

# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

## CURRENT AFFAIRS JUNE 2026

[www.tnpscthervupettagam.com](http://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com)



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS ACADEMY**<sup>TM</sup>  
Best Academy for Civil Services Exam Coaching

107/255, AL - Block, 4th Avenue,  
Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.

Phone - 044-26216435, 4353 3445, Mobile: 9444166435

[www.shankariasacademy.com](http://www.shankariasacademy.com)

## CONTENTS

<b>TNPSC BITS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TAMIL NADU .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Kasanoi Erappila Thittam update .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Chennai Airport Traffic .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu on Maternal and Child Health .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu's Healthcare Model .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Ministers' Inter-se Seniority List .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission Meeting.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Extension.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Pumped Storage Hydro Power Plant - Kadamparai .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Madras HC on Radhapuram Poll .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>E-Prisons Release Module.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>NGT Jurisdiction on Aquaculture .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Surplus Cauvery Flow.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>TNSDMA 2026 Review .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Cool Roof Coating SOP .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu State's Own Tax Revenue 2025-26 .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Govt Hospitals in Organ Donation .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Online Land Registration System .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Singappen Special Force .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>SEZ Export Record .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Heat Action Plan 2026 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>First Pink Police Booth - Ponneri .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>White Paper on State Finances 2026 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>CM Breakfast Scheme Expansion.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TN government's White Paper 2026.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - First Session .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) Rules.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Business Advisory Committee.....</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>Mekedatu Dam Proposal .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - Panel of Chairpersons.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Five Renewable Energy Zones in Tamil Nadu .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Tiruvallur Ammonia Gas Leak Probe.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Tamilnadu Economy 2026.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Madras High Court - Section 34 C .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Rasimanal Dam Proposal .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Electricity Department White Paper .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Chennai Intelligent Transport System.....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Chief Minister's Police Medals 2026 .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Surge in Election Petitions in Madras High Court.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Anti-Drug Run 2026 .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>New Cauvery Basin Guidelines.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Madras High Court on BC (Muslim) Status for Converts.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Farmer Official Link 2.0 Scheme .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign 2026.....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>NATIONAL .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>National Health Accounts 2022-23 .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>India's Fertility Rate .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>SC on Right to Trauma Care.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>APAC Data Centre Leader .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>India's Rooftop Solar Mission .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Unified Emergency Helpline 112 .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Semiconductor Roadmap 2035.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>National Seed Reserve .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>India's Maritime Digital Reforms.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>10th Revision of IIP .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Prime Minister Research Chair Scheme 2026 .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Chenab-Beas Link Project .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>18th Railway Zone - South Coast Railway.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>90 Crore - ABHA Milestone .....</b>	<b>56</b>

<b>Expansion of Ethanol Fuel Network.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Khet Bachao Abhiyan .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Digital Patient Feedback System .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>India’s Semiconductor Vision 2035 .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>India’s Solar Market Growth.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>District Domestic Product Guidelines 2026.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>73rd NEC Plenary Meeting.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>7th Regional Meteorological Centre - Jammu .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Viksit Vibrant Village Program 2026.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Draft AI Rules for Courts .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>India's Largest LPG Supplier - United States .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Price Stabilization Fund for Aviation Fuel .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Land Port Management System .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>India’s Market Rank 2026 .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>KABIL Lithium Project .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Longest-Serving Elected PM - Narendra Modi.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Mega Leather Clusters.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>IMI-Resistant Mustard Hybrids.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>BIS Norms for Tea Bags .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>SC on Homemakers Domestic Work.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>NFHS-6 findings .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>CJP – Animal Symbols.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>11th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Community Seed Banks Standard - IS 20201:2026.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>SC on Right to Travel Abroad vs Speedy Trial.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>First Women NDA Batch .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Nutrition Challenge for Anaemia .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Global Digital Wallet Downloads .....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>REC-PFC Consolidation .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>SAPLING Dialogue 2026 .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>50 Years of NIUA .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>VB-G RAM-G Rural Initiative .....</b>	<b>70</b>

<b>Shishupal Judgment 2026.....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>New Producer Price Index Framework .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>New Uniform Code - Indian Army.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>NPCI - Drunix .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Mandatory Prescription for Medicinal Syrups .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Extension of Water Dispute Tribunals.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>India's Wind Energy Target 2035.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>India's Defence Production 2026.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>US Indo-Pacific Command .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Transit-Oriented Namu Cities Plan .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Smart Warehousing System for Foodgrain Storage .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>75 Years of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951 .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Price Support Scheme 2026 - Pulses and Oilseeds Procurement .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Supreme Court on Right to Walk on Footpaths.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Abhigyan App for Crime Data Access .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Sickle Cell Elimination Mission.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Three Naval Warships .....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Right to Trauma Care – Supreme Court Judgment.....</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Free Bus Travel for Women in India.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Rural Employment Framework.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Passport Not Proof of Citizenship - MEA Clarification.....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 – Blood Standards .....</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>India's Clean Energy Storage Target 2035-36 .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>e-Zero FIR for Cyber Fraud .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation - India.....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>World's Second-Largest Fish Producer - India .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Nirbhay Chetna Initiative .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>ADB Investment in India .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Immigration Port Network - Haldia.....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Digital Interventions in the Criminal Justice System of India .....</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>India's Road Network .....</b>	<b>84</b>

<b>INTERNATIONAL.....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>India–Vietnam BrahMos Missile Deal .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>1st International Security Forum .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>India–Oman Strategic Partnership .....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>UN General Assembly 2026.....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Project Patriot Pipeline .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>War Powers Resolution on Iran - US.....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>UN Security Council Election 2026 .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>India–UK Critical Minerals Observatory .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>EU Market Access for Aquaculture Exports.....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026 .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>India–France Strategic Partnership .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>ILO Convention on Gig Workers .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Global Alliance for Human Rights.....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Muscat Action Plan - Oman .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>International Labour Conference .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>India-France Innovation Roadmap 2030.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>India–France Tech Corridor .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Swiss Referendum - Population Ceiling.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>BRICS Agricultural Framework.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>52nd G7 Summit 2026 .....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>13th BRICS Urbanization Forum .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>New Development Bank - Uzbekistan.....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>U.S. Iran Preliminary Peace Accord 2026 .....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Mombasa Declaration – Illegal Fishing Agreement .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Turquoise Nexus Initiative .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Pax Silica AI Initiative - European Union.....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>UN Peacekeeper Accountability Resolution .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>16th BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting .....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>State of Emergency - Bolivia .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>India–UAE Strategic Defense Partnership .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>ECONOMY.....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>India’s First Blue Bond.....</b>	<b>96</b>

<b>RBI's Kill Switch Facility .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Seafood Exports 2025–2026 .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>WPI–PPI Transition.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Current Account Surplus in Q4 FY26 .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>India's Remittance Surge .....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>NSE index portfolio expansion 2026.....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Saatvik 100 Index - BSE.....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Lead Bank Scheme Guidelines 2026 .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>GARUDA Framework for Alternative Investment Funds.....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>China's Xenotransplant Breakthrough.....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Divyastra Mk 1 - Loitering Munition.....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>KSTAR Plasma Breakthrough .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Methane on Interstellar Comet.....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>India in Global AI Initiative .....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Microplastic Removal Innovation - Plas-Stick.....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Blue Moon and Micromoon .....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>World's First Perfect Randomness .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>MAVEN Mission 2026 .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Artemis III Mission.....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>DRDO on Missile Defence .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Five New Pulsars .....</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>LVM3 Technology Transfer.....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Long-Duration Lunar Lander.....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Smart Seed Coating Technology .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar System.....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue.....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT .....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Photosynthesis in Mouse Eye Cells.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Elvira Rat and Cutch Rock Rat.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Yellow-Throated Marten in Kaziranga.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>India's Giant Coral Colony.....</b>	<b>107</b>

<b>Fish Waste-Based Biofertilisers.....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Nilgiri Tahr Population Survey 2026.....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu State-Wide Raptor Assessment 2025–26 .....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu Synchronised Bird Estimate 2025.....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>HAWK Wildlife Management System.....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Babesia Infection.....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>100th Ramsar Site - Surha Tal .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Fourth Coral Bleaching update .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Bonn Climate Conference 2026 .....</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Yellow Puffball Mushroom .....</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Global Heat-Risk Hotspots.....</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>“35 by 35” Electrification Target .....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Migratory Flamingos – Tamil Nadu .....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>First Carbon Credits Under the Paris Agreement .....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Coral Translocation - Great Nicobar.....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>First Scientific Report on Greater Hog Badger.....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Otter Habitat in Thamirabarani .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Native Fruit Tree Cultivation – Nilgiris .....</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>San Andreas Fault: Highest Stress in 1,000 Years.....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>SHAN Conservation Society – Ladakh Wildlife Protection .....</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>India’s First 3D-Printed Artificial Reef Deployment.....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Global Methane Reduction Initiative .....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Blue Swimmer Crab Farming Technology .....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>International Big Cat Alliance - Bangladesh.....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Venezuela Earthquake 2026 - Seismic Doublet Event .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>REPORTS AND INDICATES .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>UN Sexual Violence Report 2026 .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Global Climate Update Report .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>State of India’s Digital Economy 2026 Report .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>NFHS-6 Report .....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>PRS Report on State Assemblies.....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Prison Statistics 2024 report .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>AI Footprint Report 2026 .....</b>	<b>119</b>

<b>Container Port Performance Index 2025.....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Global Peace Index 2026 .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Road Accidents in India 2024 Report .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Global Economic Prospects Report 2026 .....</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Global Refugee Trends Report 2025 .....</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>CAG State Finances Report 2024-25 .....</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Planetary Climate Vital Signs Report 2026.....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Children’s Climate Risk Report 2026 - UNICEF .....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Hunger Hotspots Report 2026 .....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Energy Transition Index 2026 .....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report 2026.....</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>World Future Skills Index.....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>NCB Report 2025 .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>STATES .....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Goa Statehood Day 2026 .....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Two New Special Economic Zones - Puducherry .....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Sikkim - Full Literacy.....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Raipur’s Rainwater Revolution .....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Telangana Formation Day 2026.....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Mission Senehjori.....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Child Malnutrition - Madhya Pradesh .....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Decline in Child Stunting - Meghalaya.....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>First Model Border Village .....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Kerala Monsoon Arrival 2026 .....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>NeVA initiative - West Bengal .....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Fertility Rate - Andaman and Nicobar.....</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative .....</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Two Child Norm - Madhya Pradesh .....</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>1,400 Year Old Inscriptions - Nallamala Tiger Reserve .....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Mizoram in Electoral Roll Digitization.....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Kerala Vision 2031.....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Trademark Protection - Puri Temple .....</b>	<b>131</b>

<b>First City Under the Easy Connect Model - Varanasi.....</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Four New GI Tags - Jharkhand.....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Telangana - Iran Manuscript Digitization Pact .....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Student Nutrition Programme - Telangana .....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project .....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project - Maharashtra.....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Amaravati Quantum Valley – 4 Kelvin Milestone .....</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Telegram Block Under IT Act Section 69A.....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Vijayanagara Inscriptions in Andhra Pradesh.....</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Article 371 Safeguards for Ladakh.....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Telangana AI-Powered Emergency Response System .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Three Language Formula Issue - Nagaland .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme - Telangana.....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Lakadong Turmeric - Meghalaya .....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Buddha Parinirvana Pillar – Telangana.....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS .....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>UN Peacekeeping Awards 2026 .....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Historic Appointment to the Supreme Court - V. Mohana.....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>New Chief of Defence Staff - N.S. Raja Subramani.....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Dr. P. Varadarajulu memorial .....</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Longest-Serving Karnataka Chief Minister - Siddaramaiah .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>UN Medal for Peacekeepers.....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>e-Governance Award 2026 .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Subhash Kashyap Demise.....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>e-Governance Award 2026 – e Jagriti.....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-2025 .....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025.....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Gallantry Awards 2026 .....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Robert A.F. Thurman's demise .....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Indian Athletics Awards 2026.....</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>SPORTS .....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>1st Yogasana Championship.....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>World Yogasana Championship 2026 .....</b>	<b>143</b>

2026 FIFA World Cup - 23rd edition .....	143
<b>IMPORTANT DAYS .....</b>	<b>144</b>
Hindi Journalism Day 2026 - May 30 .....	144
International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories 2026 - May 25/31 .....	144
International Seaweed Day 2026 – June 04 .....	145
World Day Against Speciesism 2026 – June 05 .....	145
UN Russian Language Day 2026 – June 06.....	145
World Oceans Day 2026.....	146
International Albinism Awareness Day 2026 – June 13.....	146
Global Wind Day 2026 - June 15.....	146
Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2026 – June 18 .....	147
Autistic Pride Day 2026 - June 18.....	147
World Sickle Cell Day 2026 - June 19.....	147
World Refugee Day 2026 - June 20.....	148
Summer Solstice 2026 - June 21 .....	148
International Day of Yoga 2026 - June 21 .....	148
International Olympic Day 2026 - June 23.....	149
World Vitiligo Day 2026 - June 25.....	149
Passport Seva Divas 2026 – June 24.....	149
National Statistics Day 2026 - June 29 .....	150
<b>MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>150</b>
Forbes Rich List 2026 .....	150
SIPRI Yearbook 2026.....	151
Ancient Footprints in Italy.....	151
Jian changmaensis in China.....	151
Prehistoric Cave Discovery - Israel.....	152
QS World University Rankings 2027 .....	152
World’s Most Beautiful Airports 2026.....	152
Asia’s AI-Native Startup Clusters.....	153

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras has opened a new Circulating Water Tunnel Facility at its Discovery Campus in Thaiyur near Chennai.
  - The facility was built with ₹4.5 crore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and will be used to study ships, propellers and other marine structures.
- ❖ Siddaramaiah resigned as Karnataka Chief Minister on May 29, 2026, and Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot accepted his resignation, with Siddaramaiah continuing as caretaker Chief Minister until the new government takes office.
  - D. K. Shivakumar is set to succeed Siddaramaiah as the next Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- ❖ Telangana inaugurated India's first solar power projects operated by women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme.
  - A 1 Megawatt (MW) solar power plant was inaugurated at Venkatapuram village in Khammam district, Telangana.
- ❖ World No Tobacco Day is observed globally on 31 May 2026 to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine use.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Unmask the Appeal: Countering Tobacco and Nicotine Addiction."
- ❖ World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) is observed every year on 29 May to promote awareness about digestive health and digestive disorders.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Chronic Diarrhea: Don't Flush the Signs Away."
- ❖ International Everest Day was observed on 29 May 2026, marking the 73rd anniversary of the first successful ascent of Mount Everest.
  - On 29 May 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest.
- ❖ A book titled India's First Olympic Gold, written by hockey historian K. Arumugam, was released in New Delhi to commemorate India's first Olympic gold medal in hockey at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.
- ❖ Indian shooter Esha Singh won the gold medal with a world record score in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Cup 2026, Munich, Germany.
- ❖ Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar announced the 'Project Menstrual Dignity' in the State Assembly policy address to promote menstrual health support for students.
  - The project proposes up to three days of menstrual leave per month for schoolgirls in Kerala.

- ❖ The Rusty-Spotted Cat was recorded for the first time in the National Chambal Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.
  - The Rusty-Spotted Cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*) is one of the smallest wild cat species in Asia.
- ❖ Kazakhstan has signed a \$16.5 billion agreement with Russia's state nuclear company Rosatom to build the country's first nuclear power plant.
  - Kazakhstan is the world's largest producer of uranium and approved the project after a 2024 national referendum.
- ❖ India successfully launched Mission SANA, the country's first indigenous stratospheric super-pressure balloon mission, from Vijayawada by Red Balloon Aerospace.
  - With this achievement, India became one of only five countries possessing indigenous stratospheric super-pressure balloon technology.
- ❖ Indian Railways has approved India's first indigenous 10-coach Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based train on the Jind-Sonapat route in Haryana, developed by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO).
  - The train runs on hydrogen fuel cells and serves as a zero-emission alternative to diesel trains, producing only water vapour and heat as by-products.
- ❖ Scientists from the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute discovered a new evergreen tree species named *Humboldtia nairiana* in the riparian forests of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - *Humboldtia nairiana* belongs to the *Humboldtia* genus of legumes.
- ❖ Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar assumed charge as the 48th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS), succeeding Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan.
- ❖ Kerala-based startup Netrasemi unveiled India's first indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) System-on-Chip (SoC), named A2000.
- ❖ World Milk Day is observed annually on 1 June, an initiative established by the FAO of the United Nations in 2001 to promote the importance of milk and dairy products in nutrition and food security.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Celebrating Women Farmers".
- ❖ Tripura has launched Mission Queen Pineapple with an outlay of ₹236 crore to promote its Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Queen pineapple in domestic and international markets.
  - Queen Pineapple of Tripura received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2018.
- ❖ India's first SkyCast System was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi International Airport by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

- With this installation, India became the 19th country to deploy the SkyCast System, an integrated atmospheric remote sensing system that provides real-time weather intelligence for aviation operations.
- ❖ Bharti Airtel launched Priority Postpaid, India's first consumer-focused 5G Network Slicing service.
  - 5G Network Slicing divides a single 5G network into multiple virtual networks (slices) with dedicated resources for specific users or applications.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based examination management, with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) launching an AI-powered system for attendance and seating arrangements to improve transparency and security.
- ❖ Global Day of Parents is observed every year on 1 June to honour parents and recognise their role in raising and protecting children.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Together for Parents".
- ❖ The Registration Department appointed P. Kannan, Assistant Inspector General of Registration (Vigilance), and E. Bhavani, District Registrar (Guideline), as nodal officers to coordinate the implementation of Project STAR 3.0.
  - Project STAR 3.0 is an upgraded software system that will replace STAR 2.0 to simplify document registration and enhance service delivery, efficiency, and digital transformation through advanced technologies.
- ❖ P. Sumathi has been appointed as the Secretary to the Tamil Nadu Law Department, becoming the first woman to hold the post.
- ❖ Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport surpassed Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to become India's second-busiest domestic airport in April 2026.
  - Kempegowda International Airport, Karnataka, handled about 3.28 million domestic passengers, compared to about 2.89 million passengers handled by Mumbai airport during the same period.
- ❖ Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh has been given additional charge as Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (R&D) and Chairman, DRDO, following the completion of Dr. Samir V. Kamat's tenure on 31 May 2026.
- ❖ British actor Idris Elba received a Knighthood, one of the United Kingdom's highest civilian honours, from King Charles III at Windsor Castle, England.
- ❖ International Sex Workers' Day is observed every year on 2 June to recognize the rights, dignity, and contributions of sex workers.
- ❖ World Bicycle Day is observed every year on 3 June to promote the use of bicycles as a sustainable, affordable, and healthy mode of transport.

- ❖ Mesalina bishnoi, a newly identified lizard species belonging to the genus Mesalina, has been recorded in India for the first time from an open semi-desert habitat near Gajner, Bikaner district, Rajasthan.
  - The species is named after the Bishnoi community in recognition of its long-standing tradition of wildlife conservation.
- ❖ Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2026, succeeding Dinesh Kumar Tripathi after his retirement.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu farmer Valluvan from Pollachi has been recognised as an “FAO Soil Farmer Hero” by the Food and Agriculture Organization for promoting the sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ Paradip Port Authority (PPA), Odisha, received the Sagar Aankalan Award 2026 from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) for excellence in port operations and logistics performance.
  - PPA also secured third rank in the Sagar Aankalan Certificate for Logistics Port Performance.
- ❖ World Peatlands Day is observed annually on 2 June to raise global awareness about the importance of peatlands and peat.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully flight-tested the indigenous RudraM-II, an air-to-surface anti-radiation missile (ARM) developed by the DRDO.
- ❖ Maria Montserrat Alvarado has been appointed as the first lay woman to head a Vatican department and will assume office on 1 November 2026 as the first non-religious woman to serve as Prefect of a Vatican dicastery.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) won the Food Planet Prize 2026, a global award for sustainable food systems.
- ❖ Odisha was selected for the PM Surya Ghar Excellence Awards for its outstanding performance in the Month of Solar Campaign 2026.
  - Odisha ranked first among medium-consumer states in applications, solar installations, and Distribution Company (DISCOM) inspections, and secured third place in the Maximum Vendor Registrations category.
- ❖ Mother Dairy has launched India's first naturally degradable milk pouch ahead of World Environment Day 2026 (5 June).
- ❖ Malaysia began enforcing a law from 1 June 2026 requiring social media platforms to verify users' ages and block children under 16 from creating accounts.
- ❖ International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed on 4 June annually to raise awareness about children affected by wars and conflicts.
- ❖ World Environment Day is observed globally on 5 June annually to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."
- ❖ Centre has launched 'Samadhan Didi', an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled voice chatbot under the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
  - The chatbot allows citizens to register and track grievances through voice-based interaction in simple language and local dialects.
- ❖ Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered a new frog species, *Amolops kamal* (Nagaland Cascade Frog), in Kiphire district, Nagaland, near the Myanmar border.
  - The species belongs to the *Amolops* genus, which includes 90 recognized species worldwide, with 20 species recorded in India.
- ❖ Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) won the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 title by defeating the Gujarat Titans (GT).
- ❖ R. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess 2026 title, finishing with 18 points after defeating top players including Magnus Carlsen, D. Gukesh, Alireza Firouzja, and Vincent Keymer.
- ❖ International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) is observed annually on June 5 to raise awareness about safety at railway level crossings.
- ❖ International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing is observed every year on 5 June to promote sustainable fisheries and protect marine resources.
- ❖ The Government launched E85 fuel across 48 retail outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on World Environment Day 2026 (June 05).
  - E85 is a fuel containing 80–85% ethanol and 14–19% petrol, designed for Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs).
- ❖ Oil India Limited (OIL) discovered natural gas in its third exploratory well, Vijayapuram-3, in the Andaman shallow offshore block.
- ❖ Microsoft unveiled the Fairwater AI Data Centre in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin, United States of America (USA) during Build 2026 to promote sustainable Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure.
  - Fairwater is designed as a model for Microsoft's future sustainable Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centres.
- ❖ Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, has been selected for the state's first semiconductor project under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has made the official vegan logo mandatory on approved vegan food products from 1 July 2027.

- ❖ World Pest Day is observed annually on June 6 to raise awareness about the importance of professional pest management in protecting public health, food safety, agriculture, property, and the environment.
  - The 2026 theme is “Defending Health Across Borders: The Global Power of Pest Management”, with the tagline “Marking 10 Years of World Pest Day – United Around the Globe.”
- ❖ Microsoft unveiled the Majorana 2 quantum chip at Build 2026, reporting a major improvement in qubit stability, with an average qubit lifetime of 20 seconds and peaks of up to 60 seconds.
- ❖ A rare caracal was recorded during a wildlife survey in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
  - The caracal is one of India's rarest wild cat species and is adapted to grasslands, scrublands and dry habitats.
- ❖ The Vice-President of India released the book ‘When Audit Matters: CAG Interventions That Made a Difference’, authored by former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai.
- ❖ India and the Netherlands signed a Letter of Intent for technical cooperation on the Kalpasar Project in Gujarat.
  - The Kalpasar Project is a multipurpose project of the Gujarat government to build a dam across the Gulf of Khambhat.
- ❖ World Food Safety Day is observed annually on 7 June to promote safe food practices and prevent foodborne diseases.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “From Burden to Solutions – Safe Food Everywhere.”
- ❖ The Government approved the ₹1,196.22 crore Fotu La Tunnel Project on National Highway-01 (NH-01), connecting Uri, Srinagar, and Leh in Ladakh.
- ❖ The second BRICS Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting was held in Varanasi to discuss cultural cooperation, the creative economy, and the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The first in-person technical meeting of the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Working Group under India’s BRICS Presidency began in Puri, Odisha.
  - The meeting focuses on disaster resilience and sustainable development in the Global South.
- ❖ Chandigarh University became the first private university in India to establish an IndiaAI Data Lab in collaboration with Intel India.
  - The IndiaAI Data Lab aims to provide industry-relevant skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, and emerging technologies.
- ❖ Hero MotoCorp launched its first flex-fuel motorcycle, while Maruti Suzuki launched India’s first flex-fuel passenger vehicle.

- Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) can run on petrol and ethanol blends, including fuels containing up to 85% ethanol (E85).
- ❖ Football legend Lionel Messi was awarded the 2026 Princess of Asturias Award for Sports, becoming the first individual footballer to receive the honour.
- ❖ World Brain Tumour Day is observed every year on 8 June to raise awareness about brain tumours, their early detection, and treatment.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "A Closer Look".
- ❖ NPCI International Payments Limited and ACLEDA Bank launched cross-border UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments in Cambodia through the KHQR platform.
  - Cambodia became the 9th country to adopt UPI services, joining Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The 125<sup>th</sup> edition of the French Open concluded in Paris, France, with Alexander Zverev (Germany) winning the Men's Singles title and Mirra Andreieva (Russia) winning the Women's Singles title.
- ❖ The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) facilitated India's first-ever sea shipment of botanical-infused ready-to-cook millet functional foods from Karnataka to New Zealand.
- ❖ India's first indigenously developed quantum-safe algorithm, developed by Pune-based Fortytwo Labs, received C-SAFE (Cryptographic Security Assessment and Functional Evaluation) recognition from the Data Security Council of India (DSCI).
  - The recognition was announced at FINSEC 2026 in Mumbai, and C-SAFE is India's first independent cryptographic evaluation programme developed by DSCI.
- ❖ Major Prabhat Mishra of the Indian Army won two academic awards at the US Army Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSOC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, United States.
  - He received the Birrer-Brookes Award and the General Douglas MacArthur Military Leadership Writing Award during the graduation ceremony.
- ❖ Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) released a new bush-type green chilli variety, KAU Thejaswini, suitable for year-round cultivation in Kerala.
- ❖ World Accreditation Day (WAD) is observed globally every year on 9 June to promote the importance of accreditation in ensuring quality, safety, and reliability.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Innovation, Trust and Sustainability: The Power of Accreditation."
- ❖ The Kerala Cabinet has approved the Priyadarshini Scheme, which provides free travel for women and transgender persons on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) ordinary bus services from 15 June 2026.
- ❖ India won the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women's Championship 2026 by defeating Bangladesh 3–1 in the final held in Goa.

- ❖ Veteran Tamil filmmaker Bharathiraja passed away in Chennai at the age of 84; he was a recipient of multiple National Film Awards and the Padma Shri for his contributions to Indian cinema.
- ❖ Uttarakhand's disaster management model was recognised at the second meeting of the BRICS Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group held in Puri, Odisha.
- ❖ The Excavation of Zojila Tunnel project was completed on 9 June 2026, bringing all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh closer.
  - It is being constructed between Baltal in Jammu & Kashmir and Minimarg in Ladakh on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway.
- ❖ West Bengal became the 36th State to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), completing nationwide coverage.
  - AB-PMJAY provides health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary hospitalization.
- ❖ The International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations is observed annually on 10 June to promote mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation among diverse cultures and civilizations.
- ❖ The Government has revived the long-pending Kirthai-II Hydroelectric Project, a 930 Megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydropower project on the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.
  - The Chenab is a major tributary of the Indus River, formed by the confluence of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ A new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) was inaugurated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, to strengthen weather forecasting and disaster preparedness in northern India.
- ❖ Union Govt launched the BHAVYA Portal to accelerate the development of 100 industrial parks across India.
  - It aims to create integrated industrial ecosystems with multimodal connectivity, reliable utilities, digital governance, worker-support facilities, and sustainable infrastructure.
- ❖ Saurabh Vijay, CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has taken charge as CEO of the IndiaAI Mission.
- ❖ Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva won the 3rd edition of the Norway Chess Women's Tournament 2026.
- ❖ Jean Drèze received the Global Inequality Research Award (GiRA) 2026 at the World Inequality Conference in Paris.
- ❖ International Archives Day is observed annually on 9 June to highlight the importance of archives and records in preserving history and ensuring transparency.

- ❖ Russia, during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2026, offered India the Su-57 fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft for joint development, manufacturing, and technology transfer.
  - India had earlier withdrawn from the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) programme with Russia in 2018.
- ❖ South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has nominated Han Seong-sook as the country's new Prime Minister.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has approved its first-ever 250 Megawatt (MW) Solar Power Project with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on vacant defence land at Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first export of GI-tagged Tezpur Litchi from Assam to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
  - Tezpur Litchi received Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2013.
- ❖ Anthropic has launched Claude Fable 5, its most capable, widely released Artificial Intelligence (AI) model, along with Claude Mythos 5.
- ❖ The Union Home Minister inaugurated the Land Port Management System (LPMS) – Vinimay, a digital platform for managing operations at India's international land ports.
  - Vinimay aims to reduce paperwork, speed up border clearance, improve security, and facilitate cross-border trade.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh launched Project GANGA (Government Assisted Network for Growth and Advancement) to provide fibre-based broadband connectivity to rural households.
  - The project aims to connect about 20 lakh families to high-speed internet services.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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".

- ❖ India validated Truenat HR-HPV-Plus, the country's first indigenous Human Papillomavirus (HPV) screening test for cervical cancer, developed by Molbio Diagnostics.
  - It became the first indigenous point-of-care HPV screening test to fully meet international validation criteria.
- ❖ IIT Bhubaneswar has developed ArsenSafe, a portable device that rapidly detects arsenic contamination in drinking water without laboratory facilities.
  - ArsenSafe is a handheld and field-deployable device that can test water directly at the source with minimal training.
- ❖ Former Asian Games gold medallist and renowned shooting coach Jaspal Rana passed away on 12 June 2026 at the age of 49.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government honoured Lance Naik A. Meenatchi Sundaram, a Kirti Chakra awardee, with a ₹48 lakh cash reward in recognition of his exceptional bravery during an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ India has approved Pluvicto, the country's first radioligand therapy (RLT) for treating advanced prostate cancer.
- ❖ World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on 14 June to honour voluntary and unpaid blood donors and raise awareness about the need for safe blood donation.
  - The theme of the year 2026 is "One Drop of Humanity. Give Blood. Save Lives."
- ❖ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2026 is observed every year on 15 June to raise awareness about elder abuse, including physical, psychological and financial abuse, and neglect of older persons.
  - The theme of the year 2026 is "Beyond Awareness: Making Elder Abuse Prevention Work."
- ❖ The first Made-in-India C-295 military transport aircraft successfully completed its maiden test flight in Vadodara, Gujarat.
  - The C-295 is a medium tactical military transport aircraft used for transporting troops, cargo, and carrying out humanitarian and disaster-relief missions.
- ❖ India has granted full legal recognition to E100 (100% ethanol blend) fuel, paving the way for the launch of Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs).
  - Ethanol blending is the process of mixing ethanol with petrol to produce a cleaner and more sustainable fuel.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Slovakia, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country since its independence in 1993.
  - India and Slovakia established diplomatic relations in 1993 and held discussions on trade, investment, innovation, automobile manufacturing, railway development, and defence cooperation.

- ❖ INS Agray, the fifth Arnala-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), was delivered to the Indian Navy by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata.
- ❖ India's first 8-lane tunnel beneath the Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan, is set to open on 20 June 2026 as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway project.
  - It forms part of the Delhi-Vadodara section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, launched in 2019.
- ❖ The UK government announced plans to ban social media access for children under 16 and introduce stricter online safety measures, with the rules expected to come into force in Spring 2027.
- ❖ The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is observed every year on 16 June to recognise the contribution of migrant workers who send money to support their families.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Remittances for Rural Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Employment."
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has fixed 15 years as the minimum age for social media use, becoming the first Arab country to introduce such a rule.
  - Children below 15 years cannot create, use or operate personal social media accounts and cannot post, comment, share content or join public groups.
- ❖ The traditional Tripura Sarinda, a stringed musical instrument of Tripura's indigenous communities known for its unique craftsmanship and cultural significance, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
  - With this recognition, Tripura now has four GI-tagged products—Tripura Queen Pineapple, Risa, Pachra (Rignai) and Tripura Sarinda.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the Order of the White Double Cross, First Class, the highest State honour of Slovakia.
- ❖ World Crocodile Day is observed every year on 17 June to create awareness about the conservation of crocodiles and other crocodylian species.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Legacy in Every Scale."
- ❖ Bangladesh has approved the construction of the Padma Barrage Project on the Padma River in the Rajbari district.
  - The Padma River is the Bangladesh stretch of the Ganga River, and the project aims to reduce water scarcity in the drought-prone southwest region of the country.
- ❖ India's first drone-based mail and parcel transmission service has been launched by the Department of Posts in Himachal Pradesh between Mandi Head Post Office and Rehardhar Branch Post Office to provide faster postal connectivity in remote hilly areas.

- ❖ The Regional Horticultural Research Station (RHRS), Lam Farm, Guntur of Andhra Pradesh released two new chilli varieties, LCA-625 and LCA-643.
- ❖ The Indian Navy's INAS 330 ("The Harpoons") was decommissioned after 55 years of service, retiring its Sea King Mk 42B helicopters to be replaced by MH-60R Seahawks.
- ❖ The International Day for Countering Hate Speech is observed every year on 18 June to raise awareness about the dangers of hate speech and promote actions to prevent and counter it worldwide.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "The Power of Partnerships in Countering Hate Speech."
- ❖ International Picnic Day is observed every year on 18 June to celebrate outdoor dining and the enjoyment of food, nature, and social gatherings.
- ❖ Indian Railways approved over ₹1,200 crore for communication upgrades and expansion of Kavach 4.0 (Automatic Train Protection-ATP), including deployment on 548 km of routes in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka at a cost of over ₹300 crore.
  - Kavach prevents Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD), head-on collisions, rear-end collisions, and over speeding of trains.
- ❖ Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI became India's 130th unicorn after raising \$234 million in a Series B funding round.
- ❖ Assam has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags for four traditional products to protect cultural heritage and support rural economy in 2026.
  - The four GI-tagged products are Karbi Anglong Handloom Products, Assam Bihu Pepa, Assam Bamboo Crafts, and Deuri Handloom Products.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad will set up India's first Centre of Design Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (CODENE).
  - It aims to develop advanced engineering talent for India's nuclear sector, supporting the national goal of 100 GW nuclear power by 2047.
- ❖ Jio Platforms entered the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Global Top 20 Patent Rankings under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system, becoming the only Indian technology company in the list.
  - The company recorded a jump of around 320 ranks, driven by a sharp rise in global patent filings.
- ❖ World Hydrography Day is observed every year on 21 June to promote awareness about hydrography and its role in safe navigation and ocean knowledge.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Transforming how ocean data is shared".
- ❖ Vivek Aggarwal has become the first Indian to be appointed as Vice-President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for the term July 2026–June 2027.

- ❖ India launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services at Galeries Lafayette Nice Massena in Nice, France.
  - UPI is now operational in nine countries: Singapore, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Mauritius, Nepal, Bhutan, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.
- ❖ SpaceX became the world's 5th most valuable company in 2026 with a \$2.78 trillion valuation, overtaking Amazon at \$2.66 trillion after a sharp rise in share price.
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched "Reelathon 2026" in India to spread awareness on cybersecurity and the prevention of financial fraud among digital users.
  - The initiative aims to prevent cyber fraud such as phishing, investment scams, digital arrests, illegal loan apps, and fake job offers across India.
- ❖ The Indian Army contingent will participate in Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2026, a multinational peacekeeping exercise in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ❖ Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June to honour fathers and father figures, recognising their role as caregivers, providers, teachers and guides in families and society, and in 2026 it falls on June 21.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Police has designated Helpline 1091 as the official helpline of the Singappen Special Force (SSF).
  - Helpline 1091 has been integrated with the 112 Emergency Response System (ERS) for faster communication and emergency response.
- ❖ The Government of India has officially revived the Qadian–Beas New Railway Line Project in Punjab's Majha region after nearly a century of delays.
  - The project will connect Qadian (Gurdaspur district) and Beas (Amritsar district) under the Socially Desirable Rail Connectivity Programme.
- ❖ United Nations (UN) Public Service Day is observed on 23 June every year to recognise the value and importance of public service in development.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Transforming Public Institutions: Advancing innovation, Participation, and Inclusion".
- ❖ International Widows' Day is observed on 23 June every year to highlight the challenges and rights of widows globally.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Invisible Women, Invisible Problems".
- ❖ Bhojarajan, MLA from Ooty, has been identified as the eldest member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
  - He is 79 years old and is a first-time MLA, according to Assembly records.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard inducted its first indigenous Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV) hovercraft, designated H-561, which was built at Chowgule & Company Private Limited shipyard, Goa.

- ❖ Mishmi Takins (*Budorcas taxicolor*) were spotted in North Sikkim's Tingda Reserve Forest in the Bakuchen area; the species is a goat-antelope found in the Eastern Himalayas and belongs to the family Bovidae.
  - Mishmi Takin is listed as Vulnerable in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of India's first commercial-scale Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project in Lakhanpur, Jharsuguda district, Odisha.
  - The project is being developed by Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited (BCGCL), a joint venture of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Coal India Limited (CIL).
- ❖ National Reading Day is observed every year on 19 June in India to promote a culture of reading and literacy.
  - The day is celebrated in memory of Puthuvayil Narayana Panicker (P.N. Panicker), an Indian librarian and social reformer from Kerala, India, who is regarded as the pioneer of the library and literacy movement in the country.
- ❖ The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed every year on 19 June.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Against Children: Safeguarding Futures and Empowering Caregivers."
- ❖ World Music Day is celebrated every year on 21 June to promote music and encourage free public performances by both professional and amateur musicians, and it is also known as Fête de la Musique (Festival of Music) or Make Music Day.
- ❖ Indian-origin physicist Jainendra K. Jain was awarded the Wolf Prize in Physics 2026, becoming the first Indian-origin scientist to receive this honour.
- ❖ Chennai-based 'The ePlane Company' has unveiled India's first full-scale electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft prototype, named e200X (PT-01).
  - The e200X is designed for multiple uses, including air taxi services, cargo transport, and air ambulance operations.
- ❖ Cristiano Ronaldo became the first football player in history to score in six FIFA World Cups, having scored in the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2026 editions.
- ❖ China's LineShine supercomputer, ranked first in the TOP500 list (June 2026 edition), is a CPU-only system with a custom processor architecture and about 13.79 million cores.
- ❖ International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, also known as World Drug Day, is observed every year on 26 June to strengthen action and cooperation against drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking.

- The theme for the year 2026 is "World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses".
- ❖ International Day in Support of Victims of Torture is observed every year on 26 June to support victims of torture and promote the eradication of torture worldwide.
  - The theme for 2026 is "Torture: a crime against humanity."
- ❖ World Refrigeration Day is observed every year on 26 June to raise awareness about the importance of refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump technologies.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Cool Intelligence."
- ❖ The Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, began commercial operations and is operated by Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd, making it India's only private-sector primary gold mine since Independence.
  - It is located in the Rayalaseema region and started trial production in May 2026.
- ❖ Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise living on St Helena Island, is the world's oldest living land animal and has been officially recognised as a Guinness World Records ICON.
- ❖ Indian jurist Prof. Bimal N. Patel has been elected as a Judge of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for the 2026–2035 term.
- ❖ Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) President Harsh Vardhan was honoured at the UK House of Lords with the Global Prestige Award in London for his contributions to sports development.
- ❖ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been assigned to build a new Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ International Day of Women in Diplomacy is observed every year on 24 June to recognise the contributions of women in diplomacy and international decision-making.
- ❖ Day of the Seafarer is observed every year on 25 June to recognise the contribution of seafarers to global trade and the global economy.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Carrying world trade. Carrying the risks."
- ❖ Ambubachi Mela 2026 is held at Kamakhya Temple, Assam, which is a monsoon festival linked to the spiritual rest of Maa Kamakhya and the Sun's transition from Gemini to Cancer with astrological significance.
- ❖ The Northeast's largest organic spice processing plant was inaugurated at Bhoirymbong, Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Police Grade-II Constable J. Gowthami has qualified for the women's 800 metres event at the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Nagoya, Japan.

- She won the gold medal in the women's 800 m at the 65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The Meghalaya State Zoo recorded the first successful birth of a Stump-tailed Macaque (*Macaca arctoides*) in June 2026.
  - The Stump-tailed Macaque is a primate species found in South and Southeast Asia and is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ International Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day is observed every year on 27 June to recognize the contribution of MSMEs to economic growth and sustainable development.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development."
- ❖ Khurasani Imli of Mandu, a historic town in Madhya Pradesh, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
  - Khurasani Imli is the fruit of the Baobab tree (*Adansonia digitata*), which is native to Africa and is believed to have been brought to Mandu about 600 years ago by Afghan and Arab traders.
- ❖ Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana, became the first university in India to receive four International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications simultaneously, awarded by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
  - The certifications cover academic administration, environmental management, energy management, and food safety management systems.
- ❖ Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) became India's 28th Nav ratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and operates major petroleum refineries at Manali (Chennai) and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Harmanpreet Kaur, India's women's cricket team captain, became the first cricketer in the world (men's and women's) to play 200 Twenty20 International (T20I) matches during the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 against South Africa in Manchester.
- ❖ The Indian Women's Hockey Team won the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Nations Cup 2026 by defeating New Zealand 2-0 in the final.
- ❖ The BRICS Heads of Space Agencies (HOSA) Meeting 2026 was held in Bengaluru under India's chairmanship.
  - The meeting focused on remote sensing satellite systems for disaster management and climate change monitoring.
- ❖ The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has completed the installation of the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) at Unit-5 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet reappointed Tushar Mehta as the Solicitor General of India for a three-year term beginning 1 July 2026.

- The Solicitor General of India is the second-highest law officer of the Union Government after the Attorney General of India.
- ❖ UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer resigned as Labour Party leader, while continuing in office until a successor is elected.
- ❖ Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first-ever commercial export of dried whole egg powder of 22.6 metric tonnes from Balangir, Odisha, to Austria.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has appointed K. Venkata Narayana as its Special Representative in New Delhi.
  - The Special Representative coordinates with Union Ministries and follows up on infrastructure, finance, development projects, and policy matters concerning the State.
- ❖ Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister inaugurated the restored Muzhiyan Kulam, a 400-year-old, 2-acre historic pond in Pooranankuppam, Puducherry, believed to date back to the Pallava period.
  - The pond has traditionally served as a source of drinking water and irrigation for the village and contains four natural spring-fed wells.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Kasanoi Erappila Thittam update**

- ❖ A recent study found that Tuberculosis (TB) death rates declined significantly in six districts of Tamil Nadu after the launch of Kasanoi Erappila Thittam (TN-KET) in April 2022.
- ❖ TN-KET (Tamil Nadu – TB Death-Free Project) is India’s first State-wide and State-specific programme focused on reducing TB-related deaths.
- ❖ The initiative was implemented in Dharmapuri, Karur, Villupuram, Kanniyakumari, Cuddalore, and Salem, where TB death rates showed sustained decline over two years.
- ❖ The programme identifies TB patients with severe illness early and provides comprehensive clinical assessment, inpatient care, and management of co-morbidities such as diabetes, anaemia, and liver disease.
- ❖ The study was conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) and the Tamil Nadu TB Cell.
- ❖ Following implementation, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall reduction of nearly 2.5% in TB deaths, highlighting the effectiveness of early diagnosis and specialised care.

### **Chennai Airport Traffic**

- ❖ Chennai International Airport has become the sixth-busiest airport in India, falling behind Kolkata Airport in passenger traffic.
- ❖ In April 2026, Chennai handled 17.3 lakh passengers, while Kolkata handled 17.6 lakh passengers.
- ❖ Over the last decade, Chennai's passenger traffic grew by 24%, compared to 105% in Bengaluru and 100% in Hyderabad.
- ❖ Airport authorities expect passenger traffic to increase after the completion of the new integrated terminal building and airside infrastructure works.
- ❖ The proposed Parandur Greenfield Airport is expected to improve connectivity, attract investment and create employment opportunities in Tamil Nadu.

### **Tamil Nadu on Maternal and Child Health**

- ❖ The latest National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023-24 shows continued improvement in maternal and child healthcare indicators in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ 99.7% of births took place in health institutions, and 87.6% of mothers received at least four antenatal care visits.
- ❖ About 90% of children aged 12–23 months were fully vaccinated, while rotavirus vaccine coverage increased from 66.4% to 87.4%.
- ❖ Child nutrition indicators improved, with stunting declining from 25.0% to 20.7% and severe wasting from 5.5% to 4.9%.
- ❖ However, only 54.8% of newborns were breastfed within one hour of birth, and 55.6% of infants below six months were exclusively breastfed.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to 1.7 children per woman, compared to 1.8 in NFHS-5.

### **Tamil Nadu's Healthcare Model**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's healthcare system is being highlighted as a model for accessible, affordable, and technology-driven healthcare delivery in India.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) was established in 1994 to streamline the procurement, storage, and distribution of essential medicines in government hospitals.
- ❖ TNMSC improved medicine availability, reduced wastage, and became a national model for public-sector drug procurement.
- ❖ The State has developed a strong healthcare ecosystem by combining public health infrastructure with private sector participation.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu places special emphasis on diagnostic services at the primary healthcare level, helping in early disease detection and treatment.
- ❖ Investments of nearly ₹360 crore in district hospitals and local microbiology laboratories have improved healthcare access in rural and remote areas.
- ❖ The State is expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital health records, telemedicine, and remote diagnostics to improve healthcare delivery.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu promotes data-driven healthcare governance through digital public health systems.
- ❖ The State is known for its medical colleges and government healthcare institutions, attracting patients from across India.
- ❖ Continuous training and upskilling of healthcare workers in diagnostics, AI-assisted systems, and digital health technologies remain a key focus.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu also has the potential to become a major manufacturing hub for medical devices and equipment by leveraging its strengths in electronics, precision engineering, and automobile components.

### **Tamil Nadu Ministers' Inter-se Seniority List**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government released the inter-se seniority list of Ministers following the induction of new Ministers and allocation of portfolios in the State Cabinet.
- ❖ The seniority list was issued after the Cabinet expansion led by the Chief Minister.
- ❖ The Chief Minister is placed first in the seniority list, followed by Ministers N. Anand, Aadhav Arjuna, K.G. Arunraj, K.A. Sengottaiyan, P. Venkataramanan, R. Nirmalkumar, Rajmohan, T.K. Prabhu, and S. Keerthana.
- ❖ These Ministers belong to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) and were sworn in on 10 May 2026.
- ❖ Four Ministers from alliance partners were placed in the 11th to 14th positions in the seniority list.

### **Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission Meeting**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission held a meeting to discuss the ward delimitation exercise and the number of representatives to be elected in local bodies.
- ❖ The meeting was chaired by State Election Commissioner B. Jothi Nirmalasamy in Chennai.
- ❖ B. Jothi Nirmalasamy also serves as the head of the Tamil Nadu Delimitation Commission.

- ❖ Officials discussed determining the number of members to be elected in 11 District Panchayats, 40 Panchayat Unions, and 177 Village Panchayats.
- ❖ The Commission reviewed the ward delimitation process for the concerned local bodies.
- ❖ It was decided to finalise the number of elected representatives and recommend them to the State Government.

### **Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 Extension**

- ❖ The Centre and Tamil Nadu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the extended implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 in the State.
- ❖ The agreement was signed after the Union Cabinet approved the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) till December 2028.
- ❖ Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and ensure safe drinking water to rural households.
- ❖ Under the first phase of the mission, 46.71 lakh household tap connections were provided in Tamil Nadu, benefiting about 1.86 crore people.
- ❖ The State is implementing 45 Multi Village Schemes (MVSs), retrofitting works in 56 Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSSs), and 21,258 Single Village Schemes (SVSSs).
- ❖ Following the MoU, Tamil Nadu will initially receive ₹2,177.27 crore from the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) for JJM 2.0 implementation.

### **Pumped Storage Hydro Power Plant - Kadamparai**

- ❖ The Kadamparai Pumped Storage Hydro Power Plant is Tamil Nadu's only pumped storage facility with reversible two-way turbines.
- ❖ The plant is currently operating at only 25% of its capacity due to ageing equipment and recurring faults.
- ❖ The plant was commissioned in 1987 and was Tamil Nadu's first pumped storage hydroelectric project.
- ❖ It can operate in both generator mode and motor (pump) mode.
- ❖ The plant has an installed capacity of 400 Megawatts (MW) with four units of 100 MW each, but currently only one unit is generating power while the other three are under repair.
- ❖ During periods of surplus solar and wind power, the plant pumps water from the Lower Aliyar Dam to the Kadamparai Dam, storing energy for future use.

### **Madras HC on Radhapuram Poll**

- ❖ The Madras High Court declared that M. Appavu had won the 2016 Radhapuram Assembly election, setting aside the election of I. S. Inbadurai after nearly ten years.
- ❖ In the 2016 election, Inbadurai of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam was originally declared the winner by a margin of 49 votes.
- ❖ The Madras High Court later ruled that Appavu had actually won the election by a margin of 104 votes.
- ❖ The court directed the Tamil Nadu Assembly Secretary to substitute Appavu's name as the MLA for the Radhapuram constituency for the period 2016–2021.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India noted that two Assembly elections had already been held since 2016 and closed the matter on 21 May 2026, stating that further proceedings would serve no practical purpose.
- ❖ The court observed that removing Inbadurai from office retrospectively or recovering the salary paid to him between 2016 and 2021 was not feasible, as he had already served his term as MLA.

### **E-Prisons Release Module**

- ❖ The Madras High Court directed the Tamil Nadu government to implement the E-Prisons Early Release Processing Module for automating the premature release process of eligible prisoners.
- ❖ The module was developed by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and will be implemented on a pilot basis at Puzhal Central Prison, Chennai.
- ❖ It identifies prisoners eligible for premature release and initiates the process four months in advance.
- ❖ The system provides regular updates to prisoners and their families through SMS and WhatsApp.
- ❖ It enables paperless digital processing of files, helping reduce delays and improve transparency in prison administration.

### **NGT Jurisdiction on Aquaculture**

- ❖ The Madras High Court ruled that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has no jurisdiction over issues related to coastal aquaculture units governed by the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) Act, 2005.
- ❖ The court held that the CAA Act, 2005, is not one of the laws listed under the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act, 2010.

- ❖ It set aside a 2022 NGT order concerning shrimp hatcheries operating along the Tamil Nadu coast.
- ❖ The High Court will examine whether coastal aquaculture units must comply with Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notifications issued by the Centre.
- ❖ The matter will be registered as a suo motu writ petition before the High Court.
- ❖ The case arose from petitions filed by shrimp hatcheries in Vettuvankeni and Marakkanam challenging the NGT's directions.

### **Surplus Cauvery Flow**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu received more Cauvery water than its allocated share during the water year 2025–26.
- ❖ During June 2025–May 2026, Tamil Nadu received about 330 thousand million cubic feet (TMC ft.) of Cauvery water at Biligundulu, against the allocated 177.25 TMC ft.
- ❖ The allocation was fixed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award of 2007 and modified by the Supreme Court (SC) in 2018.
- ❖ This is the seventh time Tamil Nadu has received more than its prescribed share, and the second time annual inflow crossed 300 TMC ft.
- ❖ Around 292 TMC ft. of water was received between June and October 2025, which is an uncommon occurrence.
- ❖ Kuruvai paddy cultivation has begun in the Cauvery delta, covering about 2.1 lakh acres as of June 1, 2026.
- ❖ Lower reservoir storage levels and a possible Southwest Monsoon rainfall shortfall may affect water availability during the current water year (2026–27).

### **Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government released the 'Vetri Tamizhagam Vision Document' during its first Cabinet meeting.
- ❖ The document contains 436 vision statements based on the government's election commitments.
- ❖ It is organised into 10 pillars and 54 sub-pillars, inspired by themes from the Tirukkural.
- ❖ Key focus areas include education, healthcare, agriculture, women's welfare, youth development, infrastructure, and transparent governance.
- ❖ The vision statements have been assigned to 35 government departments for implementation.

- ❖ Each department will prepare a detailed action plan with specific targets and timelines.
- ❖ The initiative aims to guide policy implementation and development planning across Tamil Nadu.

### **TNSDMA 2026 Review**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA) in Chennai to review preparedness for the southwest monsoon, which commenced in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast below-normal rainfall in Tamil Nadu during the 2026 southwest monsoon season.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA) is the nodal body responsible for disaster management, preparedness, mitigation, response, planning, and recovery in the State.
- ❖ It was first constituted in 2003 under the Department of Revenue through Government Order (G.O.) No. 323, headed by the Chief Secretary.
- ❖ The Disaster Management Act, 2005, mandated the creation of State Disaster Management Authorities with the Chief Minister as Chairperson.
- ❖ Accordingly, Tamil Nadu reconstituted TNSDMA in 2008 through Government Order (G.O.) No. 564, with the Chief Minister as its Chairperson, to monitor disaster management activities.
- ❖ TNSDMA consists of a chairperson and 10 members, and a Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force (TNDRF) has been planned on the lines of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

### **Cool Roof Coating SOP**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu launched India's first State-level Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Cool Roof Coating Application on 5 June 2026, marking World Environment Day.
- ❖ The SOP provides a 12-stage standard framework for applying cool roof coatings in homes, schools, and public buildings.
- ❖ It aims to reduce urban heat, lower rooftop heat absorption, and improve indoor thermal comfort.
- ❖ The SOP was developed by the Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company (TNGCC) and the Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission (TNCCM).
- ❖ It was prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and SEEDS Technical Services.

- ❖ Cool roof coatings are reflective materials applied on rooftops to reduce building temperatures and energy consumption.

### **Tamil Nadu State's Own Tax Revenue 2025–26**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded a modest growth of 6.8% in the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) during 2025–26, despite registering 10.83% economic growth.
- ❖ SOTR increased from ₹1.80 lakh crore in 2024–25 to about ₹1.92 lakh crore in 2025–26.
- ❖ SOTR mainly consists of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) and Taxes on Sales and Trade.
- ❖ SGST collections rose marginally from ₹70,886.77 crore to ₹72,008.47 crore, a growth of 1.6%.
- ❖ The slow growth is attributed to the GST (Goods and Services Tax) rate rationalisation implemented in September 2024.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu had also recorded a gap between economic growth and tax revenue growth in 2024–25, when the economy grew 11.19%, but SOTR grew only 7.74%.

### **Govt Hospitals in Organ Donation**

- ❖ Government hospitals contributed 64% of deceased organ donors in Tamil Nadu as of April 2026.
- ❖ The number of deceased organ donors increased from 156 in 2022 to 268 in 2024 and remained high at 266 in 2025.
- ❖ Government hospitals' share in the donor pool rose from 33% in 2022 to 64% in 2026.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has 13 government transplant hospitals, 159 private transplant hospitals, and 35 Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORCs).
- ❖ Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORCs) contributed about 15% of organ donors and helped expand the donor pool.
- ❖ The Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) coordinates organ donation and transplantation activities in the State.

### **Online Land Registration System**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched an online system for registering select documents, allowing people to complete the process from anywhere at any time.
- ❖ The Registration Department has introduced a 24×7 online registration facility to simplify document registration and reduce the need to visit Sub-Registrar offices.

- ❖ The facility covers the first sale of plots, the first sale of flats, the sale deeds of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, and mortgage and discharge deeds related to bank loans.
- ❖ Once approved by the Sub-Registrar, digitally signed documents can be downloaded through the portal and are also shared via WhatsApp on the registered mobile number.
- ❖ Aadhaar verification of executants, claimants, and witnesses through fingerprint or iris authentication is mandatory, and the department plans to make the online system compulsory in the future.

### **Singappen Special Force**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Singappen Special Force on 9 June 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ The special force was created to help prevent crimes against women and children.
- ❖ The State Government allocated ₹354 crore for the first phase of the initiative.
- ❖ The force will be headed by Inspector-General of Police (IGP) K. Bhavaneeswari.
- ❖ In the second phase, 2,500 new posts will be created, and the force will receive vehicles, drones, and modern technological equipment.
- ❖ The force is expected to support crime prevention, allowing all-women police stations to focus more on investigations and legal action against offenders.

### **SEZ Export Record**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu–Andaman & Nicobar Islands–Puducherry (TAP) region Special Economic Zones (SEZs) achieved their highest-ever exports in 2025–26.
- ❖ Export earnings rose to a record ₹2.2 lakh crore, higher than ₹2.03 lakh crore in 2024–25.
- ❖ The TAP region has 62 functional SEZs, including the Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ).
- ❖ Total investment reached ₹82,844 crore, including ₹8,677.9 crore in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- ❖ Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) accounted for 88.4% of total exports.
- ❖ India has 280 Special Economic Zones (SEZs), with Tamil Nadu leading with 51, followed by Telangana and Maharashtra (38 each).

### **Heat Action Plan 2026**

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu released the State Heat Action Plan (HAP) 2026 to reduce heat-induced illnesses and strengthen heatwave preparedness across the State.
- ❖ The plan provides a roadmap for heat-risk forecasting, preparedness, and decision-making through multi-sectoral collaboration.
- ❖ It uses the Steadman Heat Index, which combines air temperature and relative humidity to assess human-perceived heat stress.
- ❖ The plan includes hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and heat-risk assessments at village panchayat and urban ward levels.
- ❖ It was prepared by the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA) and the Tamil Nadu Disaster Risk Reduction Agency (TNDRRA).
- ❖ The HAP recommends measures for heatwave management, hospital preparedness, and rapid response to heat-related illnesses.

### **First Pink Police Booth - Ponneri**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first Pink Police Booth was inaugurated at Ponneri under the Avadi Police Commissionerate.
- ❖ It will cover an area comprising 15 village panchayats.
- ❖ The Pink Police Booth was launched to make girls and women feel safer and to improve security in the locality.
- ❖ The booth will also have a library with books on ethics and competitive examinations, including preparation materials for TNPSC.
- ❖ The initiative aims to provide a women-friendly space where girl students can approach the police without fear associated with visiting a traditional police station.

### **White Paper on State Finances 2026**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government released a White Paper on State Finances (2021–22 to 2025–26), presenting the State's fiscal position and debt status.
- ❖ The White Paper stated that Tamil Nadu's total outstanding debt is ₹13.18 lakh crore, and each child born in the State carries an estimated debt burden of ₹1.28 lakh.
- ❖ The White Paper stated that the headline debt of ₹10 lakh crore represents only the Tamil Nadu government's direct borrowings, including market loans, institutional debt, and public account liabilities.

- ❖ It does not include the debts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), statutory boards, and special purpose vehicles (SPVs) that are guaranteed or supported by the State government.
- ❖ The power sector is the largest source of PSU debt, accounting for ₹2.47 lakh crore, with major liabilities from the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDCCL) and Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio stood at 28.3% in 2025–26, while the revenue deficit reached ₹78,324 crore, the highest in absolute terms.
- ❖ Interest payments in 2025–26 amounted to ₹67,050 crore, consuming about 23% of total revenue receipts and exceeding the State's annual capital expenditure by nearly one-third.
- ❖ The White Paper highlighted a declining working-age population and projected that elderly people will constitute 18.2% of Tamil Nadu's population by 2031.
- ❖ It stressed the need for revenue mobilisation, expenditure management, Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) reforms, and effective debt management to improve the State's fiscal position.

### **CM Breakfast Scheme Expansion**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced that the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme will be extended to students of Classes VI to VIII from 17 September 2026.
- ❖ The expansion will be implemented on the birth anniversary of social reformer E. V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar.
- ❖ The scheme currently provides breakfast to students of Classes I to V in government and government-aided schools.
- ❖ The decision was taken after a review meeting of the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, chaired by the Chief Minister.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide nutritious morning meals and improve the well-being of school children in Tamil Nadu.

### **TN government's White Paper 2026**

- ❖ The State Govt released the White Paper on the Fiscal Management of Tamil Nadu: An Examination of Public Finances 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ❖ It puts Tamil Nadu's debt at ₹13.18 lakh crore, including the combined debt of public sector undertakings (PSUs).

- ❖ It says the headline debt figure of ₹10 lakh crore in 2025-26 captures only the State's direct borrowings through market loans, institutional debt, and public account liabilities; it does not capture the borrowings of the PSUs, statutory boards, and special purpose vehicles that the State guarantees or implicitly supports.
- ❖ The power sector remains the single largest source of debt among the PSUs, accounting for ₹2.47 lakh crore.
- ❖ The outstanding debt of eight government transport undertakings stands at ₹43,865 crore, while that of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation is ₹27,181 crore, the report said.
- ❖ Together, the outstanding debt of these PSUs stands at 3.18 lakh crore.
- ❖ The report said the State's outstanding debt had almost doubled in the five years since April 1, 2021, rising from ₹5.13 lakh crore to nearly ₹10 lakh crore as of March 31, 2026. The debt-to-GSDP ratio has remained elevated throughout the post-COVID period and stood at 28.3% in 2025-26.
- ❖ Interest payments consume approximately 23% of the total revenue receipts and nearly 35% of the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR).
- ❖ At ₹67,050 crore in 2025-26, the annual interest bill exceeds the annual capital expenditure by approximately one-third.
- ❖ The 2025-26 pre-actuals projects a revenue deficit of ₹78,324 crore, equivalent to 2.2% of the GSDP, the highest recorded in absolute terms and even exceeding the COVID year level.
- ❖ The State is borrowing to fund current consumption rather than investment.
- ❖ More than one-third of every rupee the State raises through its own taxation effort goes directly to servicing past debt.
- ❖ The White Paper said mining revenue was among the "most striking examples of stagnation" in the non-tax income of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The State had "substantial deposits" of granite, limestone, sand, quartz, vermiculite, and a range of other minor minerals.
- ❖ Royalties, rents, and seigniorage fees on minor minerals contributed to mining revenue.
- ❖ The SOTR-to-GSDP ratio has declined from 5.93% in 2021-22 to 5.45% in 2025-26. Committed expenditure, including salaries, pensions, and interest payments, is among the highest, compared with the peer States (Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka).
- ❖ It rose from ₹1.25 lakh crore to ₹1.89 lakh crore, increasing its share of revenue receipts from about 60% to 64%.

- ❖ At 11.8%, the capital expenditure-to-total expenditure ratio is the lowest among the peer States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, has been amended eight times so far to defer achieving a zero-revenue deficit and limiting the fiscal deficit to 3%.
- ❖ The report also highlighted the growing elderly population, which is projected to account for 18.2% of the State's total population by 2031.
- ❖ According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's population projections, Tamil Nadu will have the highest proportion of elderly people among the major States by 2031.
- ❖ It refers to Tamil Nadu having the second largest GSDP size (next to Maharashtra) with a diversified industrial and services economy, apart from a large formal-sector tax base.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) constitutes about two-thirds of the total revenue receipts (TRR).
- ❖ The State's "own-tax revenue is drawn from five principal sources".
- ❖ It pertained to commercial taxes (Goods and Services Tax), Value Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum, State Excise and VAT on liquor, Stamps & Registration, Motor Vehicle Tax, and other taxes.
- ❖ Within the broader commercial taxes, GST accounted for around 53%; VAT on liquor, 28%; and VAT on petroleum products, 19%.
- ❖ The trend of growth in Tamil Nadu's consumption of diesel and petrol is well below the real GSDP [Gross State Domestic Product] growth rate of around 7% per annum in the last 10 years.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's consumption of petrol and diesel was reaching a point of stagnation.
- ❖ The document attributed the development to improving fuel efficiency, the growing adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and electric vehicles, and the shift of freight traffic patterns.

### **17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - First Session**

- ❖ The first session of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly began with the Governor's Address.
- ❖ After a gap of three years, the Governor's Address was read completely in the House without any disruption.
- ❖ For the first time, the National Anthem was played both at the beginning and at the end of the Governor's Address.
- ❖ The session started with the State song Tamil Thaaai Vazhthu, followed by the National Anthem.

- ❖ This marked a departure from the earlier convention of playing the National Anthem only at the end of the Governor's Address.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu announced that it would conduct a Social Justice Survey after the Union government completes the caste enumeration exercise.
- ❖ The State government will formulate a comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Policy to protect natural resources and maintain ecological balance.
- ❖ The government will continue efforts to shift education from the Concurrent List to the State List.
- ❖ The government reaffirmed its commitment to the two-language policy of Tamil and English.
- ❖ It recalled the 1968 Assembly resolution led by C. N. Annadurai that rejected the three-language formula and supported only Tamil and English in schools.
- ❖ The Assembly urged the Union government to permit the use of Tamil for pleadings in the Madras High Court and its Madurai Bench.
- ❖ The State also requested the establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai.
- ❖ The government declared that it would strongly oppose the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has set a target of becoming a \$1.5-trillion economy by 2036.
- ❖ The government will continue archaeological research at Keeladi, Adichanallur, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai, Sivagalai, Azhagankulam, Arikkamedu, Saluvankuppam and Poempuhar.
- ❖ The government will seek UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the Keeladi and Adichanallur archaeological sites.

### **Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) Rules**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has notified rules and procedures for implementing the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) on 18 June 2026.
- ❖ TAPS applies to government employees appointed on a regular pay scale on or after 1 April 2003, who were covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and completed at least 10 years of service.
- ❖ Eligible employees retiring on or after 1 January 2026 can receive an interim monthly payout until TAPS becomes fully operational.
- ❖ The interim payout will be 30% of the last drawn basic pay or ₹10,000, whichever is higher, plus 60% Dearness Relief (DR).

- ❖ In case of the death of a retired employee, an eligible family member will receive 60% of the interim monthly payout until the regular family pension is fixed under TAPS.
- ❖ The scheme provides two opt-out stages—Stage I (Immediate Opt-Out) and Stage II (Post-Notification Further Opt-Out); choosing Stage I is final and permanently ends all future TAPS benefits.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme broadly follows the principles of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) while continuing employee and government contributions until TAPS is fully implemented.

### **Tamil Nadu Business Advisory Committee**

- ❖ A new Business Advisory Committee (BAC) has been constituted for the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) is a statutory committee that plans and regulates the daily agenda and legislative business of the House.
- ❖ It allocates time for discussions on government Bills, debates, Budget proceedings and other official business.
- ❖ The Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly serves as the ex officio Chairperson of the committee.
- ❖ The committee usually has 10 to 17 members nominated by the Speaker and reflects the proportional strength of political parties in the House.
- ❖ Its members generally include the Chief Minister (Leader of the House), Leader of the Opposition, party whips and senior members of recognised political parties.
- ❖ The BAC decides the calendar of Assembly sittings, including the schedule for the Governor's Address and time allotted for Budget discussions.

### **Mekedatu Dam Proposal**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on 19 June 2026 against the Karnataka government's Mekedatu dam proposal.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu sought the constitution of a new tribunal on the Mekedatu project, describing it as “inadmissible” and “impermissible.”
- ❖ The resolution objected to Karnataka's unilateral proposal to construct a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu.
- ❖ It stated that the project violates the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (5 February 2007) and the Supreme Court of India judgment (16 February 2018).
- ❖ The resolution urged the Union Government not to grant any technical or environmental clearance to the Mekedatu project.

- ❖ It noted that the Cauvery basin is a deficit basin and that its available water has already been apportioned among the basin States.
- ❖ The House requested the Centre to constitute a new Tribunal under Section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, and urged the Central Water Commission not to process or approve Karnataka's Detailed Project Report (DPR).

### **17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly - Panel of Chairpersons**

- ❖ The Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, J. C. D. Prabhakar, nominated six MLAs to the Panel of Chairpersons.
- ❖ The nominees are R. Vijay Saravanan (Thanjavur), V. Sathyabama (Tiruppur North), Madhar Badharudeen (Madurai Central), Katharbatcha Muthuramalingam (Ramanathapuram), Thalavai Sundaram (Kanniyakumari), and Tharagai Cuthbert (Colachel).
- ❖ The panel includes three MLAs from Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), one from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), one from All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), and one from the Indian National Congress (INC).
- ❖ The Panel of Chairpersons presides over the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

### **Five Renewable Energy Zones in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government approved five dedicated Renewable Energy Zones under the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL).
- ❖ The five zonal headquarters are located in Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, and Madurai.
- ❖ The zones were created to manage wind and solar power projects, including project approvals, coordination, and power evacuation infrastructure.
- ❖ The new system also supports repowering of wind farms, which means replacing or upgrading old wind turbines with new ones.
- ❖ The zones will support Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) 2.0, PM Rooftop Solar, and floating solar projects.
- ❖ Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) store electricity for later use, and floating solar projects are installed on reservoirs and lakes.

### **Tiruvallur Ammonia Gas Leak Probe**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government formed a three-member committee to investigate the ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing factory near Periyapalayam in Tiruvallur district.

- ❖ The leak occurred at St Peter's Paul Seafoods Exports Private Limited, killing at least two people and affecting more than 60 workers.
- ❖ The committee comprises S. Ananth (Director of Industrial Safety and Health); M. Saravanakumar (Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board - TNPCB); and the Additional Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.
- ❖ Ammonia is a colourless, pungent-smelling, toxic and corrosive gas widely used in refrigeration, seafood processing and fertiliser industries.
- ❖ Exposure to high levels of ammonia can cause eye irritation, breathing difficulty, chest pain, burns and bleeding from the nose or mouth.

### **Tamilnadu Economy 2026**

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu's white paper is a comprehensive analysis of the State's financial status and economic conditions.
- ❖ It states that "the current levels of fiscal deficit are unsustainable primarily because a substantial portion of the fiscal deficit is simply to fund the revenue deficit".
- ❖ It means the State is simply borrowing to fund current consumption rather than to create assets.
- ❖ To be sure, for every rupee borrowed, about 60 paise goes to current consumption.
- ❖ The substantial expenditure for health and education is under the revenue account.
- ❖ In an economy, the government needs to raise resources to pay for the provision of public goods and services, build social and physical infrastructures needed for growth and protect the vulnerable from the market forces.
- ❖ An individual pays ₹38,000 in all taxes to the State and the Union government and receives about ₹54,500 worth of subsidies and services.
- ❖ The gap is typically funded by borrowing.
- ❖ The consolidated debt of each individual is then around ₹1.29 lakh, and the cumulative debt is about 28% of the State's income.
- ❖ The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt, but the collapse of the revenue generation itself.
- ❖ While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was one of the few States that predominantly sustained itself on its own revenue for its expenditure, about 70% of its expenditure from its own tax.

- ❖ It was in sharp contrast to States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which largely rely on the Centre's transfer.
- ❖ With the introduction of the GST in 2017, States have lost their sovereignty on taxation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu suffered the most.
- ❖ The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to GSDP, which was 7.92% in 2011-12, has been steadily declining, and was down to 5.93% in 2021-22 and further down to 5.45% in 2025-26.
- ❖ While the white paper clearly shows that the decline is spread across all major tax heads — GST, petroleum VAT, State excise, stamp duty and motor vehicle tax, the GST alone accounts for about 53% total tax revenue.
- ❖ Despite having the second-largest economy with a GSDP of ₹ 35.29 lakh crore, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka (₹87,256 crore) and Gujarat (₹80,823 crore).
- ❖ Besides the systemic corruption and inefficiencies in tax collection, the predominance of the service sector also contributed to the decline in GST collection.
- ❖ The power sector alone carries ₹2.47 lakh crore of debt.
- ❖ Besides the steady decline in its own tax collection, the State has also been increasingly losing its share in the Union transfer.
- ❖ For instance, Union tax devolution and grants-in-aid together constituted about 34.95% of Total Revenue Receipts in 2021-22, and it declined to 25.5% in 2025-26.
- ❖ The State's share in total transfer was 5.305% in the 12th Finance Commission period, but it came down to 4.969% in the 13th Finance Commission period and fell down to 4.023% for the 16th Commission.
- ❖ This declining share is due to the formula adopted by the successive Finance Commissions.
- ❖ The high weightage to the per capita income distance, combined with population, has disadvantages.
- ❖ The State has become a victim of its success.
- ❖ Even the weight GDP contribution introduced in the 16th Finance Commission did not help, as the formula was inverted.
- ❖ Neither the criteria of area nor forest cover could help.
- ❖ On the other hand, the shareable divisible pool has been shrinking thanks to the arbitrary cess and surcharges imposed by the Union government that take away the legitimate resources of the States.

- ❖ In that sense, the State is a victim of both vertical and horizontal distribution.
- ❖ With declining Union transfers and the erosion of its own revenue base, Tamil Nadu's government size, measured by total expenditure as a share of GSDP, has shrunk, weakening the State's fiscal capacity.
- ❖ As the white paper shows, about 64% of every rupee of revenue receipts in 2025-26 is pre-committed on the account of salaries, pensions and interest.
- ❖ With the inflexible non-discretionary obligations of 23% per cent, this pre-committed expenditure goes up to 87%, leaving little room for any additional expenditure or any new schemes.
- ❖ This potential debt trap also comes at a time when the State is witnessing faster demographic change.
- ❖ It's ageing faster than any other large State in India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's median age is 34.25 years — nearly 9.5 years older than Uttar Pradesh, and its old-age dependency ratio is projected to increase from 20.6 in 2021 to 32.7 by 2036.
- ❖ This has two implications.
- ❖ The ability to repay the debt is limited, the paper argues, because a shrinking working-age population means a shrinking tax base.
- ❖ It also means the need for higher social expenditure as the share of the elderly population goes up.
- ❖ The interaction between a rising debt stock and a shrinking working-age population can create conditions for a debt trap, which demographers call the 'scissors effect' — the widening gap between revenue capacity and expenditure obligations.
- ❖ However, Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption.
- ❖ The pressing problem is the model of inclusive growth itself.
- ❖ The real challenge thus is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiating fiscal space with the Union.

### **Madras High Court - Section 34 C**

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court struck down Section 34-C of the Registration Act as unconstitutional.
- ❖ The Court held that a Sub-Registrar cannot decide property ownership (title) disputes, as this power belongs only to civil courts.
- ❖ It ruled that the provision violated Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 300A (Right to Property) of the Constitution.

- ❖ Section 34-C allowed Sub-Registrars to refuse registration of certain ancestral properties if the required documents were not produced.
- ❖ The Court also directed the Registration Department to prepare and update comprehensive encumbrance records across Tamil Nadu.

### **Rasimanal Dam Proposal**

- ❖ A proposal has been made to construct the Rasimanal Dam in Krishnagiri district as an alternative to the Mekedatu project.
- ❖ The proposed dam would have a storage capacity of 66 thousand million cubic feet (TMC ft) and be located upstream of the Mettur Dam.
- ❖ The project is expected to generate 360 megawatts (MW) of hydroelectric power.
- ❖ In 1961, Chief Minister K. Kamaraj laid the foundation stone for a dam at Rasimanal.
- ❖ The proposal suggests a joint venture between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to meet water and power needs.

### **Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the 'Thaaimaaman Thanga Mothira Thittam', under which a one-gram gold ring will be provided to babies born in government hospitals.
- ❖ The scheme applies to newborn babies whose parents are permanent residents of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The State government has allocated ₹755.83 crore annually for the implementation of the scheme.
- ❖ The scheme will be formally launched on 15 September 2026, the birth anniversary of C. N. Annadurai.
- ❖ The objective of the scheme is to honour newborn children and their mothers, while promoting maternal and child welfare in the State.

### **Tamil Nadu Electricity Department White Paper**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government released a White Paper on the State electricity department, highlighting its financial position and infrastructure status.
- ❖ The White Paper stated that the combined debt of Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC), Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL), Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) and Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) stands at ₹2.47 lakh crore.

- ❖ It reported shortages in power generation capacity, ageing transmission and distribution infrastructure, and a 45% manpower shortage in the electricity department.
- ❖ The report proposed modernising power infrastructure, renovating substations and recruiting 15,000 employees to improve electricity services.
- ❖ The State Government also announced that there will be no electricity tariff revision in 2026.

### **Chennai Intelligent Transport System**

- ❖ The Central Government approved over ₹500 crore for the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) project in the Chennai Metropolitan Area.
- ❖ The project has a total estimated cost of ₹645.59 crore and is funded through a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the Central Government.
- ❖ The project includes adaptive traffic signal control at 165 junctions, traffic incident detection systems at 58 locations, variable message signs at 17 locations, and red-light violation detection systems at 50 junctions.
- ❖ It is being implemented by Chennai Smart City Limited with support from multiple agencies, and a pilot project began at 17 locations in January 2024.
- ❖ As of 6 March 2026, junction improvement works were completed at 104 of the 165 identified junctions, and the system is expected to become fully operational by August 2026.

### **Chief Minister's Police Medals 2026**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has announced the Chief Minister's Police Medals for outstanding work in eradicating drug production and preventing illicit drug trafficking in the State since 2023.
- ❖ The medals will be presented by the Chief Minister on Independence Day (15 August 2026).
- ❖ A total of 15 police personnel, from the ranks of Superintendent of Police (SP) to Head Constable and Special Sub-Inspector, have been selected for the award.
- ❖ Some of the awardees are Vivekananda Shukla (Superintendent of Police, Cuddalore), G. Chandesh (Superintendent of Police, Ramanathapuram), S. Lakshmanan (Additional Superintendent of Police, Narcotics Intelligence Bureau–Crime Investigation Department (NIB-CID)), V. Manoj Kumar (Assistant Commissioner of Police, Anti-Narcotic Intelligence Unit (ANIU)), and M. Kannan (Inspector of Police).

- ❖ The awards recognise outstanding service in detecting drug offences, seizing narcotic substances, and taking action against illegal drug trafficking networks.

### **Surge in Election Petitions in Madras High Court**

- ❖ The Madras High Court has received about 55 election petitions challenging the results of the 2026 Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assembly elections, the highest number in recent years.
- ❖ The petitions have been filed under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the Madras High Court (Election Petitions) Rules, 1967.
- ❖ The petitions challenge the election of several leaders, including Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, Leader of the Opposition, Udhayanidhi Stalin, and some Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- ❖ Election petitions must be filed within 45 days from the date of the declaration of election results by a candidate or a voter from the concerned constituency.
- ❖ The number of petitions increased from 12 (2011) to 23 (2016), 13 (2021), and about 55 (2026), making it the highest since the formation of the Madras High Court Election Bench.

### **Anti-Drug Run 2026**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister flagged off and participated in the 'Anti-Drug Run 2026' in Chennai on 26 June 2026 to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- ❖ The event was organised by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) to promote a healthy lifestyle and create awareness against drug abuse.
- ❖ The Chief Minister ran with the participants and signed the anti-drug pledge with the message "Sports-ah edu, drugs-ah vidu" (Take up sports, give up drugs).
- ❖ Several eminent sportspersons, including Sharath Kamal, Joshna Chinappa, V. Baskaran, and Anitha Pauldurai, also participated in the event.

### **New Cauvery Basin Guidelines**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has opposed the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti's new guidelines for approving water resource projects in the Cauvery basin.
- ❖ The new guidelines require States to submit a Preliminary Report (PR), Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR), or concept note before preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- ❖ The Central Water Commission (CWC) will examine the proposal and send its technical note to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

- ❖ If the CWMA does not give its views within 6 months, its approval will be treated as presumed concurrence under the new guidelines.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has objected to the guidelines, stating that the Cauvery is a water-deficit basin and raising concerns over the presumed concurrence provision.
- ❖ The guidelines are based on the 2017 project appraisal norms and the 2007 Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) final award.

### **Madras High Court on BC (Muslim) Status for Converts**

- ❖ The Madras High Court has ruled that a person who converts to Islam cannot claim Backwards Class (Muslim) status and declared the Tamil Nadu Government's 2024 Government Order (G.O.) unconstitutional.
- ❖ The court held that a person who converts to Islam becomes only a Muslim and cannot claim membership in a Muslim community or sect based on birth.
- ❖ It struck down the 2024 Government Order (G.O.), which allowed certain converts to receive Backwards Class (Muslim) reservation benefits.
- ❖ The GO ordered that a convert to Islam from Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities or Scheduled Castes may be treated as BC (Muslim) for availing the benefit of reservation and on such conversion, (s)he may be issued with community certificate as belonging to one of the notified seven sects.
- ❖ However, the State said, a convert from a forward community to Islam would not get the BC (Muslim) tag.
- ❖ Only those who already enjoyed the benefit of reservation in their original religion would not lose it on account of conversion to Islam.
- ❖ Hence, Social balance will not be affected by this.
- ❖ The judgment stated that recognised Muslim communities such as Lebbai, Rowther, and Marakkayar are birth-based communities and cannot be acquired through conversion.
- ❖ The court said a Government Order cannot override or nullify earlier court judgments.
- ❖ The doctrine of separation of powers is an entrenched principle in the Constitution and that it is an essential constituent of rule of law.
- ❖ This principle applies to the final judgments of the courts.
- ❖ The legislature cannot declare any decision of a court of law to be void or of no effect.
- ❖ The ruling was delivered while hearing a petition seeking a Muslim Lebbai community certificate after conversion to Islam.

### **Farmer Official Link 2.0 Scheme**

- ❖ The Cauvery Delta Farmers' Federation has urged the Tamil Nadu Government to continue the Farmer Official Link 2.0 (Uzhavar Aluvalar Thodarbu 2.0) scheme and not withdraw it.
- ❖ The scheme allows one government official to coordinate services for farmers growing multiple crops, reducing the need for visits by officials from different departments.
- ❖ It aims to ensure faster crop inspection, technical guidance, and timely subsidy payments for farmers.
- ❖ According to the federation, 76% of Tamil Nadu's agricultural area is under crops, and 24% is under horticulture crops across 17,163 revenue villages.
- ❖ The federation stated that continuing the scheme will reduce delays in providing subsidies and improve services for farmers.

### **Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign 2026**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign in Chennai as part of the nationwide drive.
- ❖ The State aims to administer oral polio vaccine to 52.91 lakh children below 5 years at 43,051 vaccination centres.
- ❖ Transit vaccination booths have been set up at bus terminals, railway stations, airports, toll plazas, and check posts to cover children on the move.
- ❖ The campaign also covers children of migrant workers residing in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ More than 2 lakh health workers, anganwadi workers, teachers, and volunteers have been deployed for the drive.

## **NATIONAL**

### **National Health Accounts 2022-23**

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India 2022-23.
- ❖ Government health expenditure increased from ₹1.30 lakh crore (2013-14) to ₹3.85 lakh crore (2022-23).
- ❖ Government health spending as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose from 1.15% to 1.43% during the same period.
- ❖ Per capita government health expenditure increased from ₹1,042 to ₹2,786.

- ❖ Out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure by households declined from 64.2% to 43.4% of total health expenditure.
- ❖ Government spending on primary healthcare increased from ₹0.5 lakh crore to ₹1.4 lakh crore between 2013-14 and 2022-23.

### **India's Fertility Rate**

- ❖ The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2024 was recently released by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined to 1.9 children per woman in 2024, falling below the replacement level of 2.1.
- ❖ The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) improved to 24 deaths per 1,000 live births, while the Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) declined to 28 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- ❖ Around 95.4% of all births in India took place in hospitals and other health institutions, indicating improved access to maternal and child healthcare services.
- ❖ The working-age population (15–59 years) increased to 66.4%, while the elderly population aged 60 years and above reached 9.7% of the total population.

### **SC on Right to Trauma Care**

- ❖ The Supreme Court held that the right to trauma care is an integral part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Supreme Court directed all States and Union Territories to operationalise the 112-emergency helpline and establish a Good Samaritan grievance redressal system within three months.
- ❖ It allowed the Centre to issue a national medical rescue protocol for trauma cases and asked States to implement it within three months.
- ❖ All public and private ambulances must comply with AIS-125 standards and be integrated with GPS-based tracking linked to the 112 helpline.
- ❖ States and Union Territories were directed to establish trauma registries and link them to a coordinated national trauma registry.
- ❖ The Court also ordered awareness campaigns on Good Samaritan protections, the PM RAHAT cashless treatment scheme, and emergency response services.

### **APAC Data Centre Leader**

- ❖ India ranked second in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region in operational data centre capacity as of May 2026.

- ❖ India has 1.6 Gigawatts (GW) of operational data centre capacity and 3.1 GW under construction and planning.
- ❖ Mumbai is India's largest data centre hub and is expected to cross 1 GW operational capacity by the end of 2026.
- ❖ Hyderabad ranked as the top secondary data centre market in APAC and 9th globally.
- ❖ Growth is driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption, cloud computing expansion, and rising enterprise demand.

### **India's Rooftop Solar Mission**

- ❖ India's clean-energy housing expansion is being driven by the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, which aims to install rooftop solar systems in 1 crore households by March 2027.
- ❖ The scheme launched on 13 February 2024, and it is the world's largest domestic rooftop solar programme.
- ❖ The scheme provides subsidies of up to 40% for residential rooftop solar installations.
- ❖ Households can receive subsidy support ranging from ₹30,000 to ₹78,000, depending on system capacity.
- ❖ The scheme is expected to add 30 Gigawatts (GW) of rooftop solar capacity and generate 1,000 Billion Units (BU) of electricity over 25 years.
- ❖ It is projected to reduce 720 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and create around 17 lakh direct jobs.

### **Unified Emergency Helpline 112**

- ❖ The Supreme Court directed all States and Union Territories to integrate all emergency and ambulance helplines into a single number 112 within three months.
- ❖ The Court stated that the Right to Trauma Care is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- ❖ All emergency numbers, such as 100, 101, 108, 102, 1033, 1091, etc., will be merged into 112.
- ❖ States and UTs must complete full technical and operational integration within three months.
- ❖ A Good Samaritan grievance redressal system will also be established to support trauma care services.

### **Semiconductor Roadmap 2035**

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released Future of India's Semiconductor Industry, India's first comprehensive 10-year semiconductor roadmap.
- ❖ The roadmap aims to build a \$120–150 billion domestic semiconductor value chain by 2035.
- ❖ India currently imports 90–95% of its semiconductor requirements.
- ❖ India's semiconductor market is projected to reach \$200 billion by 2035.
- ❖ The roadmap focuses on OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test), mature logic nodes, and compound semiconductors.
- ❖ India accounts for 20% of the global semiconductor design workforce and aims to capture 10–13% of the global semiconductor market by 2035.

### **National Seed Reserve**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture announced a National Seed Reserve of 1.74 lakh quintals for the Kharif 2026 season.
- ❖ The reserve has been created to ensure timely seed availability during delayed monsoons, dry spells, or resowing requirements.
- ❖ India requires about 173 lakh quintals of seeds for Kharif 2026, while 192 lakh quintals are available.
- ❖ The available seed stock is about 11% higher than the national requirement.
- ❖ More than 9.76 crore Farmer IDs have been created to improve the delivery of government scheme benefits.

### **India's Maritime Digital Reforms**

- ❖ The Union Government launched the Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) 2024–25 and four digital maritime platforms during the 37th Foundation Day of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Maharashtra.
- ❖ LPPI, developed under the Sagar Aankalan framework, benchmarks port performance using indicators such as vessel turnaround time, berth idle time, and pre-berthing waiting time.
- ❖ The four digital initiatives are the e-Navik Grievance Redressal Module, e-Samudra Ship Registration Module, Medical Practitioner Module, and Unified Ship Recycling Portal.
- ❖ These initiatives were developed by the Directorate General of Shipping to promote paperless, digital, and efficient maritime governance.
- ❖ The reforms aim to improve port efficiency, simplify ship registration, strengthen seafarer welfare, and support India's maritime sector growth.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Revision of IIP

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2011–12 to 2022–23 to better reflect the current industrial structure and economic activities.
- ❖ This is the 10th revision of the All-India IIP; the first IIP was compiled with 1937 as the base year.
- ❖ The revision was carried out under the Technical Advisory Committee for IIP (TAC-IIP).
- ❖ New sectors such as Gas Supply, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Waste Management have been added to improve coverage.
- ❖ The product basket has been expanded from 839 items to 1,042 products (463 item groups).
- ❖ Mining classification has been expanded to cover Fuel Minerals, Metallic Minerals (including Rare Earth Minerals), and Non-Metallic Minerals (including Minor Minerals), providing more detailed industrial data.
- ❖ The Electricity Index now separately tracks electricity generation from renewable sources (solar, wind, hydro, etc.) and non-renewable sources (coal, gas, nuclear, etc.), providing a clearer picture of India's energy production mix.

## Prime Minister Research Chair Scheme 2026

- ❖ The Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education (MoE) opened applications for the Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026.
- ❖ PMRC is a national talent-repatriation scheme to attract Indian-origin researchers working in leading foreign universities, laboratories, and technology industries.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education (MoE).
- ❖ It aims to bring back world-class scientists and technology experts to strengthen research and innovation in India.
- ❖ The scheme has three categories: Young Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, and Research Chairs.

## Chenab–Beas Link Project

- ❖ The Central Government approved the Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel Project in May 2026 in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project involves an 8.7-km tunnel to divert surplus water from the Chenab basin to the Beas River system and has an estimated cost of ₹2,352 crore.

- ❖ Phase I includes a 19-metre-high barrage on the Chandra River near Koksar village in the Lahaul Valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project will be implemented by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and is expected to support about 4,000 Megawatts (MW) of additional hydropower generation.
- ❖ The Chenab River is one of the western rivers of the Indus River System governed by the Indus Waters Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960.

### **18th Railway Zone - South Coast Railway**

- ❖ Indian Railways unveiled a new 18-star logo after the South Coast Railway (SCoR) became the country's 18th railway zone on 1 June 2026.
- ❖ South Coast Railway was created with its headquarters at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The new zone comprises the Guntakal, Guntur, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam railway divisions.
- ❖ It was formed from parts of the existing East Coast Railway and South Central Railway zones.
- ❖ The South Coast Railway headquarters is being developed at Visakhapatnam at an estimated cost of ₹183.58 crore.

### **90 Crore - ABHA Milestone**

- ❖ The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) crossed the milestone of 90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) on 30 May 2026.
- ❖ ABHA is a unique digital health ID that enables secure storage and sharing of health records with patient consent.
- ❖ The number of ABHAs increased from over 14 crores in 2021 to 90 crores in 2026.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh leads with over 15 crore ABHAs, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra with over 7 crore each.
- ❖ Women account for 49.75% of all ABHA holders, reflecting growing participation in India's digital health ecosystem.

### **Expansion of Ethanol Fuel Network**

- ❖ India has announced a phased expansion of ethanol fuel infrastructure with 500 flex-fuel retail pumps by 2026 and 5,000 outlets by 2027.
- ❖ India achieved its E20 (20% Ethanol Blended Petrol) target in 2025, ahead of the planned 2030 deadline.

- ❖ Flex-fuel vehicles can run on different petrol-ethanol blends, including E20 and E85 (85% ethanol and 15% petrol).
- ❖ The first phase of the rollout will be implemented in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed standards for E85, E100 (100% ethanol), and B100 (100% biodiesel) fuels.
- ❖ Ethanol blending helps reduce crude oil imports, lower carbon emissions, and support the biofuel sector.

### **Khet Bachao Abhiyan**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the Khet Bachao Abhiyan nationwide on 1 June 2026 from Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The campaign will be conducted across India from 1 June to 30 June 2026 to promote soil health and sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ It focuses on reducing excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and encouraging scientific farming practices.
- ❖ The campaign promotes Soil Health Cards (SHC), soil testing, balanced nutrient management, natural farming, and water conservation.
- ❖ It creates awareness about schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), crop insurance, and farm mechanisation programmes.
- ❖ Scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), agricultural universities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) will provide technical guidance to farmers.
- ❖ The campaign is based on the theme “Save the Soil, Save Farming, Save Farmers.”

### **Digital Patient Feedback System**

- ❖ The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) launched a nationwide Centralized Digital Patient Feedback System across all hospitals and dispensaries.
- ❖ The system is an omnichannel digital grievance and quality-assurance platform for collecting patient feedback in real time.
- ❖ It is integrated with the ESIC Health Information System – Dhanwantri Module for automated feedback collection.
- ❖ Feedback is collected through SMS (Short Message Service) links and QR (Quick Response) codes available in hospitals.

- ❖ Patients authenticate using the Insured Person (IP) number and One-Time Password (OTP) verification.
- ❖ Hospital services such as cleanliness, staff behaviour, and medicine availability are rated by patients, and low ratings are automatically flagged for action.

### **India's Semiconductor Vision 2035**

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the report "Future of India's Semiconductor Industry", outlining India's Semiconductor Vision 2035.
- ❖ India aims to build a USD 120–150 billion semiconductor value chain by 2035.
- ❖ The vision targets 35–50% chip self-sufficiency and 10–13% share of the global semiconductor market by 2035.
- ❖ The strategy is based on the 5P framework: Pioneering, Policy & Investment, Production, People, and Partnership.
- ❖ Key focus areas include Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips, Silicon Carbide (SiC), Gallium Nitride (GaN), advanced packaging, and quantum technologies.

### **India's Solar Market Growth**

- ❖ India became the world's second-largest solar growth market in 2025, surpassing the United States in annual solar capacity additions.
- ❖ India's installed solar power capacity increased from 2.8 Gigawatts (GW) in 2014 to over 155 GW in 2025.
- ❖ The country recorded a growth of about 5,370% in solar capacity during this period.
- ❖ India has crossed 50% non-fossil fuel-based installed electricity capacity.
- ❖ Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, more than 40 lakh households have adopted solar power.

### **District Domestic Product Guidelines 2026**

- ❖ The National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), released the Uniform Guideline for Compilation of District Domestic Product (DDP) Estimates with base year 2022–23.
- ❖ The guideline provides a uniform framework for estimating Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP), Net District Domestic Product (NDDP), and district-level Per Capita Income.
- ❖ It aims to ensure consistency, comparability, and methodological standardisation of district-level economic statistics across States and Union Territories.

- ❖ The guideline primarily recommends a bottom-up approach using district-level data, with top-down methods where data gaps exist.
- ❖ Currently, 26 States/UTs compile DDP estimates, and MoSPI is working to bring all States/UTs under a common framework.

### **73<sup>rd</sup> NEC Plenary Meeting**

- ❖ The 73rd Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council (NEC) outlined a multi-sectoral development strategy for the North Eastern Region aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- ❖ Eight high-level task forces submitted action plans covering sectors such as investment, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism, sports, and handicrafts.
- ❖ Around 6,500 previously unbanked villages were integrated into the banking system, raising UPI adoption to nearly 90% in the region.
- ❖ The Rising North East Investment Summit secured investment commitments worth ₹4.5 lakh crore.
- ❖ The North Eastern Council (NEC) is a statutory body established under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971, functioning under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

### **7th Regional Meteorological Centre - Jammu**

- ❖ India's 7th Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) was inaugurated at Jammu.
- ❖ The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) will serve Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It will provide district-level forecasts, mountain weather forecasts, tourist advisories and disaster warnings.
- ❖ The centre will issue early warnings for flash floods, cloudbursts, avalanches, landslides, thunderstorms and heavy snowfall.
- ❖ It marks a restructuring of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) regional forecasting network.
- ❖ A new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) is also proposed to be established in Lucknow.

### **Viksit Vibrant Village Program 2026**

- ❖ The first phase of the Viksit Vibrant Village Program (VVVP) 2026 was launched to strengthen youth engagement in border villages.

- ❖ The programme is implemented by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) under the Department of Youth Affairs.
- ❖ Phase I covers 43 border villages in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, with 250 volunteers participating.
- ❖ The seven-day programme focuses on border awareness, cultural exchange, governance, village development and national integration.
- ❖ It is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

### **Draft AI Rules for Courts**

- ❖ The Supreme Court AI Committee released draft regulations for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in courts.
- ❖ The draft rules prohibit AI from determining judicial outcomes, sentencing, bail decisions, or witness credibility.
- ❖ AI systems can be used only in an assistive role for tasks such as case management, transcription, and translation.
- ❖ The rules require human oversight and prohibit the use of opaque or unexplainable AI systems in court processes.
- ❖ Public comments on the draft regulations can be submitted until 20 June 2026.

### **India's Largest LPG Supplier - United States**

- ❖ The United States of America (USA) became India's largest supplier of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in May 2026, replacing the Middle East as the leading source.
- ❖ The USA supplied more than 55% of India's LPG imports in May 2026.
- ❖ LPG is a mixture of propane and butane stored as a liquid under pressure.
- ❖ Supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz affected LPG exports from Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ India imported about 666,000 tonnes of LPG from the USA in May 2026.
- ❖ India also resumed LPG imports from Iran in March 2026 after a seven-year gap, making Iran the second-largest supplier in May 2026.

### **Price Stabilization Fund for Aviation Fuel**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved a one-time ₹10,000 crore support package to create a Price Stabilization Fund for Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

- ❖ The fund is a temporary government mechanism to stabilise Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for scheduled Indian airlines.
- ❖ It was created due to sharp global fuel price volatility after the West Asia crisis, which pushed ATF prices from about ₹60.50 per litre to ₹142 per litre.
- ❖ The fund provides financial support through Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to reduce sudden fuel cost shocks for airlines.
- ❖ It operates as a revolving mechanism where price differences are adjusted and recovered when fuel prices fall below benchmark levels.

### **Land Port Management System**

- ❖ The Union Home Minister will launch the Land Port Management System (LPMS) to digitise operations at India's land ports.
- ❖ LPMS is a unified digital platform for managing cargo, passenger and vehicle movement across international land borders.
- ❖ It provides services such as slot booking, online payments, cargo tracking and single-window clearances.
- ❖ The system will be integrated with the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE) and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).
- ❖ India's land ports facilitate cross-border trade and travel with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Pakistan.

### **India's Market Rank 2026**

- ❖ India slipped to the 7th position in global stock market capitalisation rankings after being overtaken by South Korea.
- ❖ The total market capitalisation of South Korean-listed companies reached \$5 trillion, compared to \$4.8 trillion for India.
- ❖ South Korea's rise was driven by a strong rally in artificial intelligence (AI)-related stocks.
- ❖ Earlier, Taiwan had also overtaken India in global market-cap rankings.
- ❖ India's stock market has declined by about 11% in 2026, while South Korea's KOSPI index has recorded strong gains.

### **KABIL Lithium Project**

- ❖ Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has secured five lithium blocks in Catamarca Province, Argentina, for deep exploration of lithium brine deposits.

- ❖ KABIL is a joint venture of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) under the Ministry of Mines.
- ❖ The blocks cover about 15,703 hectares in the Lithium Triangle region of Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.
- ❖ KABIL received environmental clearance from Argentina in April 2026 for exploration activities, including drilling and surveys.
- ❖ This is India's first government-led overseas lithium exploration and mining project.
- ❖ Commercial production from the blocks is expected to begin around 2029.

### **Longest-Serving Elected PM - Narendra Modi**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister on 10 June 2026.
- ❖ Modi completed 4,399 consecutive days in office since taking oath on 26 May 2014, surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru's record of 4,398 consecutive elected days.
- ❖ Nehru served continuously from 13 May 1952 to 27 May 1964 after the general elections; his 1947–1952 tenure was before electoral institutions were fully established.
- ❖ Modi is the first non-Congress Prime Minister to complete two consecutive full-majority terms and the 2<sup>nd</sup> after Nehru to win three consecutive Lok Sabha elections as the incumbent.
- ❖ In July 2025, Modi surpassed Indira Gandhi's uninterrupted tenure record of 4,077 days; she served continuously from 24 January 1966 to 24 March 1977.
- ❖ On 22 March 2026, Modi became India's longest-serving elected head of government, completing 8,931 days as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister combined, surpassing Pawan Kumar Chamling.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru remains India's longest-serving Prime Minister overall, with a total tenure of 6,131 days from 15 August 1947 to 27 May 1964.

### **Mega Leather Clusters**

- ❖ The Central Government is establishing Mega Leather, Footwear, and Accessories Clusters in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu with a total investment of about ₹898 crore.
- ❖ These clusters will be developed at Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Sitapur–Morena (Madhya Pradesh), Raigad (Maharashtra), and Ranipet (Tamil Nadu).

- ❖ The projects are being developed under the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) 2021–26.
- ❖ Mega Leather Clusters are industrial parks that provide common infrastructure, logistics facilities, and manufacturing support for the leather and footwear industries.
- ❖ Some clusters will also include Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for treating wastewater generated by leather processing units.

### **IMI-Resistant Mustard Hybrids**

- ❖ Indian farmers are set to begin large-scale cultivation of Imidazolinone-Resistant (IMI-Resistant) Mustard Hybrids during the 2026–27 rabi season.
- ❖ These mustard hybrids are resistant to imidazolinone (IMI) herbicides and help control the parasitic weed Orobanche (Phelipanche).
- ❖ They were developed through mutation breeding, not through Genetically Modified (GM) technology.
- ❖ The hybrids contain a change in the Acetolactate Synthase (ALS) enzyme, making them resistant to IMI herbicides.
- ❖ Farmers can spray IMI herbicides to kill weeds while leaving the mustard crop unharmed.

### **BIS Norms for Tea Bags**

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued standards for tea bags for the first time, banning the use of epichlorohydrin and chlorine bleaching.
- ❖ Epichlorohydrin is a paper-strengthening chemical classified as a potential carcinogen.
- ❖ Chlorine bleaching has been prohibited in the manufacture of tea bag paper.
- ❖ The new standards prescribe safety, quality, labelling, and traceability requirements for tea bags.
- ❖ The standards apply to tea bags made from filter paper, non-woven fabric, biodegradable materials, or other food-grade materials.
- ❖ India's tea bag market is estimated at around 500 million US dollars.

### **SC on Homemakers Domestic Work**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India held that the loss of domestic care provided by a homemaker is a separate and compensable head of damages in motor accident claims.

- ❖ A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh fixed the value of homemakers' domestic services at a minimum of ₹30,000 per month for compensation purposes.
- ❖ The Court recognised that unpaid domestic work, including childcare, elder care, cooking, cleaning, and household management, has measurable economic value.
- ❖ The ruling adds “loss of domestic care” as an additional ground for compensation beyond those recognised in the National Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Pranay Sethi judgment of 2017.

### **NFHS-6 findings**

- ❖ India’s latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) records gains in child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women’s internet use.
- ❖ But its preliminary fact sheet is also thinner than the last round, with 101 indicators compared with 131 in NFHS-5.
- ❖ Key indicators such as Anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel have been removed from the survey.
- ❖ The Union Health Ministry released the fact sheets of NFHS-6 on May 29, covering 2023-24.
- ❖ The survey recorded data from nearly 6.8 lakh households across every State and Union Territory except Manipur.
- ❖ The NFHS is commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It designates the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) to conduct the survey.
- ❖ Preliminary findings report clear gains on several measures, including mothers getting at least four antenatal check-ups, up about seven percentage points from NFHS-5, an increase in institutional births and women’s internet usage.
- ❖ It also points to declines in several metrics, such as exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months, down nearly eight percentage points, and the use of modern contraception, down to 52.7% from 56.4%.
- ❖ NFHS-4 in 2015-16 introduced district-level estimates and tablet-based digital interviewing for survey collection.
- ❖ NFHS-5 pushed the indicators further, including new topics, such as preschool education, disability, access to a toilet facility, death registration, bathing practices during menstruation and methods and reasons for abortion.
- ❖ It also extended blood pressure and blood sugar measurements from adults aged between 15 and 49 to all adults aged 15 and above. The survey measured 131 key indicators, up from 114 in NFHS-4.

- ❖ While the HIV testing component was dropped from NFHS-5, it retained questions on HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, prior testing, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual behaviour.
- ❖ In NFHS-6, biological HIV testing has been brought back as part of the clinical, anthropometric and biochemical testing schedule.
- ❖ The NFHS-6 fact sheet does not separately spell out whether all HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitude questions were retained.
- ❖ NFHS-6 also added new questions on direct benefit transfers, self-help group memberships, digital literacy and financial transactions.
- ❖ It also includes testing for Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C among women and men, as well as dried blood spot collection from children aged 4-5 for Hepatitis-B testing.
- ❖ But for the first time, the survey has also subtracted overall, showing a net reduction of 30 indicators in the preliminary results.
- ❖ Among the dropped indicators, the most notable ones, such as Anaemia, infant and child mortality, sex ratio at birth, clean cooking fuel use, and sanitation, have all appeared since at least NFHS-4.
- ❖ Between NFHS-4 in 2015-16 and NFHS-5 in 2019-21, anaemia rose across the board.
- ❖ Among children, anaemia prevalence went up from 58.6% to 67.1%, among women aged 15-49, it rose from 53.1% to 57%, and among pregnant women, anaemia rose from 50.4% to 52.2%.
- ❖ The rise in anaemia was near-universal across the country, with child anaemia increasing in 28 States and Union Territories, and in some cases by big leaps, from 35.7% to 68.4% in Assam and 19.3% to 46.4% in Mizoram.
- ❖ The three mortality indicators — neonatal, infant and under-five — have also been cut, but these will be tracked by the Sample Registration System, whose latest bulletin put infant mortality at 24 per 1,000 live births.
- ❖ The Registration System, however, does not carry district-level data and socio-economic breakdowns that are available in NFHS.
- ❖ The sex ratio of the total population and the sex ratio at birth, 929 females per 1,000 males in NFHS-5, are both absent, removing a standard signal of sex-selective practices.
- ❖ Four cancer-screening indicators, covering cervical, breast and oral cancer, introduced only in NFHS-5 are gone after a single round.
- ❖ NFHS-6 reported a drop in the number of women who have experienced spousal violence.
- ❖ Health insurance coverage rose the most in West Bengal, from 33.7% of households in NFHS-5 to 88.2% in NFHS-6.

- ❖ Women's internet use saw its largest increase in Andhra Pradesh, from 21% to 63.6%.
- ❖ Haryana recorded the steepest fall in exclusive breastfeeding among infants under six months, from 69.5% to 41.2%.
- ❖ The share of women classified as overweight or obese increased in every State.

### **CJP – Animal Symbols**

- ❖ The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) is not a political party.
- ❖ Even if it registers and asks for the cockroach as its election symbol, the Election Commission is unlikely to allow it.
- ❖ The EC allots election symbols to parties and independent candidates as per the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
- ❖ The candidates are allotted to the reserved symbol of their respective parties.
- ❖ The EC allots symbols from a list of “free symbols”.
- ❖ The independent candidates & unrecognised parties can request their choice of symbol from the list, but they are not assured of getting the same.
- ❖ The EC list states that certain symbols can be allotted freely except in certain states and Union Territories.
- ❖ Different recognised parties in different states can use the same symbol, since there's no rule against it, and they usually don't compete.
- ❖ Following representations from animal welfare activists in the 1990s, the EC stopped allotting animals as election symbols.
- ❖ Some parties that received animal symbols before the ban continue to retain them.
- ❖ The most prominent example is the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), which still uses the elephant as its reserved symbol.
- ❖ Sub-section 3 of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 lists what all are deemed to be corrupt practices for this Act.
- ❖ No symbol allotted under this Act to a candidate shall be deemed to be a religious symbol or a national symbol for this clause.

### **11th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting**

- ❖ The 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog was chaired by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ It focused on India's long-term development vision “Viksit Bharat @2047” with participation from all States and Union Territories.

- ❖ The meeting theme was “Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047”, focusing on balanced and inclusive growth across India.
- ❖ It promoted cooperative federalism, where the Centre and States work together for policy and development planning.
- ❖ Key focus areas included women empowerment, agriculture reforms, AI and technology development, and strengthening manufacturing and exports.
- ❖ It also stressed rapid grievance redressal and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to boost economic growth.

### **Community Seed Banks Standard - IS 20201:2026**

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released a new standard, IS 20201:2026, to improve the management of Community Seed Banks and protect indigenous crop varieties in India.
- ❖ Community Seed Banks help in collecting, storing, and exchanging traditional and local seed varieties.
- ❖ The standard aims to protect indigenous crop varieties that are important for food security and climate resilience.
- ❖ It promotes seeds with qualities like drought resistance, disease resistance, and better nutrition.
- ❖ The guidelines cover seed collection, storage, testing, documentation, and quality control processes.

### **SC on Right to Travel Abroad vs Speedy Trial**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that the fundamental right to travel abroad under Article 21 is not absolute and must be balanced with the victim's right to a speedy trial and the interests of criminal justice.
- ❖ The Court set aside an order of the Telangana High Court that had allowed an accused businessman to travel to the United States for medical treatment.
- ❖ It observed that the right to travel abroad is a part of personal liberty under Article 21, but is subject to the "procedure established by law."
- ❖ The Court said that when criminal proceedings are pending, the accused's right to travel abroad cannot be considered in isolation.
- ❖ Courts must balance individual liberty with the victim's right to a speedy trial and the effective administration of criminal justice.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also noted that comparable medical facilities were available in India, reducing the need for foreign travel in the case.

### **First Women NDA Batch**

- ❖ Nine women cadets from the first women batch of the National Defence Academy (NDA) were commissioned as officers in the Indian Army during the Passing Out Parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The parade marked the completion of the 158th Regular Course and 141st Technical Graduate Course.
- ❖ The Indian Military Academy (IMA) is located in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and was established in 1932 to train officers for the Indian Army.
- ❖ Additionally, five women cadets from the first NDA women batch were commissioned into the Indian Air Force at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, Hyderabad, Telangana.

### **Nutrition Challenge for Anaemia**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Gates Foundation launched a ₹1 crore Grand Challenge in New Delhi to develop iron-rich food products for controlling anaemia in India.
- ❖ The challenge targets adolescent girls and women of reproductive age, among whom nearly one in two (about 50%) are affected by anaemia in India.
- ❖ The programme offers grants of up to ₹1 crore for one-year prototype development and is open to researchers, startups, food companies and non-profit organisations.
- ❖ The proposed products should provide 4–5 mg of iron per serving and be affordable, scalable and regionally acceptable.
- ❖ Suggested product formats include fortified snacks, savoury bites, beverages, gummies and chewables.
- ❖ Fortification is the process of adding micronutrients to food products to improve their nutritional value.

### **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.

## **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.

## **SAPLING Dialogue 2026**

- ❖ The SAPLING (South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth) Dialogue 2026 concluded in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ The dialogue was jointly organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI – Ministry of Food Processing Industries) and the World Bank Group.
- ❖ The theme of the dialogue was "Unlocking Value: Advancing Food Processing for Employment Generation and Sustainable Growth in South Asia."
- ❖ SAPLING is a regional multi-stakeholder platform led by the World Bank Group to promote resilient, inclusive and nutrition-focused food systems in South Asia.
- ❖ A report titled "Assessment of the Level of Food Processing in India" was released, which stated that India's food processing level increased from about 10% in 2016 to nearly 17% in 2023.

## **50 Years of NIUA**

- ❖ The National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) marked its golden jubilee (50 years) at Vigyan Bhawan under the theme "Resilient Urban India @2047."
- ❖ The NIUA is a premier think tank under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and was established in 1976.
- ❖ The event launched the National Urban Learning Platform as the urban arm of iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training)-Mission Karmayogi for capacity building in urban governance.

- ❖ Two key publications were released: "Vision for a Resilient Urban India: Building Sustainable and Future-Ready Cities" and "Understanding the New Geography of India's Urbanisation: A Geospatial Approach."
- ❖ The event featured nine technical sessions on urban resilience, covering climate-responsive planning, housing, mobility, urban finance, circular economy and digital governance.

### **VB-G RAM-G Rural Initiative**

- ❖ The Central Government announced a ₹1.25 lakh crore Viksit Bharat–GRAMG (VB-G RAM-G) rural development initiative, which will come into effect from 1 July 2026.
- ❖ The initiative aims to boost rural employment, workers' security, and village development across India.
- ❖ The Government released an interim allocation of ₹95,692.31 crore and had already allocated ₹30,000 crore under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act).
- ❖ The funds will reach nearly 2.80 lakh Gram Panchayats to support employment generation and the creation of rural assets.
- ❖ States were directed to ensure 100% e-KYC (Electronic Know Your Customer), Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), face authentication, and timely wage payments.
- ❖ A National Rural Development Conference on the implementation of the initiative will be held.

### **Shishupal Judgment 2026**

- ❖ The Supreme Court, in *Shishupal @ Shish Ram vs Surjeet* (2026), recognised the independent economic value of unpaid domestic labour performed by homemakers in motor accident compensation cases.
- ❖ The Court held that household work performed by homemakers must not be treated as having no economic value merely because it does not generate formal monetary income.
- ❖ It fixed a minimum notional income of ₹30,000 per month for homemakers while determining compensation in motor accident death cases.
- ❖ The Court created a distinct head of compensation called “loss of domestic care” for cases involving the death of a homemaker.
- ❖ In such cases, tribunals and courts must award an additional amount of ₹30,000 per month under the head of “loss of domestic care”.

- ❖ The Court clarified that ₹30,000 is a minimum benchmark meant to offset the disadvantage faced by homemakers when compensation is based on conservatively determined notional income.
- ❖ It described the amount as a “stand-in” monthly income for homemakers who do not make a direct monetary contribution to the household.
- ❖ The Court directed that this amount should be enhanced by 10% on a cumulative basis every three years.
- ❖ If the homemaker was also employed and had proven earnings, compensation under “loss of domestic care” would be awarded in addition to the proven income.
- ❖ The judgment described homemakers as “nation builders” because they support families and contribute significantly to the development of the country's human capital.
- ❖ The Court observed that routine household activities such as cooking, cleaning, caregiving, and child-rearing support the paid workforce and enable economic productivity.
- ❖ It noted that these contributions are generally not reflected in conventional economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ The Bench stated that homemakers are the architects of India’s “human capital”, laying the foundation for the success of professionals and future generations.
- ❖ The ruling acknowledged that strict arithmetic calculations cannot fully measure the economic, social, and nation-building contributions made by homemakers.
- ❖ The judgment did not provide any specific mathematical or empirical basis for arriving at the ₹30,000 figure.
- ❖ The Court observed that motor accident compensation claims often remain involved in litigation for many years, delaying relief to victims and their families.
- ❖ It noted that the average pendency of such cases is about six years before Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (MACTs) and eight years before High Courts.
- ❖ The Court held that compensation appeals should not remain pending in High Courts for more than four years.
- ❖ It emphasised that adjournments should be granted only for genuine reasons and unnecessary delays must be avoided.
- ❖ The Court observed that prolonged delays defeat the welfare-oriented objective of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- ❖ It directed the Chief Justices of all High Courts to give priority to older motor accident compensation appeals and assess the need for additional Benches to ensure faster disposal of cases.

## **New Producer Price Index Framework**

- ❖ The Government of India released the Producer Price Index (PPI) data and a revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series.
- ❖ The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures changes in prices received by producers before goods and services reach final consumers.
- ❖ India's new framework includes Output PPI, Input PPI, and Service PPI.
- ❖ The revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI) uses 2022-23 as the base year, replacing the 2011-12 base year, and the item basket has increased from 697 to 957 items.
- ❖ The Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) initially covers seven sectors, including banking, insurance, railways, air passenger transport, and telecom services.
- ❖ The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI) will be published together for five years, after which the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) will be phased out.

## **New Uniform Code - Indian Army**

- ❖ The Indian Army released the 174-page Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet, marking the first comprehensive update of dress regulations in eight years.
- ❖ The new manual covers formal attire, ceremonial wear, winter working dress, grooming standards, and clothing options for women officers.
- ❖ The indigenous Bandi jacket has been introduced as formal civil attire for Indian Army officers.
- ❖ A new Battle Jacket has been introduced and will gradually replace the jersey-based winter uniform Dress 3A by June 2029.
- ❖ The manual removes several colonial-era terms, including “Royal”, from official usage.
- ❖ The new rules prohibit radical hairstyles, unauthorised beards, visible electronic gadgets, tattoos, and body piercings, with specific exemptions for Sikh soldiers.

## **NPCI - Drunix**

- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India has rolled out Drunix, its second major open-source contribution in the blockchain and tokenisation ecosystem after Falcon.
- ❖ Drunix is an enterprise-grade Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) platform designed to build and scale tokenisation platforms, digital asset ecosystems, and multi-organisation networks.

- ❖ Hyperledger Fabric is an open-source enterprise blockchain framework developed under the Linux Foundation.
- ❖ Blockchain technology stores data in linked blocks and creates an immutable ledger that helps in secure and transparent record-keeping and prevents unauthorised changes.
- ❖ Tokenisation converts ownership rights of real-world assets such as real estate, commodities, and financial instruments into digital tokens secured on blockchain networks.

### **Wind Turbine Supply Chain Management Portal**

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched WT-MARUT (Wind Turbine–Materials, Resources and Technology), India's first dedicated wind turbine supply chain management portal, at the Global Wind Day Conference in Goa.
- ❖ WT-MARUT is an indigenous, centralised digital platform designed to manage, track, and optimise India's domestic wind turbine manufacturing supply chain.
- ❖ The portal aims to strengthen domestic wind manufacturing capabilities and promote inclusion across the wind energy supply chain.
- ❖ It provides end-to-end supply chain visibility, supplier discovery, Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) compliance, and a collaboration platform for stakeholders in the wind sector.
- ❖ India has installed 56.1 Gigawatt (GW) of wind power capacity against an estimated potential of 1,164 GW, and the portal supports the national target of 100 GW of wind capacity by 2030.

### **Mandatory Prescription for Medicinal Syrups**

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has made a doctor's prescription mandatory for purchasing all medicinal syrups, including cough syrups, by removing the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules, 1945.
- ❖ The decision follows the deaths of more than 300 children in several countries since 2022 due to contamination of India-made cough syrups with ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG).
- ❖ Many over-the-counter cough syrups contain a combination of bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants, which may cause harmful effects, especially in children.
- ❖ The contamination incidents highlighted failures in manufacturing quality control, raw material testing, and regulatory oversight, rather than problems related to consumer access.

- ❖ India has around three dozen State drug controllers, but enforcement remains weak because of a shortage of inspectors and inadequate regulatory capacity.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) issued warnings in 2022 and 2023 regarding contaminated Indian cough syrups, raising concerns about India's pharmaceutical quality standards.

### **Extension of Water Dispute Tribunals**

- ❖ The Central Government extended the tenure of the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal and the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal by one year through gazette notifications issued on 15 June 2026.
- ❖ Inter-State Water Dispute Tribunals are constituted under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, to settle disputes over inter-state river waters.
- ❖ The Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal, constituted in April 1986, adjudicates water-sharing disputes among Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II), constituted in April 2004, deals with water-sharing disputes among Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana.
- ❖ Water is a State subject under Entry 17 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal dispute is linked to the sharing of Ravi-Beas waters between Punjab and Haryana.

### **India's Wind Energy Target 2035**

- ❖ India has set a target of 155 Gigawatt (GW) of installed wind energy capacity by 2035, with an interim target of 100 GW by 2030.
- ❖ India's installed wind energy capacity crossed 56.1 GW as of 15 June 2026, making it the world's fourth-largest wind energy market by installed capacity.
- ❖ India added 6.1 GW of new wind capacity in FY 2025-26, recording a 46% year-on-year increase.
- ❖ WT-MARUT (Wind Turbine Materials and Resources Utility Tracker) was launched on 15 June 2026 as India's first digital platform for managing the wind energy supply chain.
- ❖ The Global Wind Day Conference was held in Goa.

### **India's Defence Production 2026**

- ❖ India's annual defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in Financial Year 2025-26, the highest ever achieved by the country.

- ❖ The figure represents a 15.6% increase from ₹1.54 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, a 110% rise from ₹84,643 crore in FY 2020-21, and nearly a four-fold increase from ₹43,746 crore in FY 2013-14.
- ❖ Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) contributed about 76% of total production, while the private sector contributed 24%, its highest-ever share.
- ❖ The private sector's contribution reached around ₹42,000 crore in FY 2025-26, reflecting increased participation in defence manufacturing.
- ❖ India also achieved a record defence export value of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, supported by the growth in indigenous defence production.

### **US Indo-Pacific Command**

- ❖ United States (US) President Donald Trump renamed the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) back to the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM).
- ❖ The command was established in 1947 and is the oldest and largest among the eleven unified combatant commands of the United States military.
- ❖ Its area of responsibility extends from the west coast of the United States to India's western border, and this geographical jurisdiction remains unchanged.
- ❖ The command includes major formations such as the United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), United States Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), United States Forces Japan (USFJ) and United States Forces Korea (USFK).
- ❖ India and the United States have expanded defence cooperation through joint exercises such as Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), Yudh Abhyas and Red Flag, along with logistics and maritime cooperation.

### **Transit-Oriented Namoo Cities Plan**

- ❖ Four new greenfield “Namoo Cities” are proposed under the National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Plan 2041 to promote balanced urban development in India.
- ❖ The proposal was approved during the 42nd meeting of the NCR Planning Board under the National Capital Region Planning Board Act, 1985.
- ❖ One city each is planned in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan in India.
- ❖ These cities will be developed as Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD) along the Namoo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors.

- ❖ The project includes a ₹5,000 crore performance-linked incentive (including ₹1,000 crore grant) over five years for development.

### **Smart Warehousing System for Foodgrain Storage**

- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, launched a Smart Warehousing System for foodgrain storage to modernise public sector warehouses using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.
- ❖ The system is the world's largest deployment of AI and IoT-based technologies in public sector foodgrain warehousing.
- ❖ It includes FASTag and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) for gate automation and geo-tagged smart locks for access control.
- ❖ It is implemented in 215 warehouses of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and 150 warehouses of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), India.
- ❖ It aims to improve efficiency, reduce vehicle turnaround time, enhance monitoring, and provide real-time warehouse visibility.

### **75 Years of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951**

- ❖ June 18, 2026, marked the 75th anniversary of the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
- ❖ It was enacted in June 1951, only 15 months after the Constitution came into force, under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ The amendment made major changes to freedom of speech, equality provisions, and property rights.
- ❖ It inserted Article 15(4) to allow special provisions for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ❖ It added Articles 31A and 31B and created the Ninth Schedule to protect land reform laws, including zamindari abolition laws, from judicial review.
- ❖ It amended Article 19(1)(a) to permit reasonable restrictions on free speech in the interests of security of the State, public order, friendly relations with foreign states, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence.

### **Price Support Scheme 2026 - Pulses and Oilseeds Procurement**

- ❖ The Union Agriculture Ministry approved large-scale procurement of pulses and oilseeds under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.

- ❖ The procurement covers green gram, black gram, and groundnut for the Summer 2026 season and the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2025–26.
- ❖ Under the PSS, the Government of India intervenes in the market when prices fall below MSP to ensure price stability and protect farmers' income.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh received the highest allocation, covering moong, urad, and groundnut worth over ₹1,490 crore, followed by Gujarat, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu with state-specific procurement limits.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Government of India through agencies such as the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and other designated procurement bodies.

### **Supreme Court on Right to Walk on Footpaths**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India in *Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz v. P. Ayyappan & Ors.* held that the right to walk on safe and demarcated footpaths is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The judgment was delivered after a case involving the death of a 5-year-old child hit by a tanker while walking on a road with his father.
- ❖ The Court ruled that pedestrian safety and access to unobstructed footpaths take priority over motor vehicle movement on roads.
- ❖ It stated that the right to walk is an essential part of dignified living and is linked to the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21.
- ❖ The Court directed urban local bodies such as municipalities and development authorities to treat footpath protection as a constitutional duty.
- ❖ It also recommended that Parliament and State legislatures enact a dedicated law to ensure the enforcement of pedestrian rights and improve urban road safety.

### **Abhigyan App for Crime Data Access**

- ❖ The Union Home Minister launched the Abhigyan App in New Delhi to strengthen the use of crime-related data by law enforcement agencies.
- ❖ The Abhigyan App is a centralised digital platform developed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India.
- ❖ It enables police personnel to access a large database of criminal records through smartphones for faster investigation and verification.
- ❖ The app is integrated with the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), allowing real-time fingerprint matching with records of accused, convicts, and prisoners.

- ❖ The system strengthens digital policing by enabling rapid identification of individuals, improving efficiency in criminal investigations, and supporting evidence-based law enforcement.

### **Sickle Cell Elimination Mission**

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCEM) in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047.
- ❖ The mission targets screening of around 7 crore people under 40 years across India within 3 years (2023–2026).
- ❖ It prioritises tribal health and aims to prevent the genetic transmission of sickle cell disease through early screening and awareness.
- ❖ Sickle Cell Genetic Status Cards were distributed to beneficiaries to help with health and marriage-related awareness.
- ❖ Around 3.57 crore Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY cards were also distributed during the launch event.
- ❖ The programme is implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) in 17 high-focus states of India.

### **Three Naval Warships**

- ❖ The Indian Navy commissioned three indigenously built warships in Kolkata.
- ❖ The warships are INS Dunagiri, INS Agray and INS Sanshodhak.
- ❖ INS Dunagiri is a Project 17A stealth frigate built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- ❖ Project 17A frigates are guided-missile warships designed for surface, air and anti-submarine warfare.
- ❖ INS Agray is an Arnala-class anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft used in coastal operations.
- ❖ INS Sanshodhak is a Sandhayak-class hydrographic survey vessel used for seabed mapping and navigation support.

### **Right to Trauma Care – Supreme Court Judgment**

- ❖ The Supreme Court in SaveLIFE Foundation & Anr. vs Union of India held that the right to trauma care is an integral part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

- ❖ The Court ruled that the right to trauma care covers the entire emergency response chain from the site of injury to definitive hospital treatment.
- ❖ It issued nine binding directions to the Union Government, States, and Union Territories with implementation timelines of 3–6 months.
- ❖ All States must integrate emergency helplines such as 100, 101, 102, 108, and 1091 into a single national emergency number 112.
- ❖ All ambulances must comply with the National Ambulance Code, be equipped with GPS tracking, and be integrated with the 112 emergency response system.
- ❖ States must implement cashless treatment for road accident victims under the PM RAHAT (Prime Minister–Road Accident Victims’ Hospitalisation and Assured Treatment) scheme.
- ❖ The Court observed that trauma is the leading cause of death among Indians aged 18–45 years.
- ❖ In *Parmanand Katara vs Union of India* (1989), the Supreme Court held that doctors have a duty to provide immediate emergency medical aid.
- ❖ In *Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samiti vs State of West Bengal* (1996), the Court expanded Article 21 to include access to emergency medical care.
- ❖ The present judgment further expands Article 21 to include the complete emergency care chain: bystander assistance, emergency call, ambulance services, paramedics, and hospital treatment.

### **Free Bus Travel for Women in India**

- ❖ A recent review highlighted the implementation of free bus travel schemes for women across different States and one Union Territory in India.
- ❖ Eight States and one Union Territory currently provide free bus travel for women in government-run buses, with eligibility rules varying across regions.
- ❖ The eligible States and Union Territories are Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Most States issue a 'zero-ticket', which is a free ticket used for travel records, after verifying the passenger's identity.
- ❖ Some States have introduced smart cards or QR code-based cards to verify eligible passengers and issue zero-tickets.
- ❖ The schemes generally apply only to government-operated buses, while premium, luxury and interstate services are excluded in many States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh also extend the benefit to transgender persons, while Tamil Nadu additionally covers persons with disabilities under its scheme.

## **Rural Employment Framework**

- ❖ The Government of India notified an interim list of 318 permissible works under the new rural employment framework.
- ❖ The framework will be implemented from 1 July 2026 under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.
- ❖ The new system provides a guaranteed 125 days of wage employment per rural household per year, compared to 100 days under MGNREGA.
- ❖ The 318 works are grouped under four areas: water security, rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods, and disaster mitigation works.
- ❖ It introduces a “single plan – multi funding” model using the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan as the main planning tool at the local level.

## **Passport Not Proof of Citizenship - MEA Clarification**

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that a passport is not proof of Indian citizenship, reaffirming its long-standing legal position.
- ❖ Officials stated that under the Passports Act, 1967, a passport is issued as a travel document, not as conclusive proof of citizenship.
- ❖ The Act allows the issuance of passports even in certain cases where citizenship status may not be definitive, as it regulates travel documents and departure from India.
- ❖ Courts, including the Bombay High Court (2013 rulings), have held that possession of a passport cannot be treated as final proof of citizenship.
- ❖ Citizenship is governed separately under the Citizenship Act, 1955, while identity documents like Aadhaar, EPIC, and ration cards also do not serve as conclusive citizenship proof.

## **Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 – Blood Standards**

- ❖ Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2026 introduced the world’s first dedicated standards for blood and blood components.
- ❖ The 10th edition of the Indian Pharmacopoeia was released on 2 January 2026 in New Delhi by the Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda.
- ❖ It includes 20 new monographs and 2 revised monographs for regulating blood quality and safety.
- ❖ The standards define identity, purity, strength, and quality of medicines and blood products used in transfusion services.

- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, develops and updates these standards.
- ❖ The aim is to improve blood safety and reduce transfusion-transmitted infections in healthcare systems.

### **India's Clean Energy Storage Target 2035-36**

- ❖ India has set a target to achieve 100 GW pumped storage hydropower capacity by 2035-36 to strengthen energy storage and grid stability.
- ❖ The roadmap has been prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the Ministry of Power.
- ❖ Pumped storage hydropower uses two reservoirs at different elevations to store and generate electricity during peak demand.
- ❖ As of December 2025, India has about 7.2 GW of operational capacity and 11.6 GW under construction.
- ❖ India's total hydropower capacity stands at about 56.3 GW, with significant untapped potential for expansion.

### **e-Zero FIR for Cyber Fraud**

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister, during the 52nd PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) meeting, directed all States to implement the e-Zero FIR system for cyber financial fraud cases.
- ❖ e-Zero FIR is a digital system that converts verified cyber financial fraud complaints into Zero First Information Reports (Zero FIRs), allowing cases to be registered at any police station before transfer to the concerned police station.
- ❖ The system covers cyber financial fraud complaints above ₹10 lakh reported through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or the 1930 cybercrime helpline.
- ❖ It is integrated with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to enable faster registration and investigation of cybercrime cases.
- ❖ The initiative aims to ensure quick action during the "golden hour" to improve the chances of recovering money lost in cyber fraud.

### **World's Largest Ship Recycling Nation - India**

- ❖ India became the world's largest ship recycling nation in 2025, accounting for 35.4% of global ship recycling.

- ❖ India recycled 2.99 million gross tons of ships in 2025, up from 1.86 million gross tons in 2024.
- ❖ Alang Ship Recycling Yard in Gujarat is one of the world's largest ship recycling facilities.
- ❖ The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019, aligns India's ship recycling rules with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.
- ❖ India ratified the convention in 2019, and it became mandatory from 26 June 2025.
- ❖ India aims to expand its ship recycling capacity to 9 million Light Displacement Tons (LDT) under Maritime India Vision 2030.

### **World's Second-Largest Fish Producer - India**

- ❖ India contributed about 9% of global aquatic animal production in 2024, ranking second after China.
- ❖ India is the largest producer of inland fish, producing 2.2 million tonnes from rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and wetlands.
- ❖ India is also the second-largest aquaculture producer, contributing 12% of global aquaculture production.
- ❖ The fisheries sector supports the livelihoods of nearly 30 million people and contributes to food security, exports, and agricultural growth.
- ❖ The report noted that global fisheries and aquaculture production reached a record 235 million tonnes in 2024, driven mainly by aquaculture.

### **Nirbhay Chetna Initiative**

- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched Nirbhay Chetna, the world's largest women's safety and gender sensitisation initiative.
- ❖ Nirbhay Chetna is part of the Nirbhay Raho programme, funded under the Nirbhaya Fund, and will cover all Panchayats across India.
- ❖ The programme will train over 17.5 lakh male elected Panchayati Raj representatives on gender equality, women's rights, and safety, supported by 28,500 Master Trainers.
- ❖ Nirbhay Netri will provide legal literacy and capacity-building training to over 14.5 lakh women elected representatives.
- ❖ Nirbhay Drishti will install CCTV cameras in villages across all States and Union Territories to improve women's safety.

### **ADB Investment in India**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that it will provide about \$1 billion in direct financing for India's private sector in 2026, continuing its investment momentum in the country.
- ❖ In 2025, ADB provided more than \$1 billion for private sector operations and over \$4 billion for sovereign projects.
- ❖ Funding focuses on sectors such as renewable energy, green hydrogen, e-mobility, green data centres, urban infrastructure, and agriculture.
- ❖ ADB also supports trade and supply chain financing, which has increased due to global disruptions.
- ❖ The financing is aligned with India's development priorities and sustainable growth goals.

### **Immigration Port Network - Haldia**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has designated Haldia Seaport, West Bengal, as an Immigration Post.
- ❖ Haldia has become India's 41st seaport immigration post, facilitating the entry and exit of international passengers.
- ❖ The Haldia Dock Complex was built in 1968 to reduce the load on Kolkata Port, and international operations began in 1977.
- ❖ Earlier, Dahej, Sikka, and Tuna Tekra ports in Gujarat were also designated as immigration posts.
- ❖ The move aims to boost maritime trade, international connectivity, and tourism through the eastern coast.

### **Digital Interventions in the Criminal Justice System of India**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) launched four new digital applications to speed up investigation, prosecution, and forensic processes in the criminal justice system.
- ❖ The four apps are Abhigyan, CrPI, e-Prosecution 2.0, and e-Forensics 2.0, launched by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ The NCRB, established in 1986 in New Delhi, is the central repository for crime and criminal data in India.
- ❖ Abhigyan App enables real-time fingerprint-based identification of individuals using the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) database.

- ❖ The CrPI system uses facial recognition, iris scanning, and DNA matching for identifying suspects and repeat offenders.
- ❖ e-Forensics 2.0 connects forensic laboratories nationwide and manages digital case tracking and reports.
- ❖ e-Prosecution 2.0 integrates police, prosecution, and judicial systems for faster legal processing and coordination.

### **India's Road Network**

- ❖ According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), India continues to have the world's second-largest road network.
- ❖ The road network handles nearly 64% of freight movement and 90% of passenger transport in the country.
- ❖ India's road development evolved through phases, including the Nagpur Plan (1943–1961), Bombay Plan (1961–1981), and Lucknow Plan (1981–2001) under the Indian Roads Congress (IRC).
- ❖ The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) in 1998 led to major corridors like the Golden Quadrilateral and North–South, East–West corridors.
- ❖ The current phase focuses on integrated planning through Bharatmala Pariyojana and PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (2021).
- ❖ The system now aims to develop economic corridors linking industrial, logistics, and trade hubs across India.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **India–Vietnam BrahMos Missile Deal**

- ❖ India has signed a deal with Vietnam for the supply of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh announced.
- ❖ BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia.
- ❖ The announcement was made at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a major defence forum in Singapore.
- ❖ India is also in the final stages of negotiating a similar BrahMos missile deal with Indonesia.
- ❖ India has already exported BrahMos missiles to the Philippines, marking a major step in defence exports.

### **1st International Security Forum**

- ❖ India's National Security Adviser participated in the 1st International Security Forum (ISF) held in Moscow, Russia.
- ❖ The forum was organised by the Security Council of the Russian Federation.
- ❖ Key areas of discussion included terrorism, cybersecurity, information security, regional conflicts, strategic stability, and international cooperation.
- ❖ The forum served as a platform for dialogue among national security advisers, government officials, and security experts from different countries.
- ❖ The event aimed to strengthen cooperation in addressing cross-border threats and promoting a multipolar and secure international order.

### **India–Oman Strategic Partnership**

- ❖ The India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) came into force on 1 June 2026.
- ❖ Under the agreement, India will receive duty-free access to 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines, covering 99.38% of bilateral trade value based on 2022–23 averages.
- ❖ Indian exports such as textiles, agricultural products, processed food, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, gems and jewellery, and transport equipment will get immediate zero-duty access to the Omani market.
- ❖ The agreement also provides easier mobility for Indian professionals, including higher quotas for intra-corporate transferees and simplified temporary entry for business visitors.
- ❖ India has signed five major trade agreements of this type: CECTA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) with Mauritius (2021), CEPA with the UAE (2022), ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement) with Australia (2022), Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (2024), and CEPA with Oman (2026).
- ❖ India–Oman bilateral trade reached USD 11.18 billion in 2025–26.

### **UN General Assembly 2026**

- ❖ Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was elected President of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), defeating Andreas Kakouris of Cyprus in a secret-ballot election.
- ❖ He will assume office when the 81st UNGA session opens in September 2026 and will serve a one-year term.
- ❖ This is the second time Bangladesh has secured the UNGA presidency; it previously held the post during the 41st session (1986–87).

- ❖ The theme of the 81st session is “Restoring Trust, Managing Transformation: A United Nations that Delivers for All.”
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and includes all 193 member states.

### **Project Patriot Pipeline**

- ❖ The United States Department of War (Pentagon) launched Project Patriot Pipeline.
- ❖ It is a workforce development initiative to support defence manufacturing and related industries.
- ❖ The programme provides training and career pathways for service members, military spouses, and federal civilians.
- ❖ It focuses on sectors such as aviation, healthcare, cybersecurity, engineering, manufacturing, and aviation maintenance.
- ❖ The initiative uses the Skill Bridge programme to connect departing military personnel with civilian jobs.

### **War Powers Resolution on Iran - US**

- ❖ The US House passed a War Powers Resolution aiming to limit President Donald Trump’s military action in Iran.
- ❖ The House passed the resolution by a 215–208 vote to restrict US military operations and require Congressional approval or troop withdrawal.
- ❖ The measure is largely symbolic and reflects growing opposition to the ongoing Iran war and its economic impact, including higher fuel prices.
- ❖ If it also passed by the US Senate (United States Senate), it could still face legal challenges and would need Presidential approval or a veto override.
- ❖ After passage in both Houses, differences in text would need reconciliation, and a veto by the President would require a two-thirds majority in both Houses to override.

### **UN Security Council Election 2026**

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected five countries as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- ❖ The elected countries are Austria, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, and Kyrgyzstan for a two-year term starting 1 January 2027.
- ❖ Kyrgyzstan will serve on the UNSC for the first time since joining the United Nations in 1992.

- ❖ The new members will join other non-permanent members elected earlier, along with the five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ❖ Non-permanent members are elected for two years by the UNGA through a secret ballot and require a two-thirds majority vote.

### **India-UK Critical Minerals Observatory**

- ❖ India and the United Kingdom launched the India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Observatory is a joint initiative involving TEXMiN (Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation), Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad, and the University of Cambridge.
- ❖ It was developed under the India-UK Technology Security Initiative and aligns with the India-UK Vision 2035 roadmap.
- ❖ The platform will track global critical mineral supply chains and identify risks, disruptions, and market trends.
- ❖ It supports India's National Critical Mineral Mission by ensuring secure access to minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements.

### **EU Market Access for Aquaculture Exports**

- ❖ India secured continued access to the European Union (EU) market for exports of aquaculture products, honey, and eggs under the amended EU regulatory framework.
- ❖ The European Union included India in its list of authorised countries eligible to export these products beyond September 2026.
- ❖ The new regulations were introduced to address concerns related to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in food products.
- ❖ India's exports of fish and fishery products to the European Union are valued at around \$1.59 billion, making the EU an important export market.
- ❖ The achievement followed coordination by the Department of Commerce, Export Inspection Council (EIC), and Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).

### **BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026**

- ❖ The BRICS Agriculture Meeting 2026 was held in Indore under India's BRICS Chairmanship to discuss key issues in the global agriculture sector.

- ❖ The meeting focused on food security, farmer welfare, nutrition, and climate-smart agriculture.
- ❖ Discussions covered agricultural trade, supply chains, digital agriculture, research, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and robotics.
- ❖ The meeting was organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW).
- ❖ BRICS currently comprises 11 member countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia.

### **India–France Strategic Partnership**

- ❖ France identified India as a top strategic priority ahead of the 2026 G7 Summit.
- ❖ India and France established a strategic partnership in 1998, covering defence, space, maritime security, civil nuclear energy, technology, and counter-terrorism.
- ❖ France holds the presidency of the G7 in 2026.
- ❖ Discussions are expected to include cooperation on the Rafale programme and the Make in India initiative.
- ❖ The leaders will inaugurate Bharat Innovates, a startup and innovation platform under the India–France Year of Innovation 2026.
- ❖ India is participating in all G7 outreach tracks as an invited partner and a leading voice of the Global South.

### **ILO Convention on Gig Workers**

- ❖ The International Labour Organisation adopted Convention No. 193: Concerning Decent Work in the Platform Economy at its 114th Session in Geneva.
- ❖ The convention is the first global treaty to establish binding labour standards for gig and platform workers.
- ❖ It covers both online and location-based workers, including delivery and taxi workers, in the formal and informal sectors.
- ❖ The treaty guarantees fair pay, correct worker classification, social security, freedom of association, non-discrimination and safe working conditions.
- ❖ It requires algorithmic transparency, giving workers the right to seek human review of important automated decisions such as account deactivation or withheld payments.
- ❖ The convention will come into force 12 months after at least two member states ratify it.

## **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.

## **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 Tech Corridor**

- ❖ The India-France ATL (Atal Tinkering Labs) Bridge was officially launched during the Bharat Innovates 2026 summit held in Nice, France.
- ❖ The initiative is a bilateral education and technology corridor connecting school-level innovators and educators of India and France.
- ❖ It was established through a partnership between the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and La Fondation Dassault Systèmes.
- ❖ The initiative aims to promote early-stage engineering, scientific temper and design thinking among school students.
- ❖ It will establish France's first School Innovation Lab based on India's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) model and provide exposure to technologies such as robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), 3D (Three-Dimensional) printing and microelectronics.

### **Swiss Referendum - Population Ceiling**

- ❖ Voters in Switzerland rejected a proposal to cap the country's population at 10 million, with nearly 55% voting against and 45% voting in favour.
- ❖ The proposal was introduced by the Swiss People's Party, which advocates stricter immigration controls.
- ❖ Switzerland's population has grown from 7.3 million in 2002 to about 9.1 million, and 27% of residents are non-Swiss citizens.
- ❖ Approval of the proposal would have ended Switzerland's free movement of people agreement with the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Switzerland follows a system of direct democracy, where citizens can trigger a nationwide referendum by collecting 100,000 signatures.

### **BRICS Agricultural Framework**

- ❖ The 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting adopted the BRICS Indore Declaration during India's Presidency in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The meeting was held with the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)."
- ❖ The declaration focuses on food security, nutrition, agricultural trade, climate-resilient farming, and digital agriculture.
- ❖ It proposes the launch of the Global Forum on Farmers' Rights in Seed Systems to protect farmers' seed rights and indigenous knowledge.
- ❖ It supports the proposed BRICS Grain Exchange and the launch of BRICS AGRIN (Agro-Inputs, Genetic Resources and Information Network) for cooperation in seeds and agricultural inputs.
- ❖ It also calls for expanding Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in agriculture and establishing a BRICS Network on Digital Agriculture, initially coordinated by the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi.

### **52<sup>nd</sup> G7 Summit 2026**

- ❖ The 52nd G7 Summit began in Évian-les-Bains, France, on 15 June 2026, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron.
- ❖ The summit theme is "Working Together to Address Major International Challenges."
- ❖ The G7 is an annual forum of seven advanced economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ❖ The summit will discuss global economic imbalances, geopolitical crises, children's issues, organised crime, and illicit financial flows.

- ❖ The G7 was originally formed in 1975 as the G6 (France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States), and Canada joined in 1976, creating the G7.

### **13th BRICS Urbanization Forum**

- ❖ The 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum concluded in New Delhi with the adoption of the Urban Ministerial Declaration, reaffirming commitment to inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and people-centred urban development.
- ❖ The forum was convened by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under India's BRICS Chairship.
- ❖ The theme of the forum was "Cities for People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures."
- ❖ The declaration emphasised equitable access to urban services, particularly for marginalised groups.
- ❖ Participating countries included Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Discussions covered affordable housing, slum upgrading, public transport, climate adaptation, water security, solid waste management, urban renewal, municipal reforms, and technology-driven urban governance.

### **New Development Bank - Uzbekistan**

- ❖ Uzbekistan has joined the New Development Bank as its 10th member country and the first country from Central Asia to become a member.
- ❖ The New Development Bank (NDB) was established by the BRICS countries in 2015 to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects.
- ❖ The founding members of NDB are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- ❖ Other member countries include Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Algeria.
- ❖ The NDB is headquartered in Shanghai and aims to complement the efforts of existing multilateral and regional financial institutions.

### **U.S. Iran Preliminary Peace Accord 2026**

- ❖ The United States and Iran announced a preliminary peace accord to end their military conflict and lift the naval blockade on the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman.

- ❖ The accord is an emergency MoU that serves as a 60-day de-escalation mechanism and not a final peace treaty.
- ❖ It provides for an immediate ceasefire, toll-free international commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, and immediate mine-removal operations.
- ❖ The agreement provides for the phased release of 24 billion US dollars of frozen Iranian assets during the 60-day negotiation period.
- ❖ The accord is expected to improve global energy security, lower oil prices, and ensure safer passage through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for India's oil and gas imports.

### **Mombasa Declaration – Illegal Fishing Agreement**

- ❖ The Mombasa Declaration was adopted by 15 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to strengthen global efforts against illegal fishing.
- ❖ It was adopted at the 11th Our Ocean Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya.
- ❖ The declaration aims to curb illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing that threatens marine ecosystems and livelihoods.
- ❖ It calls for better sharing of fishing vessel data, ownership details, and licensing information among countries.
- ❖ It supports the Global Charter for Fisheries Transparency to improve fisheries governance through modernised registries and transparency reforms.
- ❖ The Our Ocean Conference, launched in 2014 by the United States of America (USA), is a global platform promoting sustainable ocean governance and marine conservation.

### **Turquoise Nexus Initiative**

- ❖ Turkey's Presidency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP31) and the Food and Agriculture Organization have launched the Turquoise Nexus Initiative (TNI).
- ❖ The initiative aims to integrate food security, water management, and climate adaptation into national climate plans and align Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ It seeks to help developing countries adopt farmer-inclusive strategies and improve access to climate finance.
- ❖ The initiative is proposed under the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership, a multi-stakeholder initiative launched at COP27 in 2022 at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

- ❖ The FAST Partnership aims to accelerate the transformation of agriculture and food systems by 2030 for people, the climate, and nature.
- ❖ Its three pillars are access to finance, knowledge and capacity building, and policy support and dialogue.

### **Pax Silica AI Initiative - European Union**

- ❖ The European Union (EU) agreed to join the Pax Silica initiative, a United States-led framework on artificial intelligence supply chains and export controls.
- ❖ Pax Silica, launched by the United States in December 2025, focuses on securing the AI ecosystem supply chain, including semiconductors, critical minerals, energy, and digital infrastructure.
- ❖ The initiative promotes coordinated export controls for sensitive AI-related technologies among allied countries.
- ❖ The EU's accession includes a commercial commitment to purchase USD 40 billion worth of US AI chips under the broader trade framework.
- ❖ Several countries, including the United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and others, are already part of the initiative.

### **UN Peacekeeper Accountability Resolution**

- ❖ The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2823 (2026) to strengthen accountability for crimes against UN peacekeepers.
- ❖ The resolution was adopted unanimously and co-authored by Denmark and Pakistan during their 2025–26 tenure in the Council.
- ❖ It aims to improve the identification, investigation, and prosecution of perpetrators attacking UN peacekeeping personnel.
- ❖ The resolution reaffirms the responsibility of host countries to ensure legal action against offenders under national and international law.
- ❖ It calls for the UN Secretary-General to appoint a senior focal point on accountability and submit an annual report on investigations and prosecutions.
- ❖ The measure builds on earlier resolutions, including Resolution 2589 (2021) and Resolution 2518 (2020) on peacekeeper safety and protection.

### **16<sup>th</sup> BRICS National Security Advisers' Meeting**

- ❖ India, as the BRICS Chair for 2026, hosted the 16th BRICS National Security Advisers' (NSA) Meeting in New Delhi under the chairmanship of National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval.

- ❖ The meeting focused on "Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today", including cybersecurity, terrorism, artificial intelligence (AI), and technology governance.
- ❖ India's 2026 BRICS Chairship is based on the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- ❖ The BRICS Chairmanship rotates annually among the member countries, and India is holding the Chair for the fourth time after 2012, 2016, and 2021.
- ❖ The National Security Advisers' (NSA) Meeting is a key preparatory meeting for the BRICS Leaders' Summit, which will be hosted by India later in 2026.

### **State of Emergency - Bolivia**

- ❖ Bolivia's Parliament approved a nationwide State of Emergency declared by President Rodrigo Paz to end a 50-day protest and highway blockade crisis.
- ❖ The protests disrupted the supply of food, fuel, and medicines after major highways across the country were blocked.
- ❖ The unrest began after the government reduced long-standing fuel subsidies to control the fiscal deficit amid a foreign currency (US dollar) shortage.
- ❖ After the emergency declaration, several protest groups agreed to remove road blockades, and the national highway authority reported no active protest-related blockades.
- ❖ The government continues to deploy police and military forces to restore normalcy, while discussions continue to address the protesters' demands.

### **India-UAE Strategic Defense Partnership**

- ❖ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are in talks for the export of the BrahMos supersonic missile and the Akashteer air-defence system.
- ❖ BrahMos is an India-Russia joint venture supersonic cruise missile, while Akashteer is an AI-enabled air-defence command and control system developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ❖ The proposed deal aims to strengthen the UAE's air defence and help secure the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil trade route.
- ❖ Export of BrahMos requires Russia's approval, and its export range is limited to 290 km under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) guidelines.
- ❖ India became a member of the MTCR in 2016, supporting its defence export ambitions under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

## ECONOMY

### India's First Blue Bond

- ❖ Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited plans to launch India's first Blue Bond in FY 2026–27.
- ❖ The bond issue aims to raise ₹1,000 crore for maritime infrastructure and blue economy projects.
- ❖ Blue Bonds are debt instruments used to finance the sustainable use, conservation, and management of ocean and marine resources.
- ❖ The funds will support ports, coastal infrastructure, shipping, and inland waterways projects.
- ❖ The world's first sovereign Blue Bond was issued by Seychelles in 2018.

### RBI's Kill Switch Facility

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is exploring a universal 'Kill Switch' mechanism and 'Switch On/Switch Off' facility for digital payment channels.
- ❖ The Kill Switch is an emergency security feature that can instantly freeze all digital transactions from a bank account or digital wallet when fraud is suspected.
- ❖ The proposed facility will cover UPI (Unified Payments Interface), IMPS (Immediate Payment Service), NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer), internet banking, and digital wallets.
- ❖ Users may be able to activate the feature through mobile banking apps, SMS, IVR (Interactive Voice Response), or online portals.
- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen protection against cyber fraud and improve the security of India's digital payment ecosystem.

### Seafood Exports 2025–2026

- ❖ India's seafood exports reached a record USD 8.46 billion (₹73,890 crore) in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ India exported 19.72 lakh metric tonnes of marine products during the financial year.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp remained the largest export item, contributing 66.52% of total export earnings.
- ❖ The United States remained the largest importer of Indian seafood, while exports to China recorded significant growth.

- ❖ The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) released the export data on 1 June 2026.
- ❖ Major export ports included Visakhapatnam, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kochi, Kolkata, and Chennai.

### **WPI-PPI Transition**

- ❖ The government will introduce a revised Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series and a new Producer Price Index (PPI) series from 15 June 2026, with PPI set to replace WPI over the next five years.
- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will release the revised WPI with 2022–23 as the new base year, replacing the 2011–12 series.
- ❖ The new Producer Price Index (PPI) will include Output PPI, Input PPI, and Services PPI to better measure producer-level inflation.
- ❖ Initially, the Services PPI will cover seven sectors, including banking, insurance, railways, air passenger transport, and telecom.
- ❖ WPI will continue to be published alongside PPI for five years before being phased out.

### **Current Account Surplus in Q4 FY26**

- ❖ India recorded a current account surplus of \$7.1 billion (0.7% of GDP) in the fourth quarter (January–March) of FY26, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ The surplus was driven by strong services exports and record remittance inflows from Indians living abroad.
- ❖ Net services receipts increased to \$60.4 billion in Q4 FY26 from \$53.3 billion a year earlier.
- ❖ Personal remittance receipts reached a record \$43.5 billion, compared to \$33.9 billion in Q4 FY25.
- ❖ India's merchandise trade deficit stood at \$83.4 billion during the quarter, while the overall Balance of Payments (BoP) recorded a surplus of \$7.2 billion.

### **India's Remittance Surge**

- ❖ India received over USD 100 billion in workers' remittances in FY 2025-26, helping cushion the Balance of Payments (BoP) amid weak foreign investments and capital outflows.
- ❖ Workers' remittances reached USD 110.47 billion, a 26% rise from FY 2024-25, while private transfers increased to USD 151.71 billion.

- ❖ Remittances helped offset weak Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) inflows and supported foreign exchange reserves.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) uses these foreign currency inflows to build reserves and prevent excessive appreciation of the Indian Rupee (INR).
- ❖ The Gulf region's share in India's remittances declined from 47% in 2016-17 to 38% in 2023-24, while contributions from the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK) increased.

### **NSE index portfolio expansion 2026**

- ❖ NSE Indices Limited in India has launched 11 new sector-specific indices, expanding its total sectoral indices count to 34.
- ❖ The indices were introduced by NSE Indices Limited, a subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), India.
- ❖ The new indices cover sectors such as power, retail, NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company), insurance, hospitals, and telecommunications in India.
- ❖ The aim is to provide more granular benchmarks for asset managers and investors in India.
- ❖ These indices can be used in Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), index funds, and other passive investment products.

### **Saatvik 100 Index - BSE**

- ❖ BSE Index Services in India has launched the BSE Saatvik 100 Index to promote value-based and ethical investing.
- ❖ The index is derived from the BSE 500 Index and focuses on companies aligned with “Saatvik” principles of purity, responsibility, and ethical conduct.
- ❖ It has been introduced by BSE Index Services Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), India.
- ❖ The index is designed for Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-style investing and supports passive investment products like ETFs and index funds.
- ❖ The financial services sector has the highest weight in the index, followed by the consumer discretionary and energy sectors in India.

### **Lead Bank Scheme Guidelines 2026**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised Lead Bank Scheme guidelines on 19 June 2026 through an official circular, replacing earlier instructions.
- ❖ The Lead Bank Scheme is a district-level banking coordination system for credit planning and financial inclusion in India.

- ❖ Each district is assigned one lead bank, and the revised framework mandates a dedicated Lead District Manager with staff and infrastructure support.
- ❖ The system operates through a three-tier structure: Block Level Bankers' Committees (BLBC), District Consultative Committees (DCC), and State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBC).
- ❖ The RBI retained the 60% Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio benchmark for rural and semi-urban branches and strengthened its focus on Agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

### **GARUDA Framework for Alternative Investment Funds**

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved the GARUDA framework for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- ❖ GARUDA (Green-Channel: AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement) reduces the launch timeline for regular AIF schemes from about 30 days to 10 working days.
- ❖ Accredited Investor-only schemes and Angel Funds can launch immediately after SEBI acknowledges their documents.
- ❖ Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are privately pooled investment vehicles regulated under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.
- ❖ The framework was introduced through a consultation paper issued in May 2026 and implemented by amending the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **China's Xenotransplant Breakthrough**

- ❖ China successfully performed the world's first simultaneous pig liver and pig kidney transplant into a human patient.
- ❖ The transplanted organs included two gene-edited pig kidneys and one gene-edited pig liver.
- ❖ Xenotransplantation is the transplantation of living cells, tissues, or organs from one species to another.
- ❖ Scientists edited six genes in the pig organs to reduce immune rejection and improve compatibility with humans.
- ❖ Pig organs are widely used in xenotransplantation research because their organ size and physiological characteristics are similar to those of humans.

### **Divyastra Mk 1 - Loitering Munition**

- ❖ The Indian Army conducted an operational demonstration of the indigenous Divyastra Mk-1 tactical loitering munition in Jodhpur on 1 June 2026.
- ❖ Divyastra Mk-1 is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered tactical unmanned aerial vehicle developed by Hoverit, a Lucknow-based defence technology startup, with about 95% indigenous content.
- ❖ A loitering munition is a weapon system that can remain over a target area before identifying and striking a target; it is also known as a suicide drone or kamikaze drone.
- ❖ The system features Artificial Intelligence (AI) and swarm capabilities for autonomous navigation, target recognition, and coordinated strike operations.

### **KSTAR Plasma Breakthrough**

- ❖ South Korea's Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) sustained plasma in high-confinement mode for 102 seconds, achieving a major milestone in fusion research.
- ❖ KSTAR is a superconducting tokamak operated by the Korea Institute of Fusion Energy (KFE) in Daejeon, South Korea; a tokamak uses magnetic fields to confine plasma for nuclear fusion.
- ❖ It maintained plasma at 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds, surpassing its previous record of 30 seconds set in 2021.
- ❖ The device was upgraded with tungsten divertors, which remove heat, impurities, and exhaust particles from plasma and can withstand extremely high temperatures.
- ❖ High-Confinement Mode (H-mode), first observed in 1982, improves the confinement of heat and particles inside plasma.

### **Methane on Interstellar Comet**

- ❖ The James Webb Space Telescope detected methane on the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, marking the first direct detection of methane on an object originating outside the Solar System.
- ❖ The discovery was made using the telescope's Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI).
- ❖ Scientists found that methane became detectable after the comet passed close to the Sun, suggesting it was trapped beneath the surface and released by solar heating.
- ❖ The comet contains unusually high amounts of methane and carbon dioxide compared with most comets in the Solar System.

- ❖ These chemical characteristics indicate that 3I/ATLAS formed in an environment different from that of most Solar System comets.

### **India in Global AI Initiative**

- ❖ India has joined Project Glasswing, through which the United States-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) company Anthropic expanded access to its advanced Claude Myths Preview Large Language Model (LLM).
- ❖ India is among more than 15 countries participating in the programme, which provides controlled access to the AI model for about 150 organisations.
- ❖ The programme supports critical infrastructure sectors such as power grids, water systems, healthcare, and telecommunications.
- ❖ Anthropic opened its first India office in Bengaluru in early 2026, and India has become its second-largest market after the United States.
- ❖ India and Anthropic are set to co-host the Global AI Summit 2026, focusing on responsible Artificial Intelligence development.

### **Microplastic Removal Innovation - Plas-Stick**

- ❖ Three Indian teenagers—Vivaan Chhawchharia, Ariana Agarwal, and Avyana Mehta (aged 16 years)—won the Earth Prize (Global Winners) for developing Plas-Stick, a biodegradable water filtration innovation.
- ❖ Plas-Stick is a powder made from tamarind seed waste used to remove microplastics from water.
- ❖ It works by attracting microplastic particles and forming clumps that can be removed using a handheld magnet.
- ❖ The method is electricity-free, low-cost, and designed for rural and low-resource areas.
- ❖ The project was developed with support from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati and has received a US\$12,500 grant.

### **Blue Moon and Micromoon**

- ❖ A rare Blue Moon–Micromoon event was observed on 31 May 2026, making it an uncommon lunar phenomenon.
- ❖ A Blue Moon is the second full moon occurring within the same calendar month.
- ❖ A Micromoon occurs when a full moon coincides with the Moon being near Apogee, its farthest point from Earth.

- ❖ During a micromoon, the Moon appears slightly smaller and less bright than an average full moon.
- ❖ Blue Moons generally occur once every two to three years, making them relatively rare.
- ❖ The last Blue Moon–Micromoon combination was observed in October 2020.

### **World's First Perfect Randomness**

- ❖ Physicists at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, achieved the world's first certifiably perfect randomness using quantum entanglement.
- ❖ The breakthrough used entangled quantum bits (qubits) and Bell-test experiments to generate truly unpredictable random numbers.
- ❖ Researchers conducted over one billion trials in about nine hours to verify randomness.
- ❖ The method demonstrated randomness amplification, converting imperfect randomness into perfectly random outputs.
- ❖ Unlike conventional generators, the system is device-independent, relying on quantum behaviour rather than trusted hardware.

### **MAVEN Mission 2026**

- ❖ The United States NASA officially ended the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission after losing contact with the spacecraft.
- ❖ Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) was launched in 2013 and entered Mars orbit in 2014.
- ❖ It was the first mission dedicated to studying the upper atmosphere of Mars and its atmospheric loss.
- ❖ Contact was lost in December 2025 after the spacecraft entered safe mode and its batteries were depleted.
- ❖ MAVEN helped scientists understand how Mars lost much of its atmosphere over time.
- ❖ The mission generated data for more than 800 scientific studies and supported communications for Mars rovers.

### **Artemis III Mission**

- ❖ NASA announced the four-member crew for the Artemis III mission.
- ❖ Artemis III is part of NASA's Artemis programme for deep-space and lunar exploration.

- ❖ The mission is planned for launch in late 2027 from the Kennedy Space Centre in the United States.
- ❖ The four-member crew includes Randy Bresnik (United States), Luca Parmitano (Italy), Andre Douglas (United States), and Frank Rubio (United States).
- ❖ The mission will test rendezvous and docking operations before future lunar missions.
- ❖ The first human lunar landing under the revised Artemis programme is currently targeted for Artemis IV in 2028.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Long-Duration Lunar Lander**

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are developing a new lunar lander in 2026 that can operate on the Moon for 100-200 days.
- ❖ The project aims to extend lander operations beyond the 14-day mission life of Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander.
- ❖ A lunar day and a lunar night each last about 14 Earth days, and lunar night temperatures can fall below  $-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- ❖ ISRO is developing artificial heating systems to protect electronics, batteries, and scientific instruments during the long lunar night.
- ❖ The Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 landed near the Moon's south pole on 23 August 2023 and operated for one lunar day using solar power.

### **Smart Seed Coating Technology**

- ❖ The ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research has developed a patented Smart Seed Coating Technology to improve crop establishment and resilience against climate stress.
- ❖ It is a biodegradable, biopolymer-based seed enhancement technology that provides protection, nutrition, and biological support through a single seed coating.
- ❖ The coating contains beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, crop protection agents, and plant growth-promoting compounds, which are released near the roots during germination.

- ❖ The technology aims to support climate-resilient agriculture, reduce risks in rainfed farming, and protect crops from drought, erratic monsoons, temperature stress, soil degradation, and pests.
- ❖ It can be customised for cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, spices, and horticultural crops.
- ❖ Multi-location trials showed 12% to 37% increase in productivity in crops such as maize, chickpea, cotton, mustard, and pigeon pea compared with untreated seeds.

### **Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar System**

- ❖ Canada signed a \$2.5 billion agreement with Australia and BAE Systems Australia to acquire an Arctic Over-the-Horizon Radar (A-OTHR) system.
- ❖ The A-OTHR uses high-frequency radio waves reflected from the ionosphere to detect aircraft and missiles beyond the normal radar range.
- ❖ The system is based on Australia's Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) technology and supports Canada's North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) modernisation programme.
- ❖ NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) is a joint defence organisation of Canada and the United States.
- ❖ The project is expected to achieve initial operational capability by December 2029 and create about 2,270 jobs annually in Canada during 2026–2033.

### **Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue**

- ❖ India's first Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue was launched at the 5th Indian Space Congress (ISC) held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Space Industry E-Catalogue is India's first centralized digital repository of space-sector capabilities.
- ❖ It maps organizations across the upstream, midstream, and downstream segments of India's space ecosystem.
- ❖ The catalogue provides information on the capabilities, products, and services of Indian space-sector organizations.
- ❖ It serves as a continuously updated platform for industry, government, researchers, investors, and international partners.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Photosynthesis in Mouse Eye Cells

- ❖ Researchers have successfully demonstrated photosynthesis in mouse eye cells using a plant-derived nano-system called LEAF (Light-driven Engineered Artificial Thylakoid Factory).
- ❖ Researchers introduced chloroplast-derived structures into mouse corneal cells, enabling them to produce energy-related molecules under light exposure.
- ❖ LEAF functions as a temporary neo-organelle and generates ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate) and NADPH (Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate) using light energy.
- ❖ The study explored its use in treating dry eye disease (Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca).
- ❖ In preclinical mouse trials, LEAF therapy improved corneal health, increased tear film stability, and outperformed several standard treatments.

### Elvira Rat and Cutch Rock Rat

- ❖ Adaptability to different rocky habitats influences the survival and distribution of the Elvira rat and the Cutch rock rat.
- ❖ The Elvira rat is a Critically Endangered rodent found only in the Shervaroy Hills of Salem district, Tamil Nadu, and is closely associated with the rare Shonkinite rock formation.
- ❖ The Cutch rock rat has a wider distribution because it can adapt to various rocky habitats, including granite, quartzite, basalt, and Deccan Trap formations.
- ❖ The Elvira rat has a very restricted habitat range, while the Cutch rock rat is found in parts of Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan, making it relatively more resilient.
- ❖ The Cutch rock rat plays an important ecological role as a prey species for animals such as the Bengal fox and several raptor species.

### Yellow-Throated Marten in Kaziranga

- ❖ The Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*) has been recorded for the first time in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, Assam.
- ❖ The Yellow-throated Marten is a diurnal (day-active), tree-climbing mammal belonging to the Mustelidae family.
- ❖ It is a mesopredator, a medium-sized carnivore that occupies a position below apex predators in the food chain.
- ❖ The species is found across the Himalayan region and northeastern India, including Assam.

- ❖ It plays an important ecological role by aiding seed dispersal, which supports forest regeneration.
- ❖ It is protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

### **India's Giant Coral Colony**

- ❖ Marine researchers have documented the giant *Pavona clavus* (Potato Patch) coral colony near Kadmat Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.
- ❖ The Potato Patch is a hard coral colony of the species *Pavona clavus* (potato coral), covering about 4,250 square metres, making it one of the world's largest known coral colonies.
- ❖ Located in the southeastern coastal waters of Kadmat Island, the colony is estimated to be 700–1,800 years old and was formed through continuous calcium carbonate deposition by coral polyps.
- ❖ A survey found that 58.47% of its tissue remains alive and healthy, despite repeated marine heatwaves and coral bleaching events.
- ❖ The colony serves as an important habitat for marine life and provides valuable evidence for studying climate change, past ocean conditions, and coral resilience.

### **Fish Waste-Based Biofertilisers**

- ❖ Scientists at the Chennai-based ICAR-CIBA (ICAR – Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) have developed two soil-friendly bio fertilisers from fish waste.
- ❖ The two products, CIBA-Plankton Plus and CIBA-Horti Plus, are made entirely from fish market waste.
- ❖ The innovation aims to address fish waste disposal and reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers.
- ❖ India produces about 195 lakh tonnes of fish annually, generating over 60 lakh tonnes of fish waste.
- ❖ Field trials showed that CIBA-Plankton Plus improved fish and shrimp production, increased survival rates, and reduced feed requirements.
- ❖ CIBA-Horti Plus increased potato yields by up to 23.8%, improved soil fertility, and reduced the need for DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) fertiliser.

### **Nilgiri Tahr Population Survey 2026**

- ❖ The latest synchronised survey found that the population of the Nilgiri Tahr, Tamil Nadu's State animal, has increased to 1,364.
- ❖ The population increased by 4.68% from 1,303 in 2025 and by 32% from 1,031 in 2024.

- ❖ The Nilgiri Tahr is an endemic mountain ungulate found only in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ The survey was conducted jointly by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and Kerala Forest Department under Project Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ For the first time, the Android-based “Varudai” mobile application was used for real-time field data collection.

### **Tamil Nadu State-Wide Raptor Assessment 2025–26**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu released the findings of its first-ever comprehensive state-wide raptor assessment on 5 June 2026 on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- ❖ Raptors are birds of prey, such as eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures, and owls.
- ❖ It recorded 5,712 sightings belonging to 51 raptor species across the state.
- ❖ The assessment was carried out by the Tamil Nadu Raptor Research Foundation (TNRRF) under the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) with support from WWF-India.
- ❖ Raptors are considered important indicators of ecosystem health because they occupy the top levels of food chains.

### **Tamil Nadu Synchronised Bird Estimate 2025**

- ❖ The findings of the Tamil Nadu Synchronised Bird Estimate 2025 were released by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- ❖ The survey was conducted in two phases: Wetland Birds (8–9 March 2025) and Terrestrial Birds (15–16 March 2025).
- ❖ A total of 798 bird species were recorded across the state, including 397 wetland species and 401 terrestrial species.
- ❖ The survey documented about 7.8 lakh birds across diverse habitats in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It recorded 26 endangered bird species out of the 37 endangered species known from the state.
- ❖ The estimate also documented 17 nocturnal bird species and a large number of migratory birds.

### **HAWK Wildlife Management System**

- ❖ Kerala launched HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) as India’s first judiciary-integrated digital system for wildlife offence management.

- ❖ HAWK links forest offence records with the District Court Management System through an Application Programming Interface (API).
- ❖ It tracks the complete lifecycle of wildlife crime cases, from the Preliminary Offence Report to court verdicts.
- ❖ The system creates a centralised database and reduces the need for physical paperwork.
- ❖ It provides dashboards for forest officials to monitor case pendency, investigations, and crime patterns.
- ❖ HAWK also serves as an ecological intelligence platform by analysing data on wildlife mortality, illegal weapon seizures, vehicles involved, and repeat offenders.

### **Babesia Infection**

- ❖ Two Asiatic lion cubs in Gir National Park, Gujarat, died due to suspected Babesia infection.
- ❖ Babesia infection (Babesiosis) is a tick-borne disease caused by protozoan parasites of the genus Babesia.
- ❖ The parasite infects and multiplies inside red blood cells (erythrocytes).
- ❖ It spreads mainly through infected ticks such as Ixodes, Rhipicephalus, Dermacentor and Haemaphysalis.
- ❖ Symptoms include fever, anaemia, jaundice, respiratory distress and destruction of red blood cells.
- ❖ Babesiosis is a zoonotic disease and can infect humans through infected tick bites or contaminated blood.

### **100th Ramsar Site - Surha Tal**

- ❖ Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) in Uttar Pradesh has been declared India's 100th Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ It is located in Ballia district of UP and, is a natural oxbow lake formed by the Ganga River.
- ❖ It was declared as a bird sanctuary in 1991
- ❖ India now has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in Asia and the third-highest in the world.

### **Fourth Coral Bleaching update**

- ❖ Scientists have reported that the fourth global coral bleaching event, the fastest and most widespread on record, likely ended in mid-2025.

- ❖ The event was confirmed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on 15 April 2024.
- ❖ It caused bleaching-level heat stress across 84% of the world's coral reef areas.
- ❖ Coral reefs in 83 countries and territories across the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans were affected.
- ❖ The event likely concluded after the Western Australia coral bleaching episode in early 2025.
- ❖ Scientists warn that rising ocean temperatures could lead to more frequent coral bleaching events in the future.

### **Bonn Climate Conference 2026**

- ❖ The 64th Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB64) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are being held in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ It is the annual mid-year climate meeting that prepares technical discussions before the next Conference of the Parties (COP) summit.
- ❖ The conference focuses on climate adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, loss and damage, and just transition.
- ❖ Discussions included increasing adaptation finance, implementing the Belém Adaptation Indicators adopted at COP30, and strengthening climate-resilient agriculture.
- ❖ It also reviewed the implementation of the Just Transition Mechanism agreed at COP30.

### **Yellow Puffball Mushroom**

- ❖ A rare Yellow Puffball Mushroom was documented in Zedua village, Longding district, Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ *Bovista colorata* is a puffball fungus known for its bright yellow, round fruiting body.
- ❖ Puffball mushrooms produce spores inside a closed structure and release them when the outer wall ruptures.
- ❖ *Bovista* belongs to the Agaricaceae family and plays an important role in decomposition and nutrient recycling.

### **Global Heat-Risk Hotspots**

- ❖ A study by the University of Oxford ranked Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai among the world's top 50 urban centres facing significant heat risk.

- ❖ It assessed heat risk based on heat exposure, population vulnerability, and coping capacity.
- ❖ Hyderabad ranked among the world's 30 most heat-vulnerable cities with a heat-risk score of 0.68.
- ❖ A total of 14 Indian cities featured among the world's top 50 urban centres facing significant heat risk.
- ❖ A study by the University of East Anglia found that Indian urban areas may warm about 45% faster than surrounding rural regions.
- ❖ According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, over 76% of India's population faces high to very high risk from extreme heat.

### **“35 by 35” Electrification Target**

- ❖ The COP31 co-presidency of Australia and Turkey has proposed the “35 by 35” target to increase electricity’s share of global final energy demand to 35% by 2035.
- ❖ The proposal was announced during the Bonn Climate Meeting held in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ It aims to raise electricity’s share from the current level of about 20–23% of global final energy consumption.
- ❖ The target focuses on increasing electrification in sectors such as buildings, transport, and industry.
- ❖ It is part of the COP31 Action Agenda, a non-binding initiative under the United Nations climate process.
- ❖ The proposal supports the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

### **Migratory Flamingos – Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Large flocks of migratory flamingos have been spotted in the salt pans of Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, where they are using the area as a feeding and resting habitat during migration.
- ❖ Flamingos are tall, pink water birds that live in large groups and are known for their highly social behaviour in wetlands and coastal habitats.
- ❖ They are found in shallow saline lakes, salt pans, mudflats, mangroves, and coastal lagoons, and in India, they mainly migrate between Gujarat and southern wetlands.
- ❖ India is home to two species of flamingos: the Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and the Lesser Flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*).

- ❖ Greater Flamingo is listed as Least Concern (IUCN) and is abundant, while Lesser Flamingo is Near Threatened (IUCN) due to increasing environmental pressures.
- ❖ In India, both species mainly breed in the Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, and later migrate to wetlands in states like Tamil Nadu for feeding and wintering.
- ❖ They are protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

### **First Carbon Credits Under the Paris Agreement**

- ❖ The United Nations has issued the first-ever carbon credits under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement for a clean-cooking project in Myanmar.
- ❖ A carbon credit is a tradable certificate representing the reduction, avoidance, or removal of one metric tonne of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or its equivalent greenhouse gases.
- ❖ The project in Myanmar distributes clean-cooking stoves that replace traditional wood-fired stoves, reducing emissions and deforestation.
- ❖ The project involves Myanmar (host country) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea), with oversight by the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body.
- ❖ A portion of the credits will be transferred to South Korea for its emissions trading obligations, while the remaining credits support Myanmar's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- ❖ The mechanism aims to promote high-integrity carbon markets, international climate finance, and sustainable development benefits such as improved health and environmental protection.

### **Coral Translocation - Great Nicobar**

- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India has identified four new sites for coral translocation in Great Nicobar Island.
- ❖ It aims to protect coral colonies and giant clams affected by the proposed transshipment port at Galathea.
- ❖ Coral translocation is the physical relocation of corals from unsuitable areas to places where they can survive and grow better.
- ❖ The translocated coral colonies will be monitored using Global Positioning System (GPS) tags.
- ❖ Corals are invertebrate animals belonging to the phylum Cnidaria, and each coral is made up of tiny organisms called polyps.
- ❖ Corals obtain their colour from microscopic algae called zooxanthellae, which live in a symbiotic relationship with them.

- ❖ Healthy corals require warm, clear and shallow waters, usually at temperatures between 23°C and 29°C.

### **First Scientific Report on Greater Hog Badger**

- ❖ Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve has released its first-ever scientific assessment report on the Greater Hog Badger (*Arctonyx collaris*).
- ❖ The Greater Hog Badger is a nocturnal, medium-sized omnivorous and burrowing mammal found in Northeast India and parts of South and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ It is locally called 'Mati Gahori' (Earth Pig) in Assam because of its pig-like snout and digging behaviour.
- ❖ The species is classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It receives the highest legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India.
- ❖ By digging and turning the soil, the animal helps in soil aeration, nutrient recycling and the creation of micro-habitats for other species.

### **Otter Habitat in Thamirabarani**

- ❖ Researchers have raised concerns over the declining otter population in the Thamirabarani River due to the destruction of their natural habitat.
- ❖ Thamirabarani, also called Tamraparni or Porunai, is a rare perennial river that flows entirely within Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It originates from Agastyarkoodam Peak in the Pothigai Hills of the Western Ghats and drains into the Gulf of Mannar in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The river is about 128 kilometres (km) long and flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) districts.
- ❖ Major tributaries are the Gadananathi, Manimuthar, and Pachaiyar rivers, and important dams include Papanasam, Karaiyar, Manimuthar, Servalar, and Gadananathi Dams.
- ❖ The river is rich in biodiversity, with about 669 fish species, and it is one of the few rivers in India that supports all three otter species—the Eurasian Otter, Smooth-coated Otter, and Asian Small-clawed Otter.

### **Native Fruit Tree Cultivation – Nilgiris**

- ❖ Native fruit tree cultivation is being promoted in the Nilgiris district through a joint initiative of the district administration and the Department of Horticulture.

- ❖ A dedicated one-acre plot has been established at the Pomological Station, Coonoor, for cultivating native fruit trees.
- ❖ The identified native species include wild figs, monkey fruit, wild guavas, jamuns, and *Eleocarpus tectorius* (Vikki fruit).
- ❖ The Department of Horticulture is providing guidance and subsidised planting materials for native fruit and traditional vegetable cultivation.
- ❖ The United Planters' Association of Southern India is piloting intercropping of tea with fruit and medicinal plants in the Nilgiris.

### **San Andreas Fault: Highest Stress in 1,000 Years**

- ❖ New study suggests the San Andreas Fault (California, United States) has accumulated its highest stress levels in the last 1,000 years.
- ❖ The study was published in the AGU (American Geophysical Union) Journals based on earthquake cycle modelling.
- ❖ Researchers analysed a reconstructed 1,000-year earthquake history using geological and radiocarbon data.
- ❖ The model shows stress build-up beneath the fault, especially near Cajon Pass, where fault strands interact.
- ❖ Elevated stress does not indicate an immediate earthquake, only long-term accumulation of tectonic strain.
- ❖ The San Andreas Fault is a major tectonic boundary where the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate meet.

### **SHAN Conservation Society – Ladakh Wildlife Protection**

- ❖ SHAN (Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature) Conservation Society was approved in Ladakh by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh as a dedicated body to protect snow leopards and cold desert ecosystems.
- ❖ The society will focus on conserving alpine fauna, flora, wetlands, and fragile high-altitude ecosystems in the Ladakh region of India.
- ❖ It will work on scientific monitoring, research, habitat protection, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.
- ❖ The body will also promote eco-development and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities in Ladakh.
- ❖ Snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, and Ladakh hosts the largest population in India.

### **India's First 3D-Printed Artificial Reef Deployment**

- ❖ India's first 3D-printed artificial reef modules are set to be deployed off the Ramanathapuram coast in Tamil Nadu under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ❖ The project is a marine habitat restoration initiative aimed at improving coastal biodiversity and fish population recovery.
- ❖ The reef modules have been developed by Tvasta Manufacturing Solutions (IIT Madras-incubated startup) in collaboration with the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
- ❖ The modules feature complex 3D structures with crevices and folds to enhance marine life attachment and habitat formation.
- ❖ The pilot project will assess durability, ecological performance, and suitability for large-scale deployment in Indian coastal waters.

### **Global Methane Reduction Initiative**

- ❖ The United Nations launched a global Call to Action on Methane and an AI Environmental Transparency Initiative during London Climate Action Week on 23 June 2026.
- ❖ The initiative aims to reduce methane emissions, a greenhouse gas that is about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.
- ❖ The oil and gas sector is identified as a major source of methane emissions through leaks, venting, and flaring.
- ❖ The UN called for near-zero methane emissions and wider use of existing technologies to reduce emissions by up to 70%.
- ❖ The AI initiative seeks mandatory disclosure of carbon, water, and land footprints of major AI companies and data centres.
- ❖ The UN urged AI firms to power data centres fully with renewable energy by 2030 to reduce environmental impact.

### **Blue Swimmer Crab Farming Technology**

- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Chennai, successfully demonstrated India's first Blue Swimmer Crab farming technology.
- ❖ The Blue Swimmer Crab is scientifically known as *Portunus reticulatus* and is an important commercial marine crab species used in brackish water aquaculture.

- ❖ ICAR-CIBA developed a complete technology package, including hatchery, nursery rearing, grow-out farming practices, and a specially formulated pelleted feed called BSCrabPlus.
- ❖ The demonstration was conducted at the Muttukadu Experimental Station, Chennai, using institute-produced hatchery seed and BSCrabPlus feed.
- ❖ The technology aims to improve commercial crab farming, increase farmers' income, and support sustainable brackish water aquaculture in India.

### **International Big Cat Alliance - Bangladesh**

- ❖ Bangladesh became the 27th member country of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- ❖ The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation headquartered in New Delhi, India, for the conservation of seven big cat species.
- ❖ The alliance was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger, and became a treaty-based organisation on 23 January 2025.
- ❖ The seven big cat species covered under the IBCA are the tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.
- ❖ Bangladesh joined the alliance to strengthen cooperation in big cat conservation, including the protection of the Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans shared by India and Bangladesh.

### **Venezuela Earthquake 2026 - Seismic Doublet Event**

- ❖ Venezuela was hit by twin powerful earthquakes, causing major destruction and an emergency response.
- ❖ A magnitude 7.2 earthquake occurred near San Felipe, followed within 39 seconds by a stronger magnitude 7.5 earthquake near Morón.
- ❖ The earthquakes occurred along the boundary of the Caribbean Plate and South American Plate, due to shallow strike-slip faulting.
- ❖ The event is known as a Seismic Doublet, meaning two major earthquakes of similar magnitude occur closely in time and location.
- ❖ In a seismic doublet, both quakes act as primary earthquakes, unlike normal aftershocks, where only one mainshock occurs.

## **REPORTS AND INDICATES**

### **UN Sexual Violence Report 2026**

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) included Israel and Russia in its 2026 blacklist of parties suspected of conflict-related sexual violence.
- ❖ The UN report documented verified cases of sexual violence in conflict zones during 2025, including incidents involving detainees in the occupied Palestinian territories and during the conflict in Ukraine.
- ❖ The report recorded nearly 10,000 cases of conflict-related sexual violence worldwide in 2025, more than double the number reported in the previous year.
- ❖ The blacklist forms part of the UN's annual monitoring mechanism on conflict-related sexual violence and is intended to promote accountability and preventive action.

### **Global Climate Update Report**

- ❖ The Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2026–2035 has warned of rising global temperatures and increasing climate extremes over the next decade.
- ❖ The report was released by the World Meteorological Organization.
- ❖ Global temperatures during 2026–2030 are projected to be 1.3°C to 1.9°C above pre-industrial levels.
- ❖ There is a 91% probability that global temperatures will temporarily exceed the 1.5°C warming threshold before 2030.
- ❖ Arctic winters are expected to be about 2.8°C warmer than recent historical averages.
- ❖ The report highlights an increased risk of heatwaves and other extreme weather events worldwide.

### **State of India's Digital Economy 2026 Report**

- ❖ The State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2026 report has been released by the ICRIER–Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy.
- ❖ India has risen to 5th position globally in the digital economy and 4th rank in standalone AI performance, ahead of countries like Germany, France, Japan, the UK and Canada.
- ❖ The report states that India generated USD 328 billion in digitally delivered trade and has the world's second-largest AI talent pool after the United States.

- ❖ It finds that 72% of global AI users are now in developing countries, showing rapid diffusion of generative AI across emerging economies.
- ❖ The global digital economy is becoming tri-polar, with China, Singapore and India among the top five digital economies, reflecting a shift toward the Indo-Pacific region.

### **NFHS-6 Report**

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) for 2023–24.
- ❖ NFHS-6 covered 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts and was conducted with the International Institute for Population Sciences as the nodal agency.
- ❖ Antenatal Care (ANC) coverage increased from 92.6% to 95.9%, while institutional deliveries increased from 88.6% to 90.6%.
- ❖ Full immunization among children aged 12–23 months increased from 83.8% to 87.1%.
- ❖ Stunting among children under five years declined from 35.5% to 29.3%, and severe wasting declined from 7.7% to 5.2%.
- ❖ India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remained at 2.0, while women's use of the internet increased from 33.3% to 64.3%.

### **PRS Report on State Assemblies**

- ❖ PRS Legislative Research (PRS) Annual Review of State Laws report highlights concerns in the functioning of State Legislatures in India, including low sitting days and weak legislative scrutiny.
- ❖ The report states that State Legislatures passed over 600 Bills, with nearly 30% passed on the same day of introduction, limiting detailed debate and examination.
- ❖ On average, State Assemblies functioned for about 24 days, and some States, like Nagaland met for only 7 days in a year.
- ❖ The report highlights weak committee scrutiny, with only about 5% of Bills being referred to committees, reducing detailed legislative review.
- ❖ It also notes increased use of ordinances (127 in a year), indicating greater executive-driven law-making instead of parliamentary discussion.
- ❖ The report raises concerns over limited budget discussion time and vacant constitutional posts like Deputy Speaker in several States and Union Territories (UTs).

### **Prison Statistics 2024 report**

- ❖ The Prison Statistics India 2024 report highlighted continued overcrowding in Indian prisons, mainly due to a high proportion of undertrial prisoners.
- ❖ India had 1,333 prisons with a capacity of 4.53 lakh inmates, but housed over 5.11 lakh inmates in 2024.
- ❖ The national prison occupancy rate stood at 112.7%, indicating overcrowding beyond sanctioned capacity.
- ❖ Undertrial prisoners accounted for about 73% of the total prison population in 2024.
- ❖ More than half of the States and Union Territories (UTs) recorded occupancy rates above 100%.
- ❖ Delhi had the highest prison occupancy rate at 194%, and over 87% of its inmates were undertrials.

### **AI Footprint Report 2026**

- ❖ The United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) released the report “Environmental Cost of AI's Energy Use: Carbon, Water and Land Footprints”.
- ❖ Global data centres consumed about 448 Terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity in 2025, projected to reach 945 TWh by 2030.
- ❖ Data-centre operations could require 9.3 trillion litres of water annually by 2030 for cooling and electricity generation.
- ❖ Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related electricity infrastructure may occupy over 14,500 sq km of land by 2030.
- ❖ Inference (running AI models for user queries) accounts for 80–90% of AI's total energy consumption.
- ❖ AI infrastructure could generate up to 2.5 million tonnes of electronic waste (e-waste) annually by 2030.
- ❖ Over 90% of global AI computing capacity is concentrated in the United States and China, highlighting a growing digital divide.

### **Container Port Performance Index 2025**

- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Maharashtra, has been ranked as India's top container port and placed 22nd globally in the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025.
- ❖ JNPA is India's best-performing container port as per the CPPI 2025 report.

- ❖ The CPPI is jointly published by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.
- ❖ It measures port performance based on cargo handling speed, vessel turnaround time, and operational efficiency.
- ❖ Other Indian ports in ranking include Pipavav (28th), Mundra (30th), and Visakhapatnam (104th).

### **Global Peace Index 2026**

- ❖ The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026 has been released, ranking countries based on their levels of peace and safety.
- ❖ The Global Peace Index (GPI) is published annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- ❖ Iceland was ranked as the world's most peaceful country for the 19th consecutive year.
- ❖ The top five peaceful countries are Iceland, New Zealand, Switzerland, Slovenia and Ireland.
- ❖ India's rank fell to 127th place in 2026 from 115th place in 2025, with its peacefulness score declining by 2.9%.
- ❖ Russia was ranked as the least peaceful country in the world.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **CAG State Finances Report 2024-25**

- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India released the State Finances 2024-25 Report.
- ❖ This report provides a fiscal overview of all 28 States from 2015-16 to 2024-25.
- ❖ The combined outstanding public debt of States stood at ₹75.52 lakh crore, equal to 23.27% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), while total liabilities reached 27.89% of GSDP.
- ❖ About 99% of capital receipts came from public debt, showing that States depend heavily on borrowings to finance expenditure.
- ❖ Against the Fifteenth Finance Commission benchmark of 3% of GSDP, 18 States recorded fiscal deficits above the prescribed limit in 2024-25.

- ❖ Revenue expenditure formed 83.41% of total expenditure, while capital expenditure accounted for only 16.59%, indicating relatively low asset-creating expenditure.
- ❖ The share of States in the devolution of Union taxes and duties increased from 27.73% in 2015-16 to 31.76% in 2024-25, while subsidies remained around 8-10% of total revenue expenditure, mainly for the energy and agriculture sectors.

### **Planetary Climate Vital Signs Report 2026**

- ❖ The Planetary Climate Vital Signs Report 2026, released during the Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB64), warned that all 11 major planetary climate indicators have worsened since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report.
- ❖ The report was published in Earth System Science Data by around 70 scientists from 17 countries and provides updated measurements of key global climate indicators.
- ❖ Marine heatwaves showed the sharpest deterioration, increasing by 1%, while Earth's Energy Imbalance rose by 8%, indicating faster heat accumulation in the climate system.
- ❖ Human-induced warming reached 1.37°C above pre-industrial levels in 2025, and current trends suggest that the 1.5°C limit of the Paris Agreement could be crossed within about four years.
- ❖ The report warned that rising temperatures and marine heatwaves could intensify extreme weather events, damage marine ecosystems, disrupt monsoon systems, and threaten food and water security.

### **Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 - UNICEF**

- ❖ The UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Report 2026 highlights that around 392 million children in India (92%) are exposed to extreme heat, with 89 million children facing recurrent heatwaves.
- ❖ The report identifies India's overall climate hazard exposure score as 9.21/10, among the highest globally.
- ❖ India records 10/10 exposure for extreme heat and 9.94/10 for air pollution, indicating severe environmental risks.
- ❖ The report notes high drought vulnerability (8.84/10) and multiple overlapping risks like heatwaves, floods, and pollution affecting children.
- ❖ It highlights gaps in child-focused Heat Action Plans, especially in schools, anganwadis, and child-specific adaptation measures.

### **Hunger Hotspots Report 2026**

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) released the Hunger Hotspots Report 2026, warning of worsening acute food insecurity in 13 global hotspots.
- ❖ The report identifies 13 countries where food insecurity is expected to worsen between June and November 2026.
- ❖ Countries include Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia, Haiti, Sudan, Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Nigeria, and Mali.
- ❖ Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Palestine, Nigeria, and Somalia are classified as the highest concern areas due to severe hunger and famine risk.
- ❖ Around 266 million people are already facing acute hunger globally.
- ❖ Main drivers include conflict, economic shocks, climate change, droughts, floods, disease outbreaks, and declining humanitarian funding.

### **Energy Transition Index 2026**

- ❖ The Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2026 was released by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with Accenture, highlighting progress and challenges in the global energy transition.
- ❖ The index measures countries' progress towards secure, sustainable, and equitable energy systems and their readiness for future energy transition.
- ❖ India ranked 70th globally, improving by 2 places from the previous year and emerging as one of the strongest global improvers in energy transition readiness.
- ❖ India's progress was driven by renewable energy expansion, grid infrastructure development, green hydrogen initiatives, and increased investment in sustainability and clean-energy infrastructure.
- ❖ The index assesses 120 countries using 44 indicators, with scores based on system performance (60%) and transition readiness (40%).
- ❖ Sweden, Finland, and Denmark retained the top three positions globally in the ETI 2026 rankings.

### **State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report 2026**

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) released the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2026 report under the theme “Blue Transformation: Turning Vision into Impact”.
- ❖ The FAO Blue Transformation Vision (2021) aims to improve aquatic food systems through sustainable aquaculture expansion, efficient fisheries management, and inclusive value chains.

- ❖ Global aquatic production reached a record 235 million tonnes (2024), with aquaculture contributing 53% of total aquatic animal production.
- ❖ The share of sustainably managed fish stocks declined from 64.5% (2021) to 62.4% (2023), indicating pressure on marine resources.
- ❖ India accounted for 9% of global aquatic production (2024), ranking 2nd globally after China, and is the largest inland capture fisheries producer.
- ❖ India is also the 2nd-largest aquaculture producer, contributing about 12% of global aquaculture output, supported by schemes like Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

### **World Future Skills Index**

- ❖ India ranked 13th globally in AI-economy readiness in the QS World Future Skills Index 2027, released on 23 June 2026 by QS Quacquarelli Symonds.
- ❖ India scored 89.4 out of 100 in the index and ranked 5th in the Future of Work category with a score of 96.0.
- ❖ The index assesses countries based on readiness for future skills and AI-driven economic transformation.
- ❖ India showed strong performance in Economic Transformation and Academic Readiness.
- ❖ The report estimates that AI adoption could add nearly \$500 billion to India's economy by 2030.

### **NCB Report 2025**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs released the NCB Annual Report 2025 and Vision Document on Drug Control (2026–2029), highlighting rising drug trafficking and new synthetic drug challenges in India.
- ❖ Global drug users have reached 316 million, showing a significant rise over the last decade.
- ❖ India is highly vulnerable due to its location between the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle drug production zones.
- ❖ Traffickers increasingly use darknet platforms, cryptocurrency, and messaging apps like Telegram and WhatsApp for drug sales and laundering.
- ❖ In 2025, NCB registered 702 cases with an increased focus on cyber patrolling and inter-agency coordination.
- ❖ The Vision Document (2026–2029) is based on 4 pillars: enforcement, precursor control, demand reduction, and capacity building.

## STATES

### Goa Statehood Day 2026

- ❖ The day was celebrated on 30 May 2026, marking 40 years since Goa became the 25th state of India in 1987.
- ❖ After India's independence in 1947, Goa remained under Portuguese rule until 1961.
- ❖ Operation Vijay (17–19 December 1961) was launched by India to end Portuguese rule and integrate Goa, Daman and Diu into the Indian Union.
- ❖ The 12th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962 incorporated Goa, Daman and Diu as a Union Territory.
- ❖ The Official Language Act, 1987 recognized Konkani as Goa's official language, strengthening the demand for statehood.
- ❖ On 30 May 1987, Goa attained full statehood, while Daman and Diu became a separate Union Territory.

### Two New Special Economic Zones - Puducherry

- ❖ The Union Government has notified two new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Puducherry to boost investment, exports and employment.
- ❖ An Information Technology/Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES) SEZ will be developed by Oulgaret Municipality at Thattanchavady with an investment of ₹725 crore.
- ❖ It will be the first SEZ in India developed by an Urban Local Body (municipality) and is expected to create about 3,500 jobs.
- ❖ A Multi-Sector SEZ will be developed by Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation (PIPDIC) at Karasur village with an investment of ₹1,250 crore.
- ❖ The projects aim to strengthen industrial growth, manufacturing and export-led development in the Tamil Nadu–Andaman and Puducherry (TAP) region.

### Sikkim - Full Literacy

- ❖ Sikkim has been declared India's fifth fully literate State under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme.
- ❖ Sikkim achieved the literacy benchmarks prescribed under the ULLAS (Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram) initiative of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

- ❖ It joins Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, and Himachal Pradesh as fully literate States.
- ❖ A State is generally considered fully literate when adult literacy exceeds 95% and identified non-literate populations are covered through literacy programmes.
- ❖ ULLAS focuses on foundational literacy, life skills, vocational skills, basic education, and continuing education for adults.

### **Raipur's Rainwater Revolution**

- ❖ Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, has emerged as a national model for urban water conservation under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative.
- ❖ Nearly 32,000 rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures have been created, including recharge wells, percolation pits, and rooftop harvesting systems.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve groundwater recharge, reduce urban water stress, and develop Raipur as a climate-resilient Sponge City.
- ❖ Recharge wells can replenish up to 3 lakh litres of water annually, while injection wells can recharge up to 15 lakh litres per year.
- ❖ It also includes pond interlinking, the Kharun River recharge project, and the reuse of treated wastewater for sustainable urban water management.

### **Telangana Formation Day 2026**

- ❖ Telangana celebrated its 12th Formation Day on 2 June 2026, marking 12 years since it became India's 29th state in 2014.
- ❖ Telangana was formed on 2 June 2014 under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- ❖ The Telangana region was merged with Andhra State in 1956 to form Andhra Pradesh, leading to demands for a separate Telangana state.
- ❖ The modern Telangana movement gained momentum in 2001 with the formation of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) by K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR).

### **Mission Senehjori**

- ❖ The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) launched Mission Senehjori to promote Assam's Muga silk as a global luxury brand.
- ❖ Mission Senehjori is a cluster-based textile initiative focused on the development of Muga silk, which is found only in Assam.
- ❖ The mission aims to increase the income of Muga rearers and weavers and strengthen the global market for Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Muga silk.

- ❖ It includes plantation expansion, modern reeling units, digital traceability using Quick Response (QR) codes, and the formation of Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs).
- ❖ The mission targets Muga silk exports of over 2,000 kg annually by 2028 and promotes silk tourism through a Muga Silk Trail, Silk Tourism Park, and Muga Utsav.
- ❖ Muga silk is known as the world's only naturally golden silk and is a unique cultural heritage product of Assam.

### **Child Malnutrition - Madhya Pradesh**

- ❖ The National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023–24 reported high levels of child malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh recorded 23.8% wasting (low weight for height), the highest in India, compared to the national average of 19%.
- ❖ The State recorded 39.7% underweight children (low weight for age), the second highest in India after Jharkhand (41.1%).
- ❖ Stunting (low height for age) stood at 31.4%, while exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months declined to 56.4%.
- ❖ Only 12% of children aged 6–23 months received a minimum acceptable diet, according to NFHS-6.

### **Decline in Child Stunting - Meghalaya**

- ❖ The National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6) 2023–24 recorded a decline in child stunting in Meghalaya.
- ❖ Child stunting (low height-for-age) among children under five years fell from 46.5% in NFHS-5 (2019–21) to 36.8% in NFHS-6, a decline of 9.7 percentage points.
- ❖ The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale household survey that collects data on health, nutrition, and family welfare indicators in India.
- ❖ NFHS-6 recorded that 76.4% of children in Meghalaya were breastfed within one hour of birth, while 97.1% of infants under six months were currently breastfeeding.
- ❖ Meghalaya's Mission 1000 Days aims to further reduce stunting through maternal health services, nutrition support, and community participation.

### **First Model Border Village**

- ❖ Chumur village in Ladakh has been selected as India's first model border village under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP).
- ❖ Chumur is located in eastern Ladakh near the India–China border at an altitude of about 16,700 feet.
- ❖ The Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) is a Central Sector Scheme for the development of border villages.
- ❖ The first phase of the programme includes the development of 10 model border villages.
- ❖ The project will provide solar-powered housing, water supply, sanitation, digital connectivity, healthcare and educational facilities.
- ❖ It will also promote tourism, Pashmina production and other livelihood opportunities in the border region.

### **Kerala Monsoon Arrival 2026**

- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed the arrival of the southwest monsoon in Kerala on 4 June 2026.
- ❖ The southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on 4 June 2026, three days later than the normal onset date of 1 June.
- ❖ The IMD issued orange alerts in several districts of Kerala as heavy rains and thunderstorms affected the state.
- ❖ The monsoon onset was initially forecast earlier, but it got delayed due to changing weather conditions over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The IMD stated that the monsoon has now advanced into parts of the Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep, Kerala, and adjoining regions of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

### **NeVA initiative - West Bengal**

- ❖ The West Bengal Legislative Assembly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- ❖ West Bengal became the 33rd legislature in India to join the NeVA initiative.
- ❖ NeVA is a Mission Mode Project of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to digitise legislative functioning.
- ❖ The platform supports paperless, transparent, and efficient governance under the Digital India programme.
- ❖ It provides digital access to bills, questions, notices, committee reports, legislative records, and House proceedings.
- ❖ So far, 21 legislatures have transitioned to fully digital functioning through the NeVA platform.

### **Fertility Rate - Andaman and Nicobar**

- ❖ The Andaman and Nicobar Islands recorded India's lowest TFR (Total Fertility Rate) in NFHS-6 (National Family Health Survey-6).
- ❖ The Union Territory recorded a TFR of 0.9, the lowest in India.
- ❖ A replacement-level fertility rate is 2.1, the level needed to maintain a stable population.
- ❖ The TFR in Andaman and Nicobar declined from 1.4 in NFHS-4 to 0.9 in NFHS-6.
- ❖ The share of children below five years decreased from 5.3% to 3.7%, while the population aged 60 years and above increased to 12.6%.
- ❖ Preschool attendance among children aged 2–4 years declined from 88.5% to 66.2%.

### **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative**

- ❖ The initiative was reviewed during a high-level meeting between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Maharashtra Government on 27 May 2026.
- ❖ Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari is a nationwide water conservation initiative launched in September 2024.
- ❖ It promotes community participation in creating rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures.
- ❖ The programme follows the 3Cs framework – Community Participation, low Cost, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- ❖ Its objective is to improve water availability in water-stressed and over-exploited districts through low-cost conservation measures.

### **Two Child Norm - Madhya Pradesh**

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Government has withdrawn the two-child norm that restricted eligibility for government jobs and service benefits.
- ❖ The earlier rule made persons with more than two children born on or after 26 January 2001 ineligible for government service.
- ❖ The provision was introduced in 2001 under the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965.
- ❖ The State Government directed the removal of the provision from the proposed civil services rules.
- ❖ The decision benefits government employees and job aspirants who were covered under the restriction.

- ❖ The withdrawal will not have a retrospective effect; employees previously dismissed under the rule will not be reinstated.

### **1,400 Year Old Inscriptions - Nallamala Tiger Reserve**

- ❖ The Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) documented and copied 25 ancient inscriptions in the Nallamala Tiger Reserve, spread across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ The inscriptions date from the 2nd century CE to the 16th century CE, covering nearly 1,400 years of history.
- ❖ The inscriptions are written in Telugu, Kannada, Prakrit, and Brahmi script.
- ❖ The records are linked to the Satavahana, Eastern Chalukya, Kalyani Chalukya, Potapi Chola, Kakatiya, Reddy, and Vijayanagara periods.
- ❖ Ancient megalithic and early historic rock art, preliminarily dated to about 1500 BCE, was also discovered near Alatom on the banks of the Krishna River.

### **Mizoram in Electoral Roll Digitization**

- ❖ Mizoram recorded 68.05% digitisation of enumeration forms under the third phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls as of 12 June 2026, ranking first among 16 States and 3 Union Territories.
- ❖ The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Mizoram began on 20 May 2026, and the enumeration phase will continue until 28 June 2026.
- ❖ Khawzawl district recorded the highest digitisation at 96.16%, followed by Champhai district (92.57%) and Serchhip district (90.93%).
- ❖ Mizoram distributed 99.90% of enumeration forms through 1,301 Block Level Officers (BLOs) by 12 June 2026.
- ❖ Block Level Officers (BLOs) are field-level officials responsible for voter verification, form distribution and household-level enumeration.

### **Kerala Vision 2031**

- ❖ The Government of Kerala proposed Vision 2031, a policy roadmap to make the state the most women-friendly state in India.
- ❖ The policy proposes a law on the lines of Andhra Pradesh's Disha Act for expedited trials within 21 days for specified crimes against women.
- ❖ It includes a Distress Alert App, Pink buses for night travel, and the Priyadarshini scheme, which provides free travel for women and transgender persons on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) ordinary buses from 15 June 2026.

- ❖ The Avalkoppam initiative aims to prevent domestic violence and dowry harassment and improve facilities for women travellers.
- ❖ Kerala's Gender Budget for 2026-27 is ₹5,586.99 crore, out of a total plan outlay of ₹25,401 crore.

### **Trademark Protection - Puri Temple**

- ❖ 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.

### **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.

### **Four New GI Tags - Jharkhand**

- ❖ Four traditional products from Jharkhand—Bhagaiya silk, Kuchai silk, Munda jewellery and bamboo craft—have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ In India, GI registration is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- ❖ Bhagaiya silk and Kuchai silk are traditional Tussar silk products known for their natural golden sheen and indigenous hand-reeling techniques.
- ❖ Munda jewellery is a traditional tribal craft featuring geometric patterns and nature-inspired motifs of the Munda community.
- ❖ Jharkhand bamboo craft includes eco-friendly products such as baskets, mats and decorative items, supporting sustainable livelihoods in rural areas.

### **Telangana - Iran Manuscript Digitization Pact**

- ❖ The Department of Heritage, Telangana, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Noor International Microfilm Centre to digitise and preserve rare manuscripts and archival records.
- ❖ The agreement covers 737 manuscripts, 3,091 paintings, 14,522 library books and 101 Dastawazats (archival records).
- ❖ The collections include documents in Persian, Urdu, Arabic and other languages, and the work will be funded by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran at no cost to Telangana.
- ❖ The Telangana State Archives and Research Institute houses over 43 million documents, of which about 80% are in Persian and Urdu, with records dating back to 1406 AD.
- ❖ The archives contain records from the Bahmani, Qutb Shahi, Adil Shahi and Mughal dynasties and include rare items such as the Ramayana and Bhagavata Mahapurana in Persian, Quran verses on gold-coated paper and a 10.5-metre-long royal scroll.

### **Student Nutrition Programme - Telangana**

- ❖ Telangana launched its Breakfast and Milk Scheme when schools reopened after the summer vacation.
- ❖ The scheme covers students from pre-primary to Class XII in government schools and junior colleges across the state.
- ❖ The State has allocated ₹720 crore annually, including ₹540 crore for breakfast and ₹180 crore for milk and ragi malt supply.

- ❖ The scheme aims to benefit about 29 lakh students in government educational institutions.
- ❖ The first phase covers 1,302 institutions (1,269 government schools and 33 junior colleges) and benefits around 1.44 lakh students in eight districts.

### **Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project**

- ❖ A consensus was reached among six states for the Kishau Multipurpose Dam Project on the Yamuna basin, enabling inter-state water sharing and implementation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ❖ The project is a hydropower and water storage initiative on the Tons River, a major tributary of the Yamuna, aimed at irrigation, drinking water supply, and electricity generation.
- ❖ The participating states are Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Central Government will bear 90% of the water component cost, while the remaining 10% will be shared by the six states.
- ❖ The project is expected to improve the Yamuna River flow, drinking water availability, irrigation support, and hydropower generation.

### **High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project - Maharashtra**

- ❖ The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the ₹300-crore High-Energy Medical Cyclotron Project (HEMCP) in Nagpur.
- ❖ The project is a nuclear medicine facility based on a high-energy particle accelerator (cyclotron) to produce short-lived medical radioisotopes.
- ❖ These radioisotopes will be used in PET-CT imaging, cancer diagnosis, and targeted nuclear medicine therapies.
- ❖ The facility will support major institutions like AIIMS Nagpur, National Cancer Institute (NCI), and Government Medical College (GMC).
- ❖ The project is jointly funded by government departments under a 50:50 financial model and will be managed through a dedicated Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

### **Amaravati Quantum Valley – 4 Kelvin Milestone**

- ❖ Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) achieved 4 Kelvin (-269°C) cooling using an indigenous dilution refrigerator.
- ❖ The milestone was achieved at the Quantum Reference Facility in Medha Towers, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh.

- ❖ 4 Kelvin is a cryogenic temperature used for testing superconducting devices, quantum sensors, and quantum computing components.
- ❖ A dilution refrigerator uses helium-3 and helium-4 isotopes to achieve extremely low temperatures close to absolute zero.
- ❖ India established its first Quantum Reference Facilities in April 2026 at Medha Towers, Amaravati, and SRM University AP.
- ❖ Absolute zero is 0 Kelvin (-273.15°C), the lowest possible temperature in physics.

### **Telegram Block Under IT Act Section 69A**

- ❖ The Delhi High Court upheld the Union Government's decision to temporarily block Telegram under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, ahead of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination.
- ❖ The Centre stated that Telegram is being used by cybercriminals, fraud networks, and exam paper leak groups, calling it a "new dark web" platform.
- ❖ Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empowers the Government of India to block public access to online content in the interest of sovereignty, security of the State, public order, and other legal grounds.
- ❖ The government used emergency provisions under the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009, to issue the blocking order.
- ❖ The Supreme Court in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* (2015) upheld Section 69A as constitutionally valid with safeguards like written reasons and review mechanisms.

### **Vijayanagara Inscriptions in Andhra Pradesh**

- ❖ Three rare 16th-century inscriptions were discovered by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Sadasivakona, Seshachalam forest, Tirupati.
- ❖ The inscriptions belong to the reign of Vijayanagara king Sadasiva Raya and are dated around 31 July 1554 CE.
- ❖ They are written in Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada, showing the multilingual nature of the Vijayanagara administration.
- ❖ The texts record the construction of a Shiva temple and mutt at Papavinasa and land grants for temple worship.
- ❖ They also mention the allocation of Gudimallam temple lands (Parasurameswara Temple) for religious services and food offerings.

### **Article 371 Safeguards for Ladakh**

- ❖ Centre reaffirmed discussions on constitutional safeguards for Ladakh under Article 371 during a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) meeting on 22 May 2026.
- ❖ Article 371 comes under Part XXI of the Constitution of India, which provides special provisions for certain States and regions.
- ❖ The meeting included representatives of the Ladakh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance.
- ❖ Article 371A (Nagaland), 371F (Sikkim), and 371G (Mizoram) provide region-specific protections on land, culture, and governance.
- ❖ Ladakh became a Union Territory on 31 October 2019 after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Discussions include proposals for an elected body with legislative, executive, and financial powers for Ladakh.

### **Telangana AI-Powered Emergency Response System**

- ❖ Telangana has deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems in its emergency response and cybercrime management infrastructure.
- ❖ Telangana uses AI in the 112 Emergency Response System and Dial 100 police helpline to filter spam and irrelevant calls.
- ❖ The 1930 Cybercrime Helpline uses an AI voice assistant supporting English, Telugu, and Hindi languages.
- ❖ The AI system converts calls into structured reports and helps to freeze fraud-related funds faster.
- ❖ Telangana Cyber Security Bureau launched the C-SIGHT AI platform for cybercrime and child sexual abuse investigations.
- ❖ Telangana Data Exchange (TGDeX) is planned as India's first state-led Digital Public Infrastructure for AI applications.

### **Three Language Formula Issue - Nagaland**

- ❖ The Association of Unaided Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) schools in Nagaland opposed CBSE's mandate to implement the Three-Language Formula under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ Nagaland has 17 major tribal languages and no single common regional language, while English is the official language and medium of instruction.
- ❖ The state faces a shortage of trained teachers, textbooks, and a standard curriculum for implementing multiple languages.

- ❖ The Three-Language Formula was first recommended by the Kothari Commission (1964–66) and adopted in the National Policy on Education (1968).
- ❖ NEP 2020 allows students to study three languages with flexibility, but CBSE requires at least two Indian languages up to Class 10.
- ❖ By census and mathematical measures (like the Herfindahl-Hirschmann Index), Nagaland ranks as the most linguistically diverse state.
- ❖ It is home to at least 14 recognized languages and 17 dialects spoken by its major tribes.

### **Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme - Telangana**

- ❖ Telangana has sought a permanent solution from the Centre and neighbouring States over water sharing and flow issues in the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme provides irrigation to about 83,900 acres across 75 villages in the Palamuru (Mahbubnagar) region of Telangana.
- ❖ Telangana is allocated 17.9 tmcft of water but is able to draw only about 6 tmcft due to flow restrictions.
- ❖ Main problems include heavy silt deposition, structural issues at the canal head, and changes in river flow in the Tungabhadra River system.
- ❖ An expert committee (2004) recommended desilting, revetment works, and a retainer wall to improve water entry into canals.
- ❖ The Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) is an interstate irrigation project built across the Tungabhadra River, a tributary of the Krishna River.
- ❖ It is an essential lifeline for drought-prone agricultural regions, benefitting three riparian states: Telangana, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

### **Lakadong Turmeric - Meghalaya**

- ❖ Lakadong Turmeric from Meghalaya gained global recognition after being showcased at the 52nd G7 Summit in France.
- ❖ It received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2024 and is known for its high curcumin content (7–12%), compared to 2–3% in wide commercial varieties.
- ❖ It is traditionally grown using organic farming by about 14,000 farmers in 43 villages of the Jaintia Hills, Eastern Meghalaya.
- ❖ The North East's largest organic spice processing unit for Lakadong Turmeric was inaugurated in Bhoiryabong, Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya, on 19 June 2026.
- ❖ India has set a target of USD 1 billion in turmeric exports by 2030.

### **Buddha Parinirvana Pillar – Telangana**

- ❖ A rare four-sided stone pillar with a Buddha Parinirvana sculpture was discovered in Bhimsari village, Adilabad district, Telangana.
- ❖ The 10th-century CE pillar combines Buddhist, Vaishnavite, and Shaivite carvings on a single monument.
- ❖ Its four sides depict Buddha Parinirvana, Vishnu Sayana Murti, a heroic warrior, and Uma Lingana Murti.
- ❖ Parinirvana refers to the final passing away of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The discovery is the first known monument of its kind in Telangana, highlighting the coexistence of multiple religious traditions in the medieval Deccan.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **UN Peacekeeping Awards 2026**

- ❖ Two Indian peacekeepers will be honoured posthumously by the United Nations on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (29 May).
- ❖ Lance Havildar Harbhajan Singh and Naib Subedar Sujit Kumar Pradhan will receive the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal for their sacrifice in UN peacekeeping missions.
- ❖ Harbhajan Singh served with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), while Sujit Kumar Pradhan served with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ❖ Major Abhilasha Barak will receive the 2025 Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her service with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).
- ❖ India is the second-largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping, with more than 4,200 military and police personnel currently deployed.
- ❖ Nearly 180 Indian peacekeepers have lost their lives in UN missions, the highest number among troop-contributing countries.
- ❖ The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed every year on 29 May, marking the establishment of the first UN peacekeeping mission in 1948.

### **Historic Appointment to the Supreme Court - V. Mohana**

- ❖ Senior Advocate V. Mohana has been appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

- ❖ She is only the second woman in India's history to be directly elevated from the Bar to the Supreme Court, after Indu Malhotra.
- ❖ She is the first woman from Tamil Nadu to be directly elevated from the Bar to the Supreme Court.
- ❖ She becomes the 12th woman judge in the history of the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ With her appointment, the Supreme Court will have two serving women judges— V. Mohana and B. V. Nagarathna.
- ❖ Justice B. V. Nagarathna is expected to become India's first woman Chief Justice in 2027.
- ❖ M. Fathima Beevi was the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, appointed in 1989.

### **New Chief of Defence Staff - N.S. Raja Subramani**

- ❖ General N.S. Raja Subramani has been appointed as India's new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- ❖ He succeeds Anil Chauhan and becomes the senior-most military officer in the country.
- ❖ General Anil Chauhan completed his tenure as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on 30 May 2026.
- ❖ The CDS is the senior-most military appointment and principal military adviser to the Government of India.
- ❖ Before assuming the post, General Subramani served as Military Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat.
- ❖ He is the 3rd Chief of Defence Staff of the Indian Armed Forces and also serves as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

### **Dr. P. Varadarajulu memorial**

- ❖ Renewed calls have been made for a proper memorial in Tamil Nadu to honour freedom fighter and journalist Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu.
- ❖ Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu was a freedom fighter, noted journalist, and Congress legislator, popularly known as the “Bal Gangadhar Tilak of South India.”
- ❖ Like Bal Gangadhar Tilak in Maharashtra, Naidu was part of a southern political triumvirate along with T. V. Kalyanasundaram and E. V. Ramasamy.
- ❖ He served as editor of the Tamil weeklies Prapanchamitran and Tamil Nadu, and launched the English daily Indian Express in 1932.

- ❖ Similar to Tilak, who faced sedition charges for his writings in Kesari, Naidu was also tried for sedition for a speech delivered on the political situation in Madurai on 18 August 1918.
- ❖ During the second term of C. Rajagopalachari (1952–1954), Naidu strongly opposed the new school education policy introduced by the government.
- ❖ There is no major memorial dedicated to Varadarajulu Naidu in Tamil Nadu, except an Ashoka Pillar in Salem, where he spent most of his life.

### **Longest-Serving Karnataka Chief Minister - Siddaramaiah**

- ❖ Siddaramaiah is the 18th Chief Minister of Karnataka and now holds the record for the longest cumulative tenure in the State's history.
- ❖ He surpassed the previous record held by D. Devaraj Urs.
- ❖ He served as Chief Minister from 2013–2018 and again from 2023 onwards.
- ❖ His combined tenure has crossed 3,048 days, the highest for any Karnataka Chief Minister since the State's formation in 1956.
- ❖ He is the first Karnataka Chief Minister to achieve this record through two separate terms in office.

### **UN Medal for Peacekeepers**

- ❖ 565 Indian peacekeepers, including 53 women, serving under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were awarded the United Nations Medal.
- ❖ The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was established on 9 July 2011 under United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1996.
- ❖ It was created after the independence of South Sudan to support peace, stability and institution-building.
- ❖ UNMISS is one of the largest United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions in the world.
- ❖ India is the second-largest troop contributor to UNMISS, with over 4,200 personnel deployed.

### **e-Governance Award 2026**

- ❖ The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) won the Gold Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 under the category "Digital Transformation through the Use of Data Analytics in Digital Platforms."
- ❖ PAI is a data-driven platform developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to assess and rank Gram Panchayats across the country.

- ❖ PAI 2.0 evaluates over 6 lakh Gram Panchayats using more than 150 indicators and 230 data points.
- ❖ It measures performance under 9 Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) themes.
- ❖ The National Awards for e-Governance have been presented since 2003 to recognize excellence in digital governance.

### **Subhash Kashyap Demise**

- ❖ Constitutional expert and former Lok Sabha Secretary General Subhash C. Kashyap passed away at the age of 97.
- ❖ He served as Lok Sabha Secretary General from 1983 to 1990 and worked in Parliament for over 37 years.
- ❖ He was a member of the high-level committee on simultaneous elections, chaired by Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ He authored more than 100 books on the Constitution, Parliament, and governance.
- ❖ He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his contributions to public life and constitutional studies.

### **e-Governance Award 2026 – e Jagriti**

- ❖ The e-Jagriti platform of the Department of Consumer Affairs won the Silver Award at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026.
- ❖ e-Jagriti is an AI (Artificial Intelligence)-enabled digital platform for consumer grievance redressal.
- ❖ It was launched on 1 January 2025 to create a unified and paperless consumer dispute resolution system.
- ❖ The platform integrates OCMS (Online Case Monitoring System), e-Daakhil, NCDRC (National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission) CMS (Case Management System), and CONFONET.
- ❖ More than 2.07 lakh consumer cases have been disposed of through the platform, with a 90.75% disposal rate.
- ❖ The award was given under the category “Government Process Re-engineering by Use of Technology for Digital Transformation.”

### **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2024-2025**

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi announced the recipients of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the years 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ A total of 108 artists from music, dance, theatre, folk and tribal arts, puppetry, and scholarship were selected for the honours.
- ❖ The awardees represent different States and Union Territories and cover a wide range of Indian performing art forms.
- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952 and are among India's highest national honours in performing arts.
- ❖ The awards recognise sustained individual excellence and contribution in the field of performing arts.
- ❖ Each Akademi Puraskar carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, along with a Tamrapatra.
- ❖ The awardees include eminent artists such as Bombay Jayashri Ramnath, Neyveli R. Narayanan and Niladri Kumar from the fields of music, dance, theatre and folk arts.

### **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2024 and 2025**

- ❖ 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.

### **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.

### **Robert A.F. Thurman's demise**

- ❖ Robert A.F. Thurman (1941–2026), an American scholar of Tibetan Buddhism, passed away at the age of 84 in the United States.
- ❖ He was a renowned author, translator, educator, and co-founder of Tibet House US, which promotes Tibetan culture and Buddhist teachings.
- ❖ He travelled to India, embraced Buddhism, and became a Buddhist monk under the guidance of the Dalai Lama.
- ❖ He spent three years as a Buddhist monk and later became one of the foremost interpreters of Tibetan Buddhism in the Western world.
- ❖ His notable works include Inner Revolution, Infinite Life, and the translation of The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti.

### **Indian Athletics Awards 2026**

- ❖ Athletics Federation of India (AFI) launched the first-ever Indian Athletic Awards in New Delhi to recognise contributions to Indian athletics.
- ❖ The awards recognise athletes, coaches, technical officials, state associations, sponsors, and supporting organisations.
- ❖ A total of 10 categories will be awarded, including Best Male Athlete, Best Female Athlete, Best Coach, and Best State Association of 2025.
- ❖ Three Lifetime Achievement Awards will also be given to individuals for long-term contributions to athletics.
- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem by recognising performance and support at all levels.

## SPORTS

### 1st Yogasana Championship

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 1st World Yogasana Championship 2026 in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ The championship brought together over 500 Yogasana athletes and delegations from more than 60 countries.
- ❖ It aims to promote Yogasana as a globally recognised competitive sport.
- ❖ The event was held ahead of International Day of Yoga, observed annually on 21 June.
- ❖ India aims to include Yogasana in future international sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics.

### World Yogasana Championship 2026

- ❖ India topped the medal tally at the inaugural World Yogasana Championship 2026 held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ❖ India won 114 medals, including 102 gold medals, and finished first among 79 participating countries.
- ❖ Japan secured second place, while Argentina finished third in the medal standings.
- ❖ The championship is an international competition for Yogasana, featuring standardised yoga postures and routines.

### 2026 FIFA World Cup - 23rd edition

- ❖ It is the largest, most ambitious tournament in football history.
- ❖ It is marking the first time the men's event features 48 teams, an expansion from the previous 32.
- ❖ It is jointly hosted across three nations (the United States, Canada, and Mexico).
- ❖ It will be the first World Cup since 2002 to be co-hosted by multiple nations.
- ❖ It will be Canada's first-time hosting or co-hosting the tournament.
- ❖ Mexico is the first nation in history to host three men's World Cups (previously hosting in 1970 and 1986).
- ❖ FIFA is introducing digital 3D avatars for every player to enhance VAR and semi-automated offside decisions.
- ❖ Referees can instantly review fouls and offsides from multiple angles.

- ❖ As the host nations, Canada, Mexico, and the United States all automatically qualified.
- ❖ Cape Verde, Curaçao, Jordan, and Uzbekistan will all make their World Cup debuts.
- ❖ Argentina is the defending champion, having won its third World Cup title in 2022.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **Hindi Journalism Day 2026 - May 30**

- ❖ Hindi Journalism Day is observed annually on 30 May to commemorate the beginning of Hindi journalism in India.
- ❖ On 30 May 1826, India's first Hindi newspaper, Udant Martand ("The Rising Sun"), was launched from Kolkata (then Calcutta) by Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla.
- ❖ The day recognises the contribution of Hindi journalism in promoting public awareness, strengthening democracy, and expanding access to information in Indian languages.
- ❖ 2026 marks the 200th anniversary of Hindi journalism in India.

### **International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories 2026 - May 25/31**

- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness about decolonization and support the right of peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination.
- ❖ A Non-Self-Governing Territory (NSGT) is a territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government, as defined under Chapter XI of the UN Charter.
- ❖ The observance was established by the UN General Assembly Resolution in the year 1999.
- ❖ At present, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remain on the UN list.
- ❖ The current period, 2021–2030, is observed as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.
- ❖ The UN considers decolonisation one of its major achievements, reducing the population living under colonial rule from about 750 million in 1945 to fewer than 2 million today.

### **International Seaweed Day 2026 – June 04**

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of seaweed for nutrition, sustainability, and environmental protection.
- ❖ Seaweed is a nutrient-rich marine plant containing vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and iodine.
- ❖ It grows without freshwater, fertilizers, pesticides, or agricultural land, making it an eco-friendly resource.
- ❖ Seaweed absorbs carbon dioxide, helps reduce ocean pollution, and supports marine biodiversity by providing food and shelter to aquatic species.
- ❖ It is used in food, animal feed, biofuel, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and biodegradable products.

### **World Day Against Speciesism 2026 – June 05**

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness against speciesism, the belief that one species is superior to others.
- ❖ The term "speciesism" was coined by Richard D. Ryder and was later popularized by Peter Singer through his book *Animal Liberation*.
- ❖ The day promotes the idea that animals should receive equal moral consideration and should not be discriminated against based on their species.
- ❖ It is supported by organizations such as PETA and FARM (Farm Animal Rights Movement).
- ❖ The observance encourages discussions on animal welfare, ethical treatment of animals, sustainable lifestyles, and reducing animal exploitation in food, clothing, entertainment, and research.

### **UN Russian Language Day 2026 – June 06**

- ❖ The day marks the birth anniversary of Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, who is widely regarded as the greatest Russian poet.
- ❖ It was established in 2010 as part of the UN initiative to celebrate each of its six official languages.
- ❖ The observance aims to promote the equal use of the UN's six official languages and increase awareness of their history, culture, and achievements.
- ❖ Russian is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, alongside Arabic, Chinese, English, French, and Spanish.
- ❖ The day highlights the importance of multilingualism in fostering mutual understanding, effective communication, and international cooperation.

### **World Oceans Day 2026**

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about ocean conservation and the sustainable use of marine resources.
- ❖ The ocean covers over 70% of Earth's surface and produces at least 50% of the planet's oxygen.
- ❖ Oceans absorb about 30% of human-generated carbon dioxide, helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- ❖ The day highlights the need to protect marine biodiversity and promote sustainable management of oceans worldwide.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a New Relationship with Our Ocean."

### **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 2026 is "Proudly in my skin – celebrating all skin tones."

### **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."

### **Sustainable Gastronomy Day 2026 – June 18**

- ❖ The day highlights the links between food, culture, health, and environmental sustainability.
- ❖ It aims to promote food systems that are environmentally friendly and support healthy diets and food security.
- ❖ Gastronomy refers to the art and culture of food and cooking, while sustainable gastronomy considers where food comes from, how it is produced, and how it reaches consumers.
- ❖ The day encourages people to eat locally grown and seasonal foods, support farmers, and preserve traditional cuisines and culinary practices.
- ❖ It also raises awareness about reducing food loss and food waste, as nearly one-third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted.

### **Autistic Pride Day 2026 - June 18**

- ❖ The day aims to promote understanding and acceptance of autism.
- ❖ The day recognises autism as a neurological difference and not a disease, and encourages pride among autistic people.
- ❖ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a group of complex neuro-developmental disorders characterised by difficulties in social interaction, communication, and repetitive patterns of behaviour.
- ❖ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong condition that usually appears during the first three years of life.
- ❖ The exact cause of autism is unknown, but it is associated with genetic and environmental factors.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Recognition, Representation and Reform.”

### **World Sickle Cell Day 2026 - June 19**

- ❖ The day aims to raise global awareness about sickle cell disease.
- ❖ Sickle cell disease is a monogenic disorder affecting over 3,00,000 births worldwide every year.
- ❖ India has the second-highest burden of sickle cell disease, especially among scheduled tribes and marginalized communities.
- ❖ The disease is caused by abnormal haemoglobin that makes red blood cells sickle-shaped and affects oxygen transport.
- ❖ The United Nations (UN) General Assembly (2008 resolution) declared 19 June as World Sickle Cell Day for global awareness.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease”.

### **World Refugee Day 2026 - June 20**

- ❖ The day aims to honour refugees and raise awareness about protection and human rights.
- ❖ According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 117.3 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced due to conflict, persecution, and violence.
- ❖ The United Nations reports that Sudan has become the largest displacement situation, with millions of refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons.
- ❖ Nearly 71% of refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, while least developed countries host about 25% of them.
- ❖ The United Nations states that three in four displaced people live in regions highly exposed to climate-related hazards, increasing vulnerability.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Solidarity with Refugees".

### **Summer Solstice 2026 - June 21**

- ❖ The June solstice 2026 occurs on 21 June 2026, when the Sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer.
- ❖ It marks the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere due to maximum daylight.
- ❖ The Southern Hemisphere experiences the shortest day because of Earth’s axial tilt of about 23.4 degrees.
- ❖ The solstice occurs because Earth’s tilted axis changes the Sun’s apparent position during its orbit around the Earth.
- ❖ After the solstice, the Sun appears to shift southward, leading to gradually decreasing daylight in the Northern Hemisphere.

### **International Day of Yoga 2026 - June 21**

- ❖ The day aims to promote yoga as a practice for health and well-being.
- ❖ The day marks the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) and is celebrated under the theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing”.
- ❖ Yoga is described as a holistic practice combining physical activity, breathing techniques, mindfulness, and meditation.

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (2014) declared 21 June as International Yoga Day, with support from 175 member states.
- ❖ The date 21 June was chosen because it is the summer solstice, symbolising light, balance, and longevity.

### **International Olympic Day 2026 - June 23**

- ❖ The day aims to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic movement and promote sports participation.
- ❖ It was established in 1948 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during its 42nd session held in St. Moritz, Switzerland.
- ❖ The date 23 June marks the founding of the IOC in 1894 in Paris, France, by Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games.
- ❖ The day promotes Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect through sports and physical activity across countries.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "You Can Do This! Let's Move".

### **World Vitiligo Day 2026 - June 25**

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about vitiligo and the challenges faced by people living with the condition.
- ❖ Vitiligo is a skin disorder in which melanocytes (cells that produce melanin pigment) are destroyed, causing white patches on the skin.
- ❖ The first World Vitiligo Day was organized in 2011 by the Vitiligo Research Foundation (VR Foundation) and Vitiligo Support and Awareness Foundation (VITSAF).
- ❖ The date 25 June was chosen to commemorate the death anniversary of Michael Jackson, who had vitiligo.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "From Stigma to Strength".

### **Passport Seva Divas 2026 – June 24**

- ❖ The day is observed to commemorate the enactment of the Passports Act, 1967, which forms the legal basis for passport issuance in India.
- ❖ The Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0 has improved passport services through e-Passports, Passport Seva Mobile Vans, Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs).
- ❖ The passport service network has expanded from 77 Passport Seva Kendras in 2014 to 545 Passport Seva Kendras and Post Office Passport Seva Kendras across the country.

- ❖ The day recognises the contributions of officials and stakeholders involved in passport service delivery across India.
- ❖ It highlights the commitment of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to provide efficient, secure, transparent and citizen-centric passport services.

### **National Statistics Day 2026 - June 29**

- ❖ The day observed to mark the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra (P.C.) Mahalanobis, the father of modern statistics in India.
- ❖ It has been observed since 2007 to promote the importance of statistics in planning, governance, and policy-making.
- ❖ The day is organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ❖ P.C. Mahalanobis founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931 and established the National Sample Survey (NSS) in 1950.
- ❖ He developed the Mahalanobis Distance ( $D^2$  Statistic) and the Mahalanobis Model, which guided India's Second Five-Year Plan.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Forbes Rich List 2026**

- ❖ The latest Forbes Billionaires Ranking (June 2026) listed the world's richest individuals, with technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) driving major wealth gains.
- ❖ Elon Musk remained the world's richest person with a net worth of USD 835 billion, gaining USD 53 billion in May 2026.
- ❖ Larry Ellison recorded the biggest monthly increase, adding USD 71 billion to reach USD 276 billion.
- ❖ The combined wealth of the world's top 10 richest people stood at nearly USD 2.9 trillion.
- ❖ Technology, cloud computing, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) investments were the major drivers of wealth growth.
- ❖ The top three richest individuals were Elon Musk, Larry Page, and Sergey Brin.

### **SIPRI Yearbook 2026**

- ❖ The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its Yearbook 2026, highlighting global military spending, arms imports, and nuclear arsenals.
- ❖ SIPRI estimates that India's nuclear stockpile increased to about 190 warheads by early 2026.
- ❖ India remained the world's fifth-largest military spender, with defence expenditure of \$92.1 billion in 2025.
- ❖ India was the second-largest importer of major arms during 2021–25, accounting for 8.2% of global arms imports.
- ❖ Globally, the nine nuclear-armed countries possessed about 12,187 nuclear warheads at the beginning of 2026.

### **Ancient Footprints in Italy**

- ❖ Scientists studied 14,000-year-old human footprints and handprints found in Grotta della Bàsura cave in northern Italy.
- ❖ The traces belonged to five Epigravettian hunter-gatherers, including two adults, one adolescent, and two children.
- ❖ Around 180 footprints and handprints were discovered on the cave floor.
- ❖ The findings provide the first fossil evidence of humans crawling through narrow cave passages.
- ❖ The group used Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) twig torches for lighting inside the cave.

### **Jian changmaensis in China**

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new feathered gliding dinosaur species named *Jian changmaensis* in China.
- ❖ The 120-million-year-old fossil was found in the Changma Basin of Gansu Province, northwestern China.
- ❖ *Jian changmaensis* belongs to Microraptoria, a group of small feathered predatory dinosaurs from the Early Cretaceous period.
- ❖ It is the first confirmed microraptor fossil discovered outside northeastern China, extending the known range of microraptors in Asia.

### **Prehistoric Cave Discovery - Israel**

- ❖ Archaeologists discovered a prehistoric cave near Fureidis, south of Haifa in northern Israel.
- ❖ The cave dates to 400,000–250,000 years ago and belongs to the Acheulo-Yabrudian culture of the late Lower Paleolithic period.
- ❖ Excavations uncovered flint tools, including small handaxes, scrapers and blades, along with animal remains of fallow deer, gazelle, ancient horses, wild cattle and donkeys.
- ❖ Evidence of fire use, prolonged human occupation and water sources inside the cave suggests repeated habitation by hunter-gatherer groups.
- ❖ The Acheulo-Yabrudian culture is an archaeological culture of the Levant region (West Asia) and represents the transition between the Lower and Middle Paleolithic periods.

### **QS World University Rankings 2027**

- ❖ The QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings 2027 were released, with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi becoming India's top-ranked institution for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ IIT Delhi climbed five places to 118th globally, the highest rank achieved by an Indian institution in the 2027 rankings.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay ranked 134th globally, while Indian Institute of Technology Madras ranked 170th, making them the only other Indian institutions in the global top 200.
- ❖ India has 52 universities in the QS rankings, placing it fifth globally after the United States, United Kingdom, China and Germany.
- ❖ Massachusetts Institute of Technology topped the global rankings for the 15th consecutive year, followed by Stanford University, Imperial College London, University of Oxford and Harvard University.

### **World's Most Beautiful Airports 2026**

- ❖ India's Navi Mumbai International Airport and Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA), Guwahati were included in the Prix Versailles World's Most Beautiful Airports List 2026.
- ❖ Prix Versailles is an international architecture and design award presented annually at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris since 2015.
- ❖ The Navi Mumbai International Airport was recognised for its lotus-inspired architecture.

- ❖ Guwahati Airport Terminal 2 was recognised for its Bamboo Orchid-inspired design, reflecting the biodiversity of Northeast India.
- ❖ The other airports on the Prix Versailles 2026 shortlist are Guangzhou, Frankfurt am Main, Kandal Stueng, Pittsburgh and San Diego.

### **Asia's AI-Native Startup Clusters**

- ❖ Bengaluru was ranked as the second-best Artificial Intelligence (AI)-native startup cluster in Asia in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2026.
- ❖ Bengaluru was also ranked 15th globally among the world's top 40 startup ecosystems in the report released at the Viva Technology (VivaTech) 2026 event in Paris, France.
- ❖ Bengaluru is the highest-ranked startup ecosystem in India, ranking 6th in Asia.
- ❖ The city scored 9 out of 10 in both performance and Research and Development (R&D), 8 in AI-native cluster, and 7 in funding and market reach.
- ❖ Bengaluru attracts 58% of India's AI startup funding and has raised about US\$1.5 billion for AI startups since 2020, including more than US\$1.2 billion for application-layer AI startups.
- ❖ The startup ecosystem of Bengaluru is valued at US\$153 billion and has 30 active unicorns, which is much higher than the global average of 11 unicorns.

