

June - 17

TNPSC BITS

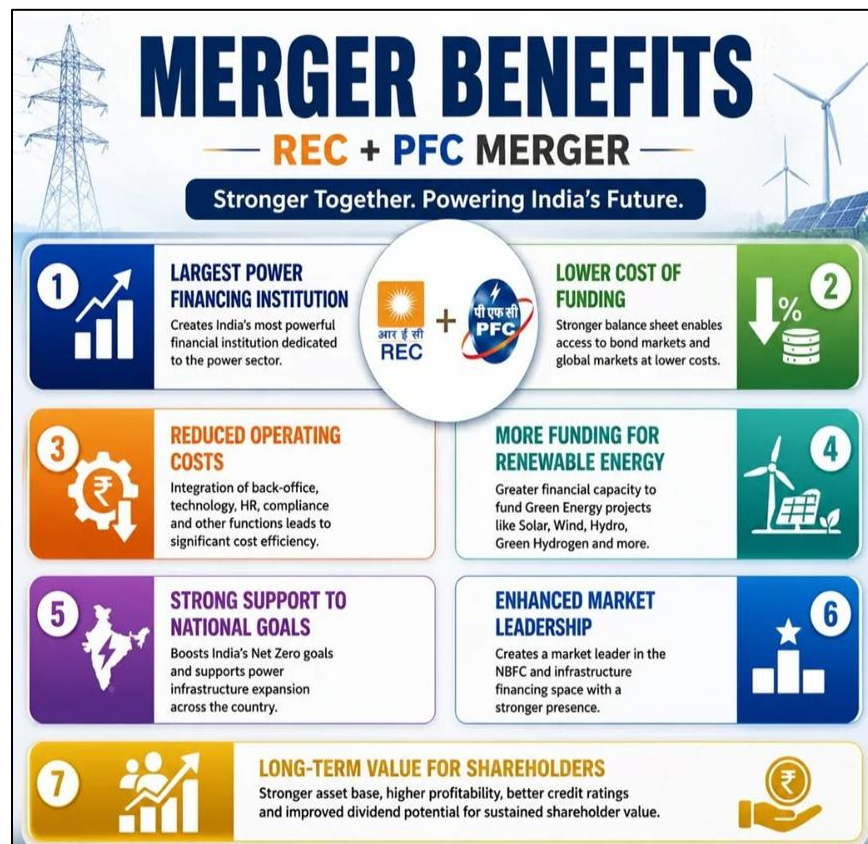
- ❖ Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth has been appointed as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of India with effect from 30 June 2026.
- ❖ India and Nepal held the 10th Project Steering Committee (PSC) and 8th Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings in Kathmandu, Nepal, to review cross-border railway projects.
 - The proposed Janakpur–Ayodhya rail link will connect Janakpur, Madhesh Province, Nepal, with Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh to improve passenger connectivity and religious tourism.
- ❖ Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik from Puri, Odisha, became the first Indian to win the Russia Grand Sand Master Cup 2026 at the II International Festival of Sand Sculpture in Russia.
- ❖ India became the world's third-largest domestic aviation market in April 2024, surpassing Brazil and Indonesia, and ranking behind only the United States and China.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Advanced Weapon System Complex at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), located within the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad, Telangana.
 - The complex has been developed by the Missile Systems and Strategic Systems Cluster of the DRDO to support the development of next-generation indigenous weapon systems.
- ❖ International Day of Play is observed annually on 11 June every year to promote and protect children's right to play and highlight its role in development.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Protect play, protect childhood”.
- ❖ World Day Against Child Labour is observed annually on 12 June to spread awareness and stop child labour worldwide.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is “Red card to child labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults”.

NATIONAL NEWS

REC-PFC Consolidation

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu approved the merger of REC Limited with Power Finance Corporation (PFC) to create a larger power sector financing institution.

- ❖ In 2019, PFC acquired the Government of India's 52.63% stake in REC for ₹14,500 crore.
- ❖ After the merger, all assets, liabilities, rights and obligations of REC will be transferred to PFC, and REC will cease to exist as a separate legal entity under Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The merger was announced as part of the Union Budget 2026-27 to improve the scale and efficiency of public sector Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- ❖ Power Finance Corporation was incorporated on 16 July 1986, functions under the Ministry of Power, and received Maharatna status in October 2021.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) classified PFC as an Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC) on 28 July 2010.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Labour Conference

- ❖ The 114th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

- ❖ The conference was organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ The conference discussed decent work in the platform economy, gender equality at work, social dialogue and tripartism.
- ❖ The ILO follows a tripartite system, in which governments, employers and workers participate equally in decision-making.
- ❖ The International Labour Conference (ILC) is known as the "World Parliament of Labour" because it sets international labour standards and discusses global labour issues.
- ❖ The conference also marked 100 years of the Committee on the Application of Standards, an important ILO supervisory mechanism.



India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030

- ❖ India and France adopted the Innovation Roadmap 2030 and launched a Dialogue on Economic Security during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in Nice, France.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to establish a Joint India-France Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group to expand cooperation in artificial intelligence.
- ❖ India and France called for the early implementation of the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and decided to create a high-level mechanism to double bilateral trade within five years.
- ❖ The two countries agreed to strengthen supply chain resilience, especially in critical minerals, under the new Economic Security Dialogue.

- ❖ They also discussed cooperation in space, railways, aviation, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant project in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Nineteen agreements were signed between innovation-related organisations of both countries to deepen technology and research partnerships.



India-France Unveil Innovation Roadmap 2030

PM Modi and President Macron announce 13 key outcomes across innovation, AI, trade, education, space and strategic cooperation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Innovation Roadmap 2030 adopted
- ✓ Joint India-France AI Working Group launched
- ✓ Target to **double** bilateral trade within **5 years**
- ✓ Expanded UPI opportunities in France
- ✓ **19** innovation ecosystem agreements signed
- ✓ Economic Security Dialogue established

LEADERS' FOCUS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Five New Pulsars

- ❖ Astronomers at the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics discovered five new millisecond pulsars using India's upgraded Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (uGMRT).
- ❖ The pulsars were discovered in the ancient globular clusters Messier 69 and Messier 70, which are among the oldest and densest star systems in the Milky Way.
- ❖ Millisecond pulsars are rapidly rotating neutron stars that spin within a few milliseconds and usually form in binary star systems.
- ❖ Two pulsars were discovered in Messier 69 and three in Messier 70, marking the first-ever detection of pulsars in both clusters.

- ❖ One pulsar, M69A, was found orbiting a companion star, likely a white dwarf, completing one orbit every few days.



LVM3 Technology Transfer

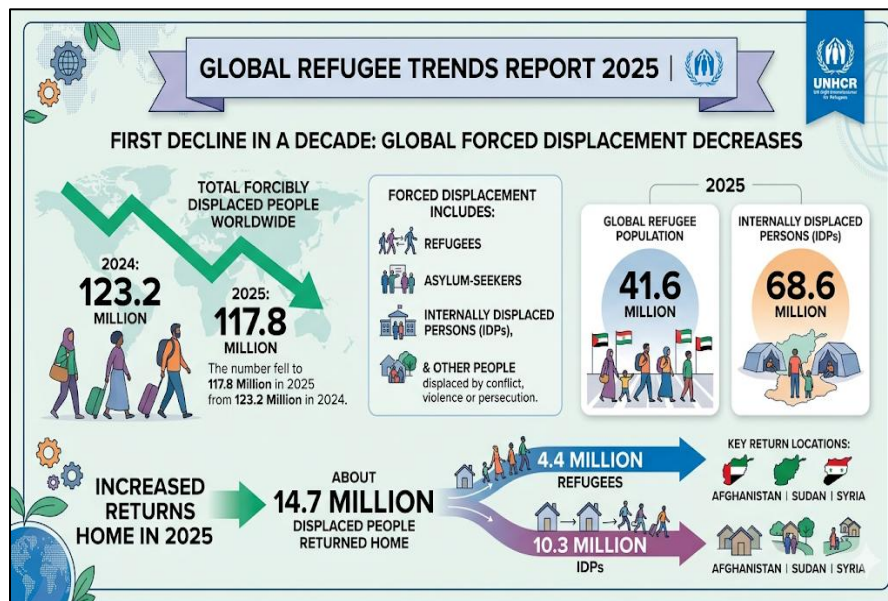


- ❖ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the transfer of technology of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) to private Indian companies.

- ❖ LVM3, also known as Bahubali, is India's heaviest and most powerful operational launch vehicle and is a three-stage rocket developed by the ISRO.
- ❖ LVM3 was used to launch Chandrayaan-2 and Chandrayaan-3 and placed 72 satellites of OneWeb into orbit during 2022 and 2023.
- ❖ Selected companies will receive technical assistance and infrastructure support from ISRO for up to 42 months or until they manufacture and launch two LVM3 rockets, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ India announced space sector reforms in 2020 to increase private participation in launch services and enable ISRO to focus on advanced missions such as Gaganyaan.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Refugee Trends Report 2025



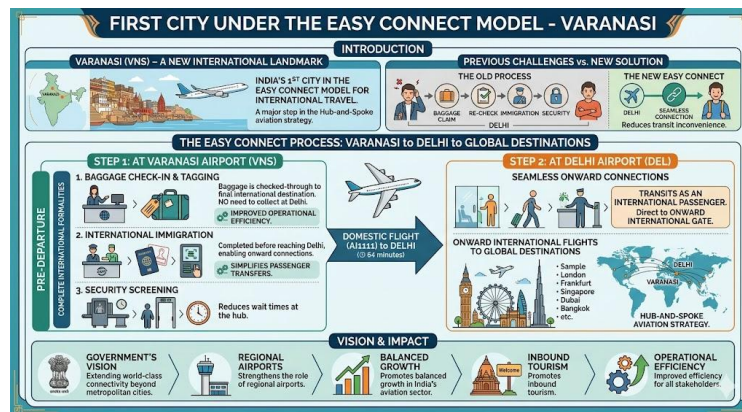
- ❖ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported the first decline in global forced displacement in a decade in 2025.
- ❖ The number of forcibly displaced people worldwide fell to 117.8 million in 2025, from 123.2 million in 2024.
- ❖ Forced displacement includes refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other people displaced by conflict, violence or persecution.
- ❖ The global refugee population stood at 41.6 million, while 68.6 million people remained internally displaced at the end of 2025.

- ❖ About 14.7 million displaced people returned home in 2025, including 4.4 million refugees and 10.3 million internally displaced persons, mainly in Afghanistan, Sudan and Syria.

STATE NEWS

First City Under the Easy Connect Model - Varanasi

- ❖ Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, became the first city in India to be integrated into the Easy Connect model for international travel.
- ❖ Under the new model, international passengers from Varanasi can complete immigration and baggage formalities before reaching Delhi, enabling seamless onward international connections.
- ❖ The initiative marks the beginning of India's hub-and-spoke aviation strategy, aimed at improving connectivity between regional cities and global destinations.
- ❖ The programme seeks to simplify passenger transfers, reduce transit inconvenience and improve operational efficiency.
- ❖ The initiative aligns with the Government's vision of extending world-class international connectivity beyond metropolitan cities.
- ❖ The Easy Connect model is expected to strengthen the role of regional airports and promote balanced growth in India's aviation sector and inbound tourism.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Gallantry Awards 2026

- ❖ The President of India conferred 51 Gallantry Awards at the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2026 (Phase-I) held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, including 7 Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras and 29 Shaurya Chakras.

- ❖ The awards recognised exceptional bravery and sacrifice by personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Police forces.
- ❖ Notable awardees included Captain Lalrinawma Sailo and Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba, who received the Kirti Chakra.
- ❖ Other recipients included Group Captain Abhimanyu Singh, who received the Shaurya Chakra for safely landing a damaged aircraft during an emergency.
- ❖ The Param Vir Chakra (PVC) is India's highest wartime gallantry award, while the Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award.
- ❖ The peacetime gallantry awards were instituted in 1952 with effect from 15 August 1947 and were renamed as Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra in 1967.
- ❖ Gallantry Awards are announced twice every year—on Republic Day and Independence Day.

<h2>Gallantry Awards of India</h2>	
<h3>List Of Vir Chakra Awardees</h3>	
AWARDEE NAME	UNIT
COLONEL KOSHANK LAMBA	302 MEDIUM REGIMENT
GROUP CAPTAIN RANJEET SINGH SIDHU	INDIAN AIR FORCE
GROUP CAPTAIN MANISH ARORA, SC	INDIAN AIR FORCE
GROUP CAPTAIN ANIMESH PATNI	INDIAN AIR FORCE
GROUP CAPTAIN KUNAL KALRA	INDIAN AIR FORCE

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Wind Day 2026 - June 15

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about wind energy and the transition to clean and renewable power.

- ❖ Wind energy is a renewable and non-fossil source of electricity generated by wind turbines using the kinetic energy of moving air.
- ❖ India's installed wind power capacity increased from 21.04 Gigawatts (GW) in March 2014 to 56.09 GW in March 2026, making India the 4th largest wind power producer in the world.
- ❖ India hosted the conference in Goa on 15 June 2026 under the theme "Wind Energy: From Ambition to Acceleration."
- ❖ The global theme for the year 2026 is "Our wind, our community."

