Boconó Fault and San Sebastián Fault.

5. Golden Langurs:

Context: Seven Golden Langurs rescued from an alleged interstate wildlife trafficking network in Assam were released in Sikhna Jwhwlao National Park.

About Golden Langurs:

- **Conservation Status:** Golden Langur is Endangered (IUCN), listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Appendix I of CITES.
- **Distribution:** Endemic to Bhutan and Assam, found between the Manas River, Sankosh River, and Brahmaputra River along the Indo-Bhutan border.
- **Habitat:** Inhabits moist evergreen, riverine, moist deciduous, temperate, and subalpine forests, and sometimes degraded secondary forests.
- **Key Characteristics:** A leaf-eating, arboreal, diurnal primate with a ruminant-like multi-chambered stomach, descending to the ground only occasionally.
- **Major Threats:** Habitat destruction, forest fragmentation, and illegal wildlife trafficking.

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- Sikhna Jwhwlao National Park, Assam's 8th national park, is a biodiversity-rich area spanning across the Chirang and Kokrajhar districts in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

6. Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity:

Context: India's External Affairs Minister recently addressed Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2026 highlighting need for strengthening cooperation between India and South Korea.

About Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity:

- **Origin:** Launched in 2001 (formerly the Jeju Peace Forum) as a global dialogue platform.
- **Objective:** Promotes peace, international cooperation, and multilateral dialogue to address global challenges.
- **Hosted By:** Jointly hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, the International Peace Foundation, and the East Asia Foundation, and organized by the Jeju Peace Institute.
- **Significance:** Brings together global leaders, policymakers, scholars, and experts to discuss geopolitical, climate, technology, and economic issues.
- **Role:** Serves as a key international forum for fostering peace

7. Global Unicorn Index 2026:

Context: India with 61 unicorns, slipped one place to 4th position in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026.

About Global Unicorn Index 2026:

- **Record Growth:** The Global Unicorn Index 2026 recorded 1,603 unicorns with a combined valuation of US$8 trillion, driven primarily by the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **AI Dominance:** AI unicorns account for 36% of the total global unicorn valuation, making AI the leading driver of startup growth.

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- **India's Performance:** India's most valuable unicorns are Zerodha, Zepto, and Razorpay; Bengaluru remained the country's unicorn capital with 25 unicorns, followed by Mumbai with 13.
- **Indian Diaspora:** Indians have co-founded 156 unicorns outside India, highlighting the global entrepreneurial impact of the Indian diaspora.

8. Helina missile:

Context: Helina is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation for helicopter launch platforms. It uses an Imaging Infrared seeker, supports lock-on before launch, and can engage armoured targets from 500 metres to 7 kilometres.

About Helina missile:

- Helina is a fire-and-forget missile system, which means it can be launched after target acquisition without continuous guidance from the operator.
- The missile can engage targets in direct hit mode and top attack mode, and it is designed for use against armoured vehicles.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is preparing live fire trials of Helina from the Light Combat Helicopter, also known as Prachand. These trials are planned as the first launch of Helina from the LCH, after earlier successful trials from the Advanced Light Helicopter in 2022.

9. GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):

Context: India conducted its first satellite-based landing system approach on a jet engine aircraft on 27 June 2026 at Udaipur airport. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation used an IndiGo Airbus A320 for the approach through GAGAN, which is India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System for civil aviation.

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About GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN):

- GAGAN is India's Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), jointly developed by Indian Space Research Organisation and Airports Authority of India.
- **Objective:** It enhances GPS accuracy, integrity, and reliability for civil aviation and improves air traffic management over Indian airspace.
- **Global Significance:** India is the first country in the Asia-Pacific to develop an indigenous SBAS and one of only four regions with operational SBAS, alongside WAAS (USA), EGNOS (Europe), and MSAS (Japan).
- **Ground Segment – INRES:** A network of 15 Indian Reference Stations (INRES) collects GPS data from satellites.
- **Error Correction:** GAGAN corrects errors caused by ionospheric disturbances, satellite orbit inaccuracies, and clock errors.
- **Control & Uplink:** The Indian Master Control Centre (INMCC) generates correction messages, which are transmitted via the Indian Land Uplink Station (INLUS).
- **Space Segment:** The corrections are broadcast through GSAT-8, GSAT-10, and GSAT-15, all carrying GAGAN payloads.
- **Aircraft Navigation:** Aircraft equipped with compatible GPS receivers receive these correction messages for high-precision navigation.
- **Coverage:** GAGAN provides navigation coverage from Africa to Australia and is interoperable with international SBAS systems for seamless regional navigation.
- **Expansion:** The system has the capability to expand through 45 reference stations, enabling wider regional coverage, including neighbouring countries.

10. Teesta river Project:

Context: The Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project is a river management initiative in Bangladesh that involves dredging, embankment construction, land

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reclamation, and road development. Bangladesh and China discussed the project during a visit by Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to Beijing from 24 to 26 June 2026.

About Teesta river Project:

- The Teesta River originates from the Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse) glacier in the Eastern Himalayas in the state of Sikkim, India.
- It flows southward through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal, eventually entering Bangladesh.
- In Bangladesh, it merges with the Brahmaputra River (known locally as the Jamuna River).
- Major tributaries: Rangpo River, the Rangit River, and the Great Rangit River.
- The proposed project includes dredging 140 million cubic metres of riverine sediment and reclaiming 171 square kilometres of land.
- It also includes repairing 110 kilometres of embankments, constructing 124 kilometres of new embankments, developing a 224-kilometre road network, and building 82 jetty facilities.

Mains specific articles:

1. Which document proves Indian citizenship?

- **Passport:** A passport is a travel document and strong evidence of nationality, but not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship.
- **MEA Clarification:** The MEA clarified that this is not a new policy; it reflects the existing legal position.
- **Passport Manual:** The Passport Manual treats a passport as evidence of nationality, not definitive proof of citizenship.
- **Legal Position:** Citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, whereas passports are issued under the Passports Act, 1967.

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- **Maneka Gandhi Case (1978):** The Supreme Court held that passport issuance is based on proof of Indian nationality and entitles the holder to diplomatic protection abroad.
- **Passport Refusal:** Under Section 6(2)(a) of the Passports Act, a passport can be refused if the applicant is not an Indian citizen.
- **Exception:** Under Section 20 of the Passports Act, the government may issue a passport to a non-citizen in public interest.
- **Aadhaar:** Aadhaar is only proof of identity and address, not proof of citizenship.
- **Aadhaar Eligibility:** Legally resident non-citizens are also eligible to obtain Aadhaar.
- **Supreme Court (2026):** The Court held that Aadhaar cannot be relied upon to prove citizenship, though it may establish identity.
- **Voter ID:** An Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) or inclusion in electoral rolls does not conclusively prove citizenship.
- **Lal Babu Hussein Case (1995):** Inclusion in electoral rolls creates a presumption of citizenship, which can be rebutted only through the prescribed legal process.
- **Supreme Court on SIR (2026):** The Election Commission decides voter eligibility, not citizenship under the Citizenship Act.
- **Passport in SIR:** The Election Commission listed the passport as one of the 11 indicative documents for citizenship verification during the SIR exercise.
- **Citizenship Certificate:** A citizenship certificate issued after registration or naturalisation is conclusive proof of citizenship.
- **Citizens by Birth/Descent:** Most Indians do not possess a citizenship certificate and rely on birth, parentage, and other supporting documents.
- **Born (26 Jan 1950–1 Jul 1987):** Citizenship is by birth irrespective of parents' nationality; proof of date and place of birth is generally sufficient.

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- **Born (1 Jul 1987–3 Dec 2004):** Must prove date/place of birth and that at least one parent was an Indian citizen.
- **Born (On/After 3 Dec 2004):** Must prove one parent is an Indian citizen and the other is not an illegal migrant.
- **Universal Proof:** India does not prescribe a single universal document as conclusive proof of citizenship.
- **Need Ahead:** Experts recommend stronger civil registration, universal birth registration, and reliable archival records to avoid citizenship disputes.

Quick Bites:

- International MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises) Day is observed annually on June 27. The 2026 global theme is "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development,"
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has facilitated the first commercial export of Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Rewa Sundarja Mangoes from Madhya Pradesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), marking a significant milestone in promoting India's unique agricultural products in global markets.
- INS Ikshak, Indian Navy's indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL), arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 26 Jun 2026, as part of her operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region. This visit coincides with the 50th National Day celebrations of Seychelles, underscoring the enduring maritime partnership and long-standing friendship between India and Seychelles.
- On 26th June, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal, in Panaji, inaugurated Goa's new Captain of Ports Terminal Building, a ₹48.87-crore waterfront

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facility designed to strengthen maritime administration, improve vessel monitoring and navigation, and support the state's vision of sustainable maritime development.

- The US has notified a US$428 million sale of support services for India's Apache AH-64E attack helicopters and M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers. The Apache AH-64E is among the world's most advanced combat helicopters, designed for precision strike and battlefield support missions, featuring advanced sensors, targeting systems, unmanned aircraft control, and digital connectivity. The M777A2 Ultra-Light Howitzer is a lightweight artillery gun that can be airlifted for rapid deployment, making it especially suitable for operations in mountainous regions.
- The President of India interacted with Cheetah Mitras and members of the Sahariya Tribe at Kuno National Park. Cheetah Mitras are specially trained local volunteers, often from indigenous communities, who were established under Project Cheetah to support cheetah conservation. The Sahariya Tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), is primarily concentrated in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, is also known as Seher, Sair, Savar, Saonar, and Sahra, and is renowned for its traditional Saharia Swang dance performed during Holi.
- Volcán de Fuego, located southwest of Guatemala City, recently experienced a violent eruption. It is an active stratovolcano (composite volcano) rising to 3,799 m and is one of the three volcanoes overlooking Antigua Guatemala. It was formed by the subduction of the Cocos Plate beneath the Caribbean Plate as part of the Central American Volcanic Arc. The volcano developed after the collapse of the ancestral Meseta volcano around 8,500 years ago and is characterized by predominantly basaltic, Vulcanian, and Strombolian eruptions. Its major hazards include ashfalls, lava flows, pyroclastic flows, and lahars; its devastating 2018 eruption killed over 100 people and severely affected nearby communities.
- The first-ever National Rural Development Conference is scheduled for 28-29 June 2026 in New Delhi, India.
- India launched Operation Amistad on 26 June 2026 to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to Venezuela after two earthquakes caused deaths and injuries.

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- India inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility using nuclear process heat on 26 June 2026 at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday handed over a 'Made in India' Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard, reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to strengthening the archipelago nation's maritime capabilities. Mr. Modi and Seychelles President Patrick Herminie participated in the handover ceremony at the Coast Guard Base in Victoria, Seychelles, during Mr. Modi's three-day visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the vessel, PS LESPWAR, will strengthen Seychelles' maritime surveillance and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol capabilities.

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29-06-2026

1. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

Context: Seychelles joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as a 51st member country.

About Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

- It is an international coalition of countries, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and academic institutions that aim to promote disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- It aims to increase the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- It was launched in 2019, at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York.
- It is the Government of India's second major global initiative after the International Solar Alliance.
- As of June 2026, CDRI consists of more than 51 Member Countries and more than 10 Member Organizations. The CDRI Secretariat is keen to expand its membership to 75 countries and 25 organizations by 2026, with a focus on Southeast Asia, Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

2. Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK):

Context: In a significant step towards strengthening newborn and child health services in the country, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda will launch the Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK) during the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

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About Samagra Shishu Bal Swasthya Karyakram (SSBSK):

- **Unified Programme:** Integrates Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC) into a single national programme.
- **Continuity of Care:** Provides integrated care from birth to 3 years for child survival, nutrition, healthy growth, and early childhood development.
- **Risk-Stratified Approach:** Introduces special follow-up for 'At-risk' newborns and children.
- **Additional Home Visits:** At-risk newborns: Up to 9 home visits in the first 42 days and At-risk children: Up to 8 home visits up to 36 months.
- **Maternal Mental Health:** Includes post-partum maternal mental health screening as a structured component.
- **Early Childhood Development (ECD):** Promotes responsive caregiving, early learning, age-appropriate play, child safety, and family engagement during all home visits.
- **Digital Integration:** Uses Decision-Support Systems (DSS), child tracking, referral loops, and alert mechanisms for monitoring and continuity of care.
- **Portal Integration:** Linked with JANANI Portal, U-WIN Portal, MPCDSR Portal, RBSK 2.0 Portal, and POSHAN Tracker through ABHA and Baal-ABHA IDs.
- **Urban Focus:** Includes tailored home-based care strategies for slum, migrant, and underserved urban populations.

3. Omega Block:

Context: Western Europe is facing a deadly heatwave, driven by a meteorological phenomenon known as an "Omega Block".

About Omega Block:

- It is a type of weather block that resembles the Greek letter omega, Ω.

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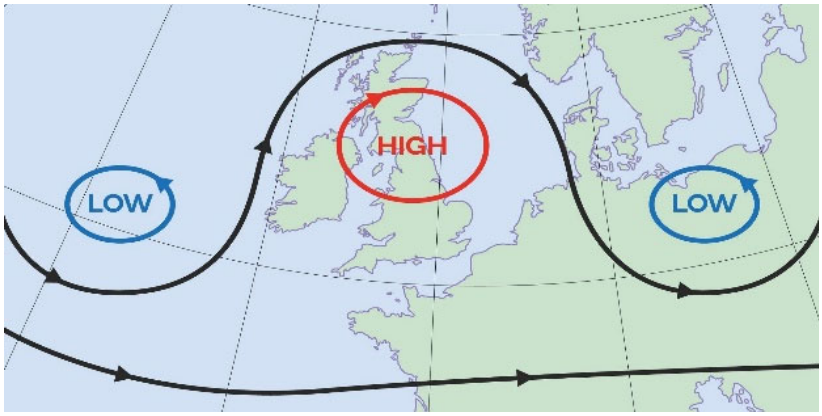

- Blocks are areas of high pressure that remain nearly stationary and distort the usual eastward progression of pressure systems.
- Omega block occurs when a strong area of high pressure builds up between two zones of lower pressure.
- Because of the high pressure, warm air rising from the ground cannot escape into the atmosphere; instead, it is trapped close to the surface and causes compressional heating.
- It promotes widespread sinking air, which suppresses cloud formation and leads to prolonged, intense sunshine.

4. Pax Silica Initiative:

Context: India, along with 34 other countries, signed a US-led 'Joint Statement on AI Opportunity' at the second Pax Silica Summit in Washington, D.C.

About Pax Silica Initiative:

- Pax Silica is a US-led coalition focused on building a secure, resilient, and innovation-driven silicon and AI supply chain ecosystem with trusted global partners
- Pax Silica is envisioned as a strategic coalition of trusted nations committed to securing the "silicon stack", from critical minerals and semiconductor fabrication to advanced AI systems and deployment infrastructure

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- The inaugural Pax Silica Summit was held in Washington, D.C. in December 2025
- It aims to reduce coercive dependencies on a single country, safeguard AI-critical materials, and enable aligned nations to scale transformative technologies
- The initiative responds to China's dominance in critical mineral refining (over 60% of lithium, cobalt, and rare earths) and recent rare earth export restrictions
- Participating countries include Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Australia
- Partner nations host key firms such as Samsung, SK Hynix, Sony, Fujitsu, ASML, Rio Tinto, DeepMind, and Temasek, which power the global AI supply chain
- Core commitments include joint projects on critical minerals, semiconductor design and fabrication, compute infrastructure, energy grids, and protection of sensitive technologies from countries of concern.

5. Anaemia Mukt Bharat:

Context: The Union Health Ministry is set to launch revised operational guidelines for the Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB) on Monday, expanding the national programme's strategy to include a new beneficiary group, greater emphasis on dietary interventions, and digital tracking of beneficiaries. The revised framework seeks to strengthen anaemia control through improved testing, treatment, monitoring and community participation. The revised programme adds low birth weight babies (0-6 months) as a seventh beneficiary group, recognising the need for early intervention.

About Anaemia Mukt Bharat:

- Anemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiological needs.

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- Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anaemia, although other conditions, such as folate, vitamin B12 and vitamin A deficiencies, chronic inflammation, parasitic infections, and inherited disorders can all cause anaemia.
- **Launch:** Government of India initiative to reduce the burden of anemia across the country.
- **Objective:** Reduce the prevalence of anemia by 3% annually among children, adolescents, and women of reproductive age.
- **Focus:** Addresses the root causes of anemia, including iron deficiency, folic acid deficiency, and malnutrition.
- **Strategy:** Implemented through a 6×6×6 strategy.
- **Six Beneficiaries:** Children (6–59 months), children (5–9 years), adolescents (10–19 years), pregnant women, lactating women, and women of reproductive age (15–49 years).
- **Six Interventions:** Iron-folic acid supplementation, deworming, nutrition counselling, blood loss prevention, early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, and diet diversification.
- **Six Institutional Mechanisms:** Convergence, accountability, capacity building, IEC (Information, Education and Communication), research, and monitoring & evaluation.
- **Goal:** Improve nutritional status and reduce anemia-related health risks, especially among vulnerable population groups.

Quick Bites:

➢ At a special ceremony, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was today conferred with a Presidential Distinction - 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' by the President of Seychelles, H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie. The honour has been conferred upon Prime Minister for his green leadership, and efforts towards advancing the interests of developing countries and his longstanding commitment towards promoting the Blue Economy, climate action, sustainable management of ocean resources, and the developmental aspirations of Small Island Developing States. This is the first time that this distinguished honour has been bestowed.

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- After local extinction due to poaching, tigers were successfully reintroduced in Sariska Tiger Reserve and Panna Tiger Reserve. In Sariska, where tigers disappeared in 2005, the reintroduction programme began in 2008 by translocating tigers from Ranthambore National Park, making it the world's first successful scientific reintroduction of tigers into a landscape where they had become locally extinct; the reserve now supports about 56 tigers. In Panna, where tigers became locally extinct in 2009, reintroduction was initiated the same year using tigers from Bandhavgarh National Park, Kanha Tiger Reserve, and Pench Tiger Reserve, successfully restoring a breeding tiger population.
- Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today launched the 'Rural Internal Audit Portal' during the Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Sammelan at Pusa Campus in New Delhi. The AI-enabled portal marks a significant step towards enhancing transparency, accountability and technology-driven governance in the Ministry of Rural Development.
- 3D-Printed Artificial Reefs are an innovative marine habitat restoration initiative that Tamil Nadu will deploy for the first time in India under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana. Developed by Tvasta, an Indian Institute of Technology Madras-incubated startup, in collaboration with ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, these reefs feature complex geometries with crevices, folds, high porosity, species-specific habitat designs, and no iron reinforcement. They aim to restore coral and marine biodiversity, improve fish habitats, strengthen coastal resilience, and enhance fish stocks, thereby supporting the livelihoods of traditional fishing communities.
- Gitchak nakana is a newly discovered genus and species of blind subterranean loach from Assam, belonging to the Cobitidae family. It is completely blind, lacks body pigmentation and a skull roof (its brain is covered only by skin), and has long sensory barbels, elongated branchiostegal rays, and a unique vertebral structure that help it survive underground. It is found exclusively in a groundwater-fed open well in Goalpara district and lives in an underground aquifer rather than caves, making it a rare phreatobitic (groundwater-dwelling) fish.

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- Muzhiyan Kulam is a more than 400-year-old historic pond located near Thavalakuppam at Pooranankuppam. Dating back to the Pallava dynasty period, this two-acre pond traditionally served as a source of drinking water and irrigation and contains four natural spring-fed wells. Its restoration was inspired by the ancient Naangu Mozhi rainwater management system of South India, which features a primary tank (kulam) connected to four wells (mozhi) through underground chambers to enhance rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge.
- A massive landslide caused by heavy rainfall blocked the flow of the Siji River in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Siang district on Sunday, endangering lives and infrastructure downstream.

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30-06-2026

1. Project BRAHMANK:

Context: Project BRAHMANK of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 16th Raising Day on Jun 29, 2026 at Ranaghat, Arunachal Pradesh, marking fifteen years of dedicated service towards the development of strategic infrastructure and connectivity in the region.

About Project BRAHMANK:

- The Project is responsible for development and maintenance of strategic road infrastructure across the Siang, East Siang, West Siang, Upper Siang and Shi-Yomi districts of Arunachal Pradesh, as well as parts of Dhemaji district in Assam.
- The Project is entrusted with the maintenance and development of 811 km of roads and approximately 86 bridges, ranging from culverts to major steel and arch bridges.
- Some of its major engineering achievements include the 100-metre steel arch bridge over Siyom Nallah and the 165 metre PSC bridge over Simang Nallah on the Along–Yingkiong Road.
- Raised on 29 June 2011 at Ranaghat, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, the Project became fully functional on 03 December 2011.
- Despite difficult conditions characterized by rugged terrain, frequent rainfall, poor connectivity and limited infrastructure, the Project has been instrumental in providing strategic and operational connectivity to the Armed Forces while bringing remote villages into the national mainstream.

2. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

Context: Cabinet approves additional investment commitment of Rs. 30,000 crore in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to accelerate infrastructure investment and catalyse institutional capital into India

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About National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is India's Sovereign Anchored Fund, professionally run and managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL).
- GOI is 49% shareholder in NIIF and it currently manages capital commitments of approximately Rs. 40,000 crore across its funds and investment strategies.
- **Established:** NIIF was set up in 2015 as a government-backed investment platform to finance infrastructure and related sectors in India.
- **India's Sovereign Wealth Fund:** It is regarded as India's first sovereign wealth fund (SWF), designed to attract long-term domestic and global investments.
- **Ownership:** The Government of India holds a 49% stake, while the remaining ownership is with domestic and international institutional investors.
- **Mandate:** NIIF invests equity capital in infrastructure and allied sectors to support India's economic growth.
- **Investment Areas:** It invests across infrastructure, private equity, and other diversified sectors, aiming to generate attractive risk-adjusted returns.
- **Project Coverage:** NIIF finances greenfield (new), brownfield (existing), and stalled infrastructure projects.
- **Professional Management:** Although anchored by the Government of India, NIIF is independent in its investment decisions and managed by professional investment experts.
- **SEBI Registration:** NIIF's funds are registered as Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India and raise capital from domestic and international institutional investors.
- **Scale:** NIIF manages over $4.9 billion in assets under management (AUM), making it India's largest infrastructure-focused investment fund.

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3. SUMAN Roadmap 2030:

Context: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, today launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030.

About SUMAN Roadmap 2030:

- It is a comprehensive and forward-looking strategic framework aimed at transforming maternal and newborn healthcare across the country and accelerating India's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- The Roadmap was unveiled during the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW).
- It is an evidence-driven strategy that combines national priorities with local realities to deliver equitable, high-quality maternal and newborn healthcare across the country.
- Anchored in the RMNCHA+N framework, the Roadmap adopts a comprehensive life-cycle approach, integrating interventions from pre-pregnancy through pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period, while ensuring convergence with child health, adolescent health, family planning and nutrition programmes.
- The Roadmap envisions reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030, further lowering the Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), achieving universal saturation of maternal and newborn health services across all States and Union Territories, and ultimately realising the goal of zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

4. National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2026:

Context: On the occasion of the 20th Statistics Day, on 29th June 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the following publications on Sustainable Development

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Goals (SDGs): Sustainable Development Goals – National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2026

About National Indicator Framework Progress Report, 2026:

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in consultation with concerned Ministries and Departments, NITI Aayog, UN Agencies, and other stakeholders to facilitate the monitoring of SDGs at the national level.
- The NIF provides a comprehensive mechanism for tracking progress on the SDGs and serves as an important evidence base for policy formulation and programme implementation.
- The National Indicator Framework (NIF), 2026 consists of 277 national SDG indicators, covering all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The proportion of population covered by social protection systems/floors increased from 22.0% in 2016 to 65.3% in 2026.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio declined from 122 per 100,000 live births during 2015-17 to 87 during 2022-24.
- The Sex Ratio at Birth (in Per 1,000 male live births) improved from 896 females per 1,000 males in 2015–17 to 918 in 2022–24, reflecting a positive trend towards a more balanced gender ratio at birth.
- Installed renewable energy generating capacity in the country increased from 64.04 watts per capita in 2014-15 to 193.36 watts per capita in 2025–26, reflecting a threefold expansion in renewable energy capacity over the period.
- The unemployment rate declined from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 3.1% in 2025.
- The ratio of female to male workers employed as Professionals and Technical Workers increased from 48.7% in 2023–24 to 51.3% in 2025.

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- The area of Ramsar sites as a percentage of total wetland area increased from 4.15% in 2016 to 8.66% in 2026, indicating a substantial expansion in the extent of wetlands receiving international recognition and protection under the Ramsar Convention.

5. The Kisan Sarathi Platform:

Context: Kisan Sarathi, launched in July 2021, is India's largest integrated digital agro-advisory platform.

About The Kisan Sarathi Platform:

- It provides timely, authentic, and multilingual advisories to farmers.
- Farmers also get access to schemes, weather updates, and expert consultations.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- The Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and the Digital India Corporation implement the platform.
- The platform uses the Interactive Information Dissemination System (IIDS). IIDS enables two-way communication between farmers and experts. It supports lab-to-land transfer of agricultural knowledge.
- The integration of these national platforms brings critical agricultural services onto a single digital interface.
- **Purpose:** Kisan Sarathi is a digital platform that connects farmers directly with agricultural experts for timely advice and support.
- **Real-time Advisories:** It provides region-specific advisories on weather, crop management, pest control, and market prices.

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- **Government Schemes:** Farmers can discover and access information on Central and State/UT government schemes relevant to their needs.
- **Scheme Status Tracking:** The platform allows farmers to check the status of schemes such as PM-KISAN.
- **Wide Scheme Coverage:** As of 25 June 2026, the portal hosts 610 government schemes, including 102 Central Government schemes.
- **Comprehensive Advisory Services:** Advisories cover major cereals, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture, plantation crops, fodder crops, as well as livestock, poultry, fisheries, and allied sectors.
- **Expert Consultation:** Farmers can raise queries with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) experts and receive guidance in their local languages.
- **Capacity Building:** The platform offers training programmes and video consultations to improve farmers' knowledge and skills.
- **Market Information:** Farmers can access mandi prices, district-wise market rates, and market trends for major agricultural commodities to make informed selling decisions.

6. Corporate Mitra Scheme:

Context: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs launched the Corporate Mitra Scheme 2026 for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

About Corporate Mitra Scheme:

- The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 and is designed to create trained paraprofessionals for MSME support in compliance, accounting, taxation, financial guidance, and governance.
- The Corporate Mitra Scheme is linked with institutions such as IIT Madras, IIT Pravartak, SWAYAM Plus, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), and the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI).

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- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 25 June 2026 to operationalise the scheme.
- The programme has a duration of 12 months. It includes about 150 hours of online academic learning through the SWAYAM Plus portal and six months of on-the-job training with professional firms.
- Applicants must be Indian nationals below 30 years of age and must be graduates or final-year graduation students.

7. PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT):

Context: Govt. launches a platform to track maternal, child health.

About PM Family Care Tracker (PM-FCT):

- PM-FCT is a digital platform for real-time monitoring of maternal and child health, nutrition, and family welfare.
- It was introduced as a pilot project in Gujarat.
- The platform integrates health, nutrition, and welfare services under a family-centric approach.
- It tracks pregnant women, newborns, infants, children, and adolescents up to 18 years of age.
- It provides Digital Health Passports for families to maintain health records.
- It includes interactive dashboards to facilitate the delivery of government welfare schemes.
- The platform sends alerts for vaccinations and other essential health services.
- It enables end-to-end monitoring of antenatal and postnatal care.
- It tracks immunisation, nutrition, and child growth monitoring.
- It also monitors school enrolment, attendance, and adolescent health services.

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Quick Bites:

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, will organise the second edition of the National Seafood Skill Olympiad from July 1 to 3, 2026, as part of Seafood Expo Bharat (SEB) 2026. The Olympiad will bring together skilled seafood processing professionals from across the country to showcase their expertise in preparing value-added seafood products.
- The fifth edition of the Capstone Seminar, marking the successful culmination of the Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Programme (WASP), was held on June 29th. The Capstone Seminar serves as the culmination of a rigorous, six-month intellectual journey jointly conducted by the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS), New Delhi, and the College of Air Warfare (CAW), Hyderabad.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the Drug Registry as a unified and standardized digital platform for drug-related information. Conceptualized under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), it serves as a single source of truth for medicines in India, enabling consistent identification, storage, exchange and usage of drug data across healthcare systems.
- In the presence of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the governments of Rajasthan and Haryana today signed an important agreement in New Delhi for the construction and implementation of the Yamuna Water Project. The project seeks to facilitate the conveyance of Rajasthan's allocated share of Yamuna waters through an underground pipeline system from the Western Yamuna Canal, enabling the State to effectively utilise the water allocated to it under the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding on the sharing of utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.
- Team India delivered a strong performance at the Global Skills Challenge (GSC) Australia 2026, winning 5 medals— 3 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze — marking another significant milestone in India's journey towards the 48th WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai later this year.

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- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) commemorated the 20th Statistics Day on 29th June 2026 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The Statistics Day is celebrated annually in honour of the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis who was the architect of India's modern statistical system and a pioneer in economic planning. The theme for this year's Statistics Day was, "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data"
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya today felicitated the Indian contingent that created history by securing the country's first-ever medal (Bronze) at the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup 2026. The AVC Men's Volleyball Cup (previously known as the AVC Men's Challenge Cup and AVC Men's Volleyball Nations Cup), is an annual international volleyball competition in Asia and Oceania contested by the senior men's national teams of the members of Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC), one of the sport's continent governing body.
- The 2026 edition marked the first occasion that India hosted the tournament (Ahmedabad, Gujarat), adding another important chapter to the country's sporting calendar.
- The Union Health Ministry is set to launch e-Sushrut@Clinic Digital Health System on 29 June 2026 in New Delhi. Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda will unveil the platform, which is a cloud-based Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) for small outpatient clinics, primary health centres, health and wellness centres, and sub-centres across India.
- Brachybacterium netajii is a newly identified bacterial species isolated from the Hooghly River in West Bengal, India.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is targeted to become operational in Seychelles by the end of 2026. India and Seychelles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for UPI implementation during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Seychelles, which concluded on 29 June 2026.

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- India's first offshore airport has been approved for preparation of a Detailed Project Report in Maharashtra. The proposed site is near Kore beach in Palghar district, and the project is planned as the third international airport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.
- India scripted history at the World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, with Army-men Lakshay and Ujiwal Kumar Singh clinching the country's maiden-ever gold medal. The duo won the Lightweight men's double sculls final, crossing the finish line in 6:26.09 ahead of Hong Kong (6:27.14) and the Netherlands (6:27.36) on Saturday.
- The Indian Army is raising dedicated 'Baaz Battalions' to significantly enhance its Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) capability, a move aimed at strengthening battlefield surveillance, intelligence gathering and rapid response through a specialised drone force, defence sources said.

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