

June - 16

TNPSC BITS

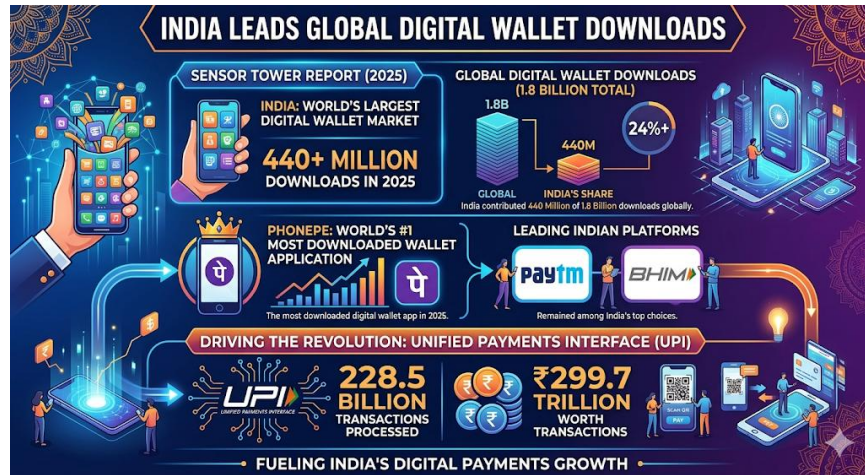
- ❖ GRASA received the Rashtriya Ratna Samman 2026 in the category of Emerging Health Tech & Nutrition Innovation Startup of the Year.
 - GRASA is described as India's first food-led metabolic recovery system based on millets, fermentation, and gut health.
- ❖ India won the Men's U18 Asia Cup 2026 title by defeating Japan 4–1 in the final at Kakamigahara, Japan.
- ❖ The National Mango Festival 2026 was inaugurated in Rayapettai, Chennai, by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister to promote mango cultivation and its varieties.
- ❖ ICAR has launched Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra, India's first WhatsApp-based AI advisory service to support oilseed farmers with real-time agricultural guidance.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has released ANCHOR (Atlas of Neurochemical Characterization of the Human Brainstem with 3D Reconstruction), the world's most detailed 3D atlas of the human brainstem.
 - It provides an extremely detailed three-dimensional map of the human brainstem, a region that controls essential functions such as breathing, heart rate and sleep.
- ❖ Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire after SpaceX's Nasdaq debut raised his estimated net worth to about \$1.05 trillion.
- ❖ The IndiaAI Mission supported the launch of Varya, an indigenous video Artificial Intelligence (AI) model developed by Avataar.
 - Varya is a distilled video model designed to make advanced video Artificial Intelligence affordable, accessible and relevant for India.

NATIONAL NEWS

Global Digital Wallet Downloads

- ❖ According to a report by Sensor Tower, India became the world's largest digital wallet market in 2025 with more than 440 million app downloads.
- ❖ India contributed over 440 million of the 1.8 billion digital wallet app downloads recorded globally in 2025.
- ❖ PhonePe became the world's most downloaded digital wallet application in 2025.
- ❖ Paytm and BHIM remained among India's leading digital payment platforms.

- ❖ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed about 228.5 billion transactions worth ₹299.7 trillion in 2025, driving India's digital payments revolution.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Alliance for Human Rights



- ❖ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has launched the Global Alliance for Human Rights (GAHR) as a long-term initiative leading to the 80th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 2028.
- ❖ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a landmark United Nations declaration adopted in 1948 that sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people.
- ❖ The alliance aims to place human rights at the centre of decision-making and promote accountable governments, inclusive societies and fair economies.

- ❖ Its core principles are purpose-driven, inclusive, action-oriented, ecosystem-building and narrative-shifting approaches.
- ❖ The initiative is guided by three principles: Imagine (envision a better future), Dialogue (promote inclusive discussions) and Act (translate commitments into action).

Muscat Action Plan - Oman



- ❖ The Oman launched the Muscat Action Plan at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York to strengthen global conflict prevention and address identity-based violence.
- ❖ The plan establishes a UN-led consultative process in partnership with the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.
- ❖ It brings together religious leaders, community leaders, indigenous representatives and international institutions to support global peacebuilding efforts.
- ❖ The framework is based on five pillars: expanding partnerships, empowering community leaders, promoting conflict prevention, countering hate speech and extremism, and strengthening social cohesion through intercultural dialogue.

- ❖ The initiative reflects Oman's policy of dialogue, moderation and balanced mediation and reinforces its role in humanitarian diplomacy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

DRDO on Missile Defence

- ❖ The DRDO successfully conducted three missile tests, including Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptors and the maiden test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR).
- ❖ The Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system is a multi-layered shield that detects, tracks and destroys incoming ballistic missiles.
- ❖ The interceptor missiles are designed to neutralise Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs), which have a range of 2,000 km to 5,000 km.
- ❖ The BMD system can intercept missiles both outside the Earth's atmosphere and within the atmosphere.
- ❖ The Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR) is an indigenous missile developed to engage enemy surface naval targets.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Road Accidents in India 2024 Report

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) released the Road Accidents in India 2024 report, highlighting the public health and socio-economic impact of road accidents in the country.
- ❖ Over-speeding accounted for 70.3% of road deaths, while hit-and-run cases caused 19.2% of fatalities.

- ❖ Non-use of helmets and seat belts resulted in more than 54,000 and 14,000 deaths, respectively.
- ❖ About 10.6% of accidents involved drivers without a valid driving licence or with only a learner's licence.
- ❖ The government has introduced initiatives such as the Cashless Treatment Scheme, 2025, Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP), eDAR (Integrated Road Accident Database) and the Rah-Veer Scheme to improve road safety.

• States with the highest fatalities

STATES	2023	2024*
Uttar Pradesh	23,652	24,118
Tamil Nadu	18,347	18,449
Maharashtra	15,366	15,715
Madhya Pradesh	13,798	14,791
Karnataka	12,321	12,390
All India	1,72,890	1,77,177

Global Economic Prospects Report 2026



- ❖ The World Bank released the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) Report – June 2026, its flagship semi-annual report on global economic trends and forecasts.
- ❖ The report projects global economic growth at 2.5% in 2026, the slowest pace since the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ Growth in Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) is projected to slow to 3.6% in 2026.
- ❖ The report projects India's economy to grow by 6.6% in 2026, making it one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.
- ❖ The report warns that further disruptions in energy markets and financial systems could reduce global growth to 1.3% in 2026.

STATE NEWS

Trademark Protection - Puri Temple

SJTA, Puri successfully obtained patents for key terms and logos associated with the 12th-century shrine, including 'Ananda Bazar', 'Shree Patita Paban', and 'Shree Jagannath Temple Administration'



- ❖ The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has secured trademark protection for the Nilachakra logo and the terms Patitapabana and Ananda Bajara, becoming the first Indian shrine to obtain such protection.
- ❖ Patitapabana means Saviour of the Fallen, and Ananda Bajara is the sacred Mahaprasad dining area inside the temple.
- ❖ Nilachakra (Neelachakra) is the sacred eight-spoked metal disc located atop the temple spire.

- ❖ The Jagannath Temple, Puri, also called the White Pagoda, was built in the 12th century CE by Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva and follows the Kalinga style of Nagara architecture.
- ❖ The temple is one of the four Char Dhams and is the centre of the world-famous Ratha Yatra festival.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar awardees for 2024 and 2025.

For the year 2024:

		
Smt. Minakshi Medhi Sattriya	Shri Dilip Hira Folk Music	Shri Bidyut Kumar Nath Theatre Direction

For the year 2025:

		
Shri Devajit Saikia Khol	Shri Niranjan Saikia Barbayan Sattriya	Shri Hirak Jyoti Sharma Folk Music (Tokari Geet)

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi announced the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ The Akademi selected 106 young artists from the fields of music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal arts, puppetry and allied performing arts for the awards.
- ❖ The award carries a cash prize of ₹25,000, along with a Tamrapatra.
- ❖ The awards recognise young artists for excellence and contribution to India's performing arts traditions.

- ❖ A few awardees include J.A. Jayant (Carnatic Instrumental Music–Flute) and Gopika G. Nath (Mohiniattam) for 2024, and Sriranjani Santhanagopalan (Carnatic Vocal) and Aswathi Sankarlal (Mohiniattam) for 2025.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Albinism Awareness Day 2026 – June 13

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about albinism and promote the rights, dignity, equality and inclusion of people with albinism.
- ❖ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2014, and is observed annually on 13 June.
- ❖ Albinism is a rare, non-contagious genetic condition characterised by little or no melanin pigment in the skin, hair and eyes.
- ❖ People with albinism often face visual impairment, a higher risk of skin cancer, discrimination, stigma and social exclusion.
- ❖ The theme of the year 20206 is “Proudly in my skin – celebrating all skin tones.”

