

June - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India's first agentic AI, Kruti, was launched by Ola Krutrim, a cloud service firm.
 - It can help to book cabs, pay bills, and perform other tasks.
- ❖ The Singapore-flagged cargo ship M V Wan Hai 503 had exploded 44 nautical miles off the coast of Beypore in the Kerala coast.
 - It was en route from Colombo to Mumbai.
- ❖ The Delhi government has undertaken a project to develop India's first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park in north Delhi's Holambi Kalan.
 - It will be designed to process up to 51,000 tonnes of e-waste, including all 106 categories of waste listed under the E-Waste Management Rules, 2022.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu's share for Central schemes

Uneven split

For the Jal Jeevan Mission, cost sharing is to be done equally between the Centre and State, but in practice, the State's contribution works out to 55%

G. MOORTHY

Scheme	Beneficiaries	Stated sharing pattern (Centre: State)	Actual sharing pattern (Centre:State)
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – Rural	7,86,653*	60:40:00	39:61
Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme	13,70,679**	100:0	17:83 (for beneficiaries aged up to 79)
			41.67:58.33 (for beneficiaries aged above 80)
Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme	71,080	100:0	17: 83 (for beneficiaries aged up to 79)
			33.33:66.67 (for beneficiaries aged above 80)



*As on June 13, 2025, the number of houses completed was 6,41,883 against 7,44,025 sanctioned houses
**As in February 2025

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government contributes more monetarily compared to the Union government for the implementation of at least six Central schemes.

- ❖ These include three schemes under the umbrella of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) — Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), and the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS).
- ❖ These also include the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Rural, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), and the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- ❖ Fully funded by the Centre, the NSAP was launched in August 1995.
- ❖ However, the State government has been a pioneer in this area and it started implementing an old age pension scheme since January 1962.
- ❖ It has extended the scope of the welfare measure to four categories of destitute persons — persons with disabilities, widows, agricultural labourers, and destitute or deserted women following marriage — between 1974 and 1984.
- ❖ All of which were subsumed into the all-India programme after November 2007.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Operation Rising Lion



- ❖ Israel targeted the Iranian Nuclear Sites under the Operation Rising Lion.
- ❖ Among the high-profile targets was the nuclear facilities at Natanz and Fordow.
- ❖ Nuclear sites at Khondab and Khorramabad were also targeted.
- ❖ The operation aims to dismantle Iran's military.

- ❖ The commander of the Revolutionary Guards' (IRGC) air force of Iran Amir Ali Hajizadeh was killed by Israel attack.
- ❖ The IRGC commander Hossein Salami and the Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri were also killed.
- ❖ The IRGC air force was responsible for Iran's ballistic missile and drone attacks on Israel in April and October last year.
- ❖ In retaliation, Iran launched Operation True Promise III, striking Israel.

ECONOMY NEWS

New UPI Payment Mechanism for Investors

SAFER D-STREET

➤ UPI payment mechanism for Sebi-registered intermediaries that collect funds from investors will have a **verified sign**

➤ This mechanism, which will go live from **Oct 1**, will use a **new UPI address** structure



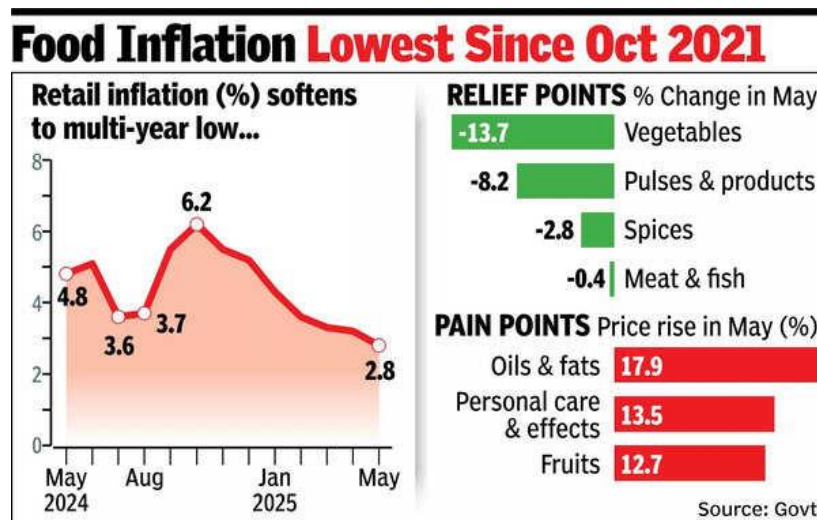
➤ The new mechanism will be able to weed out fraudulent entities that often **pose as genuine Sebi-registered entities**

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is set to implement this.
- ❖ It aims to protect investors from unregistered entities in the stock market.
- ❖ It will allow investors to easily identify legitimate SEBI-registered intermediaries before making payments.
- ❖ Unregistered entities have increasingly misled investors, collecting funds without proper authorisation.
- ❖ It is also developing a new tool called 'SEBI Check' to verify the veracity of UPI IDs or bank details of registered intermediaries.
- ❖ Under the new mechanism, the username will be a readable name chosen by the intermediary, followed by a mandatory suffix that clearly identifies their category.

- ❖ While the suffix would be ‘.brk’ for a stock broker, it would be ‘.mf’ for a mutual fund.
- ❖ The verified UPI handle will feature a unique and exclusive identifier, “@valid”, combined with the name of the self-certified syndicate bank.
- ❖ The validated UPI handle will be exclusively allocated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) only for the payment collection by the Sebi-registered intermediaries.
- ❖ The NPCI is the umbrella organisation for operating the retail payments and the settlement systems in the country, that owns and operates the UPI platform.

India's Retail Inflation – June 2025

- ❖ India's retail inflation rate eased to a 75-month low of 2.8% in May 2025.
- ❖ It fell below 3 per cent for the first time in over six years.
- ❖ It was last lower than this in February 2019.
- ❖ It was as per the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data.
- ❖ This decline is primarily attributed to falling food prices, despite an increase in some vegetable costs.
- ❖ However, double-digit inflation in edible oils and fruits partially offset the broader moderation.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Eurasian Otter – Kashmir

- ❖ The Eurasian otter has been spotted again in the Lidder River.

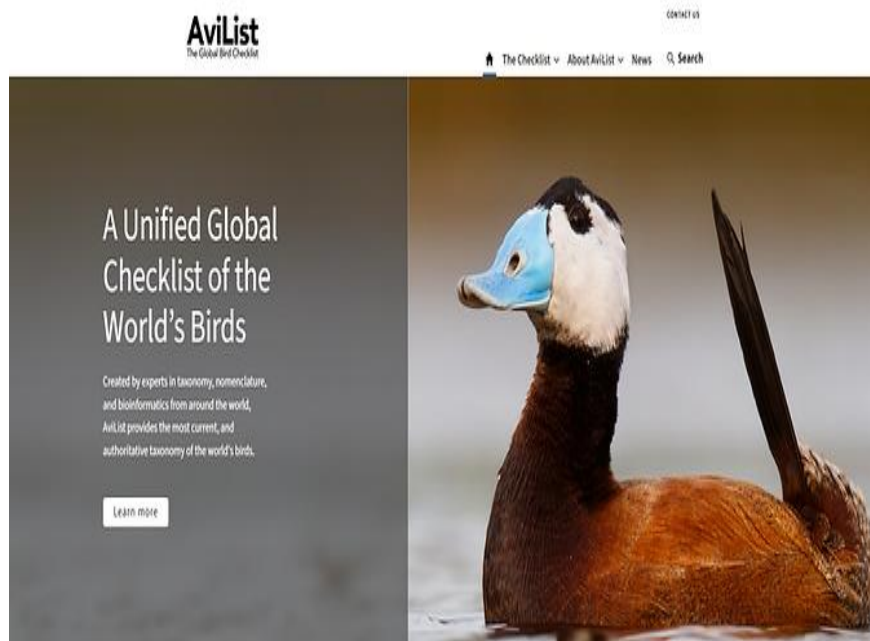
- ❖ It was thought to be extinct in Kashmir for nearly three decades.
- ❖ This semi-aquatic mammal is known locally as Vuder.
- ❖ It is classified as 'near threatened' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ The old data indicate its population in areas like Dachigam National Park and the streams feeding the Dal Lake.
- ❖ Its population declined sharply due to water pollution and hunting for its fur.
- ❖ As a carnivorous mammal, it feeds on fish and other aquatic fauna, helping to control their populations.
- ❖ The presence of otters indicates a balanced ecosystem, as they require clean water and abundant prey.
- ❖ In India, it is primarily found in northern and northeastern states, as well as in southern regions.
- ❖ In India, it is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, where it is classified in Schedule II.
- ❖ Additionally, it is listed in Appendix I of CITES, which regulates international trade of endangered species.



AviList 2025

- ❖ It is the first-ever unified global checklist of bird species.

- ❖ It aims to provide the clarity and consistency in the avian taxonomy, a crucial for conservation efforts.
- ❖ It became live after four years of work by the Working Group on Avian Checklists.
- ❖ The new checklist will replace the International Ornithological Committee (IOC) and Clements lists and will be updated annually.
- ❖ It was according to a statement by BirdLife International.
- ❖ The BirdLife International was the global partnership of the non-governmental organisations that strives to conserve birds and their habitats.
- ❖ The Working Group on Avian Checklists included representatives from BirdLife International, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Ornithologists Society, the International Ornithologists' Union, and Avibase.
- ❖ The list contains 11,131 species, 19,879 subspecies, 2,376 genera, 252 families and 46 orders.



REPORTS AND INDICES

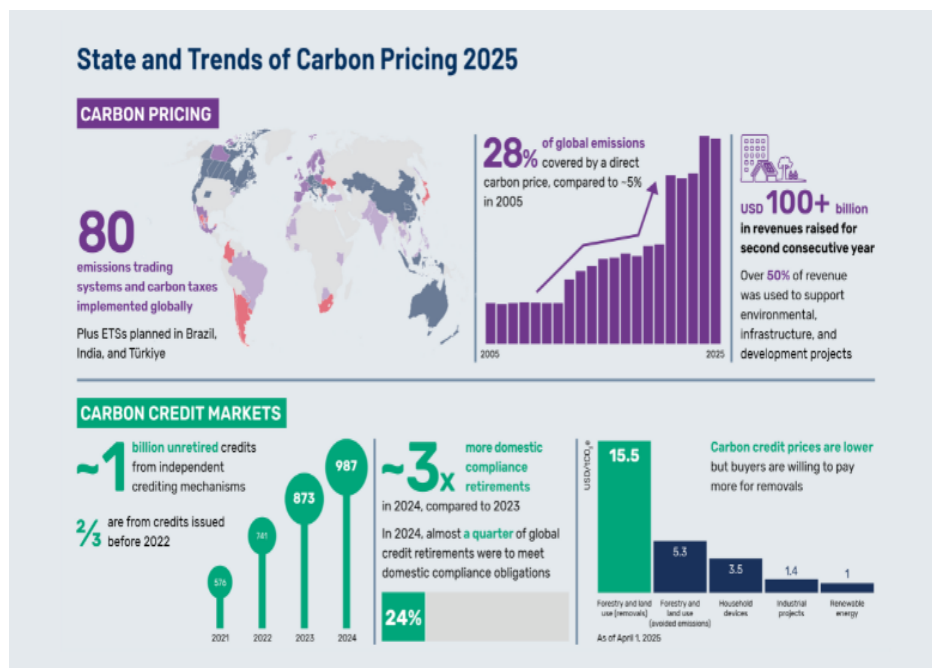
Global Trends Report: Forced Displacement in 2024

- ❖ It was released by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- ❖ Forced Displacement refers to situations of persons who leave their homes due to factors like persecution, violence, human rights violations, disasters etc.
- ❖ 123.2 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced at the end of 2024.

- ❖ More than one-third of all forcibly displaced people were Sudanese, Syrian, Afghan or Ukrainian.



State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025



- ❖ It was a World Bank report titled State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025.



- ❖ Carbon pricing instruments capture the external costs of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ❖ These external costs—such as damage to crops, healthcare expenses from heat waves and droughts, and property loss from flooding and sea level rise—are typically borne by the public.
- ❖ Carbon pricing mechanisms tie these costs to their sources, usually through a price on emitted carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- ❖ The report covers three types of carbon pricing instruments: Emissions trading system (ETS), carbon taxes and carbon credit trading mechanisms.
- ❖ An ETS involves governments setting a limit, or cap, on the amount or intensity of GHG emissions generated by emitters.
- ❖ Companies are allowed to trade emission units to meet their targets.
- ❖ If they implement internal measures to lower their emissions, they can sell these units to other emitters.
- ❖ A carbon tax explicitly prices carbon by defining a tax rate on GHG emissions or the carbon content of fossil fuels.
- ❖ Governments can levy this fee on companies for their GHG emissions.
- ❖ A crediting mechanism allows the trading of credits (each representing 1 tonne of carbon equivalent) generated through the activities that reduce emissions (e.g., capturing methane from landfills) or remove them (e.g., sequestering carbon through afforestation).
- ❖ Companies can then purchase these credits to offset their own emissions.
- ❖ Countries are increasingly adopting carbon pricing, which now represents almost two-thirds of global Gross Domestic Product.
- ❖ The number of operational carbon pricing instruments has grown significantly, from 5 in 2005 to 80 today.
- ❖ India, Brazil, and Türkiye are actively developing them.
- ❖ The Carbon pricing instruments now cover approximately 28 per cent of global GHG emissions.
- ❖ The report noted that most new and planned instruments are ETSs.
- ❖ India's ETS will be rate-based, meaning emissions are not capped.
- ❖ Instead, emitters are allocated a performance benchmark that serves as a limit on their net emissions.
- ❖ Among the different sectors, carbon pricing coverage was highest in the power sector, followed by the industry, mining and the extractives sector, buildings, land transport and aviation.
- ❖ However, waste and agriculture are largely not covered by carbon pricing.



- ❖ The national determined contributions is a country's demand for or international carbon credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to meet national climate targets.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Wimbledon's prize money 2025

- ❖ It has risen to a high record £53.5 million (about \$73 million) and the singles champions will each earn £3 million (\$4 million).
- ❖ All England Club officials announced this.
- ❖ This year, for the first time in the oldest Grand Slam, line judges will be replaced with electronic line-calling.

WIMBLEDON GENTLEMEN'S AND LADIES' SINGLES PRIZE MONEY		
2025		2024
£3,000,000 (+11.1%)	WINNER	£2,700,000
£1,520,000 (+8.6%)	RUNNER-UP	£1,400,000
£775,000 (+8.4%)	SEMI-FINALISTS	£715,000
£400,000 (+6.7%)	QUARTER-FINALISTS	£375,000
£240,000 (+6.2%)	FOURTH ROUND	£226,000
£152,000 (+6.3%)	THIRD ROUND	£143,000
£99,000 (+6.5%)	SECOND ROUND	£93,000
£66,000 (+10%)	FIRST ROUND	£60,000
TOTAL FOR THE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS:		TOTAL PRIZE POST FOR THE 2025 CHAMPIONSHIPS:
£38,828,000		£53,500,000

