

July - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Army field hospital under “Operation Amistad” has become fully operational in earthquake-hit Venezuela, providing 24×7 free medical services after a major 7.2–7.5 magnitude quake caused widespread devastation and casualties.
- ❖ The National Rural Development Conference 2026 was held on 28–29 June 2026 in New Delhi, where flagship rural development programmes were reviewed and holistic rural development was discussed.
- ❖ French meteorologist Dr Florence Rabier received the International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize 2026 of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for her outstanding contributions to Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP), satellite data assimilation, and improving the accuracy of global weather forecasts.
- ❖ India topped the medal tally at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship 2026 with 25 medals, including 7 gold, 8 silver, and 10 bronzes.
- ❖ National Electricity Safety Week 2026 is being observed from June 26 to July 2 by the Electricity Department in Tamil Nadu.
 - The campaign is conducted under the theme “Today’s Awareness, Tomorrow’s Prevention”.

NATIONAL NEWS

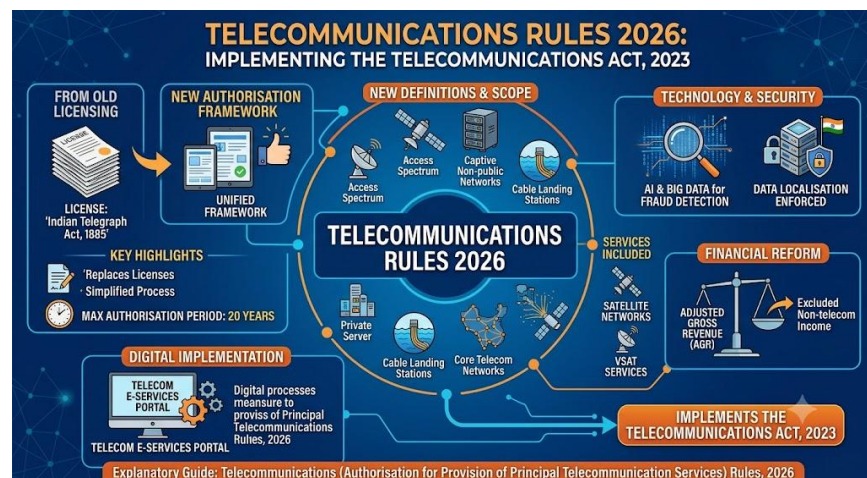
5 Lakh Organ Donation - NOTTO Portal

- ❖ India achieved 5 lakh organ donation pledges, supported by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) Aadhaar-based online pledge system.
- ❖ Organ transplantation involves the transfer of organs like the kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas, and intestine from living or deceased donors.
- ❖ India ranks 3rd globally in total organ transplants, after the United States (US) and China, but still faces a shortage of deceased donors.
- ❖ The system operates under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 (amended 2011), which recognises brain-stem death as legal death.

- ❖ Institutional structure includes NOTTO (national level), ROTTO (Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization), and SOTTO (State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization).



Telecommunications Rules 2026



- ❖ The Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Principal Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026 came into force to implement key provisions of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.
- ❖ The rules replace the licensing system under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, with a unified authorisation framework for telecom services. The maximum authorisation period is 20 years.

- ❖ They introduce statutory definitions for access spectrum, captive non-public networks, cable landing stations, and core telecom networks.
- ❖ The rules require Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data analytics for fraud detection, enforce data localisation, and bring satellite networks and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) services under the authorisation system.
- ❖ They also exclude non-telecom income from Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) calculations and introduce a Telecom e-Services Portal for digital implementation.

Food Safety Rules Update 2026

DRAFT AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, 2026

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has released new draft amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011.

KEY PROPOSED CHANGES:

1 DAILY PRODUCTION & RAW MATERIAL RECORDS
(Schedule 2, Annexure 3 - Condition No. 8)

- ✓ Maintain daily production records
- ✓ Maintain separate raw material utilization records

▶ **Note:** This requirement is not applicable to non-manufacturing food businesses.

MANDATORY FIFO / FEFO IMPLEMENTATION
(Schedule 4, Part II - Clause 5.2.5)

○ Storage of:

- Raw materials
- Ingredients
- Work-in-progress
- Processed / cooked / packaged food

FIFO
First In First Out

FEFO
First Expiry First Out

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has amended the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 to improve ease of doing business.
- ❖ The amendment is issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to simplify compliance for food business operators.
- ❖ First In First Out (FIFO) and First Expiry First Out (FEFO) stock rotation and record-keeping requirements are now mandatory only for food manufacturing businesses.
- ❖ Non-manufacturing food businesses such as retailers and similar operators are exempted from these requirements.

- ❖ The reform reduces compliance burden, especially for small and medium food enterprises, while maintaining core food safety and traceability standards for manufacturers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2026

- ❖ The Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2026 was held in Jeju, South Korea, bringing together global leaders and experts.
- ❖ It is one of Asia's leading international dialogue platforms on peace, prosperity, and regional cooperation.
- ❖ The forum brings together policymakers, diplomats, academics (education experts), and business leaders from different countries.
- ❖ The 2026 theme focused on addressing global fragmentation through renewed cooperation and collective action.
- ❖ The forum provides a platform to discuss regional and global challenges and promote international cooperation.



City: Jeju Island

Country: South Korea

Organizer: World Federation of United Nations Associations

Programme: Jeju Peace Forum 2026

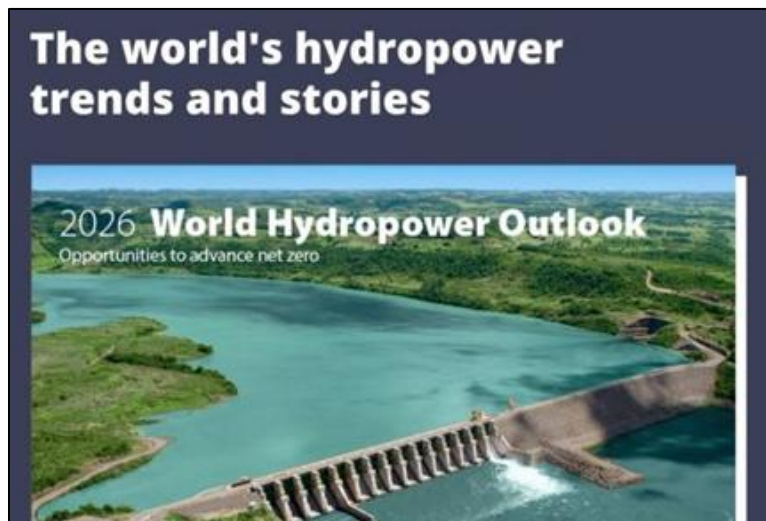
U.S. Patriot Passport 2026

- ❖ The United States (U.S.) unveiled a limited-edition "Patriot Passport" to mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence.
- ❖ The passport will be available from 6 July 2026 in limited numbers through selected U.S. passport agencies.

- ❖ It features U.S. President Donald Trump, making him the first sitting U.S. President to appear in an American passport.
- ❖ The design also includes a painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the words "United States of America 250."
- ❖ The U.S. Treasury Department has also announced that President Trump's signature will soon appear on the U.S. one-dollar bill.



World Hydropower Outlook 2026



- ❖ The World Hydropower Outlook 2026, released by the International Hydropower Association (IHA), reported the highest annual deployment of pumped storage hydropower on record.
- ❖ Global pumped storage capacity crossed 200 gigawatts (GW) for the first time in 2025, making it the world's largest source of long-duration energy storage.



- ❖ Pumped Hydro Storage (PHS) stores electricity by pumping water between two reservoirs at different elevations and releasing it to generate power when needed.
- ❖ India added over 4 GW of hydropower capacity in 2025, surpassing Russia to become the world's 5th-largest country in installed hydropower capacity.
- ❖ India's pumped storage potential is estimated at 288 GW, with a target of 100 GW by 2035–36. Currently, 10 projects with 7.425 GW capacity are operational.

Mongla Port Zone – Bangladesh

- ▶ MoU signed to develop **110-acre** economic zone in Mongla
- ▶ The site was previously designated for an Indian economic zone
- ▶ Indian-backed project delisted in **2025** after long inactivity
- ▶ **Chinese investors have been keen on Mongla zone**

- ❖ Bangladesh has signed an agreement with a Chinese state-owned company to develop the Mongla Port Economic Zone, replacing an earlier plan allocated for an Indian economic zone.
- ❖ The agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).
- ❖ Mongla Port is the second-largest and second-busiest seaport of Bangladesh, located about 188 km from Kolkata and near the Sundarbans region.
- ❖ The project is aimed at developing infrastructure and boosting cooperation in connectivity, technology, information and communication technology (ICT), green energy, disaster management, and regional trade links.

- ❖ China has also expressed support for the Teesta River rehabilitation project, which has strategic relevance due to its proximity to the India–Bangladesh border.

ECONOMY NEWS

Index of Services Production



INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION
A NEW MONTHLY MACROECONOMIC INDICATOR

- MoSPI* is preparing to launch **Index of Services Production (ISP)** in July 2026
- The new **macro indicator** will measure **short-term changes** in the growth of the **services sector**
- ISP will cover the **formal services sector** and will be released on a **monthly basis**
- **Base year of ISP is selected as 2024–25**
- Transition in alignment with **global best practices**

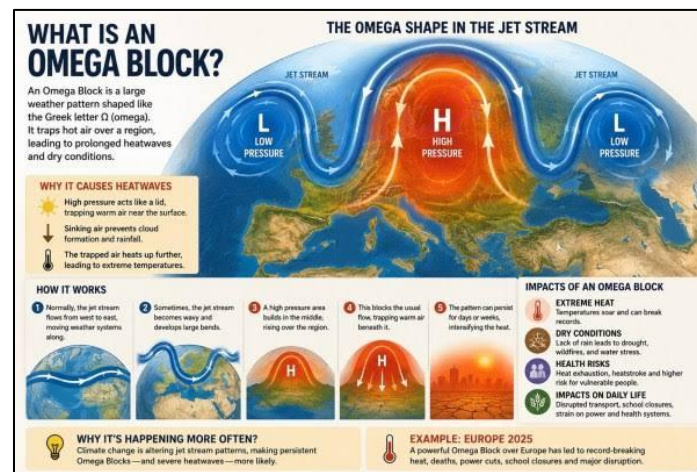
- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will launch the Index of Services Production (ISP) in July 2026 on a trial basis.
- ❖ ISP is a monthly high-frequency indicator that measures the real output of India's formal services sector, similar to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for industries.
- ❖ It was developed by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chaired by Debjani Ghosh to improve economic monitoring and policymaking.
- ❖ The ISP uses 2024–25 as the base year and follows the fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index method with Gross Value Added (GVA)-based sector weights.

- ❖ It uses Goods and Services Tax (GST) data, administrative data, and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE), while excluding the informal sector, public administration, defence, and other non-market services.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Omega Block Weather Pattern

- ❖ An Omega Block weather pattern is driving the deadly heatwave across Western Europe, with temperatures crossing 40°C in parts of France and Spain.
- ❖ An Omega Block is a high-pressure system trapped between two low-pressure systems, forming the shape of the Greek letter Omega (Ω).
- ❖ It disrupts the normal jet stream, causing the weather system to remain stationary for 3–10 days or even several weeks.
- ❖ The high-pressure area brings hot, dry, cloud-free conditions, while the surrounding low-pressure areas receive cooler and wetter weather.
- ❖ Scientists agree that climate change increases the intensity and frequency of heatwaves, although its effect on the frequency of Omega Blocks is still under scientific study.
- ❖ Warmer global temperatures make heatwaves during Omega Block events more severe and longer-lasting.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026

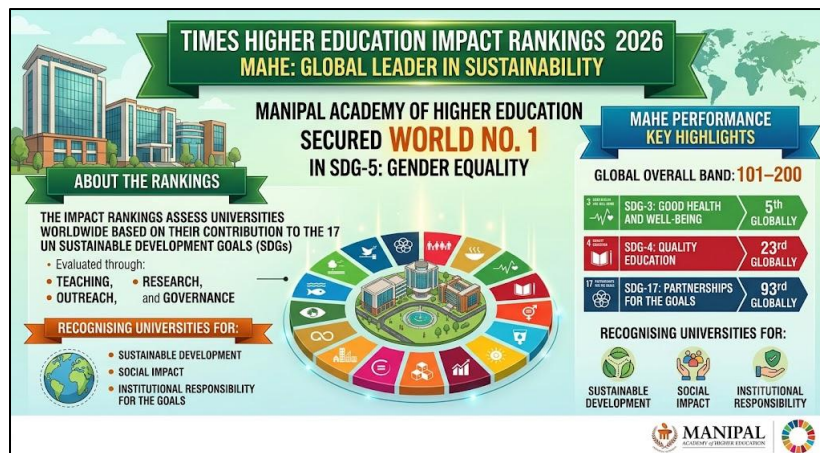
- ❖ India retained the 4th position with 61 unicorn startups in the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2026.

- ❖ The index ranks privately held startups valued at US\$1 billion (about ₹8,300 crore) or more, based on their latest known valuations.
- ❖ Bengaluru remained India's unicorn capital with 25 unicorns, followed by Mumbai with 13.
- ❖ The United States (806) ranked first, followed by China (381), the United Kingdom (70), and India (61). San Francisco was the world's top unicorn city with 222 unicorns.
- ❖ Anthropic became the world's most valuable unicorn, while Zerodha (\$9 billion) remained India's highest-valued unicorn, followed by Zepto (\$7 billion) and Razorpay (\$6 billion).



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Times Higher Education - Impact Rankings 2026



- ❖ Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) secured World No. 1 in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-5: Gender Equality in the THE (Times Higher Education) Impact Rankings 2026.

- ❖ The ‘THE Impact Rankings’ assess universities worldwide based on their contribution to the 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through teaching, research, outreach, and governance.
- ❖ MAHE retained its place in the 101–200 global overall band in the 2026 rankings.
- ❖ MAHE ranked 5th globally in SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-being), 23rd in SDG-4 (Quality Education), and 93rd in SDG-17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- ❖ The rankings recognise universities for their contribution to sustainable development, social impact, and institutional responsibility.

