Current Affairs
June 2025

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NATIONAL NEWS

Shubhanshu Shukla becomes the first Indian to travel to space in 40 years

- Indian Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has made scripted history by piloting the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft launched for the much-anticipated Axiom 4 mission to the International Space Station.

- The lift-off took place on June 25 after multiple delays.

- He is the first Indian astronaut to travel to the ISS in the last forty years, following revered Indian astronaut Rakesh Sharma.

- Shukla is accompanied by former NASA astronaut and commander for this mission Peggy Whitson and mission specialists Poland's Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski and Hungary's Tibor Kapu.

- Shubhanshu is one of the four astronauts picked for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission, India's first human space mission.

- He will be conducting pioneering experiments to sprout and grow green gram (moong) and fenugreek (methi) seeds in the unique microgravity environment of space. This research aims to unlock sustainable food solutions for astronauts on long-duration missions, marking a significant step towards India-centric space agriculture and advancing life-support systems for future space exploration.

India's first animal overpass

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has built the country's first wildlife overpass corridor along a 12–kilometre stretch of the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway.

- It is equipped with five wildlife overpasses and India's longest underpass to promote safe animal movement.

- The stretch passes through an ecologically rich region between Ranthambore and the Chambal Valley, which is home to a broad range of animals like tigers, bears, leopards and others.

- It was established in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India and the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

- The project included several environmentally friendly features, including a plantation of 35,000 trees, construction of rainwater collection devices and the use of modular, low-waste construction methods.

Air India Flight AI171 crash near Ahmedabad

- An Air India Flight AI171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner bound for London, crashed in a residential area of Ahmedabad shortly after take-off. It crashed seconds after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, striking the hostel block of B. J. Medical College in the Meghaninagar neighbourhood of Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- The pilot had issued a 'Mayday' distress call, indicating a full emergency, soon after take-off.

- Of the 242 people on board, 241 were killed. The former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani, was also on board.

- The only survivor was Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, a British national of Indian origin. The flight had 169 Indians, 53 Britons, seven Portuguese and one Canadian passenger on board.

AviList – the world's first unified global checklist of bird species

- AviList is the first-ever unified global checklist of bird species. It became live on 12 June, 2025, following four years of development by the Working Group on Avian Checklists.

- The Working Group comprised representatives from BirdLife International, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the American Ornithologists' Society, the International Ornithologists' Union and Avibase.

- It contains 11,131 species, 19,879 subspecies, 2,376 genera, 252 families and 46 orders. The new list will replace the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) and Clements lists.

Tamil Nadu to restore Kariyachalli Island in climate fight

- The Tamil Nadu government has launched a ₹50 crore initiative to restore Kariyachalli Island in the Gulf of Mannar.

- The island, which is part of the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, has shrunk by over 70% since 1969— from more than 21 hectares to under six.

- The project is part of the World Bank-backed SHORE (Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources) programme, led by the state's Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests.

- A total of 8,500 specially engineered artificial reef blocks made of ferrocement and steel will be placed around the island. These structures are designed to absorb wave energy, trap sediments and support marine biodiversity by creating new habitats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicates Unit-1 (660 MW) of the Ghatampur Thermal Power Project to the nation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated Unit-1 (660 MW) of the Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (3 × 660 MW) in Kanpur Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh, to the nation, marking a landmark achievement in India's energy sector.
- This ambitious power project is a flagship initiative by Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd (NUPPL), a collaboration of NLC India Limited (51%) and Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL) (49%).
- The project comprises three supercritical thermal power units of 660 MW each, adding up to a substantial 1,980 MW of installed capacity.
- This initiative aims to meet the growing electricity demand in Uttar Pradesh and other states, enhancing energy security while aligning with the nation's commitment to sustainable and reliable power generation.
- The total project cost is ₹21,780.94 crores.

24-million-year-old fossil unearthed in Assam

- A research team from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) in Lucknow studied the fossil leaves and found they closely resemble modern plants from the *Nothopegia* genus.
- These leaves were found in Assam's Makum Coal field, and are around 24 million years old.
- The leaves resemble the modern plant species of the *Nothopegia* genus, which grow thousands of kilometres away, deep in the rain-drenched forests of the Western Ghats — a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots.

India marks 50 Years of Crocodile Conservation Project

- India launched its Crocodile Conservation Programme in Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha in 1975.
- The programme was launched with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). India adopted the 'Rear and release' method to capture eggs or hatchlings, rear them in captivity, and then release them into protected areas.
- In India, Odisha is home to three main kinds of crocodile species: the gharial, the saltwater crocodile or salties, and the mugger. These species face increasing threats from habitat loss, poachers, pollution, riparian agriculture, artificial embankments, construction of barrages and dams and illegal sand mining.
- The project has been successful in reviving near-extinct crocodilian species.

Ram Darbar unveiled in Ayodhya

- The pran pratishtha (consecration) of the white marble idol of Raja Ram was conducted, and the Ram darbar was ceremonially unveiled amid the chanting of Vedic mantras on the first floor of the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- Ram Darbar comprises idols of Lord Ram and Mata Sita seated on a throne, with Hanuman and Bharat depicted in a prayerful posture at their feet, and Lakshman and Shatrughan standing beside them. The throne is placed on a platform made of white marble.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presided over the pran pratishtha of Ram Darbar.
- The temple is built in the traditional Nagara style and measures 360 feet in length, 235 feet in width and rises to a height of 161 feet.
- It spans 2.77 acres and is a three-storey structure featuring 392 carved pillars, 44 doors and richly sculpted depictions of Hindu deities.

Assam and Meghalaya Joint Hydropower Project Initiative

- The Assam and Meghalaya governments have jointly decided to establish a 55 MW hydropower project on the Kulsi River.
- Kulsi is a small tributary of the Brahmaputra that flows down from Meghalaya's West Khasi Hills district to Kamrup district of Assam.
- Kulsi is about 60 km in length and has an average width of 70 to 80 metres. It flows through Assam before merging with the Brahmaputra and is a nesting ground for the endangered river dolphins.

India wins Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

- In a landmark achievement for India's administrative governance and global stature, V. Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public

Grievances (DARPG), has been elected President of the IIAS for the 2025–2028 term.

- This is the first time in the 100-year history of the IIAS that the election to the post of President has been held through a ballot process.

- It is also the first time that India has secured a historic mandate for the Presidency of the IIAS.

- DARPG has represented India as a Member State of IIAS since 1998.

- IIAS is a federation of 31 Member Countries, 20 National Sections and 15 Academic Research Centres, jointly collaborating on scientific research in public administration.

India's population census 2027 to be conducted in two phases along with enumeration of castes

- The Union Home Ministry has announced that India's population census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, on 1 October 2026 and 1 March 2027, respectively.

- The Census of India is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.

- The last census was conducted in 2011. The announcement of the 2027 census clears the path for the Women's Reservation Bill and the delimitation exercise. Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of constituencies based on their population. However, the exercise was frozen till 2000 by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976.

- The National Population Register (NPR) will be conducted in the first phase of the census along with the housing census. The NPR is a register that collects demographic information such as name, date and place of birth, nationality, occupation, address, relationship to the head of the household, marital status and educational qualifications of 'usual citizens' – those who have lived in a locality for at least six months or intend to stay for the next six months.

- The first phase of the census will be known as the Houselisting Operation (HLO) and the second phase as the Population Enumeration (PE).

PM Modi flags off India's first locomotive export to Guinea

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off a state-of-the-art locomotive built at the Marhowra Plant for export to the Republic of Guinea under the 'Make in India' initiative. This marks the first export locomotive manufactured at the plant in Bihar.

- The Wabtec Diesel Locomotive Factory, a joint venture between Wabtec (76%) and Indian Railways (24%), has already produced 729 high-horsepower diesel engines since its inception in 2018 — including 545 units of 4,500 HP and 184 units of 6,000 HP.

- These advanced locomotives feature high-horsepower engines, AC propulsion systems, microprocessor-based control systems, ergonomically designed cabs and regenerative braking technology, showcasing India's growing capabilities in rail manufacturing.

- The deal with Guinea, titled "Project KOMO", involves the export of 140 diesel engines, valued at approximately ₹3000 crore.

PM Modi flags off Vande Bharat, launches projects worth ₹5,200 crore in Bihar

- PM Modi visited Siwan in Bihar, where he inaugurated multiple infrastructure and connectivity projects, addressed public gatherings and flagged off a Vande Bharat Express train.

- The Vande Bharat will run between Patliputra and Gorakhpur, significantly boosting rail access in North Bihar.

- He inaugurated the Vaishali–Deoria railway line, a project valued at over ₹400 crore, and flagged off a new train service along the route to strengthen connectivity across the region.

- He also laid the foundation stone for a series of water supply and sanitation projects worth more than ₹3,000 crore, aimed at ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water across several towns in Bihar.

- Prime Minister launched a 500 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project. These standalone units will be installed at 15 grid substations in locations including Muzaffarpur, Motihari, Bettiah and Siwan.

- On the housing front, PM Modi released the first instalment under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) to more than 53,600 beneficiaries in Bihar.

Khichan and Menar Wetlands get Ramsar tag

- Rajasthan's Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur have been designated as Ramsar Sites, bringing the total number of internationally recognised wetlands in India to 91.

- Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

- This intergovernmental treaty was established in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, and aims to conserve and promote the optimal use of wetlands for sustainable development.
- The Ramsar List, also known as the List of Wetlands of International Importance, includes over 2,500 sites across the world.

PM Modi launches 105 projects worth over ₹18,600 crore in Odisha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 105 development projects valued at over ₹18,600 crores, unveiled the "Odisha Vision Document" and flagged off new trains during his visit to the state.
- He flagged off the first passenger train to Boudh district after inaugurating the Sonepur–Purunakatak railway line.
- He also flagged off 100 electric buses under the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) system, promoting eco-friendly urban mobility. He unveiled the 'Odisha Vision Document', the roadmap for the state's development goals, centred on the centenary of Odisha's formation as a linguistic state in 2036 and India's 100th years of independence in 2047.
- He also launched 'Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana', an initiative to transform the birthplaces of Odia icons into memorials, featuring museums, interpretation centres, statues and libraries, thereby promoting cultural tourism and preserving heritage.

Election Commission digitises Index Cards and Statistical Reports for faster data access

- The Election Commission has a streamlined, technology-driven system to generate Index Cards and various statistical reports after elections.
- This upgraded mechanism replaces traditional manual methods, which were often time-consuming and prone to delays.
- The Index Card is a non-statutory, post-election statistical reporting format developed as the Election Commission of India's (ECI) suo moto initiative.
- It enhances access to election-related data at the constituency level for all stakeholders, including researchers, academia, policymakers, journalists and the general public.
- The Index Card forms the foundation for generating around 35 statistical reports for Lok Sabha elections and 14 for State Assembly elections.

- These statistical reports are meant solely for academic and research purposes and are based on secondary data derived from Index Cards.

Bengaluru becomes India's 'Leopard Capital'

- Bengaluru and its surroundings areas have surpassed Mumbai as the Indian metropolitan city with the largest leopard population.
- The Holématthi Nature Foundation (HNF) conducted a year-long camera-trap survey, led by conservation biologist and leopard expert Sanjay Gubbi.
- Bengaluru has recorded 80–85 leopards, with 54 residing inside Bannerghatta National Park (BNP). The remaining ~30 leopards roam reserved, deemed and private forests on the metropolitan periphery.
- Mumbai has a documented population of ~54 leopards.

Tamil Nadu declares Dhanushkodi a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary

- The Tamil Nadu government has declared the Dhanushkodi lagoon, a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary.
- Dhanushkodi spans an area of 524.7 hectares and lies along the Central Asian Flyway, which is essential for birds migrating between Eurasia and the Indian subcontinent.
- The initiative will promote responsible ecotourism and enhance public awareness about wetland conservation. It will protect migratory bird habitats and enhance biodiversity in the region.

Bihar becomes the first state to adopt an e-voting system for urban polls

- In a significant shift in the voting process, the Bihar State Election Commission will roll out an e-voting system using Android-based mobile technology. Bihar will be India's first state to adopt this revolutionary change in the voting process.
- The entire e-voting process will be implemented through two mobile apps, namely "e-Voting SECBHR", one developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and another by the Bihar State Election Commission.
- The e-voting system will include features like a blockchain platform, liveness detection, face matching live face scanning and face comparison, making the voting process tamper-proof.

India's first underwater museum to be built around INS Guldar in Maharashtra

- India's first underwater museum and artificial coral reef will be developed around the decommissioned warship INS Guldar, near Nivati Rocks at Vengurla in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

- The initiative aims to boost marine conservation and tourism, offering scuba diving and future submarine tours. The Union Tourism Ministry has approved ₹46.91 crore for the project.

- INS Guldar weighs 1,120 tonnes and was decommissioned in January 2024.

- The central government has officially handed over INS Guldar to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation for conversion into a submerged museum.

SECI's Landmark Green Ammonia tender set to decarbonise India's fertiliser sector

- The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI), a 'Navratna' Central Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), has issued a landmark tender for the offtake of Green Ammonia, aimed at decarbonising India's fertiliser sector.

- Ammonia, an essential component in urea and other nitrogen-based fertilisers, is currently produced using fossil fuels, which leads to high greenhouse gas emissions.

- SECI's tender promotes the use of renewable energy to produce green hydrogen and ammonia, promoting low-emission, domestically produced fertilisers.

India's first Household Income Survey

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct the first-ever Household Income Survey in 2026.

- A Technical Expert Group (TEG) will guide the ministry on testimation methods and other aspects of the survey. Surjit Bhalla, formerly India's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund and a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, will head the group.

PM Modi inaugurates Chenab rail bridge, world's highest railway arch bridge

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge. It is a 1,315-metre-long steel arch bridge capable of withstanding high seismic and wind loads.

- It forms a crucial part of the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, designed to ensure all-weather connectivity in the region. The entire USBRL line connects Baramulla in the Kashmir Valley with Udhampur in Jammu, spanning 272 km across hazardous terrain via 36 tunnels and 943 bridges.

- Dr G Madhavi Latha, a distinguished professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, played a key role in the development of the Chenab Rail Bridge.

- PM Modi also inaugurated the Anji Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, constructed in one of the most challenging terrains in the region.

- He also flagged off two Vande Bharat Express trains between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar, completing the full 272-km USBRL stretch.

BHASHINI and CRIS sign MoU to build next-gen multilingual AI solutions for the Indian Railways

- In a landmark move towards linguistic inclusion and AI-driven digital transformation in Indian Railways, the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) and the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) have signed an MoU to collaborate on the development and deployment of multilingual artificial intelligence solutions across key public-facing railway platforms.

- The strategic partnership aims to integrate BHASHINI's state-of-the-art language technology stack, comprising Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), Text-to-Text Translation, Text-to-Speech (TTS) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR), into CRIS-managed systems such as the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) and RailMadad.

- This will enable citizens to access critical railway services in 22 Indian languages.

Key Points		
Amitabh Nag	—	CEO, BHASHINI
G.V.L. Satya Kumar	—	Managing Director, CRIS

News in Short

- The length of India's coastline has now been officially measured as 11,098 km, an increase of 3,582 km, or nearly 48%. The earlier length of India's coastline used to be 7,516 km. The difference arises mainly due to improved data scale and measurement methods.

- India has joined the elite global group for Rinderpest Virus 'Cattle Plague' Containment, as the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, has been designated a Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility.

- Google has launched its first Asia-Pacific Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC India) in Hyderabad, with a focus on combating cyber threats using AI tools and collaboration.

- A copper plate inscription found at the Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple reveals India's first recorded reference to Halley's Comet. The inscription dates back to 28 June 1456 CE. It documents a land grant by the Vijayanagara king Mallikarjuna. Historians identify a celestial object in the inscription as Halley's Comet. This discovery highlights India's rich astronomical knowledge. The inscription suggests medieval scholars tracked cometary cycles closely.

- The Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, located in Kannur, Kerala, has become India's first protected area dedicated solely to butterflies.

- The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal from the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to establish the International Potato Centre (CIP)'s South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) at Singna, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

- The Kerala government has been pushing for amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA), seeking legal provisions to allow the controlled killing or culling of certain wild animals that pose threats to human life and livelihood.

- A Kozhikode-based ornithologist has reported the first-ever sighting of the rare migratory bird Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*) in Kerala.

- The Delhi government has unveiled plans to build India's first dedicated e-waste ecopark in Holambi Kalan. The facility will span 11.4 acres and be developed under a public–private partnership (PPP) over 15 years.

- Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and their local collaborators have discovered a new frog species named *Amolops shillong*, or the Shillong Cascade Frog, at an average altitude of 4,990 ft. Their presence in Shillong suggests that certain parts of the city still maintain the environmental conditions necessary to support sensitive wildlife.

- The Jharkhand government plans to establish the state's first tiger safari in the fringe area of the Barwadih Western Forest Range in Latehar district, which falls under the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR). The project aims to promote tourism, wildlife conservation and education through experiential and nature-based learning.

- The Delhi High Court has issued a series of directions to ensure the timely and sensitive handling of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) cases involving survivors of sexual assault. It will be the responsibility of the Investigating Officer (IO) to ensure that, when the survivor is presented before the medical board, all necessary documents and the case file are available. In rape cases where the gestational period exceeds 24 weeks, the medical board must be constituted immediately, without waiting for any specific direction from the court.

- Raja Khas, a village located in the Indora block of Kangra district, will be Himachal Pradesh's first solar model village. The government will provide Raja Khas with ₹1 crore for further solar development.

- An 800-year-old Shiva temple, believed to date back to the Pandya period, has been discovered in Udampatti village, Madurai district, Tamil Nadu.

- Lucknow has now secured a place as India's official nominee for the UNESCO Creative City for Gastronomy. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network was established in 2004 and currently comprises 350 cities. It recognises these creative cities based on seven creative fields – crafts and folk art, design, film, gastronomy, literature, music and media arts.

- The Ministry of Education has recommended seven states to adopt a common board for classes 10 and 12 after an analysis by the School Education Department which revealed that these states accounted for 66% of student failures last year. The seven states are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Manipur, Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Ministry of Tribal Affairs launches DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, the largest benefit

saturation campaign in India's tribal regions, aimed at inclusive development and tribal empowerment.

- The campaign celebrates the cultural heritage of tribal communities while ensuring doorstep delivery of key entitlements.

- This initiative spans over 549 tribal-dominated districts and 207 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) districts, covering more than one lakh villages and habitations.
- The campaign operates under the broader framework of PM-JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), embodying the principles of last-mile delivery and people's participation (Janbhagidari).

Key Points

Union Tribal Minister — Jual Oram

India unveils 'Ayush Nivesh Saarthi' portal

- India has launched the 'Ayush Nivesh Saarthi' portal to position itself as a global hub for traditional medicine and wellness.
- Developed by the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with Invest India, the investor-centric digital platform aims to transform India's traditional wellness systems into a robust economic driver.
- Ayush Nivesh Saarthi integrates policy frameworks, incentive structures, investment-ready projects and real-time facilitation into a single interface to attract both domestic and global investors.

CSIR-NIIST and NECTAR to establish Vegan Leather Manufacturing Units in Northeast India jointly.

- In a significant step towards promoting sustainable technologies and a circular economy in India's Northeast, the CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, has signed an MoU with the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR). NECTAR is an autonomous body under the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.
- It facilitates the transfer of CSIR-NIIST's plant-based vegan leather technology to NECTAR for establishing common facility centres and manufacturing units in Meghalaya and other north-eastern states.
- These centres will support farmers, MSMEs, and women-led self-help groups in converting agro-waste into high-value, sustainable products.

Key Points

Director, CSIR-NIIST — Dr C. Anandharamakrishnan
Director, NECTAR   — Dr Arun Kumar Sarma

DGCA introduces special audits after Air India crash

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has introduced a new framework for 'Comprehensive Special Audits' with immediate effect.
- The special audits can be initiated based on mandatory triggers such as serious incidents or accidents, repeated regulatory non-compliance, safety audit findings, operational disruptions or audit reports by the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO).
- These special audits will be conducted by expert teams led by a senior DGCA official (DDG or Director) as the lead auditor, supported by specialists from the Flight Standards, Air Safety, Airworthiness, Airspace & Air Navigation Services, Licensing and Aerodrome Standards directorates.

Key Points

Union Minister of   — Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu
Civil Aviation

Government launches NAVYA to skill adolescent girls in non-traditional sectors

- The central government has launched the NAVYA – (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls) scheme in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a joint pilot programme by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), aimed at empowering adolescent girls through targeted vocational training.
- The pilot programme will initially be implemented across 27 districts in 19 states, with a focus on aspirational districts and those in the North-Eastern region. This strategic roll-out underscores the government's commitment to inclusive development and reaching underserved and vulnerable populations.

Cabinet approves ₹6,405 Cr rail projects

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved two major railway projects with a combined estimated cost of ₹6,405 crore.
- The first project involves doubling the Koderma–Barkakana line, spanning 133 kilometres through a key coal-producing region of Jharkhand. This route also serves as a vital rail link between Patna and Ranchi.
- The second project will double the 185-kilometre stretch between Ballari and Chikjajur, passing through

Ballari and Chitradurga districts in Karnataka and Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.

- Both projects will be spearheaded by the Ministry of Railways.

CRS approves the opening of the railway line from Hortoki to Sairang in Mizoram.

- The Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) has authorised operations on the railway line from Hortoki to Sairang in Mizoram, the final clearance for a key stretch that will connect the state capital Aizawl by rail for the first time.

- The Hortoki-Sairang line is the last leg of the larger 51.38-km Bairabi-Sairang rail project. Sairang is a satellite town of Aizawl, around 20 km from the city. Bairabi in Kolasib district, near the border with Assam, has so far been the only railhead in Mizoram.

Himachal Pradesh opened the Shipki La Pass to domestic tourists.

- Himachal Pradesh has opened the Shipki La pass, a motorable mountain pass at an altitude of 3,930 metres in the tribal Kinnaur district.

- The strategic pass near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) may also work as a new route for the sacred Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

- It is a significant step towards revitalising border tourism and reviving hopes of resuming India-China trade through the route stalled since 2020.

- The state government secured the Ministry of Defence's approval to open border areas, including Shipki La, Lepcha, Giu and Rani Kanda to domestic visitors, easing restrictions imposed due to security concerns.

- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu became only the second state chief minister to visit the high-altitude pass after Yashwant Singh Parmar.

Agri Ministry to launch CROPIC

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is set to launch CROPIC, a study to gather crop information using field photographs and AI-based models.

- CROPIC stands for Collection of Real Time Observations & Photos of Crops. According to the plan, crops will be photographed four to five times during their life cycle, and the pictures will be analysed to assess their health and potential mid-season losses.

- Initially, the study will be conducted for two seasons Kharif 2025 and Rabi 2025-26.

- The CROPIC mobile app has been developed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

- This study will be conducted for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). It will assist in creating a rich directory of crop signatures and will also lead to the automation of loss assessment and compensation to eligible farmers under PMFBY.

Key Points

Union Agriculture Minister — Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Waste Picker Enumeration App

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) has launched a Nationwide Digital Application – Waste Picker Enumeration App.

- The app will profile Waste Pickers under the NAMASTE scheme. With the inclusion of Waste Pickers, NAMASTE now aims to enumerate 2.5 lakh individuals, offering them formal identity, social protection, skill development and collective empowerment.

- The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme jointly implemented by MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), with the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) serving as the implementation agency for sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs).

Jan Aushadhi Kendra Experiential Learning Program 2025

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Department of Pharmaceuticals, has launched the Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) Experiential Learning Program under the national campaign 'Seva Se Seekhen - Learn by Doing'.

- It will be a fifteen-day experiential initiative under which five youth volunteers will be placed in five Jan Aushadhi Kendras per district across the country.

- The programme not only promotes hands-on learning but also instils values of service, discipline, and community-oriented professionalism.

Central government launches 'UMEED' portal

- The central government has launched the 'Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development' (UMEED) portal to promote better management and enhanced transparency of Waqf properties across the country.

- The portal will serve as a centralised platform for registering Waqf properties nationwide, and all Waqf properties must be registered on the portal within six months of its launch.

- The respective State Waqf Boards will facilitate the registrations. Properties not registered within the stipulated time period due to technical or other significant reasons may be granted an extension of one to two months. However, properties that remain unregistered beyond the permitted period will be considered disputed and referred to the Waqf Tribunal for resolution.

- The portal is being launched against the backdrop of the recently enacted Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

'Bharat Gen'– Indigenous AI–based Multimodal LLM

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, has launched 'Bharat Gen'.

- It is India's first-of-its-kind, indigenously developed, Artificial Intelligence (AI)–based, government-funded Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) for Indian languages.

- The initiative is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and brings together a robust consortium of leading academic institutions, experts, and innovators.

- The platform integrates text, speech and image modalities, offering seamless AI solutions in 22 Indian languages.

IIT-KGP develops DRUM App

- A team from IIT-KGP has developed the Dynamic Route Planning for Urban Green Mobility (DRUM) web application that allows users to choose routes based on air quality and energy efficiency.

- The DRUM app calculates five routes based on real-time air quality and traffic data.

- It eliminates high-pollution and high-energy routes to suggest a balanced path based on time, distance, air quality, and energy use.

India announces ₹5,400 crore funding scheme to build 30 GWh battery energy storage

- The Indian government has announced a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) worth ₹5,400 crore for developing 30 gigawatt hours (GWh) of new Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to ensure round-the-clock renewable energy capacities in the country.

- It will be in addition to the already existing incentive worth ₹3,700 crore under which 13.2 GWh of BESS is currently under implementation. The initiative is expected to attract investments worth ₹33,000 crore.

- The Power System Development Fund (PSDF) will provide the VGF. The scheme is targeted at 15 states, which will receive allocations of 25 GWh, and NTPC Ltd that will get 5 GWh.

Cargo terminal inaugurated at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar site

- Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Gati Shakti Multimodal Cargo Terminal at Maruti Suzuki's Manesar facility in Haryana.

- It is India's largest automobile cargo terminal under the Gati Shakti initiative is expected to significantly enhance freight capacity and industrial logistics.

- The terminal is connected to Patli railway station via a 10-kilometre dedicated rail corridor, part of the 121.7-kilometre Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor, developed by the Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC).

- The terminal, developed at a cost of ₹800 crore, of which ₹684 crore contributed by HRIDC and the remainder financed by Maruti Suzuki. The cargo terminal can handle the loading of 450,000 automobiles annually.

FASTag Annual Pass scheme

- The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has launched the new FASTag annual plan, allowing users to recharge for a minimum of ₹3,000.

- This will cover a whole year or 200 trips, whichever comes earlier.

- The new system covers private non-commercial vehicles like cars, jeeps and vans.

- The users will save a minimum of ₹7,000 per pass, with the average cost of passing through a toll plaza coming down to just ₹15. Also, it will tackle the "long-standing issues" linked to toll plazas.

DRDO & IIT Delhi demonstrate Quantum Entanglement

- India has entered into a new quantum era by successfully demonstrating an experimental advancement through the DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE), IIT Delhi.

- The free-space quantum secure communication using quantum entanglement over a distance of more than one km was achieved via a free-space optical link established on the IIT Delhi campus.
- The experiment recorded a secure key rate of nearly 240 bits per second with a quantum bit error rate of less than 7%.

News in Short

- Assam cabinet approved a special scheme to provide arms licences to indigenous people living in "vulnerable and remote areas" and those along the border with Bangladesh to help them protect themselves. The decision to provide arms licences to the eligible individuals would rest with the district authorities.
- Kerala Forest Department has launched 'Vithoot', an innovative afforestation effort in response to increasing human-wildlife conflicts and associated mortality. The initiative involves the aerial distribution of seed balls across the state's forests and vacant lands to aid in ecological restoration and reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, launched the C CARES Version 2.0, a web portal of CMPFO, developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). CMPFO is an autonomous organisation that administers Provident Fund and Pension schemes for providing social security to the coal sector workers.
- In a first, Indian Railways transported 24 tonnes of cherries from Kashmir to Mumbai via Katra railway station. This marks a significant milestone in promoting the horticultural sector of Jammu & Kashmir and enhancing connectivity to major markets.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana' and the 'Green Adoption Scheme' from Hamirpur. The 'Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana' aims to increase the green cover by planting fruit-bearing trees on barren and degraded forest areas. In the initial phase of the 'Green Adoption Scheme', the Ambuja Group will undertake plantation work on 25 hectares, while the Adani Foundation and UltraTech would adopt 10 hectares each.
- The Railway Ministry has permanently closed its ambitious project for the conversion of the Mathura-Vrindavan railway line from metre gauge to broad

gauge at an estimated cost of ₹402 crore, terming it "uneconomical".
- The Madhya Pradesh state government has launched the Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan for water conservation. It aims to revitalise rivers, water sources, and wetlands throughout the state.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the last and final stretch of the Nagpur-Mumbai Super Communication Expressway between Igatpuri in Nashik and Amane in Thane. It is a 76-km stretch and is constructed at an estimated cost of ₹1,182 crore, jointly shared by the MSRDC and the National Highways Authority of India.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Anuprerana Scheme to provide financial support to research scholars in Assam, particularly focusing on those with disabilities. It will provide ₹25,000 for full-time research scholars and ₹40,000 for Divyang research scholars.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved two projects of the Ministry of Railways with a total cost of ₹6,405 crore. These projects include Koderma–Barkakana Doubling (133 Km) and Ballari–Chikjajur Doubling (185 km).
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT), an autonomous Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), Govt. of India, launched the first cohort of the Incubation Programme named "Samarth" with a focus on fostering innovation and promoting technological advancements in India's telecommunications and IT sectors.
- NHAI has restricted the maximum number of 10 projects per 'Engineer' for the consultancy firms for supervision of construction or maintenance of National Highway projects to enhance the quality and supervision mechanism of the National Highway projects. The consultancy firms working as Independent Engineers, Authority Engineers or Supervision Consultants assign supervision obligations of many projects to a designated 'Engineer'.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, launched the Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (Indian Languages Section) in New Delhi, and with this, the Department of Official Language has now become a complete department.
- The Ministry of Education has constituted a nine-member committee to address growing concerns

regarding students' reliance on coaching centres. Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi will lead the committee.

- The Union government of India has initiated funding for structural mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), established in 2006 to grant forest rights to Scheduled Tribes and forest-dwelling communities.

- The Punjab government has initiated the Punjab Udyog Kranti programme, claiming to be the first in India to launch such a comprehensive industrial revolution. The programme will simplify, reduce and expedite the statutory processes required to set up industry in the state.

- The Central Health Ministry has integrated the Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI) with e-Rakt Kosh to improve access and management of rare blood groups (such as Bombay, Rh-null, P-null).

- The Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has launched phase two of the capacity-building programme under the NAKSHA (NAtional geospatial Knowledge-based land Survey of urban HAbitations) programme across four Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in the country.

- The Maharashtra government has launched Majhi Vasundhara Campaign 6.0 across 28,317 local self-government bodies from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 to strengthen environmental conservation efforts.

- For the first time, the government has capped spending under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at 60% of its annual allocation for the first half of the financial year 2025–26. The Ministry of Finance has now brought MGNREGA under the Monthly/Quarterly Expenditure Plan (MEP/QEP), a spending control mechanism from which it had previously been exempt.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN declares 4 December as International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures

- The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution declaring 4 December every year as the International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures.

- It urges all states to refrain from using unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that violate international law or the UN Charter. Such actions, it says, hinder economic and social development, especially in developing countries.

- The resolution aims to raise global awareness of the harmful impact of these measures. It also seeks to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in addressing their consequences.

Voyager 1 discovers superheated plasma beyond Pluto

- NASA's Voyager 1 has sent back a signal confirming one of the most extreme discoveries yet: a narrow region near the heliopause where plasma has been heated to an astonishing 30,000 to 50,000 Kelvin.

- The heliopause, defines the outer edge of the Sun's protective bubble, known as the heliosphere, where solar wind collides with material from interstellar space.

Israel launches Operation Rising Lion

- Israel launched Operation Rising Lion on 13 June to neutralise what it described as an existential threat posed by Iran's advancing nuclear programme.

- The operation targeted critical facilities involved in uranium enrichment and weaponisation, including the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) in Natanz, the Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) and the Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant (FPFP) in Isfahan.

- The strikes killed Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) chief Hossein Salami, Armed Forces Chief Mohammad Bagheri, other senior military leaders and nuclear scientists.

Iran announced Operation Honest Promise 3 against Israel

- Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) launched Operation True Promise 3 in response to Israeli strikes carried out under Operation Rising Lion.

- The missile attacks from Iran targeted Ben Gurion Airport, biological research centres and command and control facilities.

- The Iranian missile barrage included approximately 30 ballistic missiles, which were precision-guided and used both solid and liquid fuel, as well as Shahed 136

suicide drones that targeted central occupied Palestine and Ben Gurion Airport.

- Iran used 'Fattah-1 missiles' and deployed a swarm of drones towards Israel.

US launches operation 'Midnight Hammer'

- The United States launched strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities in the Iranian regime at Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan under its Operation 'Midnight Hammer.

- The US used bunker-buster bombs on two nuclear facilities (Fordow and Natanz) and fired more than two dozen Tomahawk missiles at the facility in Isfahan.

- The bombs were dropped from the B-2 stealth bomber, the only aircraft designed to deploy the GBU-57. The GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) is the most powerful bunker buster bomb in the US military arsenal, weighing nearly 13,000 kg (30,000 pounds). Bunker buster bombs can penetrate about 18 metres (59 feet) of concrete or 61 metres (200 feet) of earth, which conventional bombs cannot reach.

- This was the first time the US has used MOPs in combat.

Iran launches Operation Bashayer Al-Fath

- Iran launched Operation Bashayer Al-Fath, a powerful military offensive striking the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

- It was a highly coordinated military strike carried out by the Iranian Armed Forces, led by the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

- The operation came as a direct retaliation against the United States' Operation Midnight Hammer, which had targeted Iranian nuclear facilities.

- After Israel's operation, US President Donald Trump announced that Israel and Iran had agreed to a "complete and total ceasefire". He gave the conflict between Israel and Iran a name: the "12 Day War".

'Gwada Negative', the rarest blood group discovered after 15 years of research

- The French Blood Establishment (EFS) has discovered the 48th blood group system in the world, officially recognised by the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT).

- A French woman from the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe was identified as the only known carrier of this latest blood type, called 'Gwada negative'.

- Gwada negative is distinguished by the absence of the EMM antigen, typically located on red blood cells and

regarded as a high-incidence antigen. Antigens with high incidence are found in practically all persons; therefore, the absence of one, as in this case, is exceedingly rare and medically significant.

- The name was chosen not only to commemorate its Guadeloupe roots but also because of its internationally welcoming sound that experts believe is appropriate for its unique significance.

Skin diseases declared a global public health priority

- The 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) unanimously adopted a resolution titled 'Skin diseases as a global public health priority'.

- It has happened for the first time in its history. This resolution marks a significant shift in how the world perceives skin health, moving beyond cosmetic concerns to recognising its profound impact on overall well-being and dignity.

Honda successfully tests reusable rocket

- Japanese car maker Honda successfully conducted a launch and landing test of an experimental reusable rocket at its facility in Taiki Town, Hokkaido.

- The rocket is 6.3 metres in length and has a dry weight of 900 kg and a wet weight of 1,312 kg.

- It had a flight duration of 56.6 seconds, reached an altitude of 271.4 metres and landed within 37 cm of the target touchdown point.

- The launch and landing test demonstrated key technologies essential for rocket reusability, like flight stability during ascent and descent stages and landing capabilities.

- The company will now work on a suborbital launch by 2029. The suborbital flights do not enter the Earth's orbit but reach the edge of space, at a height of around 65 miles.

UN declares 2026 as the International Year of The Woman Farmer

- The UN General Assembly has declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer, following a resolution proposed by the United States and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

- This initiative aims to highlight the crucial role of women farmers in food security, nutrition and poverty eradication, and to address the challenges they face.

- It also seeks to promote gender equality and empower women in agriculture, emphasising the importance of rural and peasant women in supporting their families and economies.

Key Points

FAO headquarters	—	Rome, Italy
Director General, FAO	—	Dr Qu Dongyu

Pakistan secures $1 billion syndicated financing

- Pakistan has signed a five-year long-term syndicated financing facility for $1 billion, indicating strong support from leading financiers amid the country's ongoing economic crisis.
- The Dubai Islamic Bank acted as the sole Islamic Global Coordinator, while Standard Chartered Bank was the Mandated Lead Arranger and Book-runner.
- Other financiers included Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank as the Mandated Lead Arranger and Sharjah Islamic Bank, Ajman Bank and HBL as Arrangers.

INTERPOL launches Operation Secure

- Operation Secure ran from January to April 2025 and involved coordinated action by law enforcement agencies from 26 countries across the Asia-Pacific region.
- INTERPOL led the operation, which targeted the physical infrastructure behind widespread cyberattacks, including malicious IP addresses, command-and-control servers and underground data markets.
- Over 20,000 malicious IP addresses and domains were taken down, many of which were linked to infostealers—malware designed to extract sensitive information from infected devices without detection.
- These programmes can collect browser credentials, passwords, cookies, payment details and crypto wallet information. Once harvested, these programs often trade the data on the dark web or use it to launch further attacks, such as ransomware and large-scale fraud.

Key Points

INTERPOL Headquarters	—	Lyon, France
Secretary General	—	Valdecy Urquiza

Japan introduces a law to encourage Artificial Intelligence (AI) research and development.

- Japan's parliament has enacted a bill to establish a new law to promote R&D in Artificial Intelligence (AI), while addressing risks associated with the technology.
- The law allows the government to disclose the names of malicious businesses in the event of crime using AI. It will also address growing concerns over the spread of false and erroneous information generated by AI tools.
- In the case of a serious incident that infringes on citizens' rights and interests, the government will conduct investigations, advise and instruct related business operators, provide information to the public and take other necessary actions. Companies will be required to cooperate with the government.
- The law does not include penalty provisions, so as not to discourage technological development. Existing laws, including the Penal Code and the copyright laws, will be applied instead.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) adopts the Landmark Convention on Biological Hazards

- The ILO has adopted Convention No. 192 and Recommendation No. 209 on biological hazards.
- These are the first ever international labour standards to address the full scope of biological risks in the working environment.
- This will provide secure, safe and healthy working environments for all, especially those most exposed to biological agents, substances or products, be it exposure to bacteria and viruses in workers' accommodation, snake bites on a construction site or a worker's allergic reactions to plants in the forest.
- It establishes clear obligations for governments and employers to prevent and, eliminate, where elimination is not possible, control biological hazards.
- It also ensures workers and their representatives have the right to participate meaningfully in occupational safety and health processes and guarantees the right to refuse dangerous work and report violations without fear of retaliation.

OpenAI secures $200 million AI contract with U.S. Defence Department

- ChatGPT maker OpenAI has been awarded a $200 million contract to provide the U.S. Defence Department with artificial intelligence tools.
- Under this award, the performer will develop prototype frontier AI capabilities to address critical national security challenges in both warfighting and enterprise domains.

- The work will be primarily conducted in and around Washington, with an estimated completion date of July 2026.

Nuclear fusion breakthrough in Germany

- German scientists have made significant progress in the production of nearly limitless, clean energy through nuclear fusion.

- This was done using the Wendelstein 7-X nuclear fusion reactor, with researchers managing to sustain the fusion experiment for an impressive 43 seconds.

- Wendelstein 7-X, officially called a 'stellarator', is a type of fusion device that confines hot, charged gas, known as plasma, with powerful external magnets controlling it.

- Wendelstein 7-X raised the plasma to over 20 million Celsius, reaching a peak of 30 million Celsius. It also reached a new record high triple product, a key metric for the success of fusion power generators. The triple product is a combination of the density of particles in the plasma, the temperature required for fusion, and the energy confinement time.

High Seas Treaty gained momentum

- Eighteen countries have ratified the High Seas Treaty, bringing the total to 49 – just 11 short of the 60 needed for the ocean agreement to enter into force.

- The High Seas Treaty was formally known as the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction.

- It is the first legally binding agreement focused on protecting marine biodiversity in international waters.

- These waters account for nearly two-thirds of the ocean and almost half the surface of the planet.

IAEA and Romania launch Global Nuclear Emergency Response Exercise – ConvEx-3 (2025)

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Romania have launched the world's largest and most complex international nuclear emergency exercise, simulating a severe accident at Romania's Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant.

- More than 75 countries and 10 international organisations participated in ConvEx-3 (2025).

- It was a full-scale exercise designed to test global readiness for a nuclear or radiological emergency with cross-border consequences.

- Convention Exercises, or ConvEx, tests the operational arrangements of the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention. Romania last hosted a ConvEx-3 exercise in 2005.

Key Points

IAEA Director General — Rafael Mariano Grossi

Senate passes GENIUS stablecoin bill

- The Senate has passed the GENIUS (Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins) Act, a landmark bill that establishes federal guardrails for U.S. dollar-pegged stablecoins.

- It creates a regulated pathway for private companies to issue digital dollars with federal approval.

- The GENIUS Act aims to protect consumers, enable responsible innovation and safeguard the dominance of the U.S. dollar.

- It will establish industry safeguards including full reserve backing, monthly audits and anti-money laundering compliance.

- However, the Republican-held House has yet to pass the bill.

Japanese space mission Hakuto-R crashed

- Resilience, a lander built by Japanese company Ispace, crashed on the lunar surface while attempting to make Japan's first private moon landing.

- The spacecraft's Laser Range Finder, or LRF, experienced an anomaly that prevented Resilience from obtaining valid measurements of its distance from the lunar surface. This prevented the moon lander from decelerating at the proper rate, causing it to crash.

- The Resilience moon lander made a "hard landing" as it tried to touch down near the Mare Frigoris region of the moon's near side, also known as the "Sea of Cold".

- This was the second time Ispace lost a lander while coming down onto the lunar surface; in April of 2023, the company lost its Hakuto-R lander in a similar way.

Ukraine's Operation Spider's Web

- In an unprecedented covert operation codenamed "Spider Web", Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) struck deep into Russian territory, damaging or destroying over 40 military aircraft at four separate airbases.

- The audacious drone assault was carried out with 117 First-Person-View (FPV) drones.

- Ukraine has alleged that it struck 41 planes, including a third of the bombers Russia uses as strategic cruise-

missile carriers. This was a multibillion-dollar blow to Russia's long-range strike capabilities.

- The SBU orchestrated the year-and-a-half-long operation, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and SBU chief Vasyl Malyuk personally overseeing it.

Bangladesh introduces new currency notes

- Bangladesh began issuing new banknotes on 1 June, 2025, with the new currency notes no longer featuring the portrait of former Prime Minister and founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman anymore.
- The newly issued notes include denominations of Taka 1000, Taka 50 and Taka 20.
- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, also the father of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, had previously appeared on all Bangladeshi currency notes.

Mount Etna erupts in Sicily, Italy

- Mount Etna in Sicily, Italy, erupted again, sending a cloud of smoke and ash several kilometres into the air.
- The eruption did not pose any threat to people, although the alert level of the Catania Airport was raised.
- Mount Etna is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's most active volcanoes.
- Eruption activity has been documented for at least 2,700 years, making it one of the longest historically recorded volcanoes.
- Mount Etna roughly stands at an impressive 3,300 metres, which is approximately four times the height of Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

China tests breakthrough radar technology

- In a breakthrough with potential to reshape modern military operations, Chinese scientists have developed a radar system capable of detecting moving targets silently, even in the noisy environments.
- The technology, developed by a team led by radar scientist Li Zhongyu, uses passive bistatic airborne radar and advanced signal processing to detect targets while remaining undetectable itself.
- This new technology was tested using two small planes (Cessna-208 Caravans) flying in formation at different altitudes.

Brazil and France initiated the Blue NDC Challenge at the United Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice.

- Brazil and France launched a landmark international initiative to dramatically scale up ocean-focused climate action.

- The Blue NDC Challenge calls on all countries to place the ocean in their climate action plans (nationally determined contributions, or NDCs) ahead of COP30, which Brazil will host in November.
- The Blue NDC Challenge underscores the urgent need to recognise the ocean's central role in addressing the climate crisis as a key ally.
- The initiative is supported by Ocean Conservancy, the Ocean & Climate Platform and the World Resources Institute through the Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance (ORCA), and has been endorsed by WWF-Brazil.

News in Short

- The European Commission has proposed a legally binding ban on EU imports of Russian gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG) by the end of 2027, using legal measures to ensure the plan cannot be blocked by EU members Hungary and Slovakia.
- The US Army celebrated its 250th anniversary on 14 June 2025. About 6,700 troops, 150 vehicles and 50 aircraft participated in the celebrations in Washington. The last time a military parade was held in the US was in 1991 under former President George HW Bush, marking the end of the Gulf War.
- In Bangladesh, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) issued warrants for the arrest of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal over alleged crimes against humanity during the July–August 2024 mass uprising.
- Sri Lanka celebrated Poson Poya on 10–11 June 2025, marking over 2,000 years since the arrival of Buddhism on the island. The festival commemorates the first sermon preached by Arahat Mahinda, son of Emperor Ashoka, to King Devanampiyatissa at Mihintale, marking the arrival of Buddhism to Sri Lanka.
- Pakistan began its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 1 January 2025. This marks Pakistan's eighth time serving on the UNSC as a non-permanent member.
- Rwanda has announced its withdrawal from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in protest of the organisation's refusal to pass the rotating presidency for the next year over.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has announced the 'UN80 Initiative', a new initiative aimed at improving efficiencies at the United Nations and making it more cost-effective.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

PM Modi visits Cyprus

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a heartfelt and warm welcome from the Indian diaspora in Limassol. He was welcomed at the airport by Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides.

- PM Modi's visit comes amid growing alignment between Turkey and Pakistan. Turkey has repeatedly supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and voiced its support during recent periods of heightened military tension between India and Pakistan.

- Turkey shares not just a border with Cyprus but also a decades-old territorial conflict. The Prime Minister toured the capital city of Nicosia, which remains divided, and was photographed against the backdrop of the flag of the Turkish-controlled north — a moment analysts interpreted as a subtle but firm geopolitical signal.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Eurobank of Cyprus signed an MoU to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Cyprus for cross-border transactions that will benefit tourists and businesses.

- The NSE International Exchange at Gujarat's Gift City signed an MoU with the Cyprus Stock Exchange to enable cross-border flows.

India launches Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indians from Iran

- The Indian government initiated Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from conflict zones in Iran and Israel amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

- Apart from 4415 Indian nationals, 4 OCI card-holders, 9 Nepali nationals, 4 Sri Lankan nationals and 1 Iranian spouse of an Indian national were also evacuated from Iran.

- Indian missions in Tehran, Yerevan, and Ashgabat coordinated the evacuation of Indian nationals from Iran through land border crossings to Armenia and Turkmenistan.

- Special evacuation flights facilitated the return of Indian nationals to New Delhi.

PM Modi's historic visit to Croatia

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr Andrej Plenkovic, in Zagreb. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Croatia and, therefore, a historic milestone in India–Croatia ties.

- The two leaders held delegation level talks. They engaged in wide-ranging discussions on various aspects of the bilateral partnership, including trade and investment, science and technology, defence and security, space, cultural cooperation and people-to-people ties.

- Croatia's location on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea positions it as a crucial maritime gateway to Europe. The country's major ports—Rijeka, Split and Ploce—are integral components of the European Union's core TEN-T network, supporting trans-European transport infrastructure. For India, these ports represent vital nodes for European exports, particularly as international logistics routes undergo reshaping in the post-COVID era and amid ongoing disruptions in the Suez and Red Sea corridors.

- Croatia's strategic importance becomes even more pronounced in the context of India's ambitious India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative.

MSC Irina, world's largest container ship, docks at Kerala's Vizhinjam port

- MSC IRINA, the world's largest container ship by capacity, has docked at Vizhinjam International Seaport, Kerala. This is the maiden call of the ship to a South Asian port.

- The ship measures 399.9 m in length and 61.3 m in width and has a capacity of 24,346 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

- The port, operated by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd (APSEZ), is India's first Mega Transshipment Container Terminal.

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND BANKING

ADB's Five-Year Plan for Urban Infrastructure in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed

up to USD 10 billion for India's urban transformation, including metro extensions over the next five years.

- The transformation plan includes sovereign loans, private sector financing and third-party capital.
- The initiative is anchored by India's flagship Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), which ADB is supporting to attract private investment for urban infrastructure.
- ADB is also committing USD 3 million in technical assistance to design bankable projects and strengthen the capacity of states and urban local bodies.

Key Points		
Headquarters	—	Mandaluyong, Philippines
President	—	Masato Kanda

ADB withdraws loan for Assam Solar Power Project

- ADB has withdrawn loan approval of $434.25 million for a 1 GW solar project in Assam, following a request from India's Finance Ministry.
- The solar projects were to be implemented under the 'Mukhya Mantri Sauro Shakti Prokolpo' programme.
- The Union government withdrew the proposed solar park in Karbi Anglong, Assam, in the face of stiff and sustained resistance from local communities who could have been displaced as a result of the project.

ADB approves $109.97 million loan to boost employability in Gujarat

- Multilateral funding agency ADB has approved a $109.97 million results-based loan to support Gujarat in advancing its vision of becoming a global industrial hub through a stronger, future-ready workforce.
- The Gujarat skills development programme, led by the state's Labour, Skill Development and Employment Department in collaboration with Kaushalya: The Skill University (KSU), aims to equip the workforce with industry-aligned, advanced skills that boost job readiness in high-growth sectors.
- The programme will strengthen the institutional and managerial capacity of the KSU network and broaden access to high-quality, industry-relevant training.

DPIIT partners with YourStory

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has signed an MoU with a private digital platform, YourStory Media Private Limited, with a focus on start-ups, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The collaboration aims to empower 1 million entrepreneurs through AI-powered tools, venture launchpads, and regional language storytelling initiatives under the Bharat Project.
- The initiative will also leverage flagship start-up events and developer-focused platforms to drive engagement within India's start-up and technology ecosystem. These platforms will facilitate innovation showcases, founder-investor networking, and support in emerging sectors such as AI, GenAI, data, and blockchain.

Key Points	
Founder & CEO, Your Story and The Bharat Project	— Shradha Sharma

RBI introduces new guidelines for gold loans

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has overhauled gold and silver loan regulations by introducing borrower-friendly reforms while tightening conduct rules for lenders. The revised rules apply to all commercial banks, NBFCs, cooperative banks and housing finance companies and will come into effect from 1 April 2026.
- Borrowers can now get up to 85% of the gold's value as a loan. This new Loan-to-Value (LTV) cap applies to total loan amounts up to ₹2.5 lakh, including interest.
- Lenders will not require detailed income assessment or credit checks for gold loans below ₹2.5 lakh. This will ease access for low-income and rural borrowers.
- Borrowers can pledge gold ornaments up to 1 kg, gold coins up to 50 grams, silver ornaments up to 10 kg and silver coins up to 500 grams. Lenders must return the pledged gold or silver on the same day of loan closure or within seven working days. If delayed, they must compensate the borrower with ₹5,000 per day.
- Loan terms and valuation details must be shared in the borrower's preferred or regional language.

Key Points	
RBI governor	— Sanjay Malhotra
Headquarters	— Mumbai, Maharashtra

RBI reduces provisioning requirement for project finance

- RBI has unveiled its project financing directives, stipulating that lenders must maintain a general provisioning of 1.25% on commercial real estate and 1% each on commercial real estate, residential housing and other portfolios, during the construction phase.
- Banks will have to maintain 1% general provisioning on commercial real estate projects during the operational phase (after commencement of repayment

of interest and principal), 0.75% on residential housing, and 0.40% on all other projects.

RBI reports higher data quality scores for banks in March 2025

- RBI has released the Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) for Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for the quarter ended March 2025.

- The index measures data quality based on accuracy, timeliness, completeness and consistency in the submission of returns.

- The sDQI assesses adherence to the Master Direction on Filing of Supervisory Returns, 2024. The overall sDQI score for SCBs improved to 89.3 in March 2025 from 88.6 in March 2024.

- Public sector banks recorded a score of 88.8, compared to 89.2 a year earlier.

- Private sector banks improved their score to 89.6 from 88.9. Foreign banks posted a score of 89.1, up from 87.6. Small finance banks reported a score of 90.6, compared to 91.0 in March 2024.

RBI eases KYC norms

- RBI significantly has overhauled the Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines to make banking more convenient and hassle-free.

- The guidelines emphasise releasing longer periods, expanded outreach through Business Correspondents (BCs) and streamlined processes to reactivate dormant accounts and update customer information.

- The RBI has relaxed the updation deadline of KYC for 'low-risk' customers. These customers are now permitted to update their KYC within one year after the due date or on or before 30 June 2026, whichever is later. Banks must provide full access to these accounts during the extended period but are required to place them under constant surveillance for any suspicious activity.

- The new regulations enable Business Correspondents (BCs)—local agents like Kirana shopkeepers, NGOs and field officers—to assist customers with KYC norms. However, banks remain accountable for the final KYC validation and acceptance.

- RBI has instructed the banks to issue a minimum of three reminders before the due date for KYC updation, with at least one reminder sent via post. If customers still fail to update their KYC after the due date, three additional reminders must be issued before taking any

action, such as freezing the account. Effective from 1 January 2026, these communication standards aim to prevent unexpected disruptions to banking services.

- To cater to different categories of users, the RBI has permitted a variety of channels for monitoring or updating KYC: physical visit to any branch, Aadhaar-based OTP confirmation, uploading papers through DigiLocker or secure digital media and using Video Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) for live authentication.

RBI implements 100 basis points (bps) rate cut

- In a significant move, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has announced a 100 basis point cut in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), reducing it from 4% to 3%. This will be implemented in four tranches of 25 bps each. MPC is responsible for setting the benchmark interest rate in India.

- This decision is expected to inject ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system, thereby boosting liquidity and supporting credit flow.

- The reduction in the CRR cut will start from fortnights beginning 6 September, 4 October, 1 November and 29 November 2025.

- In addition to providing durable liquidity, the move will reduce the cost of funding of the banks, thereby helping in monetary policy transmission to the credit markets.

- The central bank cut the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.50%, marking the third consecutive rate cut.

₹2000 notes worth ₹6,181 crore remain in circulation

- Two years after the RBI withdrew ₹2000 currency notes, notes worth ₹6,181 crore are still in public the circulation.

- The RBI officially withdrew ₹2000 currency notes from circulation on 19 May 2023. However, these notes remain legal tender, meaning they can still be used for transactions.

- The facility to deposit or exchange ₹2000 notes at regular bank branches ended on 7 October 2023, the RBI is still accepting them at its 19 issue offices across India.

- Individuals and businesses are also permitted to send ₹2000 notes via India Post to any of these RBI offices. The money will then be deposited into their bank accounts.

Securities and Exchange Board of India introduces new UPI payment mechanism for investors

- SEBI has mandated a new UPI payment mechanism for all registered intermediaries collecting funds from investors, aiming to enhance investor protection and financial transparency in the securities market.

- The UPI payment mechanism will be implemented from 1 October 2025.

- This step comes in response to increasing instances of fraud by unregistered entities impersonating genuine market intermediaries.

- This mechanism will improve the safety and accessibility of financial transactions within the securities market by providing a verified and secure payment channel.

- To assist investors further, SEBI is also launching a tool called 'SEBI Check', which will allow users to confirm the authenticity of UPI IDs by scanning a QR code or manually entering the UPI ID to view verified bank details.

Key Points

SEBI chief	—	Tuhin Kanta Pandey
Headquarters	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra

IEPFA and SEBI launch first "Niveshak Shivir"

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in collaboration with the SEBI, successfully launched the pilot chapter of Niveshak Shivir in Pune, Maharashtra. The Shivir is the first in a planned series of Niveshak Shivir events to be held in major cities with significant volumes of unclaimed investor funds.

- The initiative is a part of IEPFA's continued mission to empower investors and strengthen financial literacy.

- Niveshak Shivir was conceptualised to assist investors in resolving pending issues related to unclaimed dividends and shares, updating KYC and nomination details and facilitating faster settlements of claims – all under one roof.

NPCI launches NACH 3.0

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has upgraded its NACH to NACH 3.0.

- NACH (National Automated Clearing House) is the backbone of the Indian inter-bank recurring money transfer system. It is a centralised system that helps banks handle recurring transactions such as salary credits, government subsidies, loan repayments, and subscription charges.

- NACH 3.0 incorporates a range of security and functional enhancements designed to improve user experience, strengthen data protection and support higher transaction volumes with greater reliability. It will provide faster processing time for salary, EMI, school fees, etc.

Key Points

NPCI MD & CEO	—	Dilip Asbe
Headquarters	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra

UPI transactions to happen in 10 seconds

- NPCI has introduced new guidelines to reduce the processing time for UPI transactions.

- Earlier, the UPI transactions usually took up to 30 seconds to complete. Now, this process will take only about 15 seconds to complete. This applies to apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, Paytm and other UPI platforms.

- The time taken to check the status of a transaction or reverse a failed transaction has also been reduced from 30 seconds to 10 seconds.

Jio Financial becomes sole owner of Jio Payments Bank

- Jio Financial Services has acquired a 17.8% stake in Jio Payments Bank Limited (JPBL) from State Bank of India (SBI) , following approval from the RBI. Post this, Jio Payments Bank has become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jio Financial Services.

- Earlier, the Jio Payments Bank operated as a joint venture between Jio Financial Services and the SBI.

Starlink receives official approval to operate in India

- Starlink, the satellite internet service by Elon Musk's SpaceX, has officially received approval to operate in India. It has been granted the Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) license from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

- Starlink now becomes the third company to get this license in India, joining Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications. Amazon's Project Kuiper is also planning to enter the Indian market but is still awaiting final approvals.

- Starlink uses satellite technology to deliver high-speed, low-latency broadband internet across the globe and is often aptly referred to as broadband beamed from the

skies. Telecom giants Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have reportedly joined hands with Starlink to support distribution and customer service.

FM Sitharaman lays foundation for Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe at Hanle Dark Sky Reserve

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for a Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe at the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in the Changthang region of Ladakh.
- This initiative was sanctioned under the Special Development Package (SDP).
- The estimated cost of the project is ₹276.65 lakh and it aims to promote scientific education, astro-tourism, stargazing, night sky programmes, and generate local employment.

News in Short

- Indian funds in Swiss banks surged over threefold to CHF 3.5 billion (₹37,600 crore) in 2024, mainly due to a massive rise in holdings through financial institutions and banking channels. However, customer deposits rose by just 11%, making up only one-tenth of the total funds, which remain under tax scrutiny despite regular data sharing with Indian authorities.
- PayPal Payments Pvt Ltd (PayPal) has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator Cross Border Exports (PA-CB-E). PayPal is the Indian subsidiary of PayPal Holdings Inc.
- India, the world's fourth-largest economy, has emerged as the fastest-growing major economy and is on track to become the third-largest with a projected GDP of $7.3 trillion by 2030. India is expected to maintain a growth rate of 6.3% to 6.8% in 2025–26.

- RBI has imposed penalties totalling ₹54.78 crore on 353 regulated entities in fiscal year 2024–25 for non-compliance with statutory provisions and RBI directions.
- DFCC Bank PLC, Sri Lanka, has become the first foreign corporate green bond issuer to list on the NSE International Exchange in GIFT IFSC.
- State Bank of India Credit Cards (SBI Cards) has modified its Minimum Amount Due (MAD) calculation method. MAD is the minimum amount that a credit card holder has to repay by the due date of the billing cycle of the credit card to keep it default-free. The new MAD formula ensures the full settlement of finance charges and fees each month, rather than allowing them to remain unpaid or partially paid and get compounded over time.
- No Canara Bank savings account holder will be penalised for not maintaining a minimum balance in their account from 1 June 2025.
- Qatar National Bank has became the first financial institution from the West Asia and Africa region to set up a base in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- The RBI has relocated its Andhra Pradesh Regional Office from Hyderabad to Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
- India has requested that the state-run miner IREL suspend a 13-year-old rare earth export agreement with Japan to ensure supplies for domestic needs and reduce India's dependence on China.
- RBI has increased the agency commission for banks conducting government business such as, revenue receipts and payments, pension payments, among others, to increase the efficiency of agency banks in processing government-related transactions.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian army conducts successful trials of Rudrastra drone

- The Indian Army has successfully conducted trials of the Rudrastra hybrid Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) UAV in Pokharan, Rajasthan.
- The drone was developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL), Nagpur.
- The UAV covered a mission radius of more than 50 km during the trial while maintaining a steady video link before returning to its initial launch location.

- It has a predicted endurance of 1.5 hours, and the overall range, including hovering at the target area, exceeded 170 kilometres. Rudrastra demonstrated the capabilities of its mission-neutral design, which includes VTOL, long flight range, real-time observation, and precise target engagement.
- It serves as an ideal tool for surveillance, reconnaissance and target engagement in mountainous or hard-to-access areas.

Key Points
Chief of Army Staff (CAS) — General Upendra Dwivedi

Indian Navy inducts INS Arnala

- INS Arnala, the first of India's Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), has been commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.
- The ship was designed and constructed by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with M/s L&T Shipbuilders.
- INS Arnala is named after the historic Arnala Fort off Vasai in Maharashtra.
- It is 77.6 m long, with a gross tonnage of over 1,490 tonnes, making it the largest Indian Naval warship to be propelled by a Diesel Engine-diesel engine–waterjet combination.
- The warship incorporates 80% indigenous content and integrates advanced systems from leading Indian defence firms, including Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), L&T, Mahindra Defence and MEIL.

Key Points
Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) — Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

Reliance Infra & Dassault Aviation to build Falcon 2000 Jets in India

- Dassault Aviation and Reliance Infrastructure's subsidiary Reliance Aerostructure Limited (RAL) announced a strategic partnership to manufacture Falcon 2000 business jets in India.
- This collaboration marks the first time Dassault Aviation will manufacture Falcon 2000 jets outside France.
- The Dassault Reliance Aerospace Limited (DRAL) will establish a state-of-the-art final assembly line for the Falcon 2000 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- The facility will also become a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Dassault's Falcon series, including future

Falcon 6X and Falcon 8X assembly programmes.

- The first 'Made in India' Falcon 2000 jet is expected to take flight by 2028. The jets will cater to both domestic and global markets, targeting corporate as well as military users.

Indian Air Force (IAF) to get ₹10,000 crore I-STAR spy planes

- In a major boost to the defence capabilities, IAF is set to get ₹10,000 crore spy planes. These three sophisticated spy planes will help the IAF gain a clear air-to-ground picture to carry out precision strikes against enemy ground targets.
- I-STAR stands for Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance.
- The DRDO's Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) has already successfully developed indigenous sensors and electronic systems to be integrated with the three aircraft, which will be acquired and modified for the purpose.
- The I-STAR system will be used for carrying out intelligence gathering, surveillance, reconnaissance and targeting by day and night from stand-off ranges.

Key Points
Chief of Air Staff (CAS) — Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh

Cyber Suraksha Exercise

- With the threat of cyber-attacks from China and Pakistan increasing, the armed forces have launched a 12-day comprehensive multi-phase cybersecurity exercise to bolster resilience at the national level.
- The exercise was organised by the tri-Service Defence Cyber Agency (DCA). It included targeted training sessions, evaluation and "an engaging capsule for leadership", involving chief information security officers.
- It simulated real-world cyber threats, reinforced secure practices and tested the analytical and defensive cyber skills of participants in a high-paced, gamified environment.

Name of the Exercise	Countries/Entities	Region/Place
Khaan Quest 2025	Indian and Mongolian Armed Forces	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
IN-EUNAVFOR Exercise	Indian Navy – European Union Naval Force	Indian Ocean
Passage Exercise (PASSEX)	Indian Navy and United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group	North Arabian Sea

News in Short

- The Indian Army is conducting large-scale capacity development demonstrations at key locations, including Pokhran, Babina and Joshimath, with dedicated air defence trials in Agra and Gopalpur. These field trials aim to evaluate new-age battlefield technologies under near-combat conditions, including integrated electronic warfare (EW) simulations.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation has offered 28 of its designed and developed weapon systems to the three services for emergency procurement. The Centre has granted the Defence Forces the authority to purchase new weapons and replenish their existing stock under emergency procurement powers. Under these powers, they can buy hardware up to ₹300 crore for a single product.

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Rajiv Memani	President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
Anuradha Thakur	First woman to hold the position of Economic Affairs Secretary
Lt Commander Yashasvi Solankee	First-ever woman Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India
Ashwani Lohani	Director of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library
S Mahendra Dev	Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Brand ambassador for Dettol's Icy Cool personal care range
Rohit Sharma	Brand Ambassador of TCL India
S. Padmanabhan	Chairman of Tata Chemicals
T. Rabi Sankar	Part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission
Sat Pal Bhanoo	Interim CEO and MD of the Life Insurance Corporation of India
Sailesh C. Mehta	Chairman of Fertiliser Association of India
Arun Srinivas	Managing Director and India Head, Meta
Katrina Kaif	Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives
Kirti Ganorkar	MD of Sun Pharma
Kesavan Ramachandran	Executive Director (ED), RBI
Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda	Judge, Gujarat High Court
Aliawati Longkumer	India's Ambassador to North Korea
Professor Anantha Chandrakasan	Provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Sampath Kumar	First Indian MD, Nippon Koei India (NKI)
Sivasubramanian Ramann	Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
Prof M. Satish Kumar	First Dean of Queen's University Belfast's GIFT City Campus
Blaise Metreweli	First female Chief of MI6 (the United Kingdom's foreign intelligence agency)
Opal Suchata Chuangsri	Miss World 2025, Thailand
Zou Jiayi	President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
Kirsty Coventry	First female and first African President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Authors
India: 5000 Years of History on the Subcontinent	Audrey Truschke
The Stars Light the Way: A Journey Through Time and Beyond	Sucheta Raj Khanna
Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India	T.C.A. Srinivasa Raghavan
Cycling, Children & Cities	Dr Bhairavi Joshi
Road to Cycle2School	Dr Bhairavi Joshi and Ar. Kush Parikh
Different Strokes (1998–2014)	A.K. Bhattacharya

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Nellai Su. Muthu	Renowned ISRO scientist and Tamil author
Vijay Rupani	Former Chief Minister of Gujarat
Salim Akhtar	Urdu newsreader
Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah, 'Hamle Bulbul'	Kashmiri music legend
Dilip Doshi	Cricketer
Vikram Sugumaran	Tamil director
Dr. BV Pattabhiram	Psychologist, hypnotist and author
Daji Panshikar	Literary and spiritual scholar

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Étienne-Émile Baulieu	Biochemist (created the abortion pill mifepristone) (RU-486)
Bill Atkinson	American computer engineer, computer programmer and photographer

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
June 1	Global Day of Parents	Raising Parents
June 1	World Milk Day	Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy
June 2	International Sex Workers' Day	
June 2	Telangana Formation Day	

Date	Day	Theme
June 3	World Bicycle Day	
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	
June 5	World Environment Day	#BeatPlasticPollution
June 7	World Food Safety Day	Food Safety—Science in Action
June 8	World Oceans Day	Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day	
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	2025: Progress Is Clear, But There's More to Do – Let's Speed Up Efforts!
June 12 (Second Thursday of June)	World Kidney Cancer Day	Understanding Kidney Health
June 14	World Blood Donor Day	Give Blood, Give Hope. Together We Save Lives.
June 15	World Wind Day	
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Addressing Abuse of Older Adults in Long Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action
June 16	International Family Remittances Day	
June 16	International Domestic Workers' Day	
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities
June 17	World Crocodile Day	
June 18	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	Hate Speech and Artificial Intelligence Nexus: Building Coalitions to Reclaim Inclusive and Safe Spaces Free of Hatred
June 18	Sustainable Gastronomy Day	
June 19	World Sickle Cell Awareness Day	Global Action, Local Impact: Empowering Communities for Effective Self-Advocacy
June 19	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict 2025	Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars
June 19	World Sauntering Day	
June 20	World Refugee Day	Solidarity with Refugees
June 21	International Yoga Day	Yoga for One Earth, One Health
June 21	World Music Day	
June 21	World Hydrography Day	Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action
June 22	World Rainforest Day	
June 23	International Olympic Day	Let's Move?
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	
June 23	International Widows' Day	

Date	Day	Theme
June 24	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	Eliminating Structural Barriers to Women's Leadership in Diplomacy
June 26	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	
June 27	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Day	Enhancing the Role of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) as Drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation
June 29	International Day of Tropics	
June 29	National Statistics Day	75 Years of National Sample Survey
June 30	International Day of Parliamentarism	
June 30	International Asteroid Day	

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

Battery-operated EVs can slash emissions by 38%: new study

- A new study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee and the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) has found that battery electric vehicles (BEVs) consistently outperform internal combustion engine (ICE) and hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) in terms of life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- It is one of the first meta-analyses of life-cycle GHG emissions for passenger vehicles in India, synthesising six prominent studies to provide a comprehensive view of emission drivers and mitigation pathways.
- BEVs in India emit up to 38% less CO_2e per kilometre (kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilometre) compared to ICEVs in the passenger car segment, with the potential for even greater savings if India's power grid becomes cleaner.

Hunger Hotspots report

- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have warned that acute food insecurity is likely to worsen across 13 countries and territories identified as hotspots.
- Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti and Mali remain at the highest concern level, necessitating the most urgent attention.

- Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar and Nigeria are classified as hotspots of very high concern and require urgent action to save lives and livelihoods and to prevent further deterioration.
- Other hotspots are Burkina Faso, Chad, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic.
- The report outlines country-specific recommendations for urgent emergency responses, as well as anticipatory actions to meet existing humanitarian needs and implement short-term protective interventions before new crises emerge.

India makes historic entry into Top 100 in Global SDG Rankings

- The latest Sustainable Development Report (SDR), released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, shows. India has, for the first time, secured a spot among the top 100 countries in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) index.
- India ranks 99th out of 167 countries on the 2025 SDG Index with a score of 67. China ranks 49th with a score of 74.4, while the US stands at 44th with 75.2 points.
- Among India's neighbours, Bhutan takes 74th place with 70.5 points, Nepal ranks 85th with 68.6, Bangladesh 114th with 63.9 and Pakistan 140th with 57 points.
- The SDGs were adopted in 2015 to ensure no one is left behind in global development by 2030. Although only

17% of the targets are on track to be achieved worldwide, most UN member states have made significant progress on targets related to access to basic services and infrastructure, including mobile broadband use, access to electricity, internet use, under-five mortality rate and neonatal mortality .

India rises in QS World Rankings 2026

- India's higher education institutions have achieved their best-ever performance in the QS World University Rankings 2026.

- A total of 54 universities are featured this year, including 12 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). IIT Delhi leads the Indian contingent, ranked 123rd globally, up from 150th in 2025.

- Eight universities have made their debut: IIT Gandhinagar, Lovely Professional University (LPU), Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Ashoka University, Galgotias University, Shiv Nadar University, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, and Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS).

- India is now the fourth most represented country, after the United States, the United Kingdom and China.

- The QS World University Rankings are among the most trusted and comprehensive assessments of higher education worldwide. The 2026 edition is based on data from over 16 million academic papers and insights from more than 151,000 academics and 100,000 employers. The rankings consider various factors such as faculty qualifications, research strength, partnerships, and student outcomes.

- For this cycle, a new indicator called International Student Diversity has been introduced.

- The QS World University Rankings use a structured approach to assess institutions across the globe. Each ranking is built on a set of measurements that help evaluate different aspects of university performance.

- Globally, MIT continues to lead, followed by Imperial College London in second place and Stanford University in third.

Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025

- A group of eight environmental organisations, the Banking on Climate Chaos Coalition, has released the Fossil Fuel Finance Report 2025.

- According to the report, the world's largest 65 banks committed $869 billion in 2024 to companies in the fossil fuels sector. This was an increase from $707 billion in 2023.

- SBI was the only Indian bank in the top 65, with a $65 million increase in fossil fuel financing in 2024 from 2023 to $2.62 billion, putting it at the 47th spot out of the 65 banks, up from 49 in 2023.

- In comparison, JPMorgan Chase retained its top spot in the list, providing $53.5 billion to fossil fuel companies last year, $15 billion more than it did in 2023. This is more than SBI's total fossil fuel financing of $10.6 billion from 2021 to 2024.

Ministry of Education (MoE) releases Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0

- MoE has released PGI, an assessment tool for evaluating the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in the school education system based on a wide range of indicators.

- It was released for the first time in 2017–18.

- The data is primarily sourced from UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus).

- PGI 2.0 assessed school education through 73 indicators across two categories: Outcomes and Governance & Management. The scores are classified into 10 performance levels, ranging from Daksh (highest) to Akanshi-3 (lowest).

- Chandigarh topped the index with a score of 703, followed by Punjab (631.1) and Delhi (623.7). Meghalaya ranked the lowest with a score of 417.9.

- Bihar and Telangana showed the highest improvement in the Access to Education domain (enrolment, retention, transition and out-of-school children).

- Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Telangana registered the highest gains in Infrastructure & Facilities (toilets, clean water, electricity, digital resources, etc.).

India's extreme poverty rate falls to 5.3% in 2022-23

- According to the latest World Bank data, the extreme poverty rate dropped significantly from 27.1% in 2011–12 to just 5.3% in 2022–23.

- In 2011–12, around 344.47 million people in India were living in extreme poverty. By 2022–23, that number fell sharply to 75.24 million.

- Using the earlier $2.15 per day poverty line, based on 2017 prices, the poverty rate in India declined from 16.2% in 2011 to 2.3% in 2022. This represents a drop in the number of people living in extreme poverty from

205.93 million to 33.66 million. The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than 3.00 US dollars per day, adjusted to 2021 prices.

- India has made remarkable progress in reducing extreme poverty, with 269 million people moving out of it between 2011–12 and 2022–23.

- Rural poverty decreased from 18.4% to 2.8%, while urban poverty fell from 10.7% to just 1.1% over the 11 years.

- Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh contributed to two-thirds of the total poverty reduction over the past decade.

India's Energy Transition Index

- According to the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Energy Transition Index (ETI), India is ranked 71st with a score of 53.3.

- ETI ranks countries on their progress towards energy transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.

- In 2024, ETI ranked India 63rd. However, India has advanced in energy efficiency and investment capacity.

- ETI quantifies the yearly progress of nations in energy transition, the move from high carbon-emitting fuels such as coal to what are generally considered cleaner and renewable fuels such as solar power.

- Sweden, ranked first in the Index, scored 77.5 overall, with a system performance score of 77 and a transition readiness score of 78.1. Sweden was followed by Finland, Denmark and Norway.

- The Index uses 43 indicators under these broad categories using data from multiple sources and organisations and scores countries on a scale of 0 to 100.

Global Liveability Index 2025

- According to the Global Liveability Index 2025, the global average liveability score across the 173 cities in the index is 76.1 out of 100. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) releases the index.

- Copenhagen is the world's most liveable city in 2025 with a score of 98. It is followed by Vienna and Zurich.

- Damascus, Syria, is the least liveable city in the world, scoring just 30.7.

- The index is based on 30 indicators divided into several factors like stability, healthcare, culture, environment, education and infrastructure to disclose how comfortable these cities are to live in.

Global Gender Gap Report 2025

- According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Report 2025, the global gender gap has marginally narrowed in 2025, from 68.4% in 2024 to 68.8% in 2025.

- Iceland retains the world's most gender-equal economy for the 16th consecutive year, closing 92.6% of the gender gap–the only economy to reach 90% parity.

- In 2025, India ranked 131st in global gender parity with a score of 64.4%.

News in Short

- According to the results of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, 2025, more women in rural areas are now able to conduct online banking transactions, with a new survey by the statistics ministry showing that the proportion of females able to perform such transactions rose to 30.0% in the first quarter of 2025, a sharp increase from 17.1% in 2022–23.

- According to a study by the labour ministry, the gig and platform workforce in the country is expected to grow to nearly 62 million by 2047. Technological advancements, shifting labour market preferences and the growing need for flexible work arrangements will drive this growth.

- According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) "Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report", India's total telecom subscriber base has crossed 1.2 billion in the quarter ending March 2025, driven largely by rural growth and wireless additions, although the internet subscriber base saw a marginal dip.

- Karnataka secured the top position in India for wind power capacity addition, contributing to 1,331.48 MW in the financial year 2024–25. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat followed in second and third place, respectively. Karnataka's total installed wind power capacity now stands at 7,351 MW.

- Kerala leads India in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Protected Areas 2020–2025, with Eravikulam National Park ranked as the country's top park. Eravikulam is known for its rare shola-grassland ecosystem and as the last stronghold of the endangered Nilgiri Tahr. It also shelters the iconic Neelakurinji flowers, which bloom once every 12 years. The MEE was conducted by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- According to the yearbook published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India currently possesses 180 nuclear warheads , compared to 170 in Pakistan's stockpile. India increased its arsenal size in 2025 by adding eight more warheads.

- According to the latest report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), India has emerged as the third-largest growing country in terms of power generation capacity globally over the past five years. Only China and the United States surpassed India in power generation growth during this period.

EVENTS

G7 Leaders' Summit 2025

- Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada hosted the G-7 summit for the seventh time in Canada in 2025.
- The G-7 member states are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US.
- India participated as an Outreach Country in the G7 Summit 2025.
- The G summit concluded with several key outcomes, including the Kananaskis Wildfire Charter, endorsing India's commitment to halting deforestation and the G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan.

Urban Adda 2025: Women demand safer, inclusive cities for all

- Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the Urban Adda 2025 conclave in New Delhi.
- It is a three-day conclave that aims to unite young voices, experts, and leaders to shape sustainable urban futures.
- The event was organised by the Raahgiri Foundation in partnership with the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and GuruJal and supported by Nagarro.

Lok Samvardhan Parv

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs organised Lok Samvardhan Parv at Gandhi Darshan, Raj Ghat, New Delhi.

- It showcases the Ministry's key schemes, programmes and achievements under the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.

The United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC)

- The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) was held in Nice, France, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica under the theme "Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean."
- UNOC3 concluded with the adoption of the political declaration "Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action."

International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) held its first assembly at Delhi

- IBCA held its first assembly at its Delhi headquarters. The assembly approved the Headquarters Agreement signed with India, the work plan, rules of procedure and the manual of staff and financial regulations.
- These will serve as the guiding foundation for the effective governance, operations and collaborative initiatives of IBCA.
- IBCA is a coalition of 95 range countries with a mandate for the conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma.

AWARDS

PM Modi conferred with cyprus' highest civilian honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III of Cyprus, the country's highest civilian honour.
- The Order of Makarios III is the highest order of knighthood awarded by the country named after the first president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III.

Skytrax 2025 Awards

- India's IndiGo Airlines was ranked third among the world's top very low-cost carriers in 2025. Regionally, it ranked top for the Best Airline and Best Low-Cost Airline in South Asia for 2025. Overall, Indigo ranked 39th in the World's Top 100 Airlines for 2025.
- Air India was ranked 84th in the World's Top 100 Airlines

for 2025 and second in the Best Airline in South Asia category.

- Qatar Airways was named the World's Best Airline 2025, claiming the title for the ninth time.

Sahitya Akademi Yuva & Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025

- The Sahitya Akademi announced the names of 23 writers for its 'Yuva Puraskar' and 24 for 'Bal Puraskar' awards.

- Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English.

- The Yuva Puraskar will be awarded in 23 languages. The awardees include Advait Kottary in English, Parvati Tirkey in Hindi, Latshmihar for Tamil and Prasad Suri for Telugu. There is no Yuva Puraskar in Dogri this year. Other winners include Suprakash Bhuyan for Assamese, Sudeshna Moitra for Bengali, R. Dileepkumar for Kannada and Akhil P. Dharmajan for Malayalam.

- The Akademi also announced the names of 24 authors for its Bal Sahitya Puraskar.

- Nitin Kushalappa MP has been named the winner of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar for his book of stories in English—Dakshin South Indian Myths and Fables Retold, and Sushil Shukla has won the award for Ek Batey Bara in Hindi.

- The Bal Sahitya Puraskar will go to Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay for Bengali, K. Shivalingappa Handihal for Kannada, Nayana Adarkar for Konkani, Sreejith Moothedath for Malayalam, Vishnupuram Saravanan for Tamil and Gangisetti Sivakumar for Telugu.

- The winners will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cash prize of ₹50,000 , to be presented at a special ceremony at a later date.

NitroCapt won the Food Planet Prize 2025

- NitroCapt won the prestigious 2025 Food Planet Prize for its pioneering green fertiliser that uses plasma technology and renewable energy to create nitrogen fertilisers sustainably.

- This innovation aims to significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the fertiliser industry, which is currently responsible for around 2.7% of global carbon dioxide emissions.

- NitroCapt is a Swedish start-up.

- The Food Planet Prize is the world's largest environmental award , presented by the Curt Bergfors Foundation.

Rohini Gram Panchayat wins gold in National E-Governance Awards 2025

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, has introduced a dedicated category under the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025 to recognise outstanding digital initiatives by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

- A new award category titled "Grassroots Level Initiatives for Deepening Service Delivery at Gram Panchayats or Equivalent Traditional Local Bodies" has been introduced to honour exemplary digital initiatives by Panchayats.

- Rohini Gram Panchayat, Dhule District, Maharashtra, won the gold award.

- The National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025 comprise a trophy, a certificate and a financial incentive of ₹10 lakh for gold awardees

News in Short

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred distinguished service decorations on several top-ranking officers of the armed forces and other personnel drawn from the Indian Coast Guard and the Border Roads Organisation for rendering service of "exceptional order".

- The JCB Prize for Literature has been officially discontinued. The award was established in 2018 and sponsored by the JCB Literature Foundation. The prize recognised and celebrated outstanding works of fiction by Indian authors, written in English or translated fiction by an Indian writer.

- Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla was honoured with the 2025 Global Leadership Award by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) for his visionary leadership and contribution to global business. The award recognises his pivotal role in deepening US-India economic relations.

- David Beckham, Gary Oldman and Roger Daltrey will receive knighthoods in King Charles III's Birthday Honours list this year. The honours recognise exceptional contributions to public life, with the latest list celebrating achievements in sport, the arts and charity.

- Indian animated film Desi Oon has won the prestigious Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025 in France. The festival is widely considered the world's foremost event for animation.

- The Ministry of Finance has conferred the prestigious Digital Payments Award 2024–25 to India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), recognising IPPB's exemplary performance in advancing digital payments and promoting financial inclusion across India, especially in rural and underserved areas.

SPORTS NEWS

D. Gukesh beats World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen

- World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh made an amazing comeback to defeat World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 6 of the ongoing Norway Chess 2025 tournament.

- The win marked Gukesh's first-ever classical victory over the Norwegian grandmaster.

- He also became the second Indian player to beat Carlsen in the history of the competition, after Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru lift their maiden IPL title after 18 years

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru won their maiden IPL title with a six-run victory over Punjab Kings. The final was held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

- RCB have won the IPL trophy for the first time in 18 years, having previously reached the final three times in the past—2009, 2011 and 2016.

India launches logo and mascot for 2025 World Para Athletics Championships

- India unveiled the mascot, Viraaj, for the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships.

- Viraaj is a spirited young elephant with a blade prosthesis. The logo captures India's rich heritage, the spirit of para athletics and the vibrancy of New Delhi as the host city.

- Kangana Ranaut has been named the brand ambassador of the World Para Athletics Championships 2025.

- The New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships, scheduled for October 2025, will welcome participants from over 100 countries, making it the largest-ever para athletics event hosted in India.

Asian Athletics Championships 2025

- India finished second in the medal tally with 24 medals, which include eight gold, 10 silver and six bronze medals. This is India's best finish in the biennial Asian Athletics Championships since winning home turf in Bhubaneshwar in 2017, surpassing their performances in 2019 (fifth) and 2023 (third).

- China topped the medal tally with 32 medals.

- The 26th edition of the championship was held in Gumi, South Korea.

2025 ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's ODI World Cup

- India and Sri Lanka will host the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup from 30th September to 2nd November.

- While India holds the official hosting rights, Sri Lanka will serve as a neutral venue for all of Pakistan's matches due to ongoing political tensions between the two nations.

- This will be the fourth time India hosts the Women's ODI World Cup and the first since 2013.

- The eight-team tournament features India, Australia, England, South Africa, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Odisha wins Women's Final in Hockey India Masters Cup

- Hockey Association of Odisha (Women) defeated Hockey Punjab 1–0 in the final with a winning goal by Ranjita Beck to become champions.

- Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (Men) won the men's title by beating Hockey Maharashtra 5–0. Hockey Haryana won bronze in the women's category by defeating the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu.

- The first Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 was held at Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Wimbledon 2025 prize money increased

- In 2025, total prize money is £53.5 million, up 7% from last year and double the figure awarded ten years ago. The men's and women's singles champions will each take home £3 million. First-round losers in the singles will receive £66,000.

- Wimbledon 2025 also marks a significant shift in its 147-year history, as for the first time, the grass-court Grand Slam will be operated by a fully automated electronic line-calling system, instead of human line judges.

Austrian Race Walking Championships

- Priyanka Goswami won gold in the women's 10km race with a time of 47:54 at the Austrian Racewalking Championships in Innsbruck. She has a personal best of 45 minutes and 47 seconds in the 10 km event, which she had clocked in 2022. Her main event, however, is the 20 km race walk in which she holds the national record of 1:28:45.

- In the men's 35 km event, Sandeep Kumar secured silver with a time of 2:38:45, while Ram Baboo took bronze with 2:41:47.

Aravindh Chithambaram wins the sixth Stepan Avagyan Memorial

- Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram won the sixth Stepan Avagyan Memorial chess tournament held in Jermuk, Armenia.

- Although he tied with fellow Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa, Aravindh was declared the winner based on the tiebreak system. He remained unbeaten in the 10-player round-robin event, scoring four wins and five draws.

Indonesia Open 2025

- Indonesia Open is one of badminton's most prestigious Super 1000 tournaments.

- Anders Antonsen won his first Indonesia Open title after beating Chou Tien-chen of Taiwan.

- An Se-young of South Korea won the women's singles title after defeating China's Wang Zhiyi.

- Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France defeated Thai duo Dechapol and Supissara to win the mixed doubles. This is France's first Super 1000 title.

- In the women's doubles, Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning beat Malaysia's Thinaah and Pearly Tan.

- In the men's doubles, Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae beat Indonesians Gutama and Isfahani.

French Open 2025

- Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) won the men's singles after defeating Jannik Sinner (Italy). Alcaraz won his fifth Grand Slam tournament and delivered one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the clay-court tournament.

- Coco Gauff (USA) won the women's singles after defeating Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus).

- Jasmine Paolini and Sara Errani (Italy) won the women's doubles title after defeating Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic.

- Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos (Spain & Argentina) won the men's doubles after defeating Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski (Britain).

South Africa wins ICC World Test Championship 2025

- South Africa defeated Australia by five wickets to win the ICC World Test Championship (WTC).

- The victory marks South Africa's first WTC championship title and their first ICC men's senior major trophy since 1998.

- The WTC final was held at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, United Kingdom.

Hockey India Masters Cup 2025

- The first Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 was held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Hockey Punjab to win the women's title.

- The Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (Men) won the men's title by beating Hockey Maharashtra.

News in Short

- Sai Sudharsan won the Aramco Orange Cap for scoring the most runs, while Prasidh Krishna won the Aramco Purple Cap for taking the most wickets in IPL 2025.

- Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell retired from ODIs to focus on next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

- French Open champion Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jiri Lehecka to win his second Queen's Club title.

- Cristiano Ronaldo has been announced as a global ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025.

- India's leading female squash player, Anahat Singh, has won the Women's Challenger Player of the Season award and shared the Women's Young Player of the Season title with Egypt's Amina Orfi at the PSA Awards 2025.

- Portugal emerged victorious in the 2025 UEFA Nations League, defeating Spain 5–3 in a penalty shootout after a 2–2 draw.

- Former Indian captain MS Dhoni was one of seven cricketers inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame during a special ceremony held at the Abbey Road Studios in London.
- South Africa star wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen retired from international cricket to prioritise spending time with his family, after being one of his country's top white-ball batters.
- Norwegian grandmaster and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen won his seventh Norway Chess title at the 2025 tournament in Stavanger.
- Indian tennis player Ankita Raina, partnering with France's Alice Robbe, secured the women's doubles title at the ITF Women's W50 tournament in Guimarães, Portugal.
- Women's Asia Cup 2025 will take place in Hangzhou, China, from 5th to 14th September this year.
- The India–England Test series will now be known as the Tendulkar–Anderson Trophy, renamed in honour of two legends of the game, Sachin Tendulkar and James Anderson.
- Rishab Pant became the first designated Indian wicketkeeper-batter to score a century in both innings of a Test match. He is also the seventh overall Indian batter to score hundreds in both Test innings.
- Nicholas Pooran, former West Indies T20I captain, announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 29. He ended his international career after playing 61 T20Is and 106 ODIs , scoring over 4000 runs across the two formats. He also ends up as the highest run-scorer for West Indies in international T20s.
- Jasprit Bumrah has become the first Asian bowler to take 150 Test wickets in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia).

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