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E-MAGAZINE

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DSSSB	1,979	15 Jul 2026
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Himanshu



Aditya Uppal
IAS, Rank 19

I came to bharti sir when I was at the crossroads of my career. It was his motivation coupled with guidance that I took the decision to appear for the civil services and finally cracked it in my very first attempt. I owe my success to him a lot. Thank you sir for being the guiding light for me and many others like me. Aditya uppal (civil services exam 2013 AIR 202) (Indian revenue service)

1:54 pm



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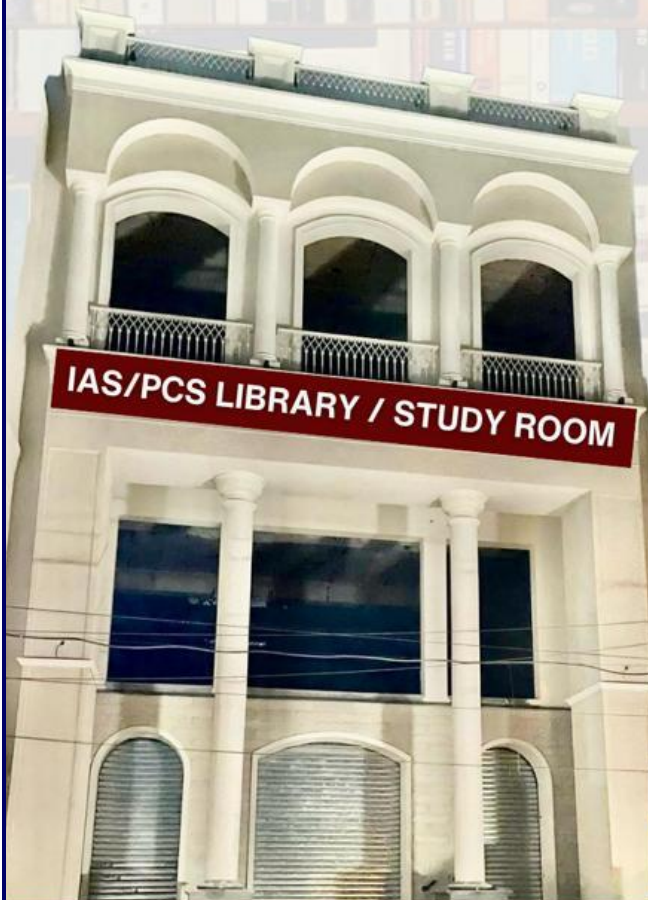


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INDEX

1. NATIONAL NEWS

1. Lakshadweep Potato Patch Coral Colony Identified
2. FSSAI Vegan Logo for Food Products
3. Chenab–Beas River-Link Project
4. E85 Fuel Rollout in India
5. Narendra Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected Prime Minister
6. India Launches First-Ever World Yogasana Championship 2026
7. Barkatullah University renaming proposal (Bhopal).
8. Natural Gas Discovery in the Andaman Offshore Block
9. APCNF won Food Planet Prize 2026
10. Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl
11. Rakhigarhi
12. IAS e-Civil List 2026
13. India Becomes World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in 2025
14. Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk a Fundamental Right
15. Diksha becomes one nation, one digital platform
16. Kanchan Devi Committee
17. Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945
18. Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000

2. STATE NEWS

19. Ladakh Inaugurates 15 Common Facility Centres
20. Mission Senehjori: Assam Muga Silk USP
21. Assam Secures GI Tags for Four Traditional Products
22. Tripura's Traditional Musical Instrument Sarinda Receives GI Tag Recognition
23. Qadian–Beas Railway Line Revived After Nearly 100 Years
24. The Ashtalakshmi Growth Model

25. Go-East Initiative
26. PM Family Care Tracker Launched in Gujarat
27. UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana 2026
28. Coal to Ammonium Nitrate Project Launched in Odisha
29. Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project
30. Tons River
31. Jharkhand Gets GI Tags for 11 Traditional Products

3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

32. Bangladesh Elected to Lead 81st UN General Assembly Session
33. Malaysia Enforces Social Media Ban for U-16
34. The Ras Laffan Gas Facility
35. The Return Regulation
36. Katchatheevu Island
37. The Padma Barrage
38. UZBEKISTAN -10TH MEMBER OF NDB

4. BANKING / ECONOMY

39. BHAVYA Portal for Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana
40. WPI Base Year Revised to 2022–23 and Introduction of Producer Price Index (PPI)
41. UPI Payments Launched in Cambodia Through KHQR
42. RBI LAUNCHES REELATHON 2026

5. SUMMIT, RANKS AND REPORTS

43. Second BRICS Culture Working Group Meeting in Varanasi
44. QS World University Rankings 2027
45. UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Report 2026
46. State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report 2026

6. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- 47.ACC approves one-year extension for Tarun Kapoor as Advisor to PM Modi**
- 48.ACC clears Neelkanth Mishra's appointment as Executive Director, World Bank**
- 49.Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Assumes Charge as Navy Chief**
- 50.Sundarraaj Pattilingam, as an Inspector General in the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**
- 51.Dr. Alka Rao**

7. DEFENCE NEWS

- 52.RudraM-II Missile Successfully Flight-Tested**
- 53.Air Force to Join Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia**
- 54.Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026**
- 55.Indian Navy's Sea King 42B Squadron Retires**
- 56.The Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)**
- 57.Tri-Commissioning of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak & INS Agray**
- 58.RIMPAC 2026 MARITIME EXERCISE BEGINS IN HAWAII**

8. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 59.Indian Teenagers Win Earth Prize 2026 for Plas-Stick**
- 60.National Awards for e-Governance 2026**
- 61.Seychelles Confers Guardian of the Blue Horizon Award**

9. SCIENCE AND TECH

- 62.Project Nimbus**
- 63.Fibre-Optic Drones**
- 64.VivaTech 2026**
- 65.BGP Hijacking**

10. SPORTS NEWS

- 66.Indian soldiers win 1st world rowing cup gold**

11. IMPORTANT DAYS

- 67.World Environment day**
- 68.WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 31May**
- 69.World Refugee Day 2026**
- 70.World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**
- 71.20th Statistics Day 2026**

12. GOVT. SCHEMES

- 72.Nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'**
- 73.10 Years of PMSMA: A Decade of Care**

13. ENVIRONMENT

- 74.Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary: India's 100th Ramsar Site**
- 75.NZP Saathi App**
- 76.India Targets 155 GW Wind Energy Capacity by 2035SHAN Conservation Society to protect snow leopards in Ladakh**
- 77.Western Ghats Set for Eco-Sensitive Tag**
- 78.Smart Seed Coating Technology**

14. OBITUARY

- 79.Suman Kalyanpur Dies at 89**
- 80.Robert A.F. Thurman**
- 81.Jaspal Rana**

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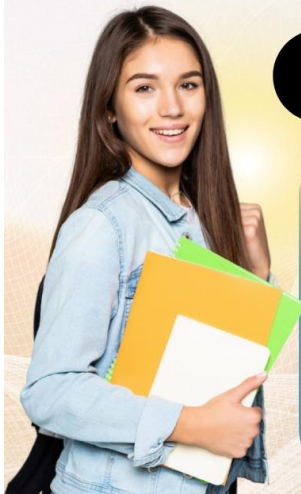
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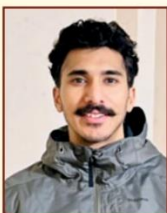
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- IBPS - RRB PO & Clerk
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- SBI - PO & Clerk
- RBI - Officer & Assistant
- NABARD - Grade A & B
- SEBI - Grade A Officer

Insurance Exams

- LIC AAO & Assistants
- GIC AO & Assistants

State Govt. Exams

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- Co-operative Inspectors
- High Court Clerks
- Taxation Inspectors
- Police SI & Constables
- PUDA, GLADA & PSPCL
- Tehsil Welfare Officer etc.
- Revenue Patwari
- Naib Tehsildar
- Municipal Corporation
- Agricultural Devt. Officer
- Labour Inspector
- Section Officer

Central Govt. Exams

- SSC - CGL
- SSC - CHSL for +2
- Intelligence Bureau
- EPF Clerk
- EPF Asstt. Commissioner
- FCI
- PSUs & Railway
- Delhi Police SI/ASI
- Constable/Head Constable
- Assistant Commandant
- Post Office Jobs
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- AFCAT
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- CAPF
- CISF
- Agniveer
- Other Govt. Jobs

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1. NATIONAL NEWS

1. Lakshadweep Potato Patch Coral Colony Identified



A large *Pavona clavus* coral colony, locally called the “Potato Patch”, has been documented near Kadmat Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago. The colony covers about 4,250 square metres and has been described as one of the world’s largest known living coral formations of its kind. *Pavona clavus* is a massive reef-building coral species found in tropical marine waters. The Lakshadweep colony begins on the reef flat at a depth of 5.2 metres and extends down a steep slope to about 20 metres in south-eastern Kadmat waters. The colony’s area of 4,250 square metres is roughly half the size of an international football pitch. Preliminary estimates place its age between 700 and 1,800 years, and scientific dating is required for confirmation. A survey found 58.47% live coral tissue in the colony.

2. FSSAI Vegan Logo for Food Products

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has mandated a standardised vegan logo for approved vegan food packages from 1 July 2027. The requirement applies to vegan food products covered under the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Amendment Regulations, 2026, which amended the 2022 vegan food regulations and were notified on 21 May 2026. Under FSSAI regulations, vegan food is defined as a product free from animal-derived ingredients, animal-derived additives, and animal-derived processing aids. The definition also covers products that do not involve animal testing, except where such testing is required by a regulatory authority. The official vegan logo is a green square-framed symbol with a stylised “V”, a sprouting leaf, and the word “VEGAN” below it. FSSAI has prescribed dimensions and design specifications for the logo to ensure uniform labelling on food packages



3. Chenab–Beas River-Link Project



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. 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.

4. E85 Fuel Rollout in India



The Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas recently launched E85 fuel in New Delhi on World Environment Day, marking an important milestone in India's transition towards flex-fuel mobility and cleaner transportation.

What is E85 Fuel?

E85 is a fuel blend containing 80–85% ethanol and 14–19% petrol. It is specifically designed

for Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), which can operate on ethanol-petrol blends ranging from E20 to E100. Conventional petrol and E20 vehicles cannot use E85 unless they are specifically designed for it. Currently, only a few E85-compatible vehicle models are available in India. Inspired by the Brazilian Model : India's flex-fuel strategy draws inspiration from Brazil, where nearly 80% of light vehicles run on flex-fuel technology using high-ethanol blends, demonstrating the long-term viability of such a system.

Rollout and Expansion : E85 fuel has initially been introduced at 48 public sector Oil Marketing Company (OMC) outlets. The government plans to expand availability to 500 outlets by December 2026 and 5,000 outlets by December 2027.

Economic and Environmental Benefits : E85 is priced about ₹20 per litre cheaper than conventional petrol, allowing consumers to benefit from domestically produced ethanol. Flex-Fuel Vehicles running on E85 can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 61% and produce almost zero particulate matter emissions, making them significantly cleaner than conventional vehicles.

Performance Advantages : E85 has a Research Octane Number (RON) of about 108, which enables engines to operate at higher compression ratios and with more efficient ignition timing, improving overall engine performance.

Government Support and Significance

The government is promoting favourable state taxation policies for E85 and FFVs as part of a broader flex-fuel ecosystem. The fuel is expected to play a major role in helping India achieve around 26% ethanol blending by 2030–31.

Wider adoption of E85 can:

- Reduce dependence on crude oil imports.
- Strengthen energy security.
- Increase demand for agricultural feedstock and support farmers' incomes.
- Promote cleaner and more sustainable mobility.

5. Narendra Modi Becomes India's Longest-Serving Elected Prime Minister



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has surpassed Jawaharlal Nehru in terms of continuous elected tenure, becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister. With over 4,399 days in office, Modi has exceeded Nehru's record of uninterrupted elected leadership.

Before becoming Prime Minister in 2014, Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for nearly 12 years. His tenure as Prime Minister is marked by consecutive victories in the 2014, 2019, and 2024 Lok Sabha elections, reflecting sustained electoral support.

While Modi now holds the record for the longest continuous elected tenure, Jawaharlal Nehru remains India's longest-serving Prime Minister overall, having held office from 1947 until his death in 1964. Nehru had served 4,398 days after winning India's first three

general elections.

According to Morning Consult's Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker, PM Modi recorded a 70% approval rating in April 2026, the highest among the world leaders surveyed.

6. India Launches First-Ever World Yogasana Championship 2026

India has officially unveiled the World Yogasana Championship (WYC) 2026 in New Delhi, marking a significant step towards promoting Yogasana as a competitive sport at the global level. The championship was launched by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and will be held from 4–8 June 2026 at the EKA Arena, Ahmedabad.

The event is being organised under the aegis of Yogasana Bharat along with other sports authorities. The official mascot of the championship is "Veer the Lion." Through this initiative, India aims to establish Yogasana as a recognised sporting discipline while promoting yoga, fitness, and wellness worldwide. The



championship also reflects India's efforts to project yoga as an integral part of its cultural heritage and enhance its global soft power.

Yogasana Bharat

- Yogasana Bharat is the national governing body for Yogasana in India.
- It is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- It is affiliated with the Indian Olympic Association and World Yogasana.

7. Barkatullah University renaming proposal (Bhopal).



The executive council of Barkatullah University recently proposed renaming the university, bringing renewed attention to the legacy of Maulana Barkatullah, one of India's prominent revolutionary nationalists. He is remembered as the Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of India, a government-in-exile established in Kabul in 1915 during British rule.

Early Life and Nationalist Activities

Born on 7 July 1854 in Bhopal, Barkatullah pursued higher education in Bombay and London. While teaching in Liverpool, he came into contact with Indian revolutionaries and began writing and speaking against British colonial rule. Due to increasing British surveillance, he moved to the United States in 1899 and continued supporting India's freedom movement from abroad.

Belief in Hindu-Muslim Unity

Barkatullah strongly believed that India's independence could be achieved only through the united efforts of all communities. He opposed British "divide and rule" policies and advocated cooperation among Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others in the struggle against colonialism.

Provisional Government of India (1915)

On 1 December 1915, Indian revolutionaries established the Provisional Government of India in Kabul, Afghanistan.

- President: Raja Mahendra Pratap
- Prime Minister: Maulana Barkatullah
- Key Associate: Maulana Ubaidullah Sindhi

This was one of the earliest attempts to establish an independent Indian government outside British control.

Association with the Ghadar Movement

Barkatullah was closely associated with the Ghadar Party, founded by Lala Har Dayal in 1913. During the First World War, he worked with fellow revolutionaries in Germany and sought support from Indian soldiers captured by German forces to challenge British rule.

Final Years and Legacy

After the failure of revolutionary plans following the Allied victory in World War I, Barkatullah continued campaigning for India's freedom across Europe and America. Despite poor health, he attended a Ghadar Party event in California, where he passed away in September 1927. He was buried in Sacramento, with Raja Mahendra Pratap by his side.

8. Natural Gas Discovery in the Andaman Offshore Block

State-owned Oil India Limited (OIL) announced a significant natural gas discovery in its third exploratory well, Vijayapuram-3, located in the shallow offshore region of the Andaman Islands. The successful production test confirmed a continuous flow of natural gas, indicating the presence of a viable hydrocarbon reserve beneath the seabed.

Location and Geological Setting

The Vijayapuram-3 well is situated about 15 km off the eastern coast of the Andaman Islands. The well was drilled in water approximately 355 metres deep and reached a sub-seabed depth of over 1,900 metres, targeting the Eocene geological formation. The discovery suggests the existence of an active petroleum system in the region.

Earlier Discovery

This is the second successful natural gas discovery in the same offshore block. OIL had earlier struck natural gas in the Vijayapuram-2 exploratory well in September 2025. Out of the three wells drilled so far, two have confirmed the presence of commercially viable hydrocarbon reserves.

9. APCNF won Food Planet Prize 2026



India's Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme has won the prestigious Food Planet Prize 2026 at Båstad, Sweden. The award recognizes innovative initiatives that can transform global food systems and promote sustainable agriculture.

About the Food Planet Prize

The Food Planet Prize is regarded as the world's largest environmental award focused exclusively on transforming food systems. It was established by the Curt Bergfors Foundation to support innovative and scalable solutions that can make food production more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Organization and Selection Process

The prize is administered by the Curt Bergfors Foundation, Sweden. Its jury consists of an equal representation of scientific researchers and field practitioners, ensuring a balance between academic expertise and practical experience.

The selection process includes:

- Evaluation of nominations through a comprehensive assessment framework.
- Scientific review and verification of project outcomes.
- Independent field verification to assess real-world impact.
- Examination of climate, environmental, and social benefits.

Winner of 2026: APCNF

The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme emerged as the global winner among more than 1,000 nominations from six continents.

Launched in 2016, the programme is implemented by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha under the Agriculture Department of Andhra Pradesh. It promotes chemical-free, low-cost natural farming practices and has expanded to:

- 1.8 million farming families
- 340,000 women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

Prize Amount

- Grand Prize: USD 1.5 million
- Finalist Awards: USD 150,000 each

Significance

The recognition highlights India's growing role in promoting sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient farming. APCNF's success demonstrates the potential of community-led natural farming to improve farmer livelihoods, reduce dependence on chemical inputs, and support environmental conservation.

10. Mohenjodaro Dancing Girl



The Dancing Girl is a bronze statuette from the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500 BCE), unearthed in 1926 by archaeologist Ernest Mackay at Mohenjodaro.

Craftsmanship: The figurine was made using the Lost-Wax Casting Technique, an advanced metallurgical method.

In this process, a wax model is coated with a heat-resistant mold. The wax is then melted away, molten metal is poured into the hollow cavity, and after cooling, the mold is broken to reveal the finished metal figure.

Artistic Significance: The sculpture portrays a young girl standing in a self-assured pose with a tilted head and elongated arms, blending realistic features with artistic stylization.

Her posture and ornaments reflect elegance and movement, which inspired the name “Dancing Girl.”

11. Rakhigarhi

Human skeletal remains excavated from Rakhigarhi have been formally handed over to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) for further scientific research and analysis.

About Rakhigarhi:

Rakhigarhi is the largest known settlement of the Indus-Saraswati (Harappan) Civilization, reflecting its importance as a major urban centre.

Location: It is situated in Hisar district, Haryana, on the Ghaggar-Hakra river plain.

The site shows continuous habitation from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan phase, indicating long-term urban development.



12. IAS e-Civil List 2026



The IAS e-Civil List 2026 is the 71st edition of the Civil List and the sixth edition to be released in digital format. It serves as the official digital directory containing comprehensive service details of all Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers across the country.

Ministry:

- It is published by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions through the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), which is the cadre-controlling authority for the IAS.

Aim:

- The e-Civil List aims to facilitate talent identification, efficient cadre management, and optimal deployment of IAS officers.
- It also seeks to enhance transparency, accessibility, and evidence-based administrative planning through a digital platform.

Key Features:

- Comprehensive Officer Database:** It provides detailed information such as batch, cadre, present posting, pay level, educational qualifications, and retirement date of every IAS officer.
- Advanced Search Facility:** Users can search and identify officers based on their experience, domain expertise, specialization, and service background.
- Cadre Strength Information:** The database includes details of authorized cadre strength, existing vacancies, and projected retirements over the next five years, helping in manpower planning.
- Fully Digital Platform:** The Civil List is released as an e-book PDF, reducing printing costs while supporting the Government's Digital India initiative.

13. India Becomes World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in 2025

- According to UNCTAD, India became the world's largest ship recycling nation in 2025 with a 35.4% global market share.
- The achievement reflects policy reforms and India's emergence as a hub for sustainable ship recycling.



Initiatives Taken:

- Recycling of Ships Act, 2019: Aligns Indian ship recycling with the Hong Kong Convention (HKC).
- Financial Support: ₹53.5 crore provided to modernize and certify recycling facilities.
- Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme: Offers a credit note worth 40% of scrap value, usable for up to 5% of the cost of building a new ship in India.
- Global Recognition: India is seeking inclusion of its recycling yards under the EU Ship Recycling Regulation (EUSRR).

14. Supreme Court Declares Right to Walk a Fundamental Right

In *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan & Ors.* (2026), the Supreme Court held that the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths is a Fundamental Right, making pedestrian safety a constitutional obligation.



Background:

- The Court highlighted the alarming rise in pedestrian fatalities, which increased by 163% between 2015 and 2024. During the same period, the share of pedestrians in total road deaths rose from 9.5% to 20.61%, underscoring the need for safer walking infrastructure.

Constitutional Basis:

- The Court held that the right to walk is an essential part of the freedom of movement under Article 19(1)(d) and is closely linked with the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association under Articles 19(1)(a), 19(1)(b), and 19(1)(c), read with the right to life under Article 21.

15. DIKSHA BECOMES ONE NATION, ONE DIGITAL PLATFORM

Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) is an open-source platform that provides easy access to high-quality, curriculum-linked digital learning materials in multiple languages to students and teachers across the country. It is a key component of the PM e-Vidya initiative of the Ministry of Education that aims to ensure continuity of learning



through online means. DIKSHA is termed as the nation's One Nation, One Digital Platform for school education. Launched in 2017, it is spearheaded by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in collaboration with the Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET).

DIKSHA can be customised to suit different needs and has therefore been widely accepted and adopted by various boards in almost all states and UTs. It provides digital learning material for complete K–12 digital learning, covering foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) to senior secondary education.

16. Kanchan Devi Committee

The Kanchan Devi Committee is a Supreme Court-appointed expert committee, constituted on 25 May 2026, to review the Court's earlier judgment relating to the protection and classification of the Aravalli Range.

It has been tasked with examining the existing framework for Aravalli conservation and recommending measures for forest demarcation, environmental protection, and sustainable land-use management.

Concerns Raised:

- **Lack of Independent Experts:** The committee has been criticised for not including sufficient experts in ecology, hydrology, GIS, wildlife conservation, and public health.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Critics argue that the committee functions within the same administrative system that earlier determined the Aravalli boundaries, raising concerns about impartiality.
- **Bureaucratic Dominance:** Its membership is largely composed of serving and retired government officials, with limited representation from independent scientific experts.
- **Limited Local Representation:** Environmental experts familiar with the ecological and mining challenges of Haryana and Rajasthan are underrepresented.
- **Pending Forest Demarcation:** Experts contend that any review of Aravalli protection should follow the completion of forest identification under the Godavarman framework.

Implications:

- **Aravalli Conservation:** The committee's recommendations will significantly influence the future protection of the Aravalli Range, one of the world's oldest mountain systems.
- **Climate & Water Security:** The Aravallis play a crucial role in groundwater recharge, biodiversity conservation, and checking desertification in northwestern India.
- **Mining & Land Use:** Its findings may shape future policies on mining, quarrying, infrastructure development, and real-estate expansion in the region.
- **Environmental Governance:** The debate highlights the need for independent scientific expertise and transparent decision-making in environmental governance.

17. Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945

Prescription Now Mandatory for Cough Syrups and Other Syrup Medicines in India. Schedule K is a statutory schedule under the Drugs Rules, 1945, framed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It specifies certain categories of drugs that are exempt from selected provisions of Chapter IV of the Act, particularly retail sale licensing requirements, subject to prescribed conditions.

- Its objective is to improve the availability of essential medicines in rural and remote areas while maintaining public health and safety through regulated exemptions.

Key Features & Recent Amendment:

- **Licensing Exemptions:** Schedule K allows specified medicines to be sold without a retail drug licence, provided conditions relating to storage, packaging, and procurement are fulfilled.
- **Village Exemption:** Earlier, under **Serial No. 13, Entry 7**, villages with a population of **less than 1,000** could sell certain medicines without requiring a licensed pharmacist.
- **Removal of Cough Syrups:** The latest amendment deletes the word "**Syrup**" from the exempted category, thereby withdrawing the licensing exemption for the sale of cough syrups in such villages.
- **Mandatory Licensed Sale:** Following the amendment, cough syrups can now be sold only through **licensed pharmacies** operated in accordance with the Drugs Rules.
- **Compliance Requirements:** Manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers must update their supply chains to ensure that cough syrup sales comply with licensing and regulatory requirements.

Significance:

- The amendment aims to strengthen **drug regulation and patient safety** by preventing the unregulated sale and misuse of cough syrups, particularly those containing habit-forming ingredients.
- It balances the need for **access to essential medicines** with stronger oversight, quality control, and accountability in the pharmaceutical supply chain.

18. Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000

Recently, government temporarily banned Twitter. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers the Central Government to direct any government agency or intermediary to block public access to online information through any computer resource. It serves as the principal legal provision for blocking websites, applications, online platforms, and digital content in India.

Core Provisions:

- Under Section 69A, the Central Government or an authorised officer may direct intermediaries to block online content if it is satisfied that such action is necessary or expedient in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence related to these grounds. Such

blocking orders are issued in accordance with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.

Key Features of the IT Act, 2000:

- **Legal Recognition of Electronic Records:** Grants legal validity to electronic records, digital documents, and electronic transactions.
- **Digital Signatures:** Recognises digital and electronic signatures for secure online authentication.
- **Intermediary Safe Harbour (Section 79):** Provides limited liability protection to intermediaries that comply with due diligence and lawful government directions.
- **Cyber Offences:** Prescribes penalties for offences such as hacking, identity theft, cyber fraud, data theft, and publication of obscene material online.
- **Adjudication Mechanism:** Provides for Adjudicating Officers and appellate mechanisms to resolve disputes under the Act.

Aim of the IT Act, 2000:

- To provide legal recognition to electronic transactions, facilitate e-governance, promote secure digital communication, and establish a legal framework for regulating cyber activities in India.

2. STATE NEWS

19. Ladakh Inaugurates 15 Common Facility Centres



The centres are located at Skurbuchan, Wanla, Saspol, Chuchot, Kharu, Anlay, Koyul, Korzok, Chushul, Phobrang, Sato, Panamik, Diskit, Turtuk, and Digger. Common Facility Centres are shared workspaces used by weavers, spinners, tailors, artisans, and women Self-Help Groups. These centres provide modern facilities for the production of handloom and handicraft products. The centres are linked with local entrepreneurship, skill development, and self-employment in village economies. They also support micro-enterprises and provide production space for rural workers engaged in craft-based activities.

20. Mission Senehjori: Assam Muga Silk USP

The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region and the Chief Minister of Assam recently launched Mission Senehjori, a cluster-based initiative aimed at transforming Assam's renowned Muga silk sector into a globally competitive and export-oriented industry.



About Muga Silk

Muga silk is the world's only naturally golden silk and is produced by the silkworm *Antheraea assamensis*, which feeds on Som and Soalu host plants. Deeply linked to Assam's

cultural heritage, Muga silk is known for its natural golden sheen, durability, and premium value in luxury textile markets. It is also India's first GI-tagged silk.

About Mission Senehjori

Mission Senehjori is being implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) in collaboration with the Central Silk Board, the Government of Assam, and other stakeholders.

21. Assam Secures GI Tags for Four Traditional Products



The state of Assam has another milestone to preserve and promoting the its rich cultural heritage with the grant of Geographical Indication (GI) tags to four traditional products. This newly recognized products includes the Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts and Deuri Handloom Products. With these additions, the number of the NABARD-supported GI-certified products in Assam has increased to 12. Karbi Anglong Handloom Products reflects the weaving traditions of the Karbi community. It is known for their distinctive designs, vibrant colors and indigenous textile techniques which passed down through generations.

Assam Bihu Pepa, it is a traditional musical instrument which made from buffalo horn and it is an integral part of Assam's famous Bihu festival. It holds the deep cultural significance and it also symbolizes the state's rich folk traditions.

Assam Bamboo Crafts showcase the expertise of the local artisans who creates the wide range of the products using bamboo which is one of the most abundant natural resources in the region. These crafts represents the sustainable and eco-friendly traditional practices. Deuri Handloom Products are renowned for their intricate weaving patterns and the traditional motifs are created by the Deuri community and they preserving the centuries-old textile heritage

22. Tripura's Traditional Musical Instrument Sarinda Receives GI Tag Recognition

Tripura's traditional musical instrument Sarinda recognized as the Geographical Indication (GI) tag and it shows the state's another milestone to preserve the rich cultural heritage. This recognition highlights the unique craftsmanship and the cultural importance of the instrument which has been an integral part of the folk traditions of the Tripura's indigenous communities for generations. The GI tag is expected to strengthen the efforts to preserve the

instrument, support local artisans and promote the Tripura's cultural identity at national and international levels.

Tripura Sarinda is the traditional bowed string musical instrument that is widely used in the folk music traditions of the state's tribal communities. It is handcrafted from a single block of wood and it features a hollow resonator that produces the its distinctive sound. The instrument is played using the bow and is commonly used during the folk performances, cultural ceremonies and traditional musical expressions. Its design, craftsmanship and musical style have been passed down through multiple generations and making it as an important symbol of indigenous cultural heritage.



23. Qadian–Beas Railway Line Revived After Nearly 100 Years



The Qadian-Beas Railway Line is a proposed 39.68-kilometre broad-gauge corridor that will connect the Qadian in the Gurdaspur district with Beas in Amritsar district.

This project will be executed by the Northern Railway and it will improve the rail connectivity across several towns and villages in Punjab's Majha region.

The proposed route will pass through the areas like, Qadian Dhapai Ghuman Butala Sathiala Beas. Once this project completes, this line will bring many underserved areas onto the railway network and will make the travel more convenient for residents and improving access to markets, services, and opportunities.

24. The Ashtalakshmi Growth Model

The Ashtalakshmi Growth Model is a development vision for the eight North-Eastern states—Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim.

- Inspired by the eight forms of Goddess Lakshmi, it seeks to leverage the region's cultural diversity, biodiversity, and strategic border location to drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

Key Development Initiatives:

- Infrastructure & Connectivity:** Over 3,700 projects have been sanctioned, while PM-DevINE, railway expansion, broad-gauge connectivity, and renewable energy initiatives have strengthened regional infrastructure.

- **Social Development:** Universal tap water coverage in some states, ODF status, PMAY housing, Ayushman Bharat, and BharatNet have improved living standards and digital access.
- **Agriculture & Livelihoods:** Schemes such as PM-KISAN and MOVCD-NER have promoted organic farming, fisheries, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), and niche products like agarwood.

Major Achievements:

- Mega projects such as the Bogibeel Bridge, Dhola-Sadiya Bridge, and Sela Tunnel have significantly improved connectivity.
- Railway electrification has been completed in several northeastern states, while the number of operational airports increased from 9 (2014) to 17 (2026) under UDAN.

Inland waterways expanded from 1 to 20 National Waterways, and major hydropower projects such as Dibang and Subansiri Lower are strengthening the clean energy sector.

25. Go-East Initiative

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi launched the Go-East platform, a dedicated fast-track mechanism to attract, prioritise, and accelerate strategic investments from eastern and north-eastern India, during the Eastern Regional Council Meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Bhubaneswar.

Key Points

Launch: The Go-East platform, which stands for Government of Odisha – Eastern Investment Accelerator and Special Task Force

Features: Under the initiative, a dedicated Go-East Cell will be established within the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL).

A separate Go-Swift module will be developed to enable real-time monitoring of investment processes and approval status.

It is a dedicated single-window mechanism and task force for investors from eastern states.

Objective: This is an initiative aimed at ensuring priority handling, faster approvals, quicker project implementation, and dedicated relationship management for investors.

Target Regions: Investors from West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh will receive priority facilitation through a dedicated help desk at IPICOL.

26. PM Family Care Tracker Launched in Gujarat



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the PM Family Care Tracker pilot project in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and administered polio drops to children, highlighting the government's efforts to strengthen the delivery and monitoring of welfare schemes.

Key Points

Launch: The PM Family Care Tracker pilot project was inaugurated by Amit Shah in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Unique ID for Children: The tracker will be integrated with birth and death registration data to provide every child with a unique ID.

Healthcare Integration: The PM Family Care Tracker will support the monitoring of major healthcare initiatives, including free medical treatment under government schemes, affordable medicines, health infrastructure development, and AYUSH programmes.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): The initiative enables the transparent and direct transfer of government benefits to beneficiaries.

Objective: The initiative aims to ensure the timely and automatic delivery of government welfare schemes to eligible beneficiaries through an integrated monitoring system.

Pulse Polio Drive: On the occasion, Amit Shah administered polio vaccine drops to children and distributed nutrition kits.

27. UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana 2026

UP Berojgari Bhatta Yojana 2026, also known as the UP Rojgar Sangam Yojana, is an employment support initiative of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to educated unemployed youth while helping them find suitable employment opportunities through the state's official employment portal.

Eligible candidates can receive a monthly unemployment allowance of ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 until they secure a job. In addition to financial support, the portal also offers access to job fairs, employment notifications, career guidance, and placement assistance. The scheme operates through the Sewayojan UP Portal, which serves as the state's official employment exchange.

Apart from providing financial assistance, the portal connects job seekers with private and government employers, organizes job fairs, and offers placement opportunities across various sectors.

Must be a permanent resident of Uttar Pradesh.
Must have passed at least the Class 10 examination.
Age should be between 18 and 35 years.
Must be unemployed and not employed in any government or private organization.
Annual family income should not exceed ₹3 lakh.

28. Coal to Ammonium Nitrate Project Launched in Odisha

Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) signed a land leasing agreement for the Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project at Lakhanpur, Odisha.



About the Project:

- The project will establish a Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate plant with a production capacity of 2,000 tonnes per day.
- It is India's first coal gasification project to use indigenously developed gasification technology by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL).

Key Features:

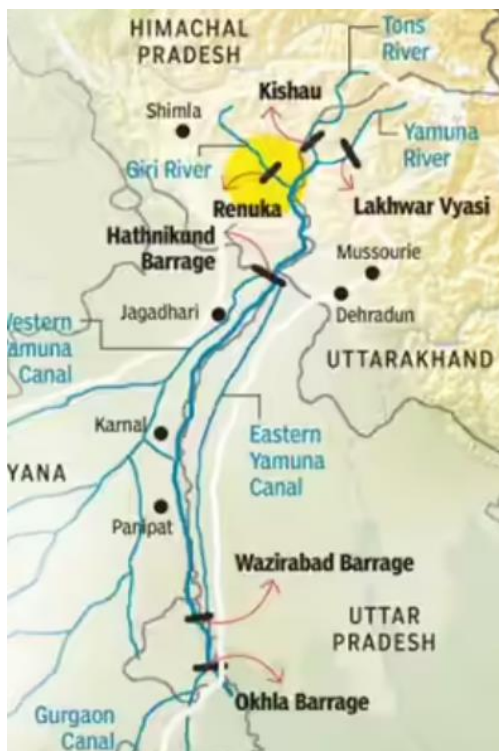
- Cabinet Support: The Union Cabinet has approved ₹8,500 crore to promote coal gasification projects across the country.
- Financial Incentive: The Ministry of Coal has provided ₹1,350 crore under a dedicated incentive scheme for coal gasification.
- Implementation: Major Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK) contracts have been awarded to BHEL and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for project execution.
- Investment: The project involves an estimated investment of around ₹25,000 crore.

Significance:

- The project will promote the use of coal gasification technology to produce value-added chemicals instead of direct coal combustion.
- It is expected to reduce import dependence on ammonium nitrate, save foreign exchange, and strengthen India's energy security and chemical manufacturing sector.

The initiative also supports the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and cleaner utilization of domestic coal resources.

29. Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project



The Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project is an inter-state hydropower, irrigation, and water storage project being developed on the Tons River, the largest Himalayan tributary of the Yamuna.

- The project aims to enhance drinking water supply, irrigation, hydropower generation, and improve the flow of the Yamuna River.

Key Highlights:

- States' Agreement: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan have agreed to sign an MoU for the implementation of the project.
- Funding Pattern: The Central Government will bear 90% of the water component cost, while the remaining 10% will be shared by the six participating states.
- Water Sharing Formula: Himachal Pradesh's share of water will be allocated to Delhi and Rajasthan, which will, in turn, bear the cost of Himachal Pradesh's share in

the power component of the project.

Significance:

- The project is expected to improve the flow and water quality of the Yamuna, strengthen drinking water supply to Delhi, expand irrigation facilities, and enhance renewable hydropower generation.
- It is also an important example of cooperative federalism through inter-state collaboration on water resource management.

30. Tons River

About:

- The Tons River is the largest Himalayan tributary of the Yamuna River. It originates from the Bandarpunch Massif (6,315 m) in Uttarakhand and joins the Yamuna near Kalsi (Dehradun).

Course & Tributaries:

- The river flows for about 150 km through Uttarkashi and Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and Sirmaur (Himachal Pradesh).
- Its major tributaries include the Pabar, Sainj, Nira, Har ki Dun Gad, and Ruinsara Gad.

Significance:

- The Tons River flows through rugged Himalayan terrain and forms a natural boundary between Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in the Jaunsar region, making it hydrologically and strategically important.

31. Jharkhand Gets GI Tags for 11 Traditional Products

Jharkhand has received Geographical Indication (GI) tags for 11 traditional products, recognising the state's rich tribal heritage in handloom, handicrafts, art, and traditional food.

GI-Tagged Products:

- The newly recognised products include Bhoya Saree and Fabric, Kuchai Silk Saree, Kesaria Kalakand, Dokra Craft, Tumka Chadar, Baroni Paintings, Munda Jewellery, Jharkhand Bamboo Craft, Tussar Silk and Sarees, Jadopatia Painting, and Pancho Saree and Fabric.
- Earlier, Sohrai Painting had also received a GI tag, helping improve the visibility and market access of Jharkhand's traditional art.

Significance:

- The GI tags enhance the brand value and authenticity of these products, protect them from imitation, and create better livelihood opportunities for local artisans, weavers, and craftsmen.
- They also help preserve Jharkhand's rich cultural heritage while promoting exports and rural economic development.

Product	Key Pointer
Bhagaiya Silk	Produced in Bhagaiya (Godda district); known for traditional handloom weaving and fine silk.
Kuchai Silk	Cultivated on Asan and Arjun trees in Seraikela-Kharsawan (Kuchai).
Kesaria Kalakand	Traditional sweet of Jharkhand with regional culinary significance.
Dokra Craft	Ancient lost-wax metal casting tradition used for decorative and utility items.
Tumka Chadar	Traditional handwoven shawl/bedspread made by tribal artisans.
Baroni Paintings	Folk paintings depicting tribal customs, nature, and local traditions.
Pancho Saree & Fabric	Traditional handwoven textile known for distinctive tribal patterns.
Jadopatia Painting	Traditional Santhal scroll painting depicting folklore, mythology, and social customs.
Bhoya Saree & Fabric	Traditional handwoven textile of Jharkhand.
Munda Jewellery	Traditional ornaments crafted by the Munda tribe.
Jharkhand Bamboo Craft	Utility and decorative products made from locally available bamboo.

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3. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

32. Bangladesh Elected to Lead 81st UN General Assembly Session



Recently, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was elected President of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through a secret-ballot election, defeating Andreas Kakouris of Cyprus.

This marks the second time Bangladesh has secured the UNGA presidency, with the country last holding the post during the 41st session in 1986-87.

Term: Khalilur Rahman will assume office when the 81st UNGA session opens in September 2026. The presidency is for a one-year term. **Regional Rotation:** The President of the UN General Assembly is elected annually for a one-year term based on an established system of regional rotation among five groups: African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and Other States. For the 81st session, the presidency was allocated to the Asia-Pacific Group.

Theme of Presidency: The theme for the 81st session is “Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All.” It reflects the focus on restoring faith in multilateral institutions and strengthening global cooperation.

UN General Assembly: The UNGA is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and includes all 193 member states. It provides a platform for deliberation on global issues and adopts resolutions, though most General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding.

Role of UNGA President: The President of the General Assembly presides over UNGA sessions, guides debates, facilitates consensus and represents the Assembly in interactions with other UN organs. The position is largely procedural but carries high diplomatic importance.

33. Malaysia Enforces Social Media Ban for U-16

Malaysia began enforcing a rule on 1 June 2026 that bars children below 16 years from owning social media accounts. The measure applies to major platforms with at least 8 million users in Malaysia and requires age-verification systems for account creation. The rule covers Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube, which fall within the threshold of at least 8 million users in Malaysia. Companies that fail to comply may face penalties of up to 10 million Malaysian ringgit, which is about 2.5 million US dollars. Other countries include



Australia, Indonesia and European Union.

34. The Ras Laffan Gas Facility

- The Ras Laffan Gas Facility is the world's largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export hub and houses the world's largest artificial harbor.
- It is a major industrial complex that processes, refines, and exports natural gas through facilities such as QatarEnergy LNG and the Barzan Gas Project.



Location:

- It is located in the Al Khor Municipality of Qatar, about 80 km north of Doha, the country's capital.

History & Background:

- The industrial city was established in 1996 by QatarEnergy to process natural gas from the North Field.
- The North Field is the world's largest non-associated natural gas field, with over 900 trillion standard cubic feet of recoverable gas.

Recent Developments:

- During the 2026 regional conflict, the facility was targeted in missile strikes, causing damage to production units and temporarily affecting around 17% of Qatar's LNG production capacity.

Significance:

- Ras Laffan is the backbone of Qatar's natural gas industry and plays a crucial role in global LNG supply and energy security.
- It is one of the world's most important energy infrastructure hubs, supporting Qatar's economy and international energy exports.

35. The Return Regulation

- The Return Regulation is a legally binding European Union (EU) framework aimed at standardizing the return and deportation of irregular migrants who have no legal right to enter or remain in the EU.
- It was proposed by the European Commission and adopted by EU lawmakers to strengthen migration management and border enforcement.

Aim:

- The regulation seeks to speed up deportation procedures, improve the efficiency of migrant returns, and strengthen the credibility of the EU's external border management system.

Key Features:

- **Offshore Return Hubs:** Allows EU member states to establish deportation or return centres in non-EU countries through bilateral agreements, provided these countries comply with human rights standards and the principle of non-refoulement.
- **Target Group:** Primarily applies to irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers whose identities cannot be verified or whose home countries refuse to accept them. Unaccompanied minors are exempt, though families with children may still be deported.
- **Extended Detention:** Increases the maximum detention period for irregular migrants from 6 months to 2 years, while individuals considered security threats may face longer detention.
- **Enforcement Powers:** Authorises authorities to search premises to locate undocumented migrants and introduces entry bans, fines, and criminal penalties for non-cooperation.
- **Migration Pact Linkage:** The regulation complements the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum (2024), which introduced common border screening procedures and an integrated migration database.

Implications for India:

- Indian migrants without valid documents or whose asylum claims are rejected may face faster deportation from EU countries.
- Deported individuals could face multi-year entry bans, affecting future travel, education, and employment opportunities in Europe.
- The regulation may also lead to stronger India-EU readmission agreements for the timely return of Indian nationals ordered to leave the EU.

36. Katchatheevu Island

Katchatheevu is a small, uninhabited island in the Palk Strait that has long been associated with maritime boundary and fishing rights issues between India and Sri Lanka. Although historically used by Indian fishermen, India recognized Sri Lanka's sovereignty over the island through bilateral maritime agreements signed in the 1970s.

Location:

- The island is situated in the Palk Strait, between Tamil Nadu (India) and the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.
- It lies on the Sri Lankan side of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

**History & Legal Framework:**

- **Traditional Use:** Fishermen from both India and Sri Lanka traditionally used the island for fishing, drying nets, and resting.

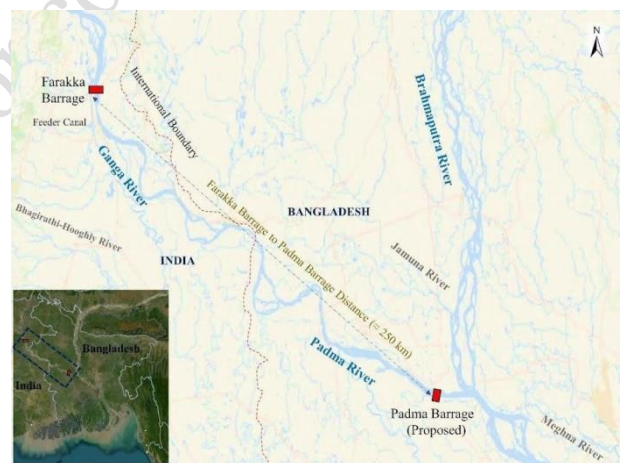
- Maritime Agreements (1974 & 1976): India and Sri Lanka signed agreements demarcating their maritime boundary, under which India accepted Sri Lanka's sovereignty over Katchatheevu.
- Current Legal Position: Under international law, any change in the island's status would require mutual agreement between both countries and cannot be done unilaterally.

Key Features:

- Uninhabited Island: The island has no permanent population and no source of fresh drinking water.
- St. Antony's Church: It is home to the historic St. Antony's Church, where an annual religious festival is attended by pilgrims from both India and Sri Lanka.
- Pilgrimage Access: Indian pilgrims can visit the island without a passport or visa during the annual church festival.
- Marine Resources: The surrounding waters are rich in marine biodiversity but face threats from illegal fishing practices and bottom trawling.

37. The Padma Barrage

- The Padma Barrage is a proposed transboundary water-management project of Bangladesh aimed at storing and regulating the flow of the Padma River.
- It seeks to improve water availability, groundwater recharge, irrigation, and drinking water supply, while addressing the impact of upstream water diversions such as the Farakka Barrage.



Location:

- The barrage will be constructed across the Padma River in Bangladesh, about 180 km downstream of the Farakka Barrage in West Bengal, near the India–Bangladesh border.

Key Features:

- Structure: A 2.1 km-long concrete barrage with a reservoir capacity of 2,900 million cubic metres of water.
- Coverage: Expected to benefit around 6.5 crore people by improving irrigation and drinking water supply in southwestern and northern Bangladesh.
- Project Cost: Estimated at Tk 50,443 crore (≈ ₹39,170 crore) with an implementation period of seven years.

About the Padma River

- The Padma River is the main tributary of the Ganga in Bangladesh and an important transboundary river shared by India and Bangladesh.
- The Ganga, formed at Devprayag by the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda, enters Bangladesh near Shibganj, where it is known as the Padma.

Course & Features:

- The Padma joins the Jamuna at Goalundo and later merges with the Meghna at Chandpur before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- It flows through low-lying deltaic plains, making the region prone to flooding and silt deposition.
- The river supplies nutrient-rich sediments that support agriculture and fisheries and helps maintain the freshwater balance of the Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem.

38. UZBEKISTAN -10TH MEMBER OF NDB

With the completion of accession formalities and ratification of the NDB's Articles of Agreement, Uzbekistan has joined the New Development Bank as its 10th member and the first from Central Asia.

Key Points

- **Historic Membership:** Uzbekistan became a shareholder of the New Development Bank (NDB) on **5 June 2026**, marking the first-ever representation of Central Asia in the institution.
 - With its accession, Uzbekistan became the **10th member** of the NDB.
- **Approval Process:** The country completed all required procedures, including ratification of the **NDB Articles of Agreement**, before its membership came into effect.
 - In May 2026, President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** signed the law approving Uzbekistan's accession to the NDB Agreement.
- **Investment Opportunities:** The NDB plans to begin exploring and preparing its first projects in Uzbekistan during 2026.
 - Priority sectors include energy, water resource management, transport, urban infrastructure, and social infrastructure development.
- **Economic Significance:** Uzbekistan has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing economies in Central Asia, recording an average annual growth rate of over **6.7% between 2023 and 2025**.
- **New Development Bank (NDB):**
 - **Establishment:** The NDB, formerly known as the BRICS Development Bank, was established by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) in 2015.
 - **Headquarters:** Located in Shanghai, China.
 - **Member Countries:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Algeria, Uzbekistan.
 - All members enjoy equal voting rights.

Regional Offices: The bank has regional offices in South Africa and Brazil.

4. BANKING / ECONOMY

39. BHAVYA Portal for Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana



The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry recently launched the BHAVYA Portal in New Delhi to facilitate the implementation of the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA). The portal will function as a single digital platform for the entire project lifecycle, including submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), appraisal, evaluation, approval, and real-time monitoring of projects.

About Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA)

The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) is a flagship industrial infrastructure programme aimed at developing 100 investment-ready, world-class industrial parks across India. The scheme seeks to strengthen manufacturing capabilities, attract investments, and enhance industrial competitiveness.

Key Features of the Scheme

Financial Outlay

The Union Cabinet has approved an allocation of ₹33,660 crore for developing 100 plug-and-play industrial parks over a period of six years.

Implementing Agency

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) has been designated as the Project Management Agency responsible for implementation, coordination, and monitoring of the scheme.

40. WPI Base Year Revised to 2022–23 and Introduction of Producer Price Index (PPI)

The Office of Economic Adviser under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has revised the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23 and announced the introduction of a new Producer Price Index (PPI) framework from 15 June 2026. The revision aims to better capture current production patterns, technological changes, and the evolving structure of the Indian economy.

Key Changes in the New WPI Series

Expanded Basket of Items

The number of commodities covered under the WPI basket has increased from 697 to 957 items, improving representation of the contemporary economy.

Inclusion of Renewable Energy

Reflecting India's clean energy transition, solar energy, wind energy, and nuclear electricity have been included in the Electricity Group.

Reclassification of Energy Products

Crude petroleum and natural gas have been shifted from the Primary Articles category to the Fuel and Power group to provide a more integrated representation of the energy sector.

New Weighting Methodology

The revised series uses Gross Value of Output (GVO) for assigning weights, replacing the earlier Net Traded Value approach. This better reflects domestic production from the producer's perspective.

Improved Statistical Methods

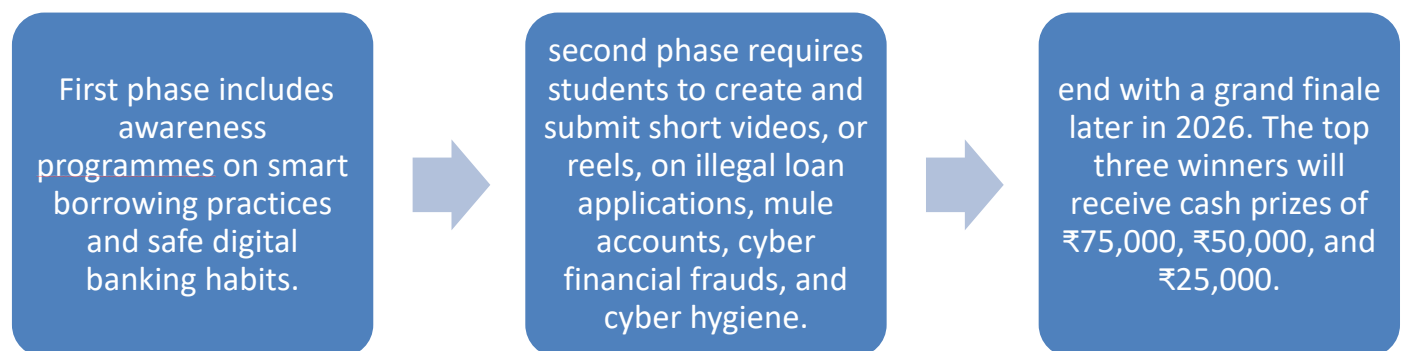
- Elementary indices will now use a chain-based short-term formulation.
- Missing data will be estimated through Targeted Mean Imputation instead of the earlier carry-forward method.

41. UPI Payments Launched in Cambodia Through KHQR

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with ACLEDA Bank Plc. to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments in Cambodia. The launch marks the completion of the first phase of a cross-border QR payment linkage between India and Cambodia through KHQR, Cambodia's national QR code system.

The partnership allows Indian travellers visiting Cambodia to make digital payments using their existing UPI-enabled applications by scanning KHQR codes at merchant establishments across the country.

The launch ceremony was held in Phnom Penh in the presence of Chea Serey, representatives of the National Bank of Cambodia, and the Reserve Bank of India.

42. RBI LAUNCHES REELATHON 2026

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched “Reelathon 2026”, a nationwide short-video competition aimed at raising public awareness about cyber security and financial fraud prevention, particularly among young digital users.

Key Points

- **Launch:** The initiative has been introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to educate citizens on safe digital financial practices and cyber fraud prevention.
 - Director General of Police Ravada A. Chandrasekhar launched the campaign at a function held at the RBI office in Thiruvananthapuram.
- **Format:** Participants are required to create and submit short videos (reels) highlighting cyber security awareness and financial fraud prevention measures.
- **Objective:** To raise public awareness about cyber financial frauds and promote safe digital banking, secure online transactions, and protection against phishing and other online scams.
- **Concern:** He cautioned against rising cyber frauds, including investment scams, digital arrests, illegal loan apps, and fake job offers, and stressed timely reporting during the “golden hour” to enhance fund recovery and prevent further losses.

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5. SUMMIT, RANKS AND REPORTS

43. Second BRICS Culture Working Group Meeting in Varanasi

India will host the Second BRICS Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in June 2026, bringing together representatives of BRICS countries to strengthen cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Key Points

Host City: The meeting will be held in Varanasi, one of the world's oldest living cities and a major centre of India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

Objective: The meeting seeks to deepen cooperation in the fields of culture, heritage conservation, creative industries, museums, and cultural exchanges among BRICS countries.

Agenda: It will focus on strengthening cultural partnerships, preserving cultural heritage, promoting cultural tourism, and expanding cooperation in creative and cultural sectors.

The event reflects the growing importance of cultural diplomacy within the BRICS framework and highlights culture as a tool for fostering stronger international ties.

BRICS:

- The term “BRIC” was coined by economist Jim O’Neill in 2001.
- The first official BRIC Summit was held in Russia in 2009.
- Initially, BRIC referred to Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- South Africa joined the grouping in 2010, making it BRICS.
- The group expanded in 2024 with the inclusion of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- Indonesia became a member in 2025.

44. QS World University Rankings 2027

The QS World University Rankings 2027 were released in June 2026 and assessed more than 1,500 institutions across 106 countries and territories. Massachusetts Institute of Technology ranked first for the 15th consecutive year, while Imperial College London and Stanford University shared second place.

QS World University Rankings

The QS World University Rankings are annual global university rankings published by Quacquarelli Symonds. The rankings use indicators such as academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio.

Top Global Universities in 2027

University of Oxford ranked fourth and Harvard University ranked fifth in the 2027 edition. University College London rose to joint eighth place and remained in the global top 10 for the 15th consecutive year.

Regional Distribution and India's Position

Institutions from East Asia and the Middle East recorded gains in the 2027 rankings, and China had the highest number of institutions moving up. India recorded its strongest-ever presence with 52 institutions, and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi ranked 118th globally. IIT Delhi rose five places from the previous edition and reached 39th globally in employer reputation and 60th in citations per faculty. IIT Madras moved up from 180th to 170th and remained among the top 200 global universities. IIT Hyderabad improved by 76 places from 664th to 588th in the 2027 edition.



45. UNICEF's Children's Climate Risk Report 2026



The UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 is a global assessment that evaluates children's exposure and vulnerability to climate and environmental hazards. It examines how risks such as extreme heat, floods, droughts, storms, and air pollution affect children's health, nutrition, education, and survival, helping governments identify areas requiring urgent climate adaptation.

The report highlights that 392 million children (92%) in India are exposed to extreme heat, while 89 million experience recurrent heatwaves. India recorded a climate hazard exposure score of 9.21/10, one of the highest globally, with a 10/10 score for extreme heat, 9.94/10 for air pollution, and 8.84/10 for drought risk. It also notes that many children are simultaneously exposed to multiple climate hazards, increasing their overall vulnerability.

The report warns that climate change could worsen disease burden, malnutrition, developmental challenges, and disruptions to education. Although India has expanded Heat Action Plans, most lack child-specific measures such as protection for schools and Anganwadis, night-time heat management, and child vulnerability mapping. UNICEF

recommends adopting child-centric climate adaptation policies, including resilient schools, healthcare systems, and stronger social protection mechanisms.

46. State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report 2026



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026 Report under the theme "Blue Transformation: Turning Vision into Impact." The report assesses the global status of fisheries and aquaculture while promoting the FAO Blue Transformation Vision (2021), which focuses on sustainable aquaculture expansion, effective fisheries management, and efficient, inclusive value chains.

The report states that global aquatic animal production reached a record 235 million tonnes in 2024, with aquaculture contributing 53% of total production. However, the proportion of sustainably managed fish stocks declined from 64.5% in 2021 to 62.4% in 2023. India contributed 9% of global aquatic animal production and ranked second globally after China. It also ranked first in inland capture fisheries, second in aquaculture production, and accounted for 5% of global marine capture fisheries. Along with China, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, India contributes nearly 82% of global aquaculture output.

To strengthen the fisheries sector, India has launched several initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), and technological interventions such as the Fish Market Price Information System, Digital Fisheries Database, Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS), and Biofloc Technology. Other important initiatives include the Blue Revolution Scheme, National Policy on Marine Fisheries (2017), Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for Fisheries, Integrated Aqua Parks, and the Marine Fisheries Census 2025.

6. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

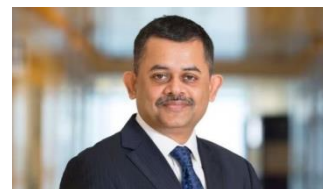
47. ACC approves one-year extension for Tarun Kapoor as Advisor to PM Modi



The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved a one-year extension for Tarun Kapoor, a retired 1987-batch IAS officer, as Advisor to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Department of Personnel and Training informed that Mr Kapoor's extended tenure in the Prime Minister's Office takes effect on the 10th of this month for a further period of one-year.

48. ACC clears Neelkanth Mishra's appointment as Executive Director, World Bank

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Neelkanth Mishra as Executive Director, World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC, for a tenure of three years. The Department of Personnel and Training informed that the tenure of Parameswaran Iyer has also been extended till the new incumbent assumes charge



49. Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Assumes Charge as Navy Chief



Recently, Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi.

He served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command and was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.

50. Sundarraj Pattilingam, as an Inspector General in the National Investigation Agency (NIA)

He is a 2003-batch Indian Police Service officer and was serving in Chhattisgarh before the deputation order.

National Investigation Agency

The National Investigation Agency is India's federal counter-terrorism investigation agency. It was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, and functions under

the Ministry of Home Affairs. The agency investigates offences affecting the sovereignty, security, and integrity of India.

Bastar Range and Anti-Naxal Operations

Bastar Range is a police range in south Chhattisgarh that covers seven districts. Sundarraaj P served there for about 12 years and remained the Inspector General of Bastar Range for seven continuous years. He supervised anti-Naxal operations and coordinated with central paramilitary forces in the region.



51. Dr. Alka Rao



Dr. Alka Rao has been appointed as the Director of the CSIR–Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh, becoming the first woman scientist to head the 42-year-old institute. A trained protein engineer and molecular microbiologist, she obtained her Ph.D. from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi. She has published over 60 research papers, holds more than 15 national and international patents, and has made significant contributions to biotechnology and microbial research.

Before joining IMTECH as Director, Dr. Rao served as Advisor (Science, Standards and Regulation) at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), where she led key initiatives on food safety standards, regulatory frameworks, and international policy alignment. She represented 24 Asian countries on the Codex Alimentarius Executive Committee, served as India's National Contact Point for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and functioned as the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Enquiry Point, helping align India's food standards with global norms.

Her research at IMTECH led to the discovery of rare bacterial glycol-enzymes with applications in food preservation, antibiotic resistance management, and industrial enzyme production. She received the CSIR Women Scientist Achiever Award (2023) and also serves as an advisor to the Ministries of Environment, Health, and Education. In addition, she leads the Indian Sign Language Enabled Virtual Laboratory under the CSIR Jigyasa Programme, promoting inclusive science education for persons with hearing impairment.

**UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PROGRAMME OF EXAMINATIONS/RECRUITMENT TESTS (RTs) -2026**

Sl. No.	Name of Examination	Date of Notification	Last Date for receipt of Applications	Date of commencement of Exam	Duration of Exam
1.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
2.	Reserved for UPSC Examination			17.01.2026 (Saturday)	2 Days
3.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	03.09.2025	23.09.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
4.	Engineering Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	17.09.2025	07.10.2025	08.02.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
5.	CBI (DSP) LDCE	24.12.2025	13.01.2026	28.02.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAY
6.	CISF AC(EXE) LDCE-2026	03.12.2025	23.12.2025	08.03.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
7.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (I), 2026	10.12.2025	30.12.2025	12.04.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
8.	C.D.S. Examination (I), 2026				
9.	Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2026	14.01.2026	03.02.2026	24.05.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
10.	Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2026 through CS(P) Examination 2026				
11.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			06.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
12.	I.E.S./I.S.S. Examination, 2026	11.02.2026	03.03.2026	19.06.2026 (Friday)	3 DAYS
13.	Combined Geo-Scientist (Main) Examination, 2026			20.06.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
14.	Engineering Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.06.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
15.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			04.07.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
16.	Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination, 2026	18.02.2026	10.03.2026	19.07.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
17.	Combined Medical Services Examination, 2026	11.03.2026	31.03.2026	02.08.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
18.	Reserved for UPSC Examination			08.08.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
19.	Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2026			21.08.2026 (Friday)	5 DAYS
20.	N.D.A. & N.A. Examination (II), 2026	20.05.2026	09.06.2026	13.09.2026 (Sunday)	1 DAY
21.	C.D.S. Examination (II), 2026				
22.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			26.09.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
23.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			10.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
24.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			31.10.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
25.	Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2026			22.11.2026 (Sunday)	7 DAYS
26.	S.O./Steno (GD-B/GD-I) LDCE	16.09.2026	06.10.2026	12.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS
27.	Reserved for UPSC RT/ Examination			19.12.2026 (Saturday)	2 DAYS

Note: The dates of notification, commencement and duration of Examinations/ RTs are liable to alteration, if the circumstances so warrant.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EXAMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027

S.No.	Name of Examination	Tier/Phase	Date of Advertisement	Closing Date	Month of Exam
1.	JSA / LDC Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025 (for DoPT only)	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
2.	SSA / UDC Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025 (for DoPT only)	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
3.	ASO Grade Limited Departmental Competitive Examination, 2025	Paper-I (CBE)*	16 March 2026	07 April 2026	May 2026
4.	Combined Graduate Level Examination, 2026	Tier-I (CBE)*	March 2026	April 2026	May – June 2026
5.	Junior Engineer (Civil, Mechanical & Electrical) Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	March 2026	April 2026	May – June 2026
6.	Selection Post Examination, Phase-XIV, 2026	CBE*	March 2026	April 2026	May – July 2026
7.	Combined Higher Secondary (10+2) Level Examination, 2026	Tier-I (CBE)*	April 2026	May 2026	July – September 2026
8.	Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Examination, 2026	CBE*	April 2026	May 2026	August – September 2026
9.	Combined Hindi Translators Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	April 2026	May 2026	August – September 2026
10.	Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff & Havaladar (CBIC & CBN) Examination, 2026	CBE*	June 2026	July 2026	September – November 2026
11.	Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police & Central Armed Police Forces Examination, 2026	Paper-I (CBE)*	May 2026	June 2026	October – November 2026
12.	Constables (GD) in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), NIA, SSF and Rifleman (GD) in Assam Rifles Examination, 2027	CBE*	September 2026	October 2026	January – March 2027

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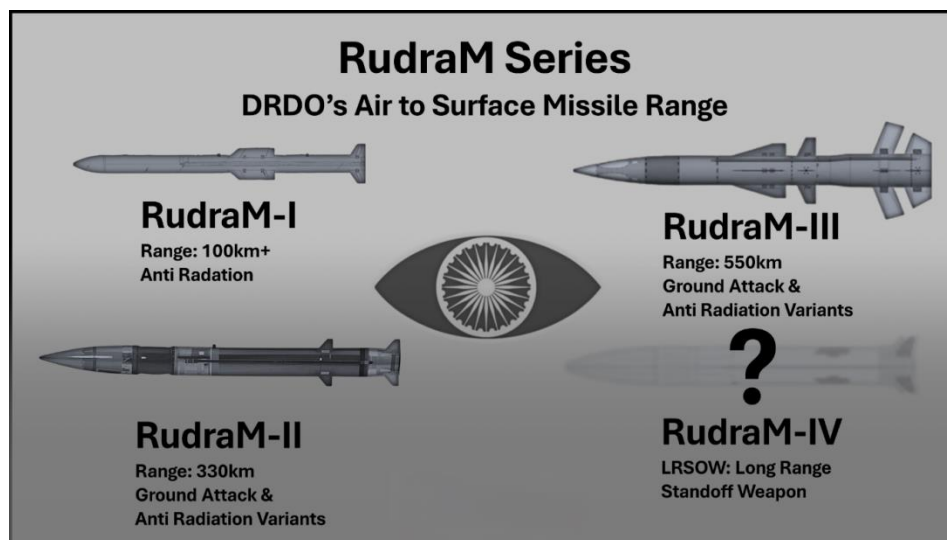
7. DEFENCE NEWS

52. RudraM-II Missile Successfully Flight-Tested

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) recently conducted a successful flight test of the indigenous RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from an airborne platform, reportedly a Su-30MKI fighter aircraft. The missile was tested under extreme release conditions and successfully met all mission objectives. The trial was supported by the Integrated Test Range, a major missile-testing facility of DRDO.

About RudraM-II Missile

RudraM-II is part of the RudraM series of indigenous air-to-surface anti-radiation missiles developed to strengthen the Indian Air Force's Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) capabilities.



53. Air Force to Join Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia



The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, a major multinational air combat exercise hosted by Australia.

- **Exercise Overview:** Exercise Pitch Black 2026 is the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)'s largest multinational air combat exercise, scheduled in Australia's Northern Territory from 20th July to 7th August 2026.

- **Scale of Exercise:** The exercise involves more

than 100 aircraft and personnel, making it one of the largest multinational air combat exercises and includes advanced air combat tactics, mission planning, and integrated high-intensity operational training.

- **Objective:** The main objective is to enhance operational interoperability, military cooperation, and coordination in complex air warfare scenarios.

- **Participating Countries:** The exercise will include over 19 nations, such as India, Australia, USA, UK, Japan, France, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Canada, and other Indo-Pacific partners.

54. Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026

An Indian Army contingent participated in the opening ceremony of Multilateral Exercise Khaan Quest 2026 in Mongolia, scheduled from 20th June to 3 July 2026.

About: Exercise Khaan Quest is a multilateral military exercise that prepares participating defence forces for United Nations peacekeeping and peace support operations in a multinational environment.



Historical Background: Started in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between the United States and Mongolian Defence Forces, it became a multilateral peacekeeping exercise in 2006, with the 2026 edition marking its 23rd iteration.

Participation: The 2026 edition features troops from 18 countries, including a 40-member Indian Army contingent comprising troops from a battalion of the JAT Regiment and personnel from other Arms and Services.

Objective: The exercise aims to enhance interoperability, cooperation, operational readiness and coordination among participating militaries for peace support operations under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

55. Indian Navy's Sea King 42B Squadron Retires



The Indian Naval Air Squadron 330, known as “The Harpoons”, was number plated on 14 June 2026 after 55 years of service. The squadron was commissioned on 17 April 1971 at INS Garuda, Kochi, under Commander M. P. Wadhawan.

Indian Naval Air Squadron 330

INAS 330 is a helicopter squadron of the Indian Navy. It operated the Sea King Mk 42B, a naval variant of the Westland Sea King helicopter used for maritime operations.

Sea King Mk 42B Roles

The Sea King Mk 42B was used for anti-submarine warfare, anti-ship missions, and search-and-rescue operations. The helicopter also served in shipborne roles from Indian Navy platforms and shore bases.

Retirement and Replacement Fleet

The Sea King Bravo fleet retired on 14 June 2026 after 36 years of service, with a final ceremonial flight from INS Shikra, Mumbai. About eight Sea King Bravo helicopters remained in service at the time of retirement. The remaining Sea King Mk 42B airframes will be converted into utility “Barlies” or used as test beds for sensor and weapon trials. The Indian Navy has ordered 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters as an initial replacement, while the Indian Multi Role Helicopter and Deck Based MRH remain under development

56. The Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs)

- An Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV), commonly known as a hovercraft, is an amphibious craft that can operate over water, mudflats, sandbars, marshes, and shallow beaches.
- It moves on a high-pressure cushion of air generated beneath its hull and enclosed by a flexible rubber skirt, allowing it to glide above the surface with minimal friction.
- The indigenous ACVs are being built by Chowgule & Company Private Limited.



Aim:

- The induction of ACVs aims to strengthen the Indian Coast Guard's capability in coastal surveillance, rapid response, search and rescue, and maritime law enforcement, especially in shallow and inaccessible coastal regions.

Key Features:

- **Amphibious Capability:** Zero-draft design enables seamless movement across sea, mudflats, creeks, and sandy shores where conventional vessels cannot operate.
- **Indigenous Fleet:** The inducted hovercraft is the first of six indigenous ACVs being built for the Indian Coast Guard.
- **Advanced Design:** Constructed with lightweight marine-grade materials and a durable rubber skirt for better performance and durability.
- **Modern Equipment:** Equipped with marine radars, thermal/night-vision systems, and secure communication equipment for all-weather and round-the-clock operations.
- **Flexible Payload:** Designed to carry boarding teams, rescue personnel, medical teams, and emergency response equipment.

Significance:

- ACVs enhance surveillance and security in marshes, creeks, and mudflats such as the Kutch region and Sundarbans, helping curb smuggling and illegal activities.

- Their ability to move directly from sea to shore makes them highly effective for disaster relief, search and rescue, and humanitarian assistance during cyclones, floods, and maritime emergencies.

57. Tri-Commissioning of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak & INS Agray



- The tri-commissioning marks the simultaneous induction of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray into the Indian Navy.

- Together, these platforms strengthen India's blue-water combat capability, hydrographic survey operations, and coastal anti-submarine warfare, reflecting a comprehensive approach to maritime security.

INS Dunagiri (Blue-Water Combatant)

- What It Is: A stealth guided-missile frigate built under Project 17A, designed for long-range operations in the open ocean.
- Developed By: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- Role: Enhances India's ability to counter surface, air, and submarine threats in distant maritime regions.
- Key Features: Equipped with BrahMos missiles, MRSAM air defence system, MFSTAR radar, advanced sonar, and anti-submarine warfare systems, along with stealth design for reduced radar detection.

INS Sanshodhak (Deep-Water Survey Vessel)

- What It Is: A Survey Vessel Large (SVL) and the fourth ship of the Sandhayak-class.
- Developed By: GRSE, Kolkata.
- Role: Conducts hydrographic surveys, seabed mapping, and oceanographic studies to support naval operations and safe navigation.
- Key Features: Equipped with Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), and multi-beam echo sounders for advanced underwater surveys.

INS Agray (Coastal Submarine Hunter)

- What It Is: An Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) of the Arnala-class, designed for littoral operations.
- Developed By: GRSE, Kolkata.
- Role: Detects and neutralizes hostile submarines operating in shallow coastal waters, ports, and strategic maritime approaches.
- Key Features: Fitted with lightweight torpedoes, hull-mounted sonar, indigenous anti-submarine rocket launchers, and systems optimized for shallow-water operations.

58. RIMPAC 2026 MARITIME EXERCISE BEGINS IN HAWAII



The Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2026 exercise began on 24 June 2026 and is scheduled to continue until 31 July 2026. The 30th edition of the exercise is taking place in and around the Hawaiian Islands, with 30 participating nations, about 30 surface ships, 5 submarines, 15 national land forces, more than 206 aircraft, and over 30,000 personnel.

RIMPAC as a Multinational Naval Exercise

RIMPAC is a biennial maritime exercise led by the United States Pacific Fleet. It is the world's largest international maritime exercise and includes naval, air, and land components from multiple countries. The exercise is held in the Pacific Ocean region, with Hawaii as the main operating area.

8. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

59. Indian Teenagers Win Earth Prize 2026 for Plas-Stick

Earth Prize

- Switzerland-based non-profit
- largest environmental competition for students aged 13-19
- offers mentorship and \$100,000 funding

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. Plas-Stick is a powder that attracts microplastic particles in water and makes them clump together. The clumped particles can then be removed with a handheld magnet. The method is electricity-free and low-cost. Tamarind seed waste is an agricultural by-product used in Plas-Stick. The material is relevant in water treatment research because plant-based waste can be

processed into adsorbent or binding substances. The project was designed for rural and low-resource communities in India.

60. National Awards for e-Governance 2026

The National Awards for e-Governance 2026 selected 17 projects and initiatives on 4 June 2026. The awards recognise exemplary contributions in digital governance across seven categories. The 29th National Conference on e-Governance is scheduled to be held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The National Awards for e-Governance are presented for implementation of digital public services and administrative innovation in India. The awards cover projects from Union ministries, state institutions, local bodies, and public authorities. Agri Stack is a project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Mahakumbh 2025 is an initiative of the Prayagraj Mela Authority in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The Blood Bag Traceability and

Citizen Interaction portal is a project of the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council, also known as K-DISC. TRINETRA is an artificial intelligence-based video surveillance system for the Mahakal Rudrasagar Integrated Development Area in Ujjain

61. Seychelles Confers Guardian of the Blue Horizon Award



Seychelles conferred the “Guardian of the Blue Horizon” on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to the island nation. The award is a special Presidential Distinction and is described as Seychelles’ highest environmental honour for leadership in environmental conservation and sustainable development. The “Guardian of the Blue Horizon” is a Presidential Distinction of Seychelles. It is the first time that Seychelles has

bestowed this honour. The award is linked with environmental conservation, sustainable development, and ocean resource management. India and Seychelles maintain cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region, including capacity building, environmental action, and sustainable development initiatives.

9. SCIENCE AND TECH

62. Project Nimbus

Project Nimbus is a US\$1.2 billion cloud computing agreement, announced in 2021, between the Israeli government, Google Cloud, and Amazon Web Services (AWS). Its objective is to modernize Israel's public sector by migrating government data, applications, and digital services to secure, localized cloud infrastructure.

Key Features:

- **Advanced Cloud & AI Services:** Provides cloud storage, high-performance computing, machine learning, facial recognition, image classification, object tracking, and sentiment analysis tools.
- **Localized Infrastructure:** Data processing and server operations remain within Israel to ensure data sovereignty and security.
- **Sovereign Non-Restriction Clause:** Reportedly includes a provision preventing Google and Amazon from suspending services to Israeli government agencies due to external pressure or policy changes.

Concerns:

- Critics allege that the project's dual-use AI technologies may be used for military surveillance and targeting operations in Gaza, raising ethical and human rights concerns.
- Protesters and tech employees have also raised issues over the lack of transparency and the role of Big Tech companies in conflict zones.

- However, Google and Amazon have denied that Project Nimbus is intended for classified weapons or intelligence operations.



63. Fibre-Optic Drones



Recently used by Hezbollah, A fibre-optic drone is a type of First-Person View (FPV) drone or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that communicates with its operator through a physical fibre-optic cable instead of radio signals.

- Since data is transmitted through light pulses inside the cable, these drones are highly resistant to electronic jamming, spoofing, and RF detection, making them effective in electronic warfare environments.

How It Works:

- **Physical Tether:** The drone remains connected to the operator through an ultra-thin, high-strength fibre-optic cable made of glass or plastic fibres.
- **Spool Mechanism:** The cable is wound on a spool mounted on the drone and gradually unwinds as the drone flies.
- **Light-Based Communication:** Flight commands and live video are transmitted as high-speed light pulses through the cable, enabling real-time control with minimal latency.
- **No Radio Transmission:** Since communication occurs through the cable, the drone emits no radio-frequency (RF) signals and does not depend on GPS for navigation.

64. VivaTech 2026

- Viva Technology (VivaTech) is Europe's largest startup and technology event and a leading global platform for innovation, digital transformation, and entrepreneurship.
- It serves as an open-innovation hub, bringing together startups, technology companies, investors, industry leaders, and policymakers to promote collaboration and technological advancement.

Host & Timeline:

- **Location:** Held annually at Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, Paris, France.
- **Organisers:** Co-founded by Publicis Groupe and Les Echos–Le Parisien.
- **Established:** 2016.



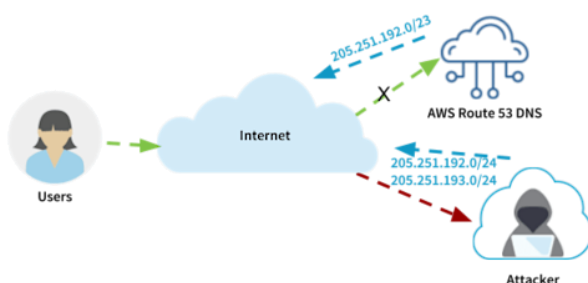
Key Features of VivaTech 2026:

- **Global Participation:** The 2026 edition hosted around 180,000 participants, 14,000 startups, 4,000 partners, and 450 speakers representing over 30 industry sectors.
- **India's Largest Presence:** India showcased its largest-ever pavilion, highlighting innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI), health-tech, clean technology, advanced computing, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- **Deep-Tech Showcase:** More than 80 Indian deep-tech startups displayed innovative solutions in healthcare, green mobility, climate technology, manufacturing, and digital services.
- **Startup Challenges:** The event featured VivaTech Startup Challenges, providing startups with opportunities for global incubation, funding, and partnerships with leading corporations.

Significance:

- India's participation strengthened India-France cooperation in innovation, startups, and emerging technologies.
- India highlighted its vision of human-centric, ethical, and open-source Artificial Intelligence, focusing on public welfare, accessibility, and digital inclusion.
- The Indian pavilion demonstrated scalable solutions in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), digital payments, agriculture, governance, healthcare, and space technology, reinforcing India's position as a global innovation partner.

65. BGP Hijacking



Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) hijacking is a cyberattack in which internet traffic is maliciously or accidentally redirected by falsely advertising IP address routes that a network does not own. As a result, internet traffic is diverted away from its intended destination, causing service disruption or enabling data interception.

How It Works:

- The internet is made up of thousands of Autonomous Systems (AS) operated by ISPs, telecom companies, and cloud providers, which exchange routing information using BGP. During a hijack, a rogue or misconfigured network falsely announces a better route to a target IP address. Since BGP relies largely on trust, other networks accept the false route and redirect traffic through the rogue network.

Key Features:

- **Route Manipulation:** Attackers exploit BGP's preference for more specific or shorter routes to attract internet traffic.
- **Traffic Blackholing:** Diverted traffic may be dropped completely, resulting in a **Denial of Service (DoS)**.
- **Man-in-the-Middle (MitM):** Attackers may intercept, monitor, or alter data before forwarding it to its destination.
- **Rapid Global Spread:** False routing information can quickly propagate across interconnected networks, affecting users worldwide.

Implications:

- BGP hijacking can disrupt access to major websites and online services, redirect internet traffic across borders, and create cybersecurity risks.
- It also increases the possibility of data interception, cyber espionage, credential theft, and privacy breaches, especially when unencrypted data is transmitted.

10. SPORTS NEWS

66. INDIAN SOLDIERS WIN 1ST WORLD ROWING CUP GOLD

Indian soldiers Havildars Lakshay and Ujjwal Kumar Singh won India's first gold medal at a World Rowing Cup on 27 June 2026. The medal came at World Rowing Cup Stage 3 in Lucerne, Switzerland, in the Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2x) event.



World Rowing Cup

The World Rowing Cup is an annual international rowing series organised by World Rowing, the international federation for the sport. The series includes multiple stages held at different venues, and athletes compete in boat classes such as single sculls, double sculls, and coxless fours.

11. IMPORTANT DAYS

67. World Environment day

World Environment Day is observed every year on 5th of June and it is considered as the largest global platform dedicated to the environmental awareness and action.

The theme for the World Environment Day 2026 is "Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future." and this campaign is also driven by the global call to action #NowForClimate and it highlighting the need to move beyond the promises and implement real climate solutions. The theme for World Environment Day 2026 is "Inspired by Nature: For Climate. For Our Future." The campaign is also driven by the global call-to-action #NowForClimate, highlighting the need to move beyond promises and implement real climate solutions. The global celebrations of World Environment Day 2026 will be hosted

by the Azerbaijan, with the main events to take place in Capital city Baku. As a host nation, Azerbaijan will lead the various international initiatives which are aimed at to promoting the environmental protection and climate resilience.

68. WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 31May

On 31st May every year world observes the World No Tobacco Day to raise the awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use encourage global action against nicotine addiction. This day was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the year 1987 and the campaign serves as the reminder of health, social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco consumption. The 2026 theme is 'Unmasking the Appeal: Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction' and focuses on exposing the tactics used by the tobacco and nicotine industry to attract the new users.

69. World Refugee Day 2026

World Refugee Day was observed on June 20, 2026, under the UN theme "Until Everyone Is Safe". The observance marked the 75th anniversary of the landmark 1951 Refugee Convention, highlighting the ongoing struggles of over 117.8 million forcibly displaced people globally.

Key Current Affairs & Statistics

- **Global Displacement Numbers:** Over 117 million people remain forcibly displaced worldwide, driven by conflicts in Sudan, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen.
- **Regional Events:** UNHCR India organized specialized programs in the region (including New Delhi) focusing on promoting resilience and integrating refugees into host communities.

70. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was celebrated extensively across the project areas of the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).

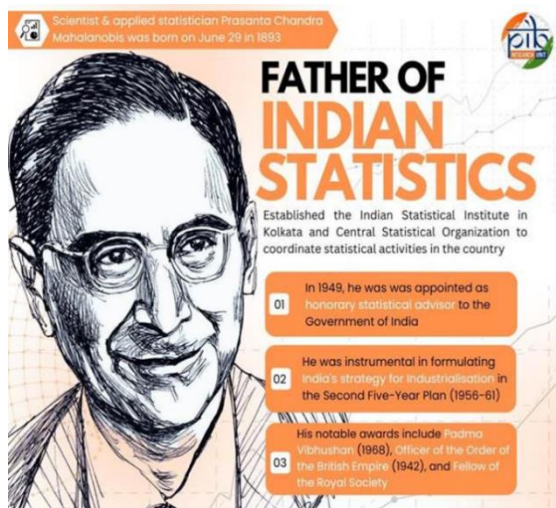
What is the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought?

- **Background:** In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially declared 17th June as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
 - This day commemorates the adoption of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which stands as the sole legally binding international agreement linking environmental conservation and development directly to sustainable land management.
- **Objective:** The day serves as a global platform to raise awareness about land degradation and promote Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) through sustainable practices and international cooperation.

- It highlights that desertification is largely driven by human activities and climate change, making it a preventable and reversible challenge.

Theme 2026: “*Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore.*” aligned with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.

71. 20th Statistics Day 2026



Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will celebrate the 20th Statistics Day on 29th June 2026 at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. This day is observed every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, a pioneer in the field of statistics and economic planning. Statistics Day aims to create public awareness, especially among the younger generation, about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation for national development. The theme for 2026 is

“Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data”, which underscores the growing importance of leveraging data generated through administrative processes for evidence-based policymaking and governance.

12. GOVT. SCHEMES

72. Nationwide ‘Khet Bachao Abhiyan’



□About: The campaign focuses on protecting soil health, reducing excessive chemical fertiliser and pesticide use, and encouraging scientific farming practices. It will run across the country from 1st June to 30th June 2026.

□Key Activities: It promotes soil testing, Soil Health Cards, balanced nutrient management, natural farming, water conservation, improved seeds, seed treatment, green manure, modern sowing techniques and water-efficient farming methods.

□Scheme Linkage: The campaign will also create awareness against counterfeit fertilisers, seeds and pesticides, while helping farmers access government schemes such as PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, Crop Insurance Scheme, Kisan Credit Card and farm mechanisation programmes.

□ **Core Message:** The campaign is based on the idea of “Save the Soil, Save Farming, Save Farmers.” It emphasises that healthy soil is essential for productive agriculture, stronger farmers and long-term national prosperity.

□ **Soil Health Cards:** The campaign promotes the use of Soil Health Cards so that fertilizer application can be based on the actual nutrient requirements of the soil. This can help reduce input costs, improve productivity and preserve soil fertility.

□ **Village Outreach:** Agricultural scientists, ICAR institutions, experts from agricultural universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, agriculture department officials and public representatives will visit villages to educate farmers and provide technical support.

□ **Scientific Farming:** The campaign will include field demonstrations for crops such as soybean, paddy and pulses. Farmers will be trained in laser levellers, crop selection suited to local agro-climatic conditions and water-efficient farming practices.

73. 10 Years of PMSMA: A Decade of Care

The Union Health Minister recently launched nationwide celebrations under the theme "10 Years of PMSMA – A Decade of Care" to commemorate ten years of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyaan (PMSMA). The scheme, launched on 9 June 2016 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, aims to ensure safe pregnancy and healthy motherhood by providing free, comprehensive, specialist-led antenatal care services at designated government health facilities on the 9th of every month.



Key Features of PMSMA

PMSMA focuses on pregnant women in the second and third trimesters by ensuring quality antenatal check-ups, early identification of complications, timely medical intervention, and improved maternal and child health outcomes. To further strengthen care for vulnerable mothers, the government launched Extended PMSMA in January 2022. Under this initiative, High-Risk Pregnancies (HRPs) are identified, line-listed, individually tracked, and monitored up to 45 days after delivery with the help of SMS alerts and support from ASHA workers.

13. ENVIRONMENT

74. Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary: India's 100th Ramsar Site



On the occasion of World Environment Day (5 June 2026), the Prime Minister welcomed the inclusion of the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) as India's 100th Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention. With this achievement, India now has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in Asia and ranks third globally, after the United

Kingdom and Mexico.

Wetlands and Ramsar Recognition

According to the Ramsar Convention, wetlands include areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water—natural or artificial, permanent or temporary—containing fresh, brackish, or saline water, including shallow marine areas up to six metres deep at low tide. However, India's Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 exclude river channels, paddy fields, drinking water tanks, and water bodies created specifically for aquaculture, salt production, recreation, or irrigation.

Uttar Pradesh's Growing Ramsar Network

The sanctuary is the 13th Ramsar Site in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier in 2026, the Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary and Patna Bird Sanctuary were also added to the Ramsar list, strengthening the state's role in wetland conservation.

Formation and Ecological Features

Located in the middle stretch of the Ganga River Basin, the sanctuary was declared a bird sanctuary by the Uttar Pradesh government in 1991. It is a large natural oxbow lake formed by the meandering course of the Ganga River. The wetland receives freshwater through three major channels and expands significantly across floodplains and marshes during the monsoon season.

75. NZP Saathi App

The Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently launched the NZP Saathi App and inaugurated advanced self-ticketing kiosks at the National Zoological Park. The initiative aims to enhance visitor experience through digital technology and improve access to information within the zoo.



About the App

The NZP Saathi App is an interactive, GPS-enabled digital zoo guide that replaces traditional paper maps with a smart navigation and educational platform. It acts as a virtual companion, helping visitors explore the zoo more efficiently while learning about wildlife and conservation.

Objective

The app seeks to support the digital transformation of the National Zoological Park by:

- Providing real-time navigation assistance.
- Reducing visitor confusion and crowd congestion.
- Enhancing awareness about wildlife conservation and animal habitats.

Improving overall visitor engagement through technology-driven experiences.

76. India Targets 155 GW Wind Energy Capacity by 2035 SHAN Conservation Society to protect snow leopards in Ladakh

India has set a target of 155 GW installed wind energy capacity by 2035. India also has an interim target of 100 GW by 2030, and its installed wind capacity exceeded 56.1 GW as of 15 June 2026.

Wind Energy in India

Wind energy is a renewable energy source that uses wind turbines to convert kinetic energy into electricity. India is the world's fourth-largest wind energy market by installed capacity. The country added 6.1 GW of new wind capacity in fiscal year 2025-26, which was a 46% year-on-year increase.

WT-MARUT Portal

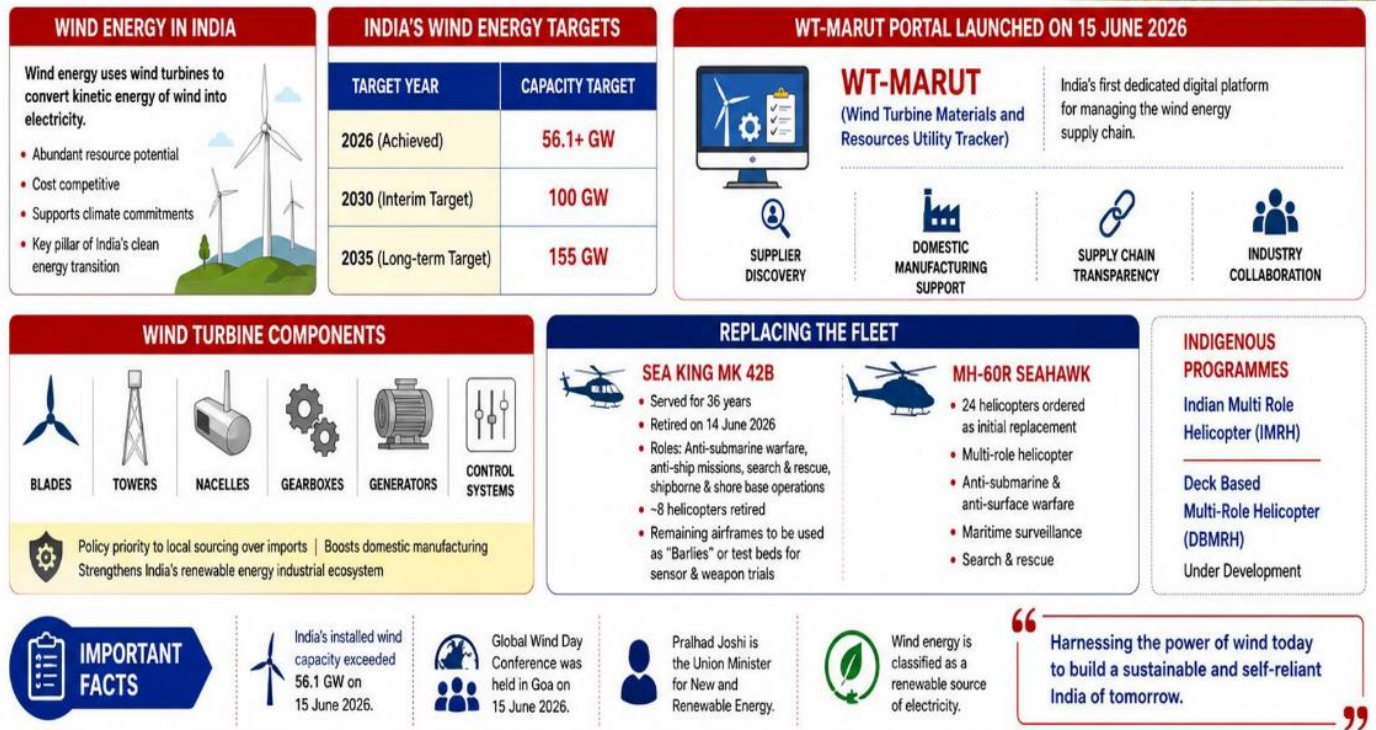
WT-MARUT stands for Wind Turbine Materials and Resources Utility Tracker. It was launched on 15 June 2026 as India's first dedicated digital platform for managing the wind energy supply chain. The portal is designed for supplier discovery, domestic manufacturing support, and supply-chain transparency.

The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, has approved the constitution of the Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature (SHAN) Conservation Society, a first-of-its-kind institutional mechanism dedicated to wildlife conservation and community-led environmental stewardship in the Union Territory.

Key Points

- **About:** The Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature (SHAN) Conservation Society has been established as a dedicated institutional platform for wildlife conservation, biodiversity management, and ecological sustainability in Ladakh.
 - The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh will serve as the Chairman of the society.
- **Objective:** To promote conservation of wildlife and habitats, support eco-development, encourage community participation, strengthen biodiversity management, and foster sustainable livelihoods.
- **Functions:** The society will promote scientific research, wildlife monitoring, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, community-based conservation, eco-tourism, sustainable livelihoods, and resource mobilization for habitat and wildlife protection.
- **Snow Leopard:**
 - It is known as the “**Ghost of the Mountains**,” a keystone species and an important indicator of the health of the Trans-Himalayan ecosystem.
 - **State Animal:** Declared the State Animal of **Ladakh** and **Himachal Pradesh**.
 - **Khelo India Winter Games 2024:** Served as the mascot, named “**Sheen-e She (Shan)**”, in Ladakh.

- **Conservation Status:** Listed as **Vulnerable** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- **Habitat:** Native to the high-altitude mountain ranges of Central and South Asia



77. Western Ghats Set for Eco-Sensitive Tag

Background:

- The Centre is preparing to notify Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats, nearly 13 years after the first draft notification.
- The Madhav Gadgil Committee (2011) recommended strong protection for the entire Western Ghats. However, following objections from states, the K. Kasturirangan Committee (2013) reduced the proposed ESA by distinguishing between natural landscapes and cultural landscapes.

Proposed ESA Coverage:

- Around 56,000 sq km across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu is proposed to be notified as ESA, largely based on the recommendations of the Kasturirangan Committee Report (2013).

Legal Backing:

- ESAs are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to provide legal protection to ecologically fragile regions.



- These areas are protected by regulating activities that may harm biodiversity, forests, water resources, and ecological connectivity.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) declares ESAs to conserve regions with unique ecological and biological significance.
- In addition, the Ministry also notifies Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around Protected Areas, which act as buffer zones and "shock absorbers" between highly protected ecosystems and surrounding human-use areas.

Restricted Activities:

- New mining and quarrying projects, thermal power plants, red-category highly polluting industries, and large construction projects of 20,000 sq m or more are proposed to be prohibited or strictly regulated.

Permitted Activities:

- ESA notification does not prohibit all human activities. Sustainable practices such as organic farming, rainwater harvesting, green technologies, and eco-friendly local livelihoods are encouraged.

Significance:

- The Western Ghats are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's hottest biodiversity hotspots.
- They are also known as the "Water Tower of Peninsular India" as they influence the southwest monsoon and serve as the source of many major peninsular rivers.

78. Smart Seed Coating Technology



The Smart Seed Coating Technology is an Indian-patented, biodegradable seed enhancement technology that improves seed germination, crop establishment, and resilience to climate stress.

- It has been developed by the ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR–IIOR), Hyderabad, as a multifunctional alternative to conventional seed treatments.

Aim:

- The technology aims to promote climate-resilient agriculture, improve productivity in rainfed farming systems, and protect crops from drought, erratic rainfall, temperature stress, poor soil conditions, and pests.

How It Works:

- **Biopolymer Coating:** Seeds are coated with an eco-friendly, biodegradable biopolymer that forms a protective outer layer.
- **Integrated Inputs:** The coating carries beneficial microbes, macro and micronutrients, plant growth promoters, and crop protection agents in a single layer.

- **Moisture-Activated Release:** After sowing, the coating reacts with soil moisture to create a favourable microenvironment and gradually releases nutrients and biological agents into the root zone.
- **Better Germination:** This targeted delivery promotes rapid root growth, healthier seedlings, and improved early crop establishment.

Key Features:

- **Biodegradable Technology:** Uses a natural polymer coating that decomposes safely without harming the soil or environment.
- **Single-Application Solution:** Combines nutrition, biological support, and crop protection in one coating, reducing the need for multiple seed treatments.
- **Crop-Specific Formulation:** Can be customized for cereals, pulses, oilseeds, millets, cotton, vegetables, spices, and horticultural crops.
- **Improved Productivity:** Multi-location trials recorded 12–37% higher yields across crops such as maize, chickpea, cotton, mustard, and pigeon pea.
- **Large-Scale Adoption:** Designed for commercialization through State Seed Development Corporations, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and private seed companies.

Significance:

- The technology supports sustainable and climate-smart agriculture by improving seed performance, reducing production risks, and enhancing farmers' productivity while minimizing environmental impact.

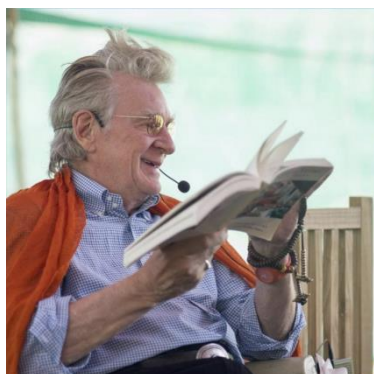
14. OBITUARY

79. Suman Kalyanpur Dies at 89



Suman Kalyanpur, a veteran playback Singer associated with Hindi and Marathi film music, died on 31 May 2026 at the age of 89. Suman Kalyanpur received the Padma Bhushan in 2023. The Padma Bhushan is India's third-highest civilian award, after the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan. It is conferred by the Government of India for distinguished service of a high order in any field.

80. Robert A.F. Thurman



Robert A.F. Thurman, noted American scholar of Tibetan Buddhism and Padma Shri awardee, passed away at the age of 84 in New York.

Robert A.F. Thurman was a renowned American scholar of Tibetan Buddhism and Indo-Tibetan Buddhist studies, who passed away at the age of 84 in New York. A Padma Shri awardee, he served as a professor at Columbia University and was widely recognized for promoting Buddhist philosophy and preserving

Tibetan cultural heritage. He was also a close friend of the 14th Dalai Lama.

Thurman translated important Buddhist texts, including the Vimalakirti Sutra, and authored several influential works on Buddhism and Tibetan philosophy. In 2023, he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss Buddhist values and India's Buddhist heritage, further strengthening cultural and academic ties between India and the global Buddhist community.

81. Jaspal Rana

Jaspal Rana, one of India's most celebrated pistol shooters and a distinguished shooting coach, passed away on 12 June 2026 at the age of 49 due to cardiac complications. He represented India with distinction, winning four gold medals at the Asian Games and 15 Commonwealth Games medals, including 9 gold, 4 silver, and 2 bronze, making him one of India's most successful shooters.

After retiring from competitive shooting, Rana made significant contributions as a coach. He mentored Manu Bhaker, who won two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics, becoming the first Indian in the post-Independence era to win two medals in a single Olympic Games. For his contributions to Indian sports, he received the Arjuna Award (1994), Padma Shri (1997), and Dronacharya Award (2020), leaving behind a lasting legacy as both a champion shooter and an inspiring coach.

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